



# Clements Middle School Band Handbook

**Faith Parker, Director of Bands**

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*Welcome to the Clements Middle School Band Program! It is truly an honor to be working with you this year and I cannot wait to see how much you progress as you practice and we study music together. I'm looking forward to doing all I can to give you an incredible band experience and I expect that we will work together as a team at all times to accomplish our goals. Please review this document in its entirety and if you have any questions, comments, or concerns, I will be more than willing to meet with you about them. Let's have a great year and continue making our band program something we can be proud of for generations to come!*

*Ms. Parker, Director of Bands*

## **Mission Statement**

The mission of the Clements Middle School Middle School Band Program is to enrich and educate the whole child through music. We believe that an education through music allows the child to become more proficient at problem solving, organization, teamwork, and communication skills. All of these skills are vital for the development of a good human being and will allow the child to contribute to society in a positive way. CLMS Band Students strive to exemplify the qualities of good stewards and leaders in everything that they do. We strive to be excellent in everything that we do and also strive to ignite a passion for music in each student that joins our program.

## **Program Description**

Each band class at Clements provides students with learning and performance opportunities on woodwind, brass, or percussion instruments. The primary focus is on the development and expansion of basic performance skills continued from the previous year which are necessary for effective instrumental music performance.

Performing standard literature for young bands is the primary focus of each class and ensemble. In addition to performing with the concert ensembles, individual growth and achievement are encouraged through private lessons, participation in solo and ensemble and various honor bands.

Topics and skills covered include:

- Embouchure and tone development
- Counting, timing, and rhythmic development
- Reading and notation skills, including sight reading
- Basic music theory
- Development of an extensive vocabulary of musical terms and symbols
- Ear training and listening skills
- Equipment care and maintenance
- Effective practice habits

Students in band perform in public concerts scheduled throughout the year. Beginners may choose from one of the following instruments to learn: flute, oboe, bassoon, clarinet, alto saxophone, tenor saxophone, trumpet, french horn, trombone, euphonium, tuba, or percussion.

## **Band Descriptions**

### **Beginning Band**

This class is designed for students that have no experience with wind/percussion instruments. No prior musical experience is required. Major performances will be the Winter/Fall concert.

### **Concert Band**

This band is a performing band consisting of 7th and 8th grade students. While every group will have concerts throughout the year, these are the groups that represent CLMS at local, state, and national events when invited.

### **Practicing**

Each student in the Clements Middle School Band Program will be required to practice a minimum of 20 minutes per night. Practicing is essential to ensure the success of our band program. Parents, please encourage your students to practice at home on a daily basis. If you are worried about noise, there are several products available that may reduce the sounds you are hearing. It is important not only for our program but for the stability and progress of our students that they practice on a consistent basis. At school, Ms. Parker will perform many assessments and will be able to tell whether or not the student has been practicing outside of the band room.

# Student Centered Opportunities

## **GMEA All-State Band (\$5.00 Entry Fee)**

GMEA organizes and carries out the All-State performance program in order to allow the selected students an opportunity to work with other students of equal caliber under the direction of highly qualified conductors. Each student auditions on a statewide basis and is selected on merit when judged by professionals against all other applicants across the state. Selection to All-State is recognition of excellence in musical knowledge, technique, and interpretation.

## **GMEA Solo and Ensemble (\$5.00 Entry Fee)**

The performance evaluation program sponsored by the Georgia Music Educators Association is an evaluation procedure of musical performance and sight-reading abilities for individual students, performing groups, and teachers. Participation in Performance Evaluation affords valuable opportunity and motivation for learning during an extended period of time prior to the event as part of regularly scheduled school work or in private studios in courses taught by accredited teachers.

# Clements Middle School Band Expectations

All students are expected to:

**Be respectful.**

**Be responsible.**

**Be safe.**

**Be on-time** ready to play with all needed materials when rehearsal begins.

**Be prepared** with their instrument, music, pencil, and all needed supplies (reeds, valve oil, and mallets) to participate every day. As assigned, students should come to rehearsal with the music fully prepared.

**Work cooperatively with one another and the directors** by equally contributing to the success of the ensemble.

**Be an effective, efficient team member** by following directions the first time and making the needed adjustments/corrections.

