



North Middle School Band
Mrs. Jenny Painter, Director
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(406) 268-6557
<http://www.tinyurl.com/NMS-Band>

August 2011

Dear Band Parents and Students:

Welcome to band at North Middle School! I am delighted to be working with you and your child this year! In this handbook you will find concert dates, classroom expectations and other important details about the North Middle School Band Program. **Please read this information, sign the last page and have your child return the last page only to me by Friday, September 9, 2011.** A copy of the signature page with a list of concert dates was sent home with all band students the first week of school. If you have any questions, please feel free contact me at the e-mail or phone number listed above.

Thank you for your support of band at North Middle School, where all students are engaged in learning today for life tomorrow!

Sincerely,

Jenny Painter

Band Director



2011-2012

North Middle School Band Handbook & Syllabus

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Class Descriptions

NMS offers two 7th grade and two 8th grade bands for students with previous playing experience. For their benefit and growth, all students are placed in a band with classmates of similar skills. All band classes meet daily. Additional rehearsals are scheduled during Connections for 7th grade classes that combine to perform.

Bruin Band 1 and **Bruin Band 2** are intermediate bands for 7th grade woodwind and brass players. Members typically enter with a minimum of two years experience playing their band instrument. Both classes perform at least three concerts during the school year, with an emphasis on individual growth and developing a varied musical background.

Percussion class is a wonderful opportunity for 7th grade percussionists to develop many of the unique skills needed to play a variety of concert band percussion. Members typically have a minimum of two years experience playing percussion when entering. All percussion students will perform at least three times with one of the 7th grade Bruin Bands throughout the year.

Concert Band and **Symphonic Band** are intermediate and advanced 8th grade bands. Most members of these groups have three years of experience playing their band instrument. Each group performs three to four concerts during the school year, with emphasis on developing musicianship and preparing for band in high school.

Jazz Band is open to all band students and orchestra bass players who qualify by audition, held in September. This club rehearses regularly during Connections. Performances may include early morning, evening, and daytime events, both in and out of school. Individual attendance at rehearsals is required prior to participating in these performances. Students and parents will be given advance notice of all events.

Classroom Rules, Rewards and Consequences

1. Follow directions the first time given.
2. Respect yourself, others and all equipment.
3. No gum, candy, food, flavored drinks, or cell phones allowed in the band room.
4. Be quiet when the director is on the podium and raise your hand to speak.

Rewards: Select a seat day, social time for the last five minutes of class, great music making!

Consequences: (1) Verbal Reminder, (2) Discussion with the teacher after class (3) Detention time and/or a phone call home (4) Office Referral and/or parent meeting. Note: Students have two minutes after the bell to be in their seats ready to play. Two or more unexcused tardies past this time may earn detention time with Mrs. Painter before or after school. Cell phones in use will be taken for the duration of the class period or school day.

Severe Clause: Severe behavior will result in immediate removal to the office.

2011-2012 NMS Band Concert Dates

Please mark your calendar! Concert attendance is required for all students, with few exceptions. Parents, please contact Mrs. Painter ASAP if your student has been or will be absent from a concert. A make-up assignment may be offered in extenuating circumstances. Concerts are in bold; be sure to check the start time.

