

Centennial Middle School Band Program 2017-2018

*Wind Symphony, Symphonic Band, Concert Band and
Beginning Band*



Welcome to the Centennial Middle School Band Program!

I am looking forward to an exciting and fun year. Band is a full-year class because we have so much great music to learn and play. Last year the Wind Symphony got into top day of the **State Junior High Band Festival** and received a Sweepstakes award for their performance. This year our goal is to get both the Symphonic Band and the Wind Symphony in to the State Festival. Students in the Concert Band and Beginning Band will prepare to be a part of these great bands moving forward. My goal is for each student to be a successful musician and for every ensemble to sound great as a group.

Students please read and discuss this document with your parents. Please sign and return the signature page by **Friday, August 25**.

Parents the best things you can do to help your student succeed this year are:

- Encourage your students to complete daily practice assignments.
- Check with them every week to see how many pass-offs they have completed.

If you have any questions, the best way to contact me is by email at peterw@provo.edu. Lots of information about the Centennial Band (assignments, dates, etc.) can also be found at timpviewthunderbirdband.com.

Sincerely,

Mr. Werner

Peter Werner
Centennial Middle School
Director of Bands

Supplies and Equipment

Book:

- Method Book (it is recommended that you buy your own so that you can write in the book and use the supplemental cd resources; the school owns some books available for check out):
 - **All Students: Essential Elements for Band, Book 1**
 - **Only Students who have completed the first 32 pass-offs: Rubank Intermediate Method**

Pencil (No Pens): Markings in music must be able to be erased.

Metronome/Tuner (recommended for home use only): Great free or cheap online or mobile apps are available.

Instruments:

- Most instruments are rented/purchased from a music store. I strongly recommend Yamaha instruments for their consistency and great sound. **Please email Mr. Werner before purchasing an instrument from the internet or used source. Many cheap “deals” are actually terrible instruments that will make it extremely difficult for your child to succeed.**
- The school has larger instruments (i.e. tubas, euphoniums, french horns, bassoons, and oboes) to rent.
- There are a very limited number of other instruments for those who truly cannot afford to rent from a music store. If this is your situation, please contact Mr. Werner about a school instrument. Most school instruments will be assigned during the second week of school once needs have been determined.

Instrument Supplies: (can be purchased at a local music store)

- Flute: Swab (can be a small, thin rag about 1 ft by 1 ft).
- Clarinet: 3-5 working reeds (**Concert Band and Beginning Band: strength 2.5; Wind Symphony and Symphonic Band: strength 3; Mitchell Lurie and Rico Royal brands recommended**) in instrument case at all times, swab, cork grease.
- Oboe: 2-3 working reeds in instrument case at all times (cycle through reeds to keep them working longer), small film canister or similar container to soak reeds, swab.
- Bassoon: 2-3 working reeds in instrument case at all times (cycle through reeds to keep them working longer), small medicine bottle or similar container to soak reeds.
- Saxophone: 3-5 working reeds in instrument case at all times (**Concert Band and Beginning Band: strength 2.5; Wind Symphony and Symphonic Band: strength 3**), swab, cork grease.
- French Horn: Rotary valve oil, slide grease, small rag for cleaning.
- Trumpet: Valve oil, slide grease, small rag for cleaning.
- Trombone: Slide cream (not oil) and small spray bottle that fits in case or Slide-O-Mix, slide grease, small rag for cleaning.
- Euphonium/Tuba: Valve oil, slide grease, small rag for cleaning.

Grading Policy

Playing Skills (50%)

- *Pass-offs (40%)*
 - Students will be required to complete 2-4 pass-offs each term.
 - Pass-offs will be completed using **SmartMusic Classic**.
 - Students will receive a Pass/Fail grade.
 - In order to Pass, a student must get at least a 95% on **SmartMusic Classic**.
 - Students who do not complete the pass-off by the due date will be given a zero until they complete the pass-off. They will be allowed as many attempts as needed to complete the test and can still earn full credit.*
 - Pass-offs on concert music must be completed before the concert to receive credit.
 - Occasionally, students may be asked to play a portion of their concert music to check their preparation.

SmartMusic Classic access is given to students at school. If desired, students may access SmartMusic Classic at home for a yearly subscription fee (see below). This is not required.