**Leave food and drink**—except water—**out of the band room.**

**Only play assigned instruments when given direction from the teacher;** this includes before and after class. This includes all percussion equipment.

**Strive for excellence** by practicing to become a better musician and a valuable member of our team at all times.

Every single day in the band is an audition. Character matters, and to be considered for our advanced classes, we are looking for excellent musicians and outstanding citizens of our school and community. **Small details matter, putting away equipment, respecting each other, being prepared for class and respectful during instruction.**

## Discipline Procedures

- 1) Verbal warning/redirection- with parent contact
- 2) Teacher-student conference/parent contact/ teacher-assigned detention
- 3) Administrative discipline referral and parent contact.

-Students who continuously refuse to follow procedures or who miss required performances or rehearsals without communicating with the Director may be removed from the program. Students are also rewarded for their good behavior with extra positive behavior intervention strategies and leadership opportunities.

## Parental Involvement

As you may know, one of the easiest ways you can ensure success for your child in OUR program is by being an involved parent. Being involved can look different for each family, but here are some definite ways that you can be involved:

1. **Participate in the Parent Support Group-** Our PSG is responsible for overseeing the success of the band program along with the band director.
2. **Volunteer** to assist with the MANY activities and concerts that we have throughout the year.
3. **Advocate for our program!** In a time where Music Education is being cut across our country, it is most important that any words that leave your mouth (or fingers) about the band program be received in a positive manner. The power of words is indescribable... what you say matters. Speak positively and often about our program!
4. **Encourage your child throughout the entire process.** There will be days when your child comes home not feeling great about the band or about music, that's completely normal, especially in Middle School. I ask that you continue to encourage and be supportive of them through the good and the bad. If they see that you don't care about it, they will feed off of that energy and not care about it as well. Help me help you!
5. **Make sure your child has the necessary supplies.** I will give out a detailed list of supplies for each instrument. It is vital that your child have these items. If you have questions about them or are seeking substitutions, please ask me first. I would hate for you to spend your money on something that is not going to make your child a better musician.
6. **Make sure your child has a place to practice.** A place that is quiet and free from distractions. Practicing is VITAL to the success of your child in the band program. Yes, at the beginning you will be regretting your decision because the sounds will be, let's say, less than perfect... but eventually the sounds will get better, but that only comes with patience and practice!
7. **Check your email often.** I can't state this enough, I communicate mostly through mass email and I do my best to make sure they are very thorough and organized to help you. Please write down all necessary dates and communicate with me if anything arises that you need help with.

## Band Fees

-All Fees can be paid through **GoFan** or if approved by the school bookkeeper, by sending in cash or a check made out to CLMS Band.

**\*Note\* Band fees will not be refunded for any reason.**

### 1. Band Uniform

- a. Band Polo- \$20.00
- b. Black Pants- \$25.00 (includes tax & shipping)
  - i. French Toast Uniform Company
- c. Black Shoes- \$35.00 (includes tax & shipping)
  - i. Dinkles
    - New polo for returning members is OPTIONAL

### 2. Band Essentials (used and given to all members)

- a. Extra Reeds
- b. Maintenance Materials
  - i. Swabs
  - ii. Cork/Slide Grease
  - iii. Thumb Protectors
- c. 3 Ring Binder
- d. Dividers w/ tabs
- e. Pencil
- f. Pencil Pouch
- g. 10 Page Protectors- Students will need about 50 page protectors each year.

### 3. 1 Copy of each piece of sheet music performed throughout the year.

## School Owned Instrument and Percussion Usage Fee

### 1. (Optional Fee) - \$50.00

School owned instruments can be assigned to those that are unable to rent an instrument, from outside vendors such as Harris Bands and Music and Arts. The purpose of this one-time annual fee is to help offset a small portion of the costly annual maintenance of these instruments so we are able to provide instruments for the students this year and in the future. Instruments are extremely expensive, and proper annual maintenance allows us to maximize the performance quality and extends the usability of these instruments. Students using a school-owned instrument are also required to complete an *Instrument Use Agreement Form* and are responsible for the safekeeping of the instrument while the instrument is in their care.