Thurs., 11/3 Symphonic BandFall Concert..... NMS Gym.....7:30 p.m.
Thurs., 12/1 Bruin 4th Per. & PercussionFull Band Dress Rehearsal..... Band RoomConnections
Mon., 12/5 Bruin 2nd Per. & Percussion.....Full Band Dress Rehearsal..... Band RoomConnections
Tues., 12/6 Bruin 4th Per. & PercussionFull Band Dress Rehearsal..... Band RoomConnections
Tues., 12/6..... Bruin 4th Per. & Percussion.....Holiday Concert # 1 NMS Gym.....7:30 p.m.
Thurs., 12/8 Bruin 2nd Per. & Percussion.....Full Band Dress Rehearsal..... Band RoomConnections
Thurs., 12/8 Bruin 2nd Per. & PercussionHoliday Concert # 2 NMS Gym.....7:30 p.m.
Tues., 12/13..... Concert Band.....Holiday Concert # 3 NMS Gym.....6:00 p.m.
Tues., 12/13..... Symphonic Band.....Holiday Concert # 4 NMS Gym.....7:30 p.m.
Tues., 2/28 Bruin 4th Per. & PercussionFull Band Dress Rehearsal..... Band RoomConnections
Thurs., 3/1 Bruin 2nd Per. & Percussion.....Full Band Dress Rehearsal..... Band RoomConnections
Tues., 3/13 Bruin 4th Per. & PercussionFull Band Dress Rehearsal..... Band RoomConnections
Thurs., 3/15 Bruin 2nd Per. & Percussion.....Full Band Dress Rehearsal..... Band RoomConnections
Thurs., 3/15 Concert Band, Bruin 2 & Perc.Winter MIOSM Concert..... NMS Gym.....6:30 p.m.
Thurs., 3/15 Bruin 4th Period & Perc.Winter MIOSM Concert..... NMS Gym.....7:30 p.m.
Tues., 3/27..... Symphonic Band.....GFPS Band MIOSM Concert..... Civic Center7:00 p.m.
Tues., 4/24 Jazz Band.....Final Rehearsal Band RoomConnections
Thurs., 4/26 Jazz Band.....Final Rehearsal Band RoomConnections
Thurs., 4/26 Jazz BandSpring Concert # 1 NMS Gym.....6:00 p.m.
Tues., 5/8 Symphonic Band & Phil OrchFull Group Dress Rehearsal... Band RoomConnections
Thurs., 5/10 Bruin 4th Per. & PercussionFull Band Dress Rehearsal..... Band RoomConnections
Mon., 5/14 Bruin 2nd Per. & Percussion.....Full Band Dress Rehearsal..... Band RoomConnections
Tues., 5/15 Bruin 4th Per. & PercussionFull Band Dress Rehearsal..... Band RoomConnections
Thurs., 5/17 Concert Band, Bruin 2nd Per. & Perc. Full Band Dress Rehearsal..... Band RoomConnections
Thurs., 5/17 Bruin 4th Period & Perc.....Spring Band Concert..... NMS Gym.....6:00 p.m.
Thurs., 5/17 Concert Band, Bruin 2 & Perc.Spring Band Concert..... NMS Gym.....7:30 p.m.
Mon., 5/21 Symphonic Band & Phil OrchFull Group Dress Rehearsal... Band RoomConnections
Tues., 5/22 Symphonic Band & Phil OrchFull Group Dress Rehearsal... Band RoomConnections
Thurs., 5/24 Symphonic Band & Phil OrchFull Group Dress Rehearsal... Band RoomConnections
Thurs., 5/24 Symphonic Band.....Outdoor Concert NMS "Grizzly Den"7:00 p.m.

Additional Jazz Band performances will be announced.

A Note About Braces

Young instrumentalists are dramatically affected by braces. New braces can be uncomfortable and can affect a player's ability to produce a quality sound. Students usually adapt well to these challenges, but anyone with new braces needs time to adjust and recover. *Please*, if at all possible, avoid making appoints with your orthodontist for new braces or tightening of old ones during the week of a concert. This small step will help your child have a much more rewarding experience playing the concert they have worked so hard to prepare.

Please be aware copyright law applies to recordings made of our concerts. To legally make and share videos of our concerts, permission is required from (1) every identifiable person in the video (or from a parent of children under 18) as well as (2) the copyright owner of each piece of music performed. For this reason, parents are cautioned not to record concerts.

Concert Dress

All students are expected to follow the uniform standards for concerts as described below. All clothing must meet the school dress code.

- ♪ The **8th grade** music uniform consists of a gray polo shirt provided by the school and solid-colored, full-length black pants provided by the student. No baggies please! Assistance is available to provide black pants if requested in advance. Please make a note on the signature page if help is needed. All students are asked to wear dark socks and comfortable, dark shoes.
- ♪ The **7th grade** music uniform consists of a maroon t-shirt with a gold logo provided by the school and plain, full-length BLUE jeans, as dark as possible provided by the student. All students are asked to wear dark socks and comfortable, dark shoes.
- ♪ Wearing other clothing or accessories that detract from the uniform look of the band may impact a student's concert etiquette grade. Details will be discussed in class.
- ♪ Uniform shirts will be checked out to students prior to their concerts, and are the students' responsibility until they are checked in after the concerts. Replacement charges may be assessed for lost or irreparable shirts.