SmartMusic is an amazing web-based software that grades students' performance as they play and makes practicing more fun. A yearly subscription comes with **\$1000s worth of music** and exercises that make practice time fun and interactive for **only \$3.33 a month** (\$40 per year) plus purchase of a USB clip microphone. The program is also available as an iPad app (this does not require purchase of a microphone).

I personally use this software to practice quite often and highly recommend that you purchase this great tool for your students.

Subscriptions may be purchased online. For more information about SmartMusic, go to <http://www.smartmusic.com/classic>

SmartMusic subscriptions must be renewed each year. If you purchased a SmartMusic subscription last year the best way to renew it is by visiting [smartmusic.com](http://www.smartmusic.com) and logging into My Account (use the student's login information).

- *Practice Logs (10%)*
 - Students will turn in two practice logs each **Friday they have class**.
 - Students are expected to complete multiple repetitions of method book, technique, and concert music assignment.
 - Late practice logs will still receive credit for the number of repetitions completed.

Assignments (30%)

- *Listening Assignments (10%)*
 - Two parts (choose one per term)
 - Attend a Band Concert that includes your instrument.
 - Create a Playlist of songs featuring your instrument.
- *Preparedness (5%)*
 - Students must be prepared with the supplies, instruments, books, music, and pencil.
- *Theory Assignments (15%)*
 - Note name pass-offs, rhythm tests, and written activities completed mostly in class.
 - The following apps can be purchased at home for additional practice (not required):
 - NinGenius (Student Version – \$0.99): Instrument fingering and note naming.
 - Tenuto (\$3.99): Music theory and note name practice.
 - *DVD Assignments:*

- There will be some DVD's shown in class during the school year. These lessons are designed to help students gain an understanding of musicians' and composers' lives, musical concepts, and view outstanding performances.

Performances (20%)

- Performance is one of the National and State Curriculum Standards for learning music. Students are expected to attend and participate in all performances.
 - **All students must arrive 30 minutes before the concert to warm-up.**
- The Centennial Middle School Band is a group where each person is important. Each day is spent learning how to play as a group as we listen, tune, and balance to others. Absence of one individual makes a big difference in this process.
 - Absences will only be excused for major events (i.e. weddings, funerals, etc.) and illness. Notification must be provided **at least 30 days prior to the concert or rehearsal** so an appropriate make-up assignment can be given and parts can be reassigned if necessary.
- Because percussionists meet in a separate class, at least one mandatory after school rehearsal will be held before each performance.
 - It is so important that each student is at the after school rehearsal. This experience cannot be accomplished by practicing more on your own, since it is our only chance to practice with all of the parts together. Consequently, there is no make-up available.
- Rehearsal and performance dates are provided in a different document.
- **Concert Dress:**
 - Ladies: White blouse with a black skirt/hose/pants/socks/shoes.
 - Men: White dress shirt with a tie and black pants/socks/shoes.
 - **No denim, No T-shirts, No sandals, No bare feet/legs.**

Grading Scale

A	93-100%	B-	80-82%	D+	67-69%
A-	90-92%	C+	77-79%	D	63-66%
B+	87-89%	C	73-76%	D-	60-62%
B	83-86%	C-	70-72%	F	0-59%

Attention: Students with Disabilities

- If you have any disability that may keep you from successfully completing this course, please contact Mr. Werner. Academic accommodations are granted for all students who have qualified, documented disabilities. Services are coordinated with the student and instructor through the main office.

Fees

Class Fee - \$12 (paid with student fees)

Lost Combination Lock - \$5

Lost Book - \$10

Band Disclosure Document

Signature Page

I have read and understand the disclosure document and agree to:

- Bring the required supplies to class each day.
- Complete all assignments, including pass-offs.
- Practice repetitions for daily assignments.
- Attend all after school rehearsals and performances.

Student Name (Please Print)

Period

Student Signature

Date

Student Email

=====

I have read and understand the disclosure document and agree to:

- Help my student obtain the necessary supplies.
- Encourage them to complete daily practice assignments.
- Have them at all after school rehearsals and performances.

Parent/Guardian Name (Please Print)

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

Parent/Guardian Email

Please return this page, with signatures, to Mr. Werner by Friday, August 25, 2017.