

# Barber Middle School Band Handbook

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## Checklist of Important Items

- ✓ Please check the section labeled Class Materials to make sure your student has all of the required equipment for band class.
- ✓ Sign and return the Student and Parent Statement of Understanding to form collection box by Friday, 8/23/13 for a test grade.
- ✓ Refer to the Charms log-in page in the hand book and log onto Charms to update your student's information. This is a test grade that is due by Friday, 8/23/13.
- ✓ Refer to the social media page to follow us on facebook and sign-up for remind 101 text updates.
- ✓ Please refer to the page on concert attire to make sure that your student has the appropriate concert attire by our first concert.

# The Barber Middle School Band

## Purpose

The purpose of this handbook is to provide each family with an understanding of the policies and procedures that govern the Barber Middle School band program. These guidelines exist to ensure consistent rules are applied to each and every student in all aspects of the program.

## Mission Statement

To Inspire students to learn, develop, and discover through music and to instill a lifelong understanding and appreciation for quality music and character.

## Personal Instruments

*Personal Instruments* are defined as instruments that belong to or are rented by an individual student's family from a community music store or private business. These instruments are not owned or insured by Barber Middle School, the Cobb County School District, or the State of Georgia. The student (and family) is responsible for maintaining the instrument in working order with the proper accessories. The music teachers will recommend repairs (when needed) and specific quality accessories as the student progresses through the program.

## School Instruments

*School Instruments* are defined as instruments that belong to Barber Middle School. The school bears the responsibility of repair costs on these instruments for just normal wear and tear. It is important that great care is given to the instrument while it is in the student's possession. Future students must be able to use these instruments. Students performing on a school-owned instrument will receive an instrument in proper working condition. Students are expected to treat and maintain the instrument with care throughout the year. Should the instrument need to be repaired at any point during the school year, it is the responsibility of the student (and family) to take the instrument to the repair shop for proper maintenance in a timely fashion. At the end of the school year, any remaining damage will be assessed, and the student will be charged. Obvious willful damage to school instruments will be considered vandalism and will be dealt with by the band directors and the administration at Barber. We have a VERY small number of school instruments available. Those will be assigned to 8<sup>th</sup> grade first, then to 7<sup>th</sup> grade, then to 6<sup>th</sup> grade.

# Grading System

- 35% - Performance Assessments
- 25% - Daily Grade
- 25% - Concert Grade
- 15% - Practice Card Grades

## Performance Assessments – 35%

Each student will take a minimum of one performance assessment per grading period. Extra performance exams may be assigned at the discretion of Mr. Grogan and Mr. Cahal. The performance assessments account for 35% of the overall grade. They will be administered in class and chair placements may result from performance exams.

## Daily Grade – 25%

The student's daily grade is comprised of having all class materials (see the section below pertaining required **classroom materials**) and his or her contribution to a positive rehearsal environment (see **rehearsal expectations**).

## Classroom Materials

1. **Instrument** – The instrument needs to be in good working mechanical order. Most students opt to rent instruments from major instrument retailers. If you wish to purchase an instrument, please consult with the band directors for assistance.
2. **Required Texts (These can all be purchased at most music retailers)**
  - a. **6<sup>th</sup> Grade** Beginning Brass and Beginning Woodwinds
    - i. *Band Expressions Book 1*
    - ii. *Foundations for Superior Performance*
    - iii. *Winning Rhythms* by Edward Ayola
  - b. **6<sup>th</sup> Grade** Beginning Percussion
    - i. *A Fresh Approach to Mallet Percussion* – by Mark Wessels
    - ii. *A Fresh Approach to the Snare Drum* – by Mark Wessels
    - iii. *Foundations for Superior Performance*
    - iv. *Winning Rhythms* by Edward Ayola
  - c. **7<sup>th</sup> Grade**
    - i. *Band Expressions* – Books 1 and 2
    - ii. *Foundations for Superior Performance*
    - iii. *Winning Rhythms* by Edward Ayola
  - d. **8<sup>th</sup> Grade**
    - i. *Band Expressions* – Book 1 and 2
    - ii. *Foundations for Superior Performance*
    - iii. *Winning Rhythms* by Edward Ayola

3. **Music Folder** – This will be provided to the students by the school.
4. **Pencil** – keep in your case, folder, or locker (mechanical is best)
5. **Instrument-Specific Supplies:** (equivalents are fine) *\*note: the 6<sup>th</sup> graders will be getting a more detailed list with a few more specific items for beginning band.*

Flute: Tuning rod (specific to your make & model), cleaning cloth

Oboe: 3 reeds at all times (www.goodtoneguild.com Rookie Reed or equivalent, no wires), reed case, 35mm film canister (for reed soaking), weighted silk swab, cork grease.

