

Oliver Middle School Band Program

The Band program is the largest and most visible representative of our school. As such, each band member, as well as the Directors, has the responsibility of being a positive ambassador for Oliver Middle School. In order to accomplish this goal we must have a set of guidelines and procedures. Please study this information carefully.

🎵Expectations

All band members are expected to:

come to rehearsals mentally and physically prepared to participate.
consistently practice at home.
always strive to be a great person, student and musician.

All Band Parents are expected to:

make sure your child has the proper equipment and supplies to participate.
encourage consistent practice in an appropriate location at home.
make every effort to support concerts and fund raising events.

Band Directors are expected to:

be prepared for daily rehearsal, set short and long term objectives, and steer the ensembles toward excellence.
provide feedback to students regarding musical and behavioral objectives.
always strive to be model adults, musicians and educators.

🎵Grading/Assessment

All students will receive a numerical grade on their report card each nine weeks based on the completion of set objectives. **All students will be issued an Objective Sheet at the beginning of each nine week grading period.** This sheet will outline 15-18 specific playing, written, and rehearsal technique objectives for the grading period. These objectives will be listed by category along with the appropriate percentage of your child's grade that each category will be worth. All of these Objectives will be Standards based and are designed to assess individual growth. Parents are strongly encouraged to track your child's progress using the MNPS online system. The first assignment due each nine weeks will always be a parent signature acknowledging the expectations for the grading period. This Objective Sheet represents 100% of your child's grade in his/her band class.

🎵Supplies

All **Int., Sym. And WE** students must have a 1 inch or thinner BLACK binder with clear page protectors for music and a pencil. This binder is expected to be stored in the student's band slot and must be brought to rehearsal daily. **Beginners** are given a paper folder and are not required to have a black binder. Other supplies may include reeds, valve oil, slide oil, instrument cleaning items and a metronome/tuner or equivalent app. Percussion students must own the required percussion equipment listed for their grade level. All Brass and Woodwind students will be assigned a locker for their instrument. That locker must be secured with a combination lock furnished by the student.

🎵Related Arts Classes

Band students will also have a class each day where they will take Jazz Band, Percussion Ensemble, Drama, Art, Physical Education or PLT.

🎵Practice Sheets

Practice outside of regular class time is expected of all students. The quality and success of the band is determined by each member's dedication to pursuing excellence in their individual performance. Please make sure that your child has a quiet place in the home to practice or arrange to have your child participate in Open Band Room sessions before/after school. Individual musical errors must be tackled in private so that our limited rehearsal time can be maximized. **Students are expected to practice the problem spots from the last rehearsal before coming to the next rehearsal.** Tuba players and other students who may not be able to take an instrument home, may count "buzzing", fingering and musical study as practice time. Students are to visit the band website: www.olivermiddleschoolband.com to fill out their practice journal by midnight on the assigned due date. Students who do not have access to internet at home may use a school computer to complete their journals. There will be an average of 7 journal due dates within a grading period.

🎵Rehearsal Technique

Each rehearsal is very important. There will be certain goals and expectