

◆BAND AT JACKSON CREEK◆

Music should be fun, creative, and allow for individual expression. Your class meets daily for the entire year. Being in a Jackson Creek band means you *want* to perform and share your music with friends and family! This involves regular practice at home on your own, self-discipline and cooperation while at school, and a commitment to achieving the potential of both you and your friends.

In order to participate you need ...

... to make a decision. Unless you already play a band instrument, the first week of class we'll investigate all of the choices that are available to you at Jackson Creek. Be patient. This decision is very important to your musical future. Read carefully the *Choosing Your Band Instrument/Guide to Obtaining an Instrument* handout.

Band instrument in very good working condition (attach a name tag to easily identify the case as yours)

Accent on Achievement Book 1 (percussion get the "combined" book)

Pencil with a good eraser

-- for specific instruments only --

Instrument Maintenance Kit or separate items - for lubrication and cleaning (brass & woodwinds)

Four medium reeds (clarinet & saxophone) Cheaper by the box; leave the extras at home until they are needed.

Several oboe or bassoon reeds (can you make your own?)

Pair of drum sticks, pair of yarn mallets, pair of hard mallets (percussion)

Band Rules

Bring your band instrument, reeds, music, pencil and in-class care items every day.

- Each morning at 7:45 AM, bring your instrument to the instrument storage room in the music suite. Place your music folder/music book (*Accent On Achievement Book1*) and pencil in your music storage slot. That's where they should stay except when you are performing in your band class. At the end of the day, retrieve your instrument and music, take them home with you and practice.

When the conductor is ON the podium, *group concentration* is needed.

- Play only under the direction of Mr. Austin. No talking or walking around.

When the conductor is OFF the podium, *small group & individual help* will be given.

- Play only under the direction of the Mr. Austin. Stay in your seat and check over your music.

No gum, candy, food, drinks may be consumed during class or a performance.

- As a performing musician, you don't sound or look good with your mouth full! It also may damage your instrument.

Take your instrument home and practice.

- Want to sound great? It's going to take practice at home; a minimum of **150 minutes** per week. Remember, do a little each day instead of a lot on Sunday.

Attend all performances scheduled for your band.

- Band isn't any fun if we can't perform for an audience. Check the official **Band Activities Calendar** for upcoming events. If you have a conflict that you can't avoid, please let me know as soon as the conflict is discovered.

Band Rewards

Following the rules listed may entitle you to:

... Perform in concerts with the band.

... Travel with the band to perform at festivals.

... Be eligible for membership in the Jazz and Pep Bands.

... Participate in All-Region Band and Solo & Ensemble Festival.

... Participate in optional band trips.

... Retake most assignments/tests, if you are dissatisfied with a grade.

Band Consequences

Breaking the rules listed above may result in:

☞ Alert

- Lets you know that I am aware of a problem. You & I will discuss the situation at the end of class. Your parent/guardian may be contacted.

☞ Packing up your instrument, but remaining with the band, sitting quietly.

- This will occur when your behavior with your instrument is disruptive. Your parent/guardian may be contacted.

☞ Isolation away from the band.

- WITHOUT your instrument, in a practice room. This will occur when your behavior is disruptive and a "time out" is needed. Your parent/guardian WILL be contacted.

☞ Visiting the JCMS office.

- This will occur when your behavior is disruptive and you continue even when asked to stop. Your parent/guardian WILL be contacted.

Band Curriculum Overview

The curriculum is aligned with the Indiana State Music Standards 1-9

- **Standard 1:** Singing alone and with others
- **Standard 2:** Playing an instrument alone and with others
- **Standard 3:** Reading, notating and interpreting music
- **Standard 4:** Improvising melodies and accompaniments
- **Standard 5:** Composing and arranging music within specific guidelines
- **Standard 6:** Listening to, analyzing and describing music
- **Standard 7:** Understanding the relationships between music, the other arts, and disciplines outside the arts
- **Standard 8:** Understanding music in relation to history and culture
- **Standard 9:** Evaluating music and music performance

Grading Procedures

In Band, your overall grade is based on five areas: Bandsmanship, Musicianship, Effort, Concert, and Writing.

Bandsmanship = 30 points/day (possible)

- Bandsmanship evaluates your daily in-class contribution to the entire band. This area includes being in the band room and your seat on time, bringing your music, instrument and pencil every day, and contributing in a positive manner during class.
- Additional Bandsmanship points may be earned by submitting a recording of a song we are rehearsing or having family members attend our performances.

Musicianship = 30 points/day (possible)

- Musicianship evaluates your daily in-class development as a musician. This area includes your performance of all assigned music with the entire band, in a small ensemble or as a soloist.

Effort = 150 points/week (possible) ... optional as of Dec 7, 2009

- Effort evaluates your effort toward your musical development. This area includes all of the time you spend playing/practicing your instrument outside of your band class and its activities. In addition to at-home practice, you may record the time you spend in rehearsal/performance with Jazz Band, Pep Band, Solo & Ensemble Festival and All-Region Band, plus any private lessons on your band instrument. One minute is worth one point. Use the **Practice Record** to keep track of the time you spend, submitting this each Monday.
- Instead of submitting a **Practice Record** on a Monday, you may choose to earn your Effort points for that week by performing a musical exercise from *Accent on Achievement Book 1* pages 42 & 43, starting with #1. However, you must achieve at least an 85% on this performance to continue using this as an alternative to submitting a **Practice Record**. Percussionists note that you must play both the snare drum and mallet exercise.

Concerts = 200 points/in-school, 400 points/evening at school, 600 points/away from JCMS (possible)

- Concerts evaluates your performance with your band class. This area includes JCMS performances for the student body during the school day, in the evening for family and friends and performances away from JCMS at other locations. Check the your band's **Activities Calendar** for dates.
- Additional Concerts points may be earned by performing during the concert as a soloist or in a small ensemble.

Writing = points vary with each assignment

- Writing evaluates your ability to communicate your experiences as a performer and audience member. This area includes evaluations of in-class performances, rehearsal recordings, our concerts and live concerts outside of JCMS.

Access to grades from this class via the Internet

You will use this student's last name and the password that will be given to you, to securely access this student's grades/progress report on the Jackson Creek Middle School web site. The initial web grades screen for this class may be visited at:
<http://www.mccsc.edu/~raustin/webgrades/>

Contact info

For questions, comments, or to check on what music should be practiced at home, contact Mr. Austin.

Phone: 330-2451 x 154 Email: raustin@mccsc.edu
Band web site: <http://www.mccsc.edu/~raustin/bandhome.html>

Band Info Acknowledgement ... August 2009

Once you and your family have read and discussed the information above, sign and return this *entire document* to your band class. After I record your information, I will return this to you, so that you may reference the information throughout the year.

Student name printed:

Circle your band class period:



Student signature

Parent / guardian signature