Bassoon: 3 reeds at all times ( Jones medium-soft, or equivalent), reed case, 35mm film canister (for reed soaking), weighted silk swabs (for boot joint and wing joint), bocal brush, cork grease.

Clarinets: At least 5 reeds in a reed case at all times (Vandoren Traditional: strength 2 ½ for 6<sup>th</sup> grade, strength 3 for 7<sup>th</sup> grade, strength 3 ½ for 8<sup>th</sup> grade), Vandoren B45 or 5RV mouthpieces are required, weighted silk swab, cork grease.

Saxophones: At least 5 reeds in a reed case at all times (Vandoren Traditional: strength 2 ½ for 6<sup>th</sup> grade, strength 3 for 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>h</sup> grade), neck strap, weighted silk swab, cork grease. Vandoren Optimum AL3 mouthpiece (TL3 for tenor) are required.

Trumpet: Valve oil, tuning slide grease, mouthpiece brush, cleaning cloth. Bach 5C mouthpiece or equivalent.

French Horn: Rotor oil, tuning slide grease, mouthpiece brush, Holton Farkas MDC mouthpiece.

Trombone: Slide lubricant, tuning slide grease, mouthpiece brush, cleaning cloth. Bach 6 ½ AL mouthpiece. It is highly recommended that the student steps up to a large-bore trombone with an F-Attachment for the 8<sup>th</sup> grade.

Euphonium & Tuba: Valve oil, tuning slide grease, mouthpiece brush. For euphonium, a Bach 6 ½ AL mouthpiece. For tuba, a Bach 18 AW or Yamaha 67C4 mouthpiece.

Percussion: See percussion handout provided by the band directors

## Rehearsal Expectations

Barber Middle School uses a school-wide discipline system in order to maintain consistency between the classrooms in our building. In your student's agenda (provided by Barber Middle School), you will see one school-wide behavior card for each quarter of the school year. This behavior card has a column for each class that students take during the school day.

If a student is having a discipline problem during band class, the student will be given a verbal warning and redirection. If the inappropriate behavior continues, the student will lose the appropriate amount of points off of their behavior card. (Behavior infractions are assigned a certain point value at the bottom of the card).

There are consequences built into the point system that include silent lunch, detention, a parent conference, and culminate with a referral to the Barber Middle School Administration.

**Monitoring your student's behavior card throughout the school year is an excellent way to see how your child is behaving in all of his/her classes at school.**

Being a part of the Barber Middle School band is a privilege, as our groups travel locally and out of the state for various performances. *Respect, preparation, being on time, and taking appropriate care of our instruments and our space is vital to the success of a student in our program.*

*\*\* The Barber band directors reserve the right to remove students from the program at any time. Reasons for removal from band include, but are not limited to: a student's consistent lack of interest, failure to maintain acceptable progress, or constant disruption to the band class.*

### Concert Grade – 25%

Our curriculum is geared towards one goal – performance. Since the concert is the long-term goal of the daily work that students do in the classroom, the students must attend all concerts involving their class. They are expected to be on time, wearing the correct concert attire (see the **Concert Attire** section below), and stay for the entire concert. Please refer to calendar on charms website. To be excused from a concert and having to do the make up work, a concert excuse request must be submitted in writing no less than two weeks prior to the concert.

Absences are excused for two reasons only:

- Personal illness that caused an absence from school (or doctor's note)
- Death in the Family

Make up work: If the student was not excused from a performance, he or she will have to complete the makeup work within two weeks of the missed performance. The make up work includes:

1. Attending any school, public, or professional concert and writing a one page report of the concert, reflecting on the performance. The student needs to visit with one of directors to agree on an approved concert to attend.
2. Writing a one-page report on the importance of attending concerts.

3. Performing a graded performance of the concert literature. The student needs to meet with either Mr. Grogan or Mr. Cahal on a time before or after school to do this assessment.

*\*\* Failure to complete the make-up work will result in a zero for the grading period in the "Concert Grade" portion of the final grade. This would make the highest grade the student can make in the class a 75% and may jeopardize his or her ability to attend any band trips.*

## Concert Attire

Having a professional appearance for performances is a very important part of our program. Students in each ensemble will have a required uniform for performances.

**7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Students:** Uniforms will be fitted and ordered through the school at the beginning of the year.