Course Content & Grades

Specific grade information and teacher comments are available through the PowerSchool Parent Portal on the internet. Per the district-adopted curriculum, band grades are based on students' abilities to:

- | | |
|--|--|
| ♪ Vocalize medium-easy rhythmic and melodic patterns; vocalize a unison pitch for ear training purposes. | ♪ Evaluate music and music performances. |
| ♪ Perform on instruments, alone and in groups, a varied repertoire of music. | ♪ Understand the relationship between music, the other arts, and disciplines outside the arts. |
| ♪ Read and notate music. | ♪ Understand music in relation to history and culture. |
| ♪ Listen to, analyze and describe music. | ♪ Understand study and participation skills necessary for musical groups. |

Student skills and progress will be assessed through:

- ♪ **Playing tests:** Playing band music, scales and other skill exercises accurately.
- ♪ **Progress logs:** Weekly documentation of individual goal-setting and progress outside of class.
 - If you are concerned about taking your percussion kit, tuba or baritone home on the school bus to practice, please ask Mrs. Painter for help.
- ♪ **Music theory:** Showing knowledge of note names, terms, musical forms and genres, counting systems, etc.
- ♪ **Rehearsal etiquette:** Participating actively and positively in rehearsals with respect for classmates, instruments, equipment, and other materials.
 - If a student will not be playing in class due to illness or an instrument in the repair shop, please bring a note from home to avoid losing points.
 - Attendance at scheduled Connections rehearsals is part of a student's grade.
- ♪ **Concert musical skills:** Demonstrating a variety of *musical* skills in a concert setting.
 - Students who miss a concert due to a family emergency, illness, or similar reason as shared with Mrs. Painter by a parent may have the opportunity to make up the missed grade. Please ask Mrs. Painter.

- ♪ **Concert etiquette:** Demonstrating teamwork, concert etiquette and similar *ensemble* skills during a concert.
 - This includes arriving on time, staying for the entire event, dressing appropriately, and demonstrating Grizzly respect, responsibility and readiness at all times.
- ♪ **Performance reflections:** Using music vocabulary to evaluate musical performances.
- ♪ **Enrichment Project:** Student choice of activities to show skills and progress in a variety of areas.

Required Materials

All students- pencil, working instrument, binder, and music. **All seventh grade students** also need the red level 1 “Standards of Excellence” book they used in 5th and 6th grades.

- ♪ **Flute-** cleaning rod and soft cleaning cloth
- ♪ **Oboe/Bassoon-** at least 2 reeds, cork grease, cleaning swab, small water container to soak reeds
- ♪ **Clarinet/Bass Clarinet-** cloth swab (felt not recommended), cork grease, at least 3 playable reeds (size 2 ½ or 3; recommended brands include Mitchell Lurie, Rico Royal, and Vandoren. Note: When buying Vandoren reeds, the thickness number should be ½ to 1 number less than the Mitchell Lurie and Rico Royal number).
- ♪ **Saxophone-** pull-through cleaning swab, cork grease, neck strap, at least 3 playable reeds (size 2 ½ or 3; recommended brands include Hemke and Vandoren. See note above about Vandoren reed sizes.)
- ♪ **Trumpet-** valve oil, tuning slide grease, cleaning snake, mouthpiece brush, valve brush
- ♪ **French horn-** rotary valve oil, tuning slide grease, mouthpiece brush
- ♪ **Trombone-** slide cream/oil (Options include: (1) Slide-O-Mix, (2) Super Slick slide cream with a water spray bottle, or (3) slide oil), tuning slide grease, cleaning snake, mouthpiece brush
- ♪ **Baritone/Tuba-** valve oil, tuning slide grease (both provided by the school for rented instruments)
- ♪ **Percussion-** Bell kit, snare drum, practice pad, drum key, snare sticks, medium hard rubber bell mallets. Because of the large class size, seventh grade percussionists need to bring or share these items at school. Eighth grade students will use school equipment unless otherwise designated. Percussionists pay a half-price rental fee to cover the use of all other percussion equipment (cymbals, bass drum, timpani, etc.) owned by the school.

Reed players: It is cheaper (per reed) to buy reeds by the box rather than individually. It also saves trips to the music store. Reeds will last longer if they are stored in a reed case, available at the music store as well.

All other music, books, and folders are provided by the school with the understanding that they need to be returned in the condition they are received. For lost or irreparable damage, students may be charged a replacement fee based on current catalog prices.

