

8th Grade Band:

Expectations and Grading

Teachers: **Mr. Nelson** nelsonc@northandoverpublicschools.com
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NAMS Music Website: namsband.weebly.com

Dear students and parents,

In band class students will:

- A. Learn the fundamental techniques of playing their instruments.
- B. Learn to read and notate music.
- C. Learn proper care and maintenance of their instrument.
- D. Learn to play with a good sound in a group setting.
- E. Perform alone and in groups.

Required materials for band class:

- 1. Instrument in good working condition
- 2. Band method book
- 3. Music folder with sheet music
- 4. Pencil
- 5. Folding music stand for home practice and All-Town Band Festival
- 6. Cleaning kit

Student Responsibilities / Classroom Policies:

Late to class- students arriving late to class will be given detention per NAMS policy.

Arriving to class- Upon arriving to class, students should unpack their instrument, sit down, and begin to warm up. They should make sure they have all their materials, chair, and stand.

Talking/Distractions- It is very important students understand when talking to others is not acceptable. When we are teaching a lesson or conducting a rehearsal there can be no talking amongst students. Questions should be directed to the teacher. If we are working in small groups students may talk and help each other.

Homework/Books- Students may not bring work from other classes or reading books to band unless given permission from their teacher.

Respect- Students are to be respectful of other students and myself. Verbal or physical harm will not be tolerated.

Instrument care- students need to treat their equipment and school equipment with care. Brass players should clean their instruments every 3-6 months.

Classroom rules-

- 1. Students are not to touch curtains in the auditorium for any reason. Students found do this will be given detention.**
- 2. No running in the auditorium.**
- 3. Do not enter or exit the auditorium through the stage doors. Please enter and exit as directed by your teacher.**
- 4. No food or drink in the auditorium.**
- 5. No gum chewing is allowed in NAMS.**

Practice- Out of class homework is rarely given and it is expected students use time at home to practice their instrument. Without practice at home students will not meet their potential and not achieve success on playing tests. Students should be practicing 15-30mins daily.

Private Lessons/Extra Help- It is highly suggested students seek out private lessons on their instrument. One on one study will help students advance faster. We have a staff of private teacher who give lessons at North Andover High School or Middle School. To register please fill out the Google Form on namsband.weebly.com. Students should never hesitate to ask Mr. Nelson or Mr. Ignos for after school help. We are always willing to work with students after school. If your student seems frustrated or falling behind encourage them to make an after school important. Music study is very cumulative so keeping up with class is important.

Grading

At the end of each trimester students will be given a letter grade according to the following criteria.

50%- Playing tests and class work

50%- Prepared for class with instrument, music, and pencil. Each trimester there are 30 days of band and students will receive a daily grade based on the following rubric:

10 points- Student comes prepared with instrument, pencil, all music/book, and participates fully in class activities. Points will be deducted in the following manner if a student is not prepared or participating.

-5 points if student does not have their instrument in class.

-1 point if a student is missing their pencil or music (1 point each)

-1 point for each instance of non-participation.

Concert Dates and Important Events

All are mandatory unless otherwise noted.

Performance is an integral part of the band experience and participation is required of all students. Students may be excused from the concert with advance notice from the parents. A note detailing the reason for the absence is required. If the student is excused they will be given an alternate assignment to make up the credit. Students who are unexcused from the concert will be penalized with an '0' playing test grade averaged into their final trimester grade for each concert missed.

Friday October 21st – 8th grade Band performs with the high school band at the varsity football game. 4pm Rehearsal with NAHS Band @NAHS, 5pm Dinner provide by NAMS, 6pm Pre-game, 7pm GAMETIME. Students will perform pre-game, half time, and in the stands during the game. Students who play football will participate through half time then they may join their teammates in the stands if they wish. (Rain date: Oct 28th game)

**Wednesday January 18th- Day 1 Band Winter Concert 7pm NAMS auditorium
Snow Date: Jan. 25**

**Thursday January 19th - Day 2 Band Winter Concert 7pm NAMS auditorium
Snow Date: Jan. 26**

Saturday January 28th – Northeastern Junior District Auditions (optional)

April 4th - All-Town Band Festival 7pm NAHS Gym

**Tuesday May 23rd - Day 1 Band Grade Spring Concert 7pm NAMS Auditorium
Wednesday May 24th - Day 2 Band Spring Concert 7pm NAMS Auditorium**

Friday May 26th – 8th Grade Band and Jazz Band perform in Great East Festival @NAMS.

Friday June 2nd- 8th Grade Band and Jazz Band Trip to Canobie Lake.

Jazz Band

8th Grade band students with at least one year of experience on their instrument are eligible to audition for the Jazz Band. The group meets once a week after school on Thursdays for one hour. Auditions will be held in September. Dates will be announced soon. Please see Mr. Nelson for audition requirements.

Northeastern Junior District Festival

Sponsored by the Massachusetts Music Educations Association, this is an honors music festival held in Lowell each year. Students audition in January and, if selected, participate in a festival in March. There is a band, orchestra, and chorus. Interested students should see Mr. Nelson or Mr. Ignos for audition info. www.Northeasterndistrict.org

8th Grade Band Grading and Expectations Signature Page

Please have your parents sign this page and give it to Mr. Nelson or Mr. Ignos by Friday, September 16th. Students should keep the other pages in their folder for reference.
I have read and understand the 8th grade band expectations and grading.

X _____ date: _____
Parent signature

X _____
Student signature