Battle Creek Junior High Band

**Student Handbook**

**2019-20**

# Preamble

The purpose of this handbook is to provide valuable information about the band program. Both parents and students are expected to know the contents of this book. High standards and consistency will promote a successful band in all aspects.

 It is hoped that some of the questions always prevalent with a band will be answered in this band book. If a problem or question not covered in this handbook should arise, the director should be consulted for and explanation.

# Facilities

Facilities can only be kept in a clean, orderly manner when ALL band members give consideration to proper maintenance. Keep the room clean. Any damage to music or instruments (by being left out, mishandled, etc.) belonging to the school will result in a fine for the amount of repair or replacement.

# Instrument Inspection

An instrument that is not in perfect working condition is of no value to our band. To ensure that each instrument is kept in playing condition, unannounced instrument inspections will be held periodically throughout the year. Passage or failure of this inspection will be reflected in your grades. Inspection will consist of the following checkpoints:

Flute Instrument put away properly, all pads and keys in working order, clean and shiny, cleaning rod, soft cloth and pencil present.

Clarinet Instrument put away properly, clean, soft cloth, two playable reeds, reeds not stored on mouthpiece, cork grease and pencil present.

Saxes Instrument put away properly, clean, soft cloth, two playable reeds, reeds not stored on mouthpiece, cork grease and pencil present.

Oboe Instrument put away properly, clean, soft cloth, two playable reeds, reeds not stored on mouthpiece, cork grease and pencil present.

Trumpet Instrument put away properly, mouthpiece put away properly, valves and slides all working properly, valve oil and pencil present.

Trombone Instrument put away properly, mouthpiece put away properly, valves and slides all working properly, valve oil and pencil present.

Baritone Instrument put away properly, mouthpiece put away properly, valves and slides all working properly, valve oil and pencil present.

French Horn Instrument put away properly, mouthpiece put away properly, valves and slides all working properly, valve oil and pencil present.

Tubas Instrument put away properly, mouthpiece put away properly, valves and slides all working properly, valve oil and pencil present.

Percussion All equipment stored properly in good working order and clean and shiny. Pencil in cubby and mallets/sticks stored properly.

# Attendance Policy

 Band members are expected to attend all rehearsals and performances. Students should be on time for all band functions. Policies are as follows:

**Excused Absences**-Emergency, illness, and other school functions or field trips will excuse students from rehearsals. Participation points may be made up.

**Unexcused Absences from Rehearsal** – Any student receiving an unexcused absence from rehearsal will have his/her grade lowered one letter for each unexcused absence within a grading period (nine week quarter). Participation point may not be made up.

**Tardy to Rehearsal** – Attendance will be taken at the beginning of all rehearsals. If a Student is late three times, he/she will be given a thirty-minute detention. Every tardy received after the first detention will result in another detention. The director determines what is to be an excused tardy. Please check with me before you stay late to other classes, especially near a performance. Each tardy is a loss of 5 participation points.

**Absence from Performance** – An unexcused absence from a performance will result in a failing grade for that grading period. Only in cases of extreme emergency or personal illness will a person be excused from a performance. Excused absences forms must be filled out and approved by the director one week before the performance. Any absence that is not brought to the director’s attention for approval before the performance will be considered unexcused. Each absence is a loss of 100 points. Only excused absences may be made up.

**Special Rehearsals and Performances** – Any Student who has an unexcused absence from a special rehearsal will have his/her grade lowered one letter grade. Any person late for a performance will receive a double tardy. 10 point will be lost.

# Grading

Student grades are an important but not exclusive measure of a student’s progress in music. Recognizing the difficulty of accurately assessing each student’s progress in both the skill and the art of music, the following system will be used.

 Theory Exams

 Key Signatures

 Rhythm, terms 10%

 Playing Exams

 #1

 #2 10%

 Performance Grades

 Concert Band

 Norfolk Jr High Contest

 Graduation

 Pep Band 30%

Participation

 Instrument working, music

 Pencil, attitude, work ethics 50%

Other Extra Credit Projects

 Solo at contest

 Ensemble at Contest

 Honor Bands

Evaluation will take place daily. The teacher is responsible for evaluating each student. The Student is responsible for the grade received.

# Uniforms and Contest Attire

 Students will be issued a uniform and should always keep it in the garment bag supplied with the uniform. The uniform consists of pants, jacket, hat, cummerbund, and a ruffle shirt. Students will be expected to supply black shoes and socks for performances.

**Required Dress for School Performances**

 Some organizations may choose to adopt a performance outfit early in the year. Otherwise, parents should plan for the following clothing for performance dress.

Ladies: White blouse/sweater with black (dark) slack/pants. No skirts or dresses allowed.

Gentlemen: Black/dark slacks, dress shoes, and collared shirt. Ties and sport coats and/or suits are encouraged but not required.

 Some concerts well be a dress occasion, but not formal. Jeans, T-Shirts, and

tennis shoes are not considered appropriate dress for these concerts. However some concerts will be casual. See below.

 If these requirements present a serious problem, please contact the director well before the concert date. Students not in appropriate dress for a concert will be sent home to change into the appropriate concert attire. The student will be issued an unexcused tardy or absence for that performance if he/she is late in returning.

 First concert: Jeans and Solid Colored Shirt

 Second Concert: Black and White

 Third Concert: Uniforms

 Fourth Concert: Black Shirt with Khaki Pants

# Classroom Behavior Expectations

 In order for our musical experience to be a successful one, certain standards of conduct must be maintained. It is very important for the class to concentrate on what needs to be done to improve the musical styles and ideas that are taught.