Renting School Instruments

Students who play flute, clarinet, alto saxophone, and trumpet are responsible for providing their own instrument. North Middle School has a limited number of the following instruments available for student rental: oboe, bassoon, bass clarinet, tenor and baritone saxophone, French horn, trombone, baritone, and tuba. The director will issue school instruments and rental agreements the first week of school; please see the rental agreement for further details and current rental fees.

Instrument Identification, Storage & Repair

All instruments and equipment must be labeled with the student’s name! Students will be given space in the band room to keep their instrument. Students may bring their instrument into the band room AFTER 7:30 a.m.

and may pick up their instruments after school until 3:30 p.m. (2:15 on most Wednesdays). Every effort will be made to secure the band room when not in use, however, it is recommended that all instruments be taken home on weekends and holidays/breaks. Insurance for privately owned instruments is available from the school district and will be discussed in class. In addition, please contact Mrs. Painter as soon as possible if an instrument needs repair. Students and parents should NOT attempt to repair an instrument themselves. A list of local repair technicians is included below.

Local Instrument Repair Technicians & Music Stores

- ♪ Jerome Faith, 761-5507
- ♪ Anne Kittleson, 268-1098 or 899-2515 (cell)
- ♪ Rod's Music & Sound (Eckroth Music), 721 Central Ave., 771-1314
- ♪ Quality Piano, (Bud's Band Box), 615 Central Ave., 761-5507

Music Technology

North Middle School uses SmartMusic software in our practice room as a practice and assessment tool. This program can be a fun and valuable practice tool at home as well. If you are interested in purchasing SmartMusic at home, visit www.smartmusic.com for more information.

Please visit our band website for a list of concert dates and links to other valuable resources. We are online at:

<http://www.gfps.k12.mt.us/Schools/North/web/Teachers/JenniferPainter/Index.html>

OR (same website, shorter address)

<http://www.tinyurl.com/NMS-Band>

Mrs. Painter is also working to provide course information and resources through the GFPS Moodle system. Information will be shared with students as it becomes available online in Moodle.

Private Lessons

Many students take private lessons on their band instrument. Private lessons are one-on-one with a teacher who specializes in the student's instrument, focusing on a variety of material beyond the scope of a band rehearsal. A list of local teachers is available online at <http://www.morgenrothmusic.com/instructors.php> or see Mrs. Painter.

Field Trips

Occasionally, band students may take a field trip during the school day to perform, watch a performance, or play along with other musicians for educational purposes. Notice will be sent home prior to each performance, and your signature on the signature page gives permission for your student to take part in these events unless you notify Mrs. Painter prior to each event.



North Middle School has a long tradition of musical excellence. It is a pleasure and privilege to be your teacher and to work and play with you. Thank you for being in band!

Signature Form

Please review the 2011-2012 NMS Band Handbook with your parent or guardian, then **sign and return this page only to Mrs. Painter on or before September 9, 2011**. To conserve paper, the handbook is available online at the addresses listed below or through our NMS Band Moodle site. (It is the student's responsibility to ask Mrs. Painter if you need a printed hard copy of this handbook.) Please keep the list of concert dates at home.

<http://www.gfps.k12.mt.us/Schools/North/web/Teachers/JenniferPainter/Index.html>

OR (same website, shorter address)

<http://www.tinyurl.com/NMS-Band>

PLEASE DO NOT SIGN THIS PAGE IF YOU HAVE NOT READ THE BAND HANDBOOK. When you are finished reviewing the handbook, please read, sign and date below:

I have read the information regarding band at North Middle School and understand that there are performances outside the school day for which attendance is required and for which grades are given. I have received a calendar of concert dates for this school year and understand that the teacher will let the students know well in advance of any changes or additions. I will also arrange for or provide transportation for my child to and from concerts. Finally, I understand notice will be sent home prior to any field trips my student may take and I agree to let my student participate in these educational events unless I notify Mrs. Painter prior to each event.

PRINT Student Name		2	3	4	5	9
		Band Period (Circle one)				

Instrument	Instrument Brand Name	Serial number
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Home Phone	Work Phone	Other Phone
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E-mail (for legitimate class communication only) Check here if you do NOT want your e-mail shared.

Parent Signature	Student Signature	Date
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Please write a note below if you need help providing your child with full-length black pants (8th grade only), or if you have any other special considerations Mrs. Painter should know about (religious considerations concerning patriotic or holiday music, for example). _____

