

# BEGINNING BAND HANDBOOK

## PURPOSE

The purpose of the Oglesby Public Schools Band Program is to enrich the lives of the students through the learning of the language of music.

## OBJECTIVES

1. To help students develop, through an emphasis on musical fundamentals, into the best musicians they can be.
2. To offer an opportunity for young musicians to perform literature of an appropriate difficulty, as part of a student ensemble.
3. To help students learn good character traits such as responsibility, self-discipline, respect, and service.
4. To help students learn cooperation with others and to work as “team” players to achieve group goals.
5. To provide musical service to the community.
6. To promote, build, and educate future audiences and supporters of music.

## MEMBERSHIP

Band membership is designed for the entire school year. In the event a student does not wish to fulfill that commitment, their parent or guardian must contact the director by phone or a written note *at the end of that current nine weeks*. Any student dropping Band within a nine week grading period (**with parental consent**), must be prepared to accept an incomplete ( I ) on their report card. If your child stops coming to band and Mrs. Malcolm is NOT notified by parents/guardians then your child will still earn a letter grade for that nine week period. The best thing to do is to wait and have your child drop at the end of the nine weeks, or to have them stay in band through the school year. *Encouraging your child to finish something they started teaches them a valuable lesson that they can carry with them throughout their lives! ☺*

## BAND RULES AT WASHINGTON SCHOOL

1. **Arrive to band on time – in your seat by 2:40 pm.**
2. **Warm-up quietly.**
3. **Sit up straight.**
4. **Both feet flat on the floor.**
5. **No Talking when Mrs. Malcolm is on the director’s podium.**
6. **Respect others as you would want to be respected.**
7. **Raise your hand when you have a question.**
8. **Give compliments!!**
9. **HAVE FUN!!!!!!!!!!!!!!**

## BAND REHEARSALS

Band members are expected to observe the following rehearsal guidelines:

1. Bring to each rehearsal
  - a. Your instrument (reeds, mutes, lyres, and supplies)
  - b. Your music folder (make arrangements to get the folder to school if you are absent)
  - c. A pencil
2. Upon arrival in the band area, put instrument together, leave large cases on the choir risers, go to your seat, arrange the music, and warm-up softly(long tones, scales, band music). Percussionists are to adjust drums and equipment as QUIETLY as possible.
3. The director’s presence on the podium signals quiet, and the beginning of the rehearsal.
4. Gum chewing and eating candy is not permitted in the music Room at any time except during preplanned parties.

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5. Doing homework or anything not related to the learning of music is not permitted during rehearsals.
6. At the close of each rehearsal, return your instrument to its case and place the music in the folder. Please return your instrument and music to the storage cabinets and shelves. Percussionists will set up and tear down their music, instruments and mallets according to the chart posted.
7. Each member is responsible for the appearance of the room in his/her area. Your chair, music stand, and storage area should be clean at the end of rehearsal.
8. All students need to dress appropriately for marching rehearsals, and will be told when the band will be outside, so you may get a coat from your locker.

## **UNIFORMS FOR BAND STUDENTS**

### **Beginning Band Students**

**Concert Uniform** - Students are asked to please supply their own: Black pants/skirt, white shirt/blouse, and black shoes/socks/tights.

## **INSTRUMENTS**

You are responsible for your instrument whether it is your own or it belongs to the school. Put it away properly after each time you play it, so it won't be lost or stolen. Keep your instrument in good playing condition: slides greased, at least three reeds in good playing condition, valves in good working order, etc.. Each instrument must be marked with an identification tag on the outside or inside of the case. Please see the director for one if your instrument is not marked.

## **FEES**

Each student who joins band will have to pay a \$25.00 participation fee unless otherwise notified. A student who *rents* a school instrument pays a fee of \$7.00 per semester, with a check made out to Oglesby Public Schools. Out of district Holy Family students will be billed by the office for their band fees each year. Students are responsible for the care of all Oglesby Public Schools music issued to them. Students will pay for lost or damaged music at the rate of \$2.00 per part for band music.

## **BAND LESSONS**

As soon as possible after school begins, band lessons will begin. Each student has a weekly small group lesson with the director to help the student become a better player through the learning of music fundamentals.

## **HOME PRACTICE EXPECTATIONS**

Band students are urged to practice their instruments at home to reinforce the learning that is going on at school. Like homework, practicing if done on a regular basis, helps advance learning dramatically. Each student is asked to keep a record of home practice on the chart in the front of the lesson book, have it initialed by a parent, and show it to the director each week at Band Lessons. Please refer to the grading procedures for specifics about home practicing.

## **STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES**

Each student is expected to do his/her best at all times. A positive student attitude and leadership qualities are very important to all of the Oglesby Public Schools Bands. All school owned equipment used by the student must be the sole responsibility of the student and the parents. Students will be required to pay for any school equipment that is lost or damaged.

