



School

Easton Middle

BANDS

Mr. Benson, Director

Dear Parent/Guardian,

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome you and your returning student back to school and in particular, back to 7th and 8th Grade BAND! I would also like to welcome our newest band members, the 7th graders! I look forward to the continued musical growth of the band, and would like to remind you of a few policies and guidelines that will help your student to be successful while participating in the band program this year.

PLEASE NOTE THAT CONCERT DATES ARE LISTED FOR THE YEAR ON THIS FORM!

Tools/Supplies Required for Class-Failure to have these materials in class will result in no credit for that day's participation!

- .. **Working instrument** (see me before or after class for any repairs)
- .. **Pencil** (required for taking notes in music)
- .. **3 ring binder** (music will be 3-hole punched)
- .. **Lesson Book** (Standard of Excellence: Level 2(Blue Book))
- .. **Name tag attached to instrument case**

Class/Rehearsal Expectations and Procedures

1. Warm-up

At the beginning of each class, quietly enter the room and set up quickly. Begin to warm up individually before the director reaches the podium. Scales and technical exercises from the method book (Standard of Excellence: Level 2) and other resources are used at the beginning of each rehearsal to develop musicianship and ensemble techniques.

2. Tuning

A tuning note is played/sung to enable all band members to adjust their instruments to a common pitch. Good tuning is essential and is difficult to achieve if everyone does not listen carefully.

3. New Music

At certain times new music will be distributed for sight-reading purposes. Players should always try to play new music correctly the first time (we will go over the steps to successful reading several times this year!). This will help develop greater music reading skills.

4. Librarians

This year I will be asking interested students to write a letter to the band director if they have a desire to serve as the Librarian for their respective class (Period 2 or Period 3 Band). Librarians will be responsible for passing out new music, keeping a running inventory of any copies we have in the library, and distributing replacement parts when appropriate. Details will be passed out during the first week of class.

5. Keeping Your Place

You should always know where you are in the music. When sections are asked to play alone to work out a difficult passage, you can always assume that you will be asked to play your part along with them. You are expected to know what measures are being worked on and where your part is in relation to the other players! ALWAYS BE PREPARED TO PLAY!

6. Behavioral Expectation

All students are expected to act with a high level of respect for their environment and for others (this includes all equipment and facilities). Each music student is a representative of the music program and EMS and should conduct himself or herself accordingly!

Instrument/Music Storage

Instrument/music storage is provided in the band room for band instruments as a convenient and safe place to store your instruments. Practicing IS YOUR HOMEWORK and instruments should not be left in the closet more than 2 to 3 nights per week. PLEASE DO NOT leave instruments over the weekend! Doing so will mean a loss of credit for Monday's class.

Edmodo**

Edmodo is a safe, secure, educational web-service that allows a student to submit recorded assignments or take quizzes from his or her computer at home. The EMS band will be making extensive use of Edmodo this year. If internet access at home is a problem, please contact me.

Twitter**

The EMS Bands and Jazz bands are now on Twitter! Announcements and important information will be Tweeted frequently. Wondering when a permission slip was supposed to come home? Check Twitter! Wondering about concert times? Twitter has your answers!

Website**

The EMS Bands and Jazz bands are now also online! Any syllabi, rubrics, permission slips, and performance information will be available on the website!

Please bookmark us at <http://emsband1.weebly.com>.

Suggested Practice Schedule

Practicing your instrument at home is your daily HOMEWORK. In order to ensure progress I recommend frequent practicing for lesser amounts of time as opposed to a lot of practicing once or twice per week. 20 minutes every day is enough to ensure steady progress over the course of the year.

Private Lessons

Private lessons are an integral part of any music program. They are a great way to sharpen individual musicianship skills in ways not addressed in the classroom setting. Many fine private teachers are available through the music department. Please see me if you have any interest.

Jazz Band

Students interested in exploring Jazz may audition for a seat in the EMS Jazz Band Program! Jazz Band is a co-curricular performance ensemble that meets after school once per week, and competes on a regional level against other bands in Southeastern MA. Auditions will be announced during the first week of school and the activity fee is \$150.

*****PLEASE REVIEW THIS SHEET AS WELL AS THE ATTACHED CONCERT/CLASSROOM RUBRICS AND RETURN THE SIGNED LAST PAGE TO ME NO LATER THAN FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 9TH *****

*******Remove the top of this page and retain for your records*******

Important Dates

- Winter Concert- Tuesday 12/19 @ 7 PM. 6:00 Report @ OAHS
- Great East Trip to Six Flags- Friday 5/25. Times TBA
- Spring Concert- Tuesday 5/29 @ 7 PM. 6:00 Report @ OAHS

My Contact Information/Policy Important Internet Links

I would like parents to feel free to contact me at any time with questions, comments or concerns. I can be reached at the following email:

Email: jbenenson@easton.k12.ma.us

Important Internet Links

Important information regarding performances, homework, concerts, practice tips, and more are regularly on the following outlets:

Twitter- @EMSband1

Website- www.emsband1.weebly.com

X2

Edmodo.com

Please Sign and Return

I have read and understood the responsibilities of my student

_____ in regards to band.

Print Name_____

Signature_____