- **Any damage deemed to be beyond normal wear-and-tear will be the responsibility of the parent of the student and is not covered by this fee. Final report cards will be held until payment is received**

## Materials Needed

1. Instrument in good working condition. Beginning Band students will be walked through the process of instrument rentals in August. This meeting will be in person and it's very important that you be present.
2. Supplies necessary for playing the instrument (reeds, valve oil, slide oil, slide grease, cork grease, sticks, stick bag, etc... See detailed list below)
3. Band Binder with dividers and sheet protectors (provided by Director after fee is paid)
4. Pencil Pouch with pencils/erasers (provided by Band Director after fee is paid)
5. Set of Highlighters (Yellow, Green) necessary.
6. Method Books:
  - a. Beginning Band- Essential Elements Book 1 (yellow)- Provided by rental company during rental process
  - b. 7th/8th Grade Concert Band- Essential Elements Book 1 and 2 (Red) and Foundations for Superior Performance (Kling, Williams, Williams)
7. Electronic Metronome/Tuner Combo with Contact Microphone
  - a. Korg <sup>TM</sup>-60C is the most recommended brand and reputable tuner maker, but substitutions can be offered if financial situations call for that.
8. Music Stand for at home Practice!

Below you will find instrument specific accessories that are needed.

**If you rent through our rental company, most of these accessories will come with your rental.**

If you do not rent with our company, you will be expected to purchase these accessories on your own. I will provide links for items on Amazon.

### **\*A Note About Reeds and Mouthpieces/Ligatures\***

\*Reeds are an EXTREMELY important part of playing a woodwind instrument (except for flute). The quality of the reed is very important. Vandoren (Blue Box) reeds are mid-level reeds made of quality bamboo that last longer than cheaper brands IF the student takes care of them. The band director will show the students how to care for reeds. Reeds are not cheap and can last longer if cared for correctly. Please invest in a reed case; this investment will help keep the reeds safe and clean and will allow the student to use them for longer.

\*\*The mouthpiece of the clarinet and/or saxophone is critical. A bad mouthpiece can hinder a student's progress while a quality mouthpiece can help a student tremendously. A mid-quality instrument can sound like a professional instrument with a good mouthpiece like any of the mouthpieces mentioned in the upgrade. They are an investment, but one that is completely worth it. The mouthpieces and ligatures suggested are wonderful and will last from junior high through high school if cared for properly.



## **Beginning Band <https://a.co/052>**

- Essential Elements Student Recorder Book 1

## **All Students <https://a.co/3mJlo4T>**

- Wire Music Stand
- Korg TM60BK
- 3 Ring Binder
- Pencils
- Page Protectors
- Tab Dividers
- Essential Elements for Band Book 1 of specific instrument

## **Flute**

- Flute Tuning Rod
- Flute Polishing Cloth
- Key Cleaning Paper
- Silk Swab

## **Oboe**

- 3 or more medium soft reeds  
(handmade is best)
- Reed case
- Silk Swab
- Key Cleaning Paper

## **Bassoon**

- 3 or more medium soft reeds  
(handmade is best)
- Reed case
- Silk Swab
- Key Cleaning Paper

## Clarinet

- 4 of more working **Vandoren Blue Box Reeds**
  - 2.5, 3, 3.5 strength- Ask Ms. Parker what strength you should buy.
- Reed Case
- Cork Grease
- Silk Swab
- Rovner Ligature
- Vandoren 5RV Lyre Mouthpiece (Traditional)

## Bass Clarinet

- 4 of more working **Vandoren Blue Box Reeds**
  - 2.5, 3, 3.5 strength- Ask Ms. Parker what strength you should buy.
- Reed Case
- Cork Grease

## Alto Saxophone

- 4 of more working **Vandoren Blue Box Reeds**
  - 2.5, 3, 3.5 strength- Ask Ms. Parker what strength you should buy.
- Reed Case
- Cork Grease
- Silk Swab
- Quality Neck Strap
- Rovner Ligature
- Vandoren Optimum AL3 Mouthpiece

## Tenor Saxophone

- 4 of more working **Vandoren Blue Box Reeds**
  - 3, 3.5 strength- Ask Ms. Parker what strength you should buy.
- Reed Case
- Cork Grease
- Silk Swab
- Quality Neck Strap

