

# **Andover USD #385 Elementary Band HANDBOOK**



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## INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this handbook is to acquaint and inform all students and their parents with the instrumental music program available to students of Andover Schools. With an emphasis on fundamental teaching and a demand for excellence, the Instrumental Music Department of Andover USD #385 the Andover Elementary, Middle and High Schools have established themselves as one of superior quality.

In an effort to maintain these high standards and to continue the tradition of outstanding accomplishment, all band members and their parents are requested to read this handbook thoroughly, complete the attached consent forms and obtain parent signatures.

After reading this handbook, put it with your other records so that it will be available as a ready reference if a question should arise. If you are not able to find an answer to your question, consult your director.

## PHILOSOPHY

In keeping with the philosophy of the Andover School System, all students who have the desire are given the opportunity to participate in the Band Program to learn, and to progress musically as far as his/her abilities and desires permit. If he/she accepts the challenge, has the self-discipline required, and feel his/her responsibility towards the band, he/she undoubtedly will succeed.

## OBJECTIVES

-----To develop the technical skills necessary to play a musical instrument satisfactorily in an instrumental group based on the knowledge needed to attain success at the Elementary, Middle and High School levels.

-----To cultivate and develop cultural and aesthetic values in order to possess an understanding of beauty, expression, and the ability to appreciate the finer things in life through actual participation in a performing organization.

-----To develop leadership qualities, responsibility, and citizenship in students through their dedication to a cause and service to both school and community.

## AIMS AND FUNCTIONS OF THE DEPARTMENT

1. *ATTITUDE:* The greatest single factor determining the success of an individual or organization is attitude. A positive attitude toward you, each other, and the band as a unit will make the difference between a fine musical organization and a mediocre group. A positive attitude means self-control and acknowledgment of the discipline it takes to be a fine performer. It takes intense dedication to reach goals. Discipline yourself to daily practice on materials designed to improve your basic skills. Those that make the decision to better yourself through music will be glad you did. Make the most of every rehearsal and performance.

2. *DISCIPLINE:* Because of the nature of the organization, discipline must by necessity, be strict. Band students and parents must be willing to accept the ideals, principles, and rules of the organization. Instrumental music students are constantly on display. Each must always be aware of the importance of good behavior. Students should always remember that they represent their organization, school, parents, and community when they are in the public eye. Any misconduct casts a direct reflection on our school and community and may well undo the good work of hundreds of loyal students. Discipline is order. There is order in all things physical, material, spiritual, and intellectual. With orderliness comes attainment of things worthwhile.

## ***THE STUDENT RESPONSIBILITY TO THE INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC PROGRAM***

1. Be regular in class attendance.
2. Never miss a performance.
3. Make sure that you have your instrument and music with you everyday. Monday--Friday
4. Make a real effort to learn and improve every day.
5. Be responsible for and expect to assume the consequences of your actions.
6. Be personally clean, neat, and properly dressed.
7. Show respect to those in authority.
8. Follow all classroom rules, school regulations and all travel instructions issued for trips.
9. Be honest and fair with others concerning equipment, music and school life in general.
10. Label the instrument case with name, address and phone number.
11. Bring a pencil with an eraser to class every day.
12. If a student is unable to play for medical reason (ie: orthodontic work) please send a note of explanation to the director. If the student is at school, he/she should plan to sit with the instrument and at least finger through the music. Observation is a major portion of the learning process.
13. Chewing gum and candy damage instruments. Do not bring them to band.

## How can a Student Practice Effectively?

1. Find a quiet place, away from television, radio, etc. that interruptions will be kept to a minimum.
2. Have a straight back chair, music stand and proper lighting in this practice area.
3. Work to schedule a daily practice routine of approximately 30 minutes.
4. Look up fingerings you do not know in your band book.
5. Circle your problem measures and name and finger the notes slowly over and over without playing. (air playing)  
This process will help you establish the fingering patterns of a piece of music.
6. Using a metronome, play the problem measure slowly, gradually increasing the tempo.
7. If counting problems persist, take time to figure the counting system syllables and count/clap the rhythms. If you can not count a rhythm, you can not play it with accuracy.
8. Tape record your practice. The tape will tell you the truth about how you are doing. It will help you assess what you still need to improve. The Essential Elements book comes with a DVD/CD that will enhance the practice sessions.
9. Remember: How you practice is much more important than how much you practice.  
“Practice makes perfect, provided the practice is perfect.”

## Instrument Needs for the Beginning Band Student

To insure a successful band experience for your child, a reliable instrument, in good working condition is a must. The instrument should meet certain minimum standards for musical performance and mechanical reliability.

Please be aware that there are many beginning band instruments of unacceptable quality in the marketplace today. These instruments do not meet our performance, mechanical, and maintenance reliability standards.

