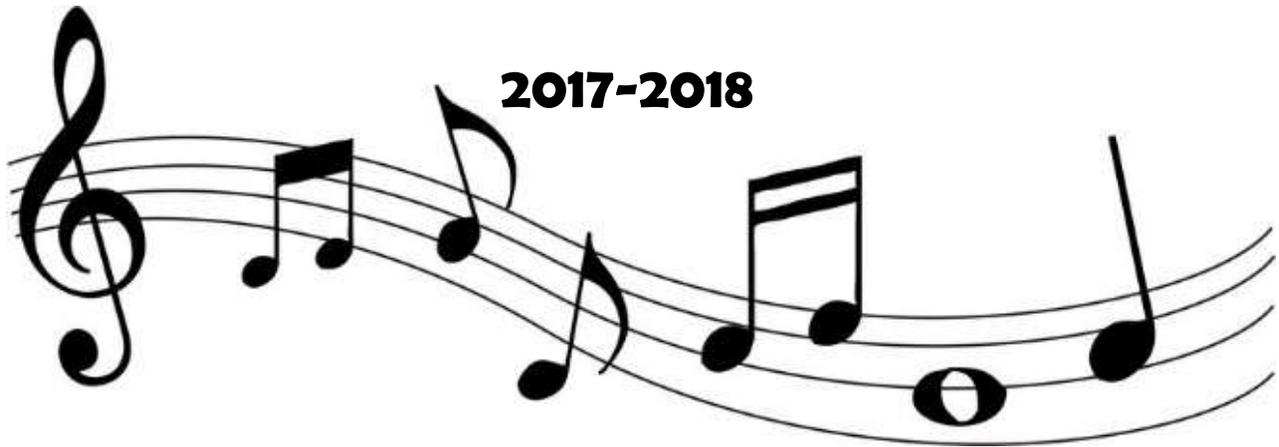


Blackhawks Middle School

Band Handbook



Our Mission: The Blackhawks Band mission is to give multiple ways for students to grow and learn by using music. Together we will strive to develop character, professionalism, pride, dedication, appreciation and respect for music.

“Music gives a soul to the universe, wings to the mind, flight to the imagination and life to everything.”

- Plato

My Musical Philosophy

Music is a universal language that can be loved and shared by any person regardless of their age, ethnicity, or gender. Music can be shared by the young and the young at heart and has no limitations. Music is something all cultures have in common. Music is a universal language of the soul and can speak to anyone. This is what connects and brings people together. There is an endless list as to why music is important in the schools, but I will be an advocate and voice to music as a future music educator.

I believe every student deserves a proper education in music because it teaches them skills they can use throughout their lives even if they do not continue playing music. Music teaches a sense of leadership, reliability, responsibility, creativity, a sense of accomplishment and much more. I want to teach students how music affects day to day life by showing them that they cannot go a day without it. They are surrounded by music wherever they go; it's on the radio while they drive to class, in a movie that they may be watching or while shopping at the grocery store. Music is always with a person no matter where they go. Without music life would simply be quiet.

The reason I chose to pursue music education is in hope to show students the beauty of music and how life changing it can be. Music has touched my life and made me who I am today. It has provided me with a sense of confidence and determination, which I lacked before becoming involved with it. Music is fun but it can also be extremely challenging. It takes time and practice to build skills, but it will be rewarding in the end. There is a sense of pride that comes from successfully playing a difficult piece of music. That is why music is rewarding to all who partake. This is why I have chosen to become a music educator.

Jacque Bratcher
5-12 Band Director
Sanborn County and Woonsocket Districts
Email: jacque.bratcher@k12.sd.us

Grading:

Daily Grades: 5 points per day

Graded on:

- Attendance
- Promptness- Be on time!
- Attitude!

Tests: 5-50 points

- Written quizzes and test
- Playing test
- Other assignments

Lessons: 10 points per lesson

Performances: 50-100 points

- Performances are our final test and are included in the grading.
- A schedule is given to you so you can make arrangements **ahead** of time.
- Everyone else is counting on you!

Evaluations take place daily. The teacher is responsible for evaluating. The student is responsible for the grade received. You can check about your grade at any time other than during class.

All performances are mandatory! There are certain life events that cannot be planned or avoided but otherwise you must be at every performance. Included in the handbook is a schedule of this years events and this should allow for more than enough time to get off work or any other potential issues. If for whatever reason you cannot make it, talk to me as soon as possible! I am willing to work with you, but you must talk to me ahead of time.

Classroom Rules:

- Attend all rehearsals
 - Be on time
 - Being on time is vital to our program. We are counting on you!
 - Participate in a positive manner
 - NO ELECTRONIC DEVICES!
 - Refrain from talking while teacher or another student is speaking
 - Pay attention
 - Show respect
 - Refrain from using profanity
 - No food or drinks
 - NO GUM!
 - Keep the facilities clean.
 - Act professionally
 - Be Prepared (includes a working instrument, oil/reeds/sticks/etc., music, folder, PENCIL)
 - Reed players should have TWO good reeds at ALL times and a proper reed holder
 - Brass players should have valve/slide oil
 - All instruments needed to be properly stored. No one should touch anyone's instrument and only Percussionist are allowed to use the percussion equipment.
 - Immediately report any instrument issues Instruments must be properly put away
 - Everyone is expected to have the music prepared for every concert. This does not only mean the notes and rhythms, but the “music” as well.
 - The band program will follow all school policies and will not tolerate students that go against school regulation. (i.e. no alcohol, tobacco, drugs, etc.)
 - And most importantly... HAVE FUN!!
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Instruments:

Whether you are using a school instrument, a store rental, or your own personal instrument you must:

- Treat every instrument with respect.
- Properly put away your instrument (case closed and on a shelf).
- Properly maintain your instrument (cleaned/oiled/etc.).
- Provide your own mouthpiece, neck strap, oil, reeds, etc.

If there is a problem, with your instrument:

- Let me know immediately
- DO NOT try to fix the instrument yourself.
- If you make the problem worse, you will be responsible for paying for the repair.

Any abuse or mistreatment of any instrument will result in a financial reimbursement for any damage caused and a lowering of the student's grade. In extreme cases the student will be required to return the instrument and/or be dismissed from the program.

Performance Etiquette and Dress

Etiquette:

- Be ready at the time that Miss Bratcher gives
- You are expected to stay for the entire performance or concert unless told otherwise
- Water only!
- No food or gum.
- Be quiet and respectful throughout the performance/concert
- No electronic devices
- Any behavior that interrupts with the learning process or interferes with the learning environment will be dealt with in a disciplinary manner

Concert Dress:

- Black dress pants
 - (Girls can wear long black skirts)
- White Shirt
- Black shoes and socks

Middle School All State

6th-8th Graders will have the opportunity to audition for the middle school All State Band. This will require students playing a wind instrument to make a recording including two scales (major/minor) in 4/4 and 6/8 time, a chromatic scale and etude. Percussionist will also do a recording and will need to play, mallets, timpani, snare, major and minor scale. If interested let Miss Bratcher know as soon as possible! Auditions are due **December 8.**

This is due August 29/30, 2017

BAND AGREEMENT

I have read and understand the Black Hawk's Band Handbook. Everyday I will strive to be my best and have a good attitude towards all of the expectations.

Student Name: _____

Student Signature: _____

Date: _____

I have read and understand the Black Hawk's handbook.

Parent Name: _____

Parent Signature: _____

Date: _____