## Baritone Saxophone

- 4 of more working **Vandoren Blue Box Reeds**
  - 3, 3.5 strength- Ask Ms. Parker what strength you should buy.
- Reed Case
- Cork Grease

## French Horn

- Rotor Valve oil
- Tuning Slide Grease
- Cleaning Kit

## Trumpet

- Valve oil
- Tuning Slide Grease
- Cleaning Kit
- Bach 3C Mouthpiece

## **Euphonium/Baritone**

- Tuning Slide Grease
- Euphonium Care Kit
- Valve Oil

## **Trombone**

- Yamaha Slide Lubricant
- Tuning Slide Grease
- Trombone Care Kit
- Bach 5G mouthpiece - check with Ms. Parker about the shank size needed

## **Tuba**

- Slide Grease
- Valve Oil
- Mouthpiece Pouch
- Conn Helleberg Mouthpiece

## **Percussion**

- Vic Firth or Innovative Percussion Education Stick Pack

Includes all mallets/sticks needed and a stick bag

## Instrument Inspections

Periodically, without prior warning, the director will ask to inspect your instrument.

All inspections require: The outside of your case or stick bag to be clearly labeled with your first and last name

Woodwinds: All keys and pads in playing condition. No loose joints. Instrument, mouthpiece, and at least 4 reeds must be cleaned and stored. All corks must be in good condition.

Brass: All valves and slides in great playing condition. Instruments, mouthpieces, and slides should be oiled, greased, and in proper working order. Must have a mouthpiece specified by the director. Water keys must be in working order.

Percussion: Sticks and mallets must be kept in stick bags at all times. Each stick and mallet should be clearly labeled with the student's name.

Please only acquire instruments from music stores. Avoid stores that sell other items (such as groceries, car batteries, power tools, and 'instruments'). As a music educator, I assure you that the quality of the instrument and mouthpiece directly affects the success rate, sound, and satisfaction of the student. Instruments that are of poor quality or in poor condition will hinder the student's success in band and will cause a heap of frustration for the musician, no matter what musical level the student is on.

## Concert/Performance Attire

All students will perform in:

- Band Performance Polo (**paid for by the activity fee**)
  - **This shirt will remain the same each year, so I would order a larger size so that you only have to buy it once.**
- Black Pants- 100% black, no other colors, jewels, designs, etc. (option to order for student)
- Black Shoes- 100% black, no other colors, jewels, designs, etc.(option to order for student)

## Grades

Band grades are based on class preparation, performances, rehearsals, playing tests, classwork, and homework. Grades are based on the following scale.

### Grade Weights

50%- Pass offs and Lessons

20%- Drills, Quizzes, Tests

30%- Full Band Work; concerts, rehearsal, materials, instrument inspection etc.

Total 100%

\*It is expected that all students will complete all assignments. If a student does not complete an assignment, he/she will be assigned morning or afternoon detention to complete the missing assignment(s). Not doing the work is not an option as a member of the CLMS Band.

## Instrument and Music Storage

The band room has a cubby that can be used to store instruments **during the day only**. All instruments should be taken home daily. All instruments, cases, and books must be clearly identified with the student's name. Instruments and equipment are the responsibility of each individual musician. Please label the outside of all cases. An instrument tag will be provided for Band Karate Purposes.

## Band Karate

Band Karate is a self-paced student program that will allow students to work at a speed that is comfortable for them. This program is built on our standards and will help students to progress at a greater speed than simply going through band class each day. Students will be expected to complete a total of 4 pass offs during each grading period. I will give students an opportunity to do these during class if we accomplish my to-do list for the week. The grading is simple, if they complete all 4, they receive 4 100s, if they complete 3, they receive 4 90s, if they complete 2, they receive 4 80s, if they complete 1, they receive 4 70s, if they complete nothing, they receive 4 0s at the end of the week. You will be able to track their progress via a link provided every Sunday.

## Private Lessons

Private lessons are for all students – beginners, those who are struggling, and advanced students. Anyone can benefit from a private instructor. Clements Middle School Band Students are strongly encouraged to have a private instructor. Private lessons will help elevate your student's performance level and personalize their learning. With the rigor that is placed on our students we believe that private lessons should NOT be mandatory, but we do highly recommend private lessons if your student wishes to accelerate their progression on their instrument.