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## PARENT RESPONSIBILITIES

Parents are encouraged to support their child's involvement in the Oglesby Band program and keep informed about what is happening. Discipline and character building play a central part in this program. Being an active member in the Support Oglesby Schools helps parents stay involved and informed about the activities of the program. Scheduling of events is done as far in advance as possible. It is stressed that parents should treat their child's music schedule of events as part of the total family schedule. Needless to say, a band cannot be effective to the student or to the audience without complete participation and meticulous attention to detail, including attendance and punctuality.

## GETTING HOME FROM WEDNESDAY BAND REHEARSAL

**Students will go home from Washington School on Wednesdays starting on October 7, 2009.**

*If your child:*

- Rides a bus home, they will catch the same bus from Washington School.
- Walks home from Lincoln, they will ride a bus back over to Lincoln and then walk home.
- Walks home from Washington, they will do the same
- Goes to the YMCA after school program, they will ride a bus back over to Lincoln and then go the YMCA program.
- Is a car rider – **PLEASE REMEMBER TO PICK HIM/HER UP FROM WASHINGTON SCHOOL ON WEDNESDAYS STARTING ON OCTOBER 7, 2009!**

- |                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>PLEASE NOTIFY MRS. MALCOLM AND YOUR HOMEROOM TEACHER IN WRITING IF YOUR CHILD WILL BE GOING HOME A DIFFERENT WAY THAN ORIGINALLY PLANNED.</b></li></ul> |
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*No FULL BAND at Washington on the following Wednesdays due to early dismissals or no school:*

**October 14, 2009**

**November 11, 2009**

**November 25, 2009**

**January 27, 2010**

**February 24, 2010**

**April 21, 2010**

**May 26, 2010**



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## GRADING PROCEDURES FOR BAND STUDENTS

### Starting Off on the Right Foot

At the start of the 2<sup>nd</sup> nine week period, each band student starts off with a 100% A in band. It is very easy to keep that 100% going throughout the nine week period. Coming to band on time with your instrument, putting in practice time a minimum of three times a week (for 20 minutes would be enough to improve!), remembering your weekly lesson and coming to ALL performances on time and ready to go will earn each band student a 100% A on their report card. It's that easy!

NOTE – There are no band grades for the 1<sup>st</sup> nine weeks. Grading begins at the 2<sup>nd</sup> nine week period. If your child chooses to not participate in band they need to drop at the end of the nine weeks.

Breakdown of how grades are determined:

1. Rehearsals – 20% of overall grade.  
This reflects attendance punctuality, attitude, behavior and work in rehearsals.
2. Band Lessons preparation/performance – 27% of overall grade.  
This reflects attendance, punctuality, attitude, behavior and work in Band Lessons (\*\***STICKER SONGS**\*\*).
3. Concert performance – 50% of overall grade.  
This reflects attendance, punctuality, attitude, behavior and musical performance at concerts.
4. Individual home practice – 3% of overall grade.  
Includes showing signed book to the director each week. Discretion will also be used if student shows improvement from week to week but forgets to have sheet signed. In other words, the director can tell whether a student has put in practice time from week to week and will not penalize a student for an occasional forgetful moment. ☺

### **\*\*\*Sticker Songs\*\*\* This is probably THE most important part!**

Beginning band students will receive a sticker for each song that they are able to play individually in their book. This way, you can check to see their progress in lessons at home. I always date the book with their assignment so they know what is expected of them from week to week. You should see at least ONE new sticker each week, this way you know that they made progress during their lesson. Ideally, students should receive around 3-5 stickers per week, however, I understand that sometimes getting practice in is difficult, but it is important that students keep progressing (with my help, of course!). If a number of weeks pass by and I seen no improvement (in other words, no stickers are earned and the student is “stuck” on the same page) then I will give the parents a call to see what we can do.

**Bonus Point** (1 maximum) may be earned in the following way each quarter and does not accumulate from quarter to quarter:

1. Extra listening experiences such as attending a concert of a band, orchestra or choral group.  
(1 point per concert program turned in to the director). **BRING IN A CONCERT PROGRAM FOR CREDIT.**
2. Performing in a regularly rehearsing community musical group, i.e. Illinois Valley Youth Choir, etc. (1 point)
3. Individual private instruction outside of school (1 point)

The total points awarded will determine the quarter grade according to the following scale:

A = 94 - 100%

B = 88 - 93%

C = 78 - 87%

D = 70 - 77%

F = 0 - 69%

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## Oglesby Public School Beginning Band Calendar 2009-2010

### SEPTEMBER 2009

Wednesday, September 2            3:00 – 5:30 pm Beginning Band Display Night – Lincoln Music Room  
Monday, September 14 (week of)    Beginning Band Lessons Start

### OCTOBER 2009

Wednesday, October 7            First Beginning Full Band Rehearsal

### DECEMBER 2009

Monday, December 7            7:00 pm Beginning Band, Chorus, Concert Band & Choirchimes  
Christmas Concert

### MARCH 2010

Tuesday, March 23            7:00 pm Spring Concert for Recorders, Bands and Chorus

### APRIL 2010

TBA            Beginning Band Concert for 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Students

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