

Andover Central Middle School Band

Welcome to ACMS Band! We are glad you will be learning and performing with us this year. Please read the information below so that you will know what is expected as we work together to have a successful year at ACMS.

Rehearsal Requirements:

Students need the following items to participate in band:

1. **Instrument** in good playing condition.

2. **Method Book**

Grade 6 - *Essential Elements 2000* Book 2

Grade 7 - *Essential Elements 2000* Book 2 (continuation of the book from 6th grade)

Grade 8 - No book purchase is necessary as we will use various school provided books.

Students may purchase these books through their director, or from the local music stores. *Essential Elements* books are \$7.50, except for the Percussion book which is \$15.00 and the French Horn Book which is \$9.50. Students will need to have their books before September 2.

3. All band students will need an **ACMS Band polo shirt and khaki pants** to wear for performances. Band students will wear the polo shirt and khaki pants with white tennis shoes for marching band (7th and 8th band students only) and with darker dress shoes for concert band performances (all bands 6,7, and 8). Order information for the shirts will be sent home during the first few weeks of school. Students returning to ACMS who already own a band shirt will not need to purchase another. The khaki pants should be purchased on your own.

4. Woodwind players need **3 good reeds** numbered and alternately played each time.

5. Instrument cases need to be marked with a “**luggage tag**” with the students name, address and phone number. Many students have the same style instrument and case, so proper identification is very important. Instruments may be left in the band room at your own risk.

6. Percussionists should mark sticks and drums with their name. Students must have their **own snare drum and sticks** each day. Bells may be left at home for practice since students will use the xylophone at school.

7. **Homework practice** time is 20 minutes per day - 5 days per week. Regular practice is essential for improvement and success in band. Practice cards must be signed by parents and turned in every two weeks.

Guidelines for Band Students:

1. We will follow all school rules.

2. Students will come into the band room and immediately unpack instruments and be seated for band practice.

3. Students will have instrument, music, supplies, and pencil each day to be prepared for class.

4. Students who cannot participate in daily work due to orthodontic work, illness, etc., should bring a note from parents or doctor.

5. Attendance at all concerts and contests is **required**. Please note all required dates listed on the cover of this handbook.

6. 6th and 7th grade students must return practice cards every two weeks with a parent signature. Parents, please sign the practice card ***even if your child did not practice that week***. We will begin practice cards the second week of school.

Grading System

1. Class participation is 60% of the grade. Class participation includes having all necessary music, instruments, and supplies as well as being set up on time and participating in all learning exercises and rehearsal. Students will receive 3 participation points each day for fulfilling all requirements.

2. Classroom playing tests, written tests, and practice cards combine to become 30% of the grade. Although students in 8th grade do not turn in practice charts, it is expected that they will keep a regular practice schedule and that it will be reflected in their individual playing tests.

3. Concerts and Contests are 10% of the grade- **Attendance is required**. ***An unexcused absence from a concert or contest will lower the 9 weeks grade one letter grade. An excused absence would include an illness or family emergency and a make up assignment would be allowed. Our concerts are our performance assessments, the result of many rehearsals working to perfect our skills and knowledge. We must have each and every student in attendance to present our best work.***

4. Extra credit can be obtained by doing extra approved activities such as attending other musical events, participating in summer band, participating in solo/ensemble contest (7th and 8th), or participating in an honor band.

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We hope this information will be helpful to you and your young musician in the upcoming year. Please remove this page, sign and return it to the band staff by August 25 for an “A” in the grade book. Thank you for your support of the ACMS Bands.

Kevin Brightup, Craig Gray, Joe Emery
Andover Central Instrumental Staff

Student Signature _____ Grade _____

Hour _____

Parent Signature _____ Date _____

We have read the information in the ACMS Band Handbook.