



HARMONY BAND

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Dear 7th or 8th Grade Harmony Band Student and Parent/Guardian,

Welcome back! I am looking forward to another successful year of music making at Harmony Middle School! This will be a very interesting start to a school year, with all of our classes online! Please be assured that I will be doing everything I can to continue to make instrumental music a positive experience for our students. Continued skill development, performance music rehearsal, and lots of bad puns will continue to be a big part of the program. We will continue to develop individual music skills, and use recordings and audio/video editing to create performance venues until we are able to return to normal concert performances.

The success of the Harmony Band program is dependent upon the commitment to excellence by students, parents, director, and administrators. Together, we will build a band that you will be very proud of!

This handbook includes information regarding materials, grading, home practice, parent volunteers, and (very importantly!) the 2020-21 Band Calendar. The Band Calendar will be adjusted as we progress through the school year due to the unknown nature of school status. While we know we are starting the year in a virtual format, we do not know yet when hybrid learning or 100% in-person learning will return. In order to best plan for these circumstances, the calendar below includes only virtual performances through the first semester. The second semester calendar is currently based on the return of district events and the ability to have live performances, but some of those events may be transitioned to virtual depending on school status.

Once we are back in buildings and live performances are possible again, I will be looking for parent chaperones and help for events! I will send out information and ask for volunteers once we have known and definite needs, but please keep this opportunity to volunteer in mind. Performances and the spring trip will be the greatest need for volunteers.

The last two pages of this handbook will be a contract and travel permission form. This paperwork is not needed at this time - once we have our first travel planned I will send these forms along with an updated band calendar. **Please make sure Phoenix is updated with a current email address.** All band information this year will be sent via email through the Phoenix system. Please also visit the band website to refer to the handbook, band calendar, band resources, and more! Again, welcome back in anticipation of another successful year of excellence in instrumental music!

Sincerely,

Chris Fairchild
Band Director - Harmony Middle School

MATERIALS NEEDED:

1. Music practice/performance area at home

Students need to have a space at home that is appropriate for music study. This is of even greater importance in virtual learning! The space needs to include the following:

- As free as possible from other home distractions
- In an area of the home that the student can play their instrument freely and at various volumes
- Computer/chromebook workspace
- Chair that is comfortable but also encourages good music posture

2. Performance Attire (this will be needed for public performances - it will not be needed for virtual performances)

Black polo shirt or dress shirt: Students may provide their own black collared shirt (dress shirt or polo shirt). Harmony Band polo shirts will be available for \$20. Orders will be accepted once we have our first definite public performance date.

Black pants or black skirt: Students may provide their own black dress pants or long skirt. All black, no tears or fading. The tuxedo pants and skirts from our previous uniform are available to borrow or purchase once we have our first definite public performance date.

Black shoes: Students provide their own all-black shoes. Dress shoes preferred, all-black sneakers acceptable.

Black socks: Students must provide their own black socks.

3. Pencils for rehearsal purposes. Students must always have at least two.

4. Music Supplies and Instruments

All students need an instrument for use in class and for distance learning. Most returning students should already have their instrument from previous years to use for this year. If you are in need of a school instrument to rent, please contact Mr. Fairchild for availability. Once we return to school, band lockers will be available for instrument storage for larger instruments (smaller instruments will be kept in the student's locker). Instruments cannot be left in the band room, in the hallway area, or outside their school locker.

Flute: Instrument, cleaning/tuning rod, cleaning swab (handkerchief style).

Oboe/Bassoon: Instrument, bore swab (handkerchief style), reeds, reed case, small container for reed soaking.

Clarinet: Instrument, bore swab (handkerchief style), reeds (Vandoren, Mitchell Lurie, Rico Royal, Juno, or LaVoz, 2.5 or 3), reed case, mouthpiece cleaning brush, mouthpiece (Hite Premiere or Fobes Debut is recommended, or talk to your private teacher).

Saxophone: Instrument, bore swab (handkerchief style), mouthpiece cleaning brush, reeds (Vandoren, Rico Royal, Juno, or LaVoz, 2.5 or 3), reed case, mouthpiece (Hite Premiere is recommended, or talk to your private teacher).

Trumpet: Instrument, valve oil, cleaning cloth, mouthpiece cleaning brush, mouthpiece (Bach or Blessing 5C is recommended, or talk to your private teacher).