- Boys: White Tuxedo Shirt, Bowtie, Cummerbund, Black Tux Pants, Black Socks, and Black Shoes.
- Girls: Formal Black Dress, Black Closed-Toed Shoes

**6<sup>th</sup> Grade Band Students:**

Because of the costs involved with joining the band program, sixth grade students will be asked to wear Sunday best dress.

\*We encourage you to address concert attire issues long before the day of a concert. We all work hard to prepare for public performances, and deserve to be presented in a manner worthy of public scrutiny.

## Practice Cards – 15%

Students will receive practice cards every week. Practice cards will list what students will be responsible for practicing at home each week. Students pick up and turn in practice cards every Tuesday.

## Private Lessons

We encourage every student – 6<sup>th</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> – to take private instruction from an accomplished musician. Private lessons make the most of your investment, allowing for individual attention and a specialist's advice. Furthermore, lessons typically raise your audition scores for Honor Ensembles; it is rare for students to make these groups without taking private lessons. As an added benefit, private lessons help the ensembles improve. As the saying goes, "Make the *individual* better, and the group will get better."

## Ingredients for Success in Band

- **ENROLL YOUR STUDENT IN PRIVATE LESSONS**
  - a list of qualified local teachers will be distributed to your students at the beginning of the school year
- **MAKE SURE YOUR CHILD'S INSTRUMENT IS IN GOOD WORKING CONDITION.**
- Provide a quiet place to practice.  
Schedule a consistent, daily practice time.
- Remain nearby during practice times as much as possible.
- Praise your child's efforts and accomplishments.
- Encourage your child to play for family and friends.
- Expose your child to a wide variety of music including live concerts and recitals.  
Allow your child to play many types of music.
- Help your child build a personal music library.
- Decide that you and your child have made a commitment to band and stick to it.  
Most parents have their children agree to remain active through 9<sup>th</sup> grade.

## If Your Child Gets Frustrated...

- Discuss the situation with your child and determine why his/her interest is declining. Talk with Mr. Grogan or Mr. Cahal to see what suggestions he has.
- Encourage your child to stay in the program for an agreed period of time. Most parents have their children agree to participate through 9<sup>th</sup> grade. Offer increased encouragement and support.

If, after consultation with the music teachers, the determination is made to drop band, the following Barber Band Drop Procedure must be followed:

1. A parent note must be submitted to Mr. Grogan or Mr. Cahal.
2. The parent note must be submitted during the first 3 days of the semester.
3. Once the parent note is received, a teacher/parent/student conference must be held to discuss the situation.
4. If, after the conference, the decision is made to drop the program, Mr. Grogan or Mr. Cahal will notify the appropriate administrator of the schedule change.

# How to access parent information

## CHARMS

### BAND \* ORCHESTRA \* CHOIR

- Log on to [www.charmsoffice.com](http://www.charmsoffice.com)
- Locate “ENTER/LOGIN”
- Click on the “PARENT/STUDENT/MEMEBERS” under “ENTER/LOGIN”
- Login to your child’s program account using the following login:

### BarberBraves

- Under Student Area Password enter your students first initial and last name. The first initial and first letter of the last name must be capitalized.
  - Example: If you student’s name is John Smith enter: JSmith
- NOTE: Please do not change the Student Area Password.
- After entering the password please update your child’s **student information page** including:
  - Home Address
  - Parent Email
  - Parent Phone Number
  - Grade
  - Class/Ensemble
- Updating the information assists both you and the directors to communicate with each other more effectively.
- REMINDER: Login in and updating charms is a test grade that is due by Friday, 8/23/13.

Barber Middle School Band  
*Technology and Social Media*

The Barber Band Program offers many ways to stay informed and updated throughout the year:

Charmsoffice.com: Refer to page 9 for login information

Facebook: Follow Barber Middle School Band

Remind 101: Text @barberba to 678-905-8082 to receive updates and reminders.

Website: [www.barberband.org](http://www.barberband.org), coming soon!

# Barber Middle School Band Program

## Student and Parent Statement of Understanding Form

Complete and return to the form collection box in band room

I, the undersigned student, accept membership in the Barber Middle School Band Program, and understand that I am responsible for all policies as set forth in the Band Handbook. I fully agree to carry out my responsibilities to the very best of my ability.

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Printed Student's name)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Band Class)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Student's signature)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Date)

I, the undersigned parent or guardian, have read and understand the policies as set forth in the Barber Middle School Band Handbook. I also grant full permission for my child to be an active member of the band program at Barber. In addition, my child has full permission to attend all Barber Middle School Band local functions.

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Parent or guardian signature)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Date)