1. Follow all instructions the first time they are given.

2. Be polite. Don't speak aloud without permission, raise your hand, and refrain from talking when the director is on the podium.

3. Be prepared. Music, instrument, and equipment should be with you before the tardy bell rings.

4. No food, drink, gum, seeds, etc allowed in the band room.

**Results for Misconduct**

 If students misbehave in class, they will fill out a disciplinary document. In this document they will be required to state what they were doing wrong, how they plan to correct the behavior, and an apology to the Director as well as the class. The student will also have a thirty-minute detention. If students do not show up for their detention they will get double the time the next day. After the third detention the student’s overall grade will be lowered by one letter.

**Chair Challenges in Band**

 Students will be able to challenge for chair positions. The challenger will pick the music and the person challenged will pick the scale to be played. Students need to notify the instructor as soon as the challenge has been made. The challenge will take place one week after the challenge has been made.

**Battle Creek Music Boosters**

 Parents of band and choir students automatically belong to this group. This organization is made up of all parents, relatives, friends and music supporters who would like to help make every child's experience in instrumental/vocal music the best possible. Please help in any way that you are able so that your child may receive the benefits. As a group, we are responsible for coming up with fundraisers for the music department. You will be asked to help come up with fundraisers and see that your student does his/her part in making it successful. This is also a great way to get to know other members of the community. Our meetings will be posted on my board and I will send email reminders as the dates draw near. We ask that all ideas/problems/solutions be discussed at that time. We are currently looking for new officers. This would be a great way to show your support to the music department.

**Friendship**

 No group is successful without the cooperation of its membership. Respect and consideration for one another is essential. In turn, you will make acquaintances that will last a lifetime.

**Band Performance Opportunities, Awards, and Honors**

 Honor Bands- made up of junior high school students from around the state. Members are selected by auditions held in October.

 Pierce Jr. High Honor Band- Taped auditions are required and sent to a panel of judges around northeast Nebraska. Members are selected in March

 Norfolk Junior High Contest

 Wayne State College Jr. High Honor Band

Class C All State Band- Kearney, NE

Other Honor Bands- The director nominates students.

 Solos are the responsibility of the student. Be sure that the solo is accompanied by piano. If the student is not studying privately, the director must approve the solo work before work is begun on preparation. Small ensembles- these small groups are organized during the second or third grading period. Again, the students must find time to rehearse at their convenience and the director must approve the music.

**2019-20 Band Performance Schedule \*\*\***August 19 Handbook signatures due

September 6 FB vs Twin River

September 20 FB vs O’Neill

September 27 FB Stanton

October 1 VB HCC

October 8 VB vs GACC

October 11 FB vs NC HOMECOMING

October 15 VB vs O’Neill

Fall Pops TBD

October 25 FB vs Crofton

 FB Playoffs TBA 11/1, 11/8, 11/15, 11/26

Volleyball Districts TBA 10/28, 10/29,11/2 STATE 11/7-9

November 21-23 All State Band & Vocal Clinic/UNL

December 7 B&GBB vs Humphrey LHF

December 13 B&GBB vs Stanton

December 14 BBB vs Norfolk Catholic

December 17 Christmas Concert 7:00

December 20 GBB vs O’Neill

December 21 G&BBB vs West Holt

January 2 G&BBB vs Twin River

January 8 **Class C All State Auditions Due**

January 10 GBB vs Norfolk Catholic

January 14 G&B BB vs WPB

January 23 B&GBB vs LCC

January 25 G&BBB vs Pierce

February 11 B and GBB Neligh Oakdale

February 21 BBB vs O’Neill

District Basketball TBA February 17, 18, 20, 24, 25, 27, 28 and 29

March 5-7 Girl’s State Basketball

March 9 Conference Honor Band

March 12-14 Boy’s State Basketball

March TBA NECC Jazz Festival

March 24 7-8 Instrumental Concert Pre Contest Concert

March 28 Class C All State

April 7 9-12 Pre-Contest Concert

April 24 District Music Contest/Norfolk

May 1 Rock Show

May 4 Spring Fling/Jazz Concert

May 16 Graduation

May 25 Memorial Day Program

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PLEASE RETURN THIS SHEET TO THE DIRECTOR

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Student Contract:

 I have read the handbook and understand that all Battle Creek Band Program rules and regulations apply while on Battle Creek Band functions as well as in the classroom. I further agree to make necessary arrangements so that I will be able to attend as many functions as possible.

 Students should be scholastically eligible to participate in music activities that involve missing school. In case of school or emergency family conflicts, students may be excused with both parent's signature and Mrs. Lade's approval.

Students Signature \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Dear Parents:

 It would be most helpful if you would encourage home practice, provide

transportation to and from band functions, and notify the band director of any absences or tardies that would affect the student's participation in band. We encourage parents to show an interest in the band program by attending performances and becoming actively involved in the Music Boosters organization. Please sign this document so we know you have read and understand the band handbook.

Parent Signature \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Chaperone Slip/Band Helpers

 If you are interested in accompanying or helping the band on any of our trips, please check and return to the band office. We look forward to an exciting year.

 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Jr. High Contest @ Norfolk Jr High; Saturday April 18

Students Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Student Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Mother's Name \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Father's Name\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Cell Phone \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Work Phone \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Work Phone\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\*\*\*Please allow your child to play in the pep band for home varsity sporting events!

Your support of the Battle Creek Band Program is much appreciated!

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