Harris Band Instruments and Music and Arts offers private lessons.

## Purchasing New Instruments

As a student's interest in and commitment to the band program intensifies, parents often seek to purchase a higher quality instrument. There are three basic "grades" of musical instruments available for purchase. **Parents should always consult with Ms. Parker BEFORE purchasing an instrument.**

## Communications

Ms. Parker will communicate with a mass parent email once per week, usually on Sunday afternoon. That email will detail the current and future events of the CLMS Band Program as well as any other pertinent information. **If you have any questions, comments, or concerns, you will need to create a new email and send it to [parker.faiith@newton.k12.ga.us](mailto:parker.faiith@newton.k12.ga.us)**

### **Social Media/Remind 101**

1. Remind 101
  - a. Concert Band: Code
  - b. Beginning Band:

### **Band App**

Students and Parents can communicate through Social Media Platform through the BAND app

1. <https://band.us/n/aaa4768bk0W8g>

## **Band Calendar**

1. Calendar will be updated in Band App
2. Google Calendar
3. Print Version

## **Band Forms**

### **Handbook Acknowledgement Form**

After fully reviewing the band handbook, please fill out the form to give formal acknowledgement that you have read and understand the handbook.

**\*This is a requirement for all students/parents each school year.**

### **General Field Trip Permission Slip**

This permission slip provides parent authorization for minors to travel under the auspices of the school or organization for an event, such as a field trip. Any outside performances are considered a field trip.

## Clements Middle School Band Handbook

### Acknowledgement Form

It is acknowledged that the handbook has been reviewed. Parent(s) and student(s) agree to the terms and conditions written in this handbook.

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

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Print Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Student Print Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Grade ( circle one):    6th                  7th                  8th

## General Field Trip Permission Slip

Initial by each statement.

1. I hereby give my permission for my child to participate in field trips and any other school related activities that require leaving the school grounds of CLMS. \_\_\_\_\_
2. I give my permission for my child to ride in any vehicle designated to transport CLMS students to or from any school activity with the understanding that seat belts will be used at all times except when school buses are used for transportation. \_\_\_\_\_
3. I understand that information regarding school activities will be sent home prior to scheduled activity by newsletters, monthly calendars, etc. \_\_\_\_\_
4. I understand that precautions will be taken to ensure the safety of all participants in any activity. \_\_\_\_\_
5. I do agree to assume all financial responsibility for the above student in case of any injury incurred during school activities and will not hold CLMS staff or chaperones responsible. \_\_\_\_\_
6. I understand that if my child does not follow the discipline procedure during a field trip, I will be asked to come for my child and be with my child on future outings. \_\_\_\_\_
7. I understand that with all field trips my child participates in, my account will be billed for the cost of the trip. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent or Guardian (Print)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent or Guardian (Signature)

Please complete the following (please print clearly):

Emergency Contact 1

Emergency Contact 2 (optional)

Name:

Name:

Phone Number:

Phone Number:

**PLEASE NOTE- Someone must be available for contact in case of any emergency.**

Please list any known allergies/medical conditions/ medicines that I should be aware of:

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## Media Release Authorization Form

This form will remain current until a Parent/Guardian contacts the Office in writing to make changes, in which case a new form will have to be completed.

Full Name of Student: \_\_\_\_\_

Full Name of Parent/ Guardian: \_\_\_\_\_

Full Name of Parent/ Guardian: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

PLEASE INDICATE YOUR PREFERENCE BY CHECKING THE APPROPRIATE BOX.

☐ I GIVE PERMISSION FOR MY STUDENT TO APPEAR IN MEDIA RELEASES FOR EDUCATIONAL, PROMOTIONAL, AND INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES. PLEASE READ THE FOLLOWING:

- I hereby authorize Clements Middle School and/or its agents to make use of
- Pictures
  - Video
  - My student's name in Print
  - My student's original material i.e. scripts, drawings, schoolwork etc.

OR

☐ I DO NOT WISH MY STUDENT TO APPEAR IN ANY MEDIA RELEASES

By checking this box your student will not be included in any school media opportunities including but not limited to the school yearbook.

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Sign: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

-End of Document-