Our recommendation is that you secure an instrument from a qualified school music dealer. We hold these vendors accountable for quality instruments that will serve our students well. Many have a rent to own program that will make the instrument affordable. School music dealers will also have an on site repair facility to insure a quick and quality repair job. For your convenience, we have listed some brand names with which we are familiar and had a successful experience:

Accent	Conn
Artley	Gemeinhardt
Armstrong	King
Bach	Leblanc
Benge	Ludwig
Buffet	Pearl
Bundy	Selmer
Cannonball	Yamaha

If you have any questions about an instrument, please check with the band staff prior to purchase.

## INSTRUMENTAL CLASSES

### ⇒ 5th Grade Band

The Andover Elementary Schools offer Instrumental Music classes as a part of the regular classroom instruction. These classes are designed to be a small group setting of approximately 20 to 30 students. There will be an emphasis on fundamental instrumental training, at home practice routines, and performance skills. *Essential Elements 2000, Book I* will be the required text for this course. Evaluations will be based on at home practice, playing tests, performance requirements, and participation.

Students must have their instrument at school each day Monday - Thursday. It is the responsibility of the student to fulfill this obligation. If an instrument is in the shop, please have a signed note from parents. Students who forget to bring their instrument will be required to make up this missed class time outside of the school day.

## MUSIC

Music costs the school a great deal of money and gets more expensive each year. Therefore, it is your responsibility to keep the music in good condition and return it in as good a condition as when it was given to you. If the music happens to tear while in your care, please tape the music on both sides of the tear.

## SMART MUSIC

A complete music practice system with over 30,000 titles, featuring our proprietary Intelligent Accompaniment® technology that listens to musicians sing or play through a microphone and follows their spontaneous tempo changes.

This award-winning, interactive system makes practicing fun and efficient. Supported by leading musicians like Wynton Marsalis, James Galway, Dawn Upshaw and many others. Subscriptions now available for music educators and private teachers around the world.

## PRIVATE LESSONS

Every band member would benefit greatly by taking private lessons. Private lessons will advance the individual's playing ability, both technically and tonally. A list of qualified Private Instructors is available through the Band Office. To enhance the learning process, some parents provide supplementary private lessons for the beginning students. It is an investment that will have long-lasting benefits. When selecting a Private Instructor, it is important to have a teacher who specializes in your particular family of instruments. Contact your band director for more information.

## PARTICIPATION REQUIREMENT

All students are expected to participate in classroom activities each day. They are expected to participate in the concerts that are scheduled. Performance is the assessment tool for a fine arts classroom.

## PRACTICE REQUIREMENTS

### 5th Grade Band

**Practice Points--All points must be documented and have a parent signature**

1. 1 point for every 30 minutes home practice time.
2. Maximum practice points per week-8
3. You may count piano lessons as 1 point for a 30 minute lesson
4. You may count horn lessons as 2 points for a 30 minute lesson
5. On holiday weeks practice points will be doubled  
You may earn up to 16 points during that time.

### Weekly Playing Tests

10 points possible

**Extra Credit Points--Students must bring a program or a signed note from their parents for these extra credit opportunities.**

*Practice with Smartmusic—*

Points to be determined

*10 points -- Attendance to:*

1. High School Marching Band Performance (once)
2. High School Concert Band Performance
3. High School Jazz Band Performance
4. Middle School Band Performance
5. College Band Performance (once)
6. Professional Band or Orchestra Performance
7. Honor Band Performance

*20 points -- Participation*

1. School Band Performances
2. Southern Plains Honor Band

### ***5th Grade Award Program***

Cadet Musician	35 points
First Class Musician	100 points
Intermediate Musician	200 points
Master Musician	300 points
Medallion Musician	400 points
Master Medallion Musician	500 points

### **GRADING POLICY**

Each student's grade in band will be based on the following:

1. Daily participation
2. Participation Points for Concerts and Rehearsals
3. Being prepared for class each day
4. Posture
5. Basic knowledge of their instrument
6. Playing tests
7. At home practice
8. Instrument upkeep

### **CLOSING**

This handbook is to serve as a guide to our Band Program. It is offered as a communication tool to help students understand their responsibilities, privileges, and expectations of those students involved in Instrumental Music in the Andover USD 385 School District. We want this to be a fun-filled, educational, and rewarding experience for each young musician. We expect that each child will make memories and build relationships that will last a life time.

## Beginning Band Participation Agreement

Like any new skill, learning to play a musical instrument takes time and patience. If a student is to be success, he or she must commit to practice and stick with the program. There is no immediate success in playing an instrument. It takes time. We ask that each student signing up for Band makes a minimum 9 month commitment. Students will encounter difficult times throughout their progress. During those times we want our young musicians to rise to the occasion rather than take an easy out and not continue. The Instrumental Music Department has developed this Agreement to make sure that everyone involved understands the expectations of the program.

1. The student is making a 36 week commitment to remain a member of the 5th grade band for the duration of the school year.
2. The student agrees to work to improve each and every day.
3. The student will come to class prepared with their instrument, book, and supplies each and every day.
4. Students who play a school owned Instrument (oboe, baritone, french horn), will treat that instrument with great care and be responsible for it's condition.
5. The student will practice on a regular basis at home.
6. The student will turn in practice records on a regular basis.

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student signature

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parent signature

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school

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director

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date