French Horn: Instrument (rented from school), cleaning cloth, rotary oil, mouthpiece cleaning brush, mouthpiece (Schilke 11 mouthpiece is recommended, or talk to your private teacher).

Trombone: Instrument, cleaning cloth, slide oil, mouthpiece cleaning brush, mouthpiece (Bach or Blessing 6.5AL mouthpiece is recommended, or talk to your private teacher).

Baritone: Instrument (rented from school), cleaning cloth, mouthpiece cleaning brush, mouthpiece (Bach or Blessing 6.5AL is recommended, or talk to your private teacher)..

Tuba: Instrument (rented from school), cleaning cloth, mouthpiece cleaning brush, mouthpiece (Bach or Blessing 18, or Conn Helleberg is recommended, or talk to your private teacher), mouthpiece pouch.

Percussion: Drum pad and bell set, stick bag with your name on it, one pair of drum sticks, one pair of plastic or rubber tipped mallets for bells/xylophone, one pair of yarn mallets for suspended cymbals/marimba/vibraphone.

5. Folders and Music- For distance learning, all warmup/skill development/performance music will be available online. Once we return to the building, students will receive paper originals or copies of their skills packets and performance music. Music must be cared for and kept in the student's locker, band locker, or folder storage cabinet in the band room when at school, and should be taken home regularly for home practice.

GRADES:

MAJOR SUMMATIVE PERFORMANCE GRADES (20 points each): Music performance is a very important part of band! Music performance gives students the opportunity to showcase their hard work on their music development exercises and/or their band music preparation. Music performance grades are often a result of weeks or months of individual and group practice/rehearsal. All music performance grades are required of all band members.

Performance grades may include the following: major/minor/chromatic scales, key signature exercises and etudes, excerpts from band music performance pieces, and virtual/live concert performances themselves. For live public performances, students will receive a grade for each piece performed on the concert.

In the event of a missed public performance, students must submit recordings of themselves performing all of the music from the missed performance, and replicate a performance setting for those recordings (concert attire, in front of a home audience if possible).

MINOR SUMMATIVE GRADES (10 points each, as assigned): Minor summatives may include: music theory worksheets or online assignments, self evaluations, quizzes on short passages (2-4 measures) from band music., etc. These assignments will be designed to enhance and enrich the student's musical experience.

FORMATIVE ASSESSMENTS (not part of the student's grade): Formative assessments will be assigned to specific major or minor summative assignments. Formative assessments may include rehearsal grades, practice tests, recorded practice session submissions, and more. Any score or number assigned to these assignments in the grade book will not count towards the student's grade for the course - they will be for teacher and student progress information only.

HOME PRACTICE

Learning an instrument is a skill, and like any skill, individual practice is required. Students are expected to take their instrument home on a regular basis to work on basic skills and performance music. Instruments should go home several times a week and every weekend. Students are advised to practice for 15-20 minutes per session, and to include 5-6 practice sessions per week. Please encourage regular practice, and make home practice a positive experience for your child. Your child will become a better musician and your child's band will become a better ensemble!

Home practice will still be very important in distance learning and hybrid classroom learning! Specific, guided practice routines will be provided to students to help them practice outside of class time.

OPTIONAL BAND EVENTS/OPPORTUNITIES

There are a number of auditioned or volunteer opportunities available to band students throughout the school year. Please check the calendar for specific dates and times.

Harmony Jazz Ensemble - rehearsals will be held before school on Tuesdays and Fridays, starting in January or whenever possible according to LCPS return-to-school guidelines. Available to any interested 7th/8th Grade students. More information will be provided when a rehearsal schedule can be determined, see the calendar for performances.

District Band - auditioned Loudoun County-wide event. Recommended for advanced and hardworking students!

Solo and Ensemble - available to ANY interested band student. Students can play solos or in small groups, music and individual/group help will be available from Mr. Fairchild.

Spring Trip - all 7th/8th grade band students will be invited to participate in the Harmony Music Spring Trip to Hersheypark on June 11, 2021. This trip may be cancelled due to LCPS policies regarding field trips and/or school status in the months leading up to the trip. Please "save the date" for now, and more information will be provided once the viability of the trip is known.

PARENT VOLUNTEERS

Without parent volunteers, the band program would not be able to succeed. There are many opportunities for your participation in your child's band program. The most important way for you to participate is to attend all of your child's performances – your support at concerts and/or watching virtual performances are the most important support you can lend to the program! In addition, *volunteers are needed to assist with District Band Auditions, Concert Assessment, all Concert Performances, and the Spring Trip.*

BAND CALENDAR 2020-2021

All performances/rehearsals in bold are REQUIRED for the students involved.

Sym7/8 = Symphonic Band (1st block Band 7 and Band 8 classes)

Band8 = Concert Band (5th block Band 8 class)

Band7 = 7th Grade Band (2nd/3rd block Band 7 classes)

Band6 = All 6th Grade Band classes

Jazz = Extra curricular Jazz Ensemble

Interested students = Open to interested students

Selected students = Students selected by audition or director

<u>Date, Time</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Students involved</u>
October/November	Solo/small ensemble opportunities	Schoology	Interested students
Monday, Dec. 4	Virtual Winter Concert recordings due	Schoology	Sym7/8, Band8, Band7, Band 6
Monday, Dec. 21	Virtual Winter Concert	Schoology	Sym7/8, Band8, Band7, Band 6
Sat., Jan 9, all day	District Band Auditions	Riverside HS	Interested students
Sat., Jan 16, all day	District Band Auditions (snow day)	Riverside HS	Interested students
Feb. 4, 5, 6, all day	All-District Band	Independence HS	Selected students
Tues., February 23, 3:45-5:15pm	7th Grade Band Rehearsal/Clinic	Harmony MS	Band7
Thursday, February 25, 7pm	Pre-Assessment Concert/Clinic	Harmony MS	Sym7/8, Band8, Band7
March 12 or 13, times TBD	District Concert Assessment	Harmony MS	Sym7/8, Band8
Wednesday, March 24, 5-7pm	District Jazz Ensemble Auditions	Smarts Mill MS	Interested students
Sat., April 17, all day	Solo and Ensemble Festival	Eagle Ridge MS	Interested students
April 29, May 1, all day	District Jazz Ensemble	Briar Woods HS	Selected students
Fri., April 30, time TBD	District Jazz Assessment	Briar Woods HS	Jazz
Wed. June 2, 3:45-5:30pm	6th Grade Band Rehearsal	Harmony MS	6th Grade
Thursday, June 3, 7:00pm	Spring Concert - 6th Grade Band, Jazz	Harmony MS	Band6, Jazz
Monday, June 7, 3:45-5:15pm	7th Grade Band Rehearsal	Harmony MS	Band7
Tuesday, June 8, 7:00pm	Spring Concert -All 7th/8th Grade Band	Harmony MS	Sym7/8, Band8, Band7
Friday, June 11, all day	Spring Trip to Hersheypark	Hershey, PA	Sym7/8, Band8, Band7
July 19-22, 2021	Western Loudoun Band Camp	Harmony MS	Interested students

SPRING TRIP

If we have returned to full time in-person learning by this time, the Spring Competition Trip to Hersheypark is scheduled for **June 11, 2021**. All Harmony 7th and 8th grade band students are invited to participate! The trip will be an all-day event, beginning very early Friday morning and arriving back at school late Friday night/early Saturday morning. The cost of the trip is estimated to be around \$140 per student, which includes festival fees, charter bus transportation, Hersheypark ticket, spring trip band t-shirt, and covers part of the cost for chaperone tickets. Please do everything possible to allow your child to participate - this is a great trip that your child will always remember!

To be eligible for the trip, students must fulfill the following requirements:

- Participate in the band program for the entire 2020/21 school year.
- Receive no more than 3 days combined of in-school or out-of-school suspension for the school year.
- Have no more than one absence from any required performance, and have completed the alternate assignment for that absence.

If a child fails to meet these obligations, he/she will be removed from the trip. If the removal from the trip is early enough to cancel that student from the trip, his/her money will be refunded. If the removal from the trip comes after our final deadline to set exact numbers for the trip and make our final payment (around April 30), payment for the trip cannot be refunded. Students that cancel or become ineligible after that time will receive their park ticket that can be used later in the season if desired.

Note - the band contract/travel permission forms are found on the next two pages. These do not need to be submitted until in-person learning has resumed! I will send paper copies home with students at that time, and email the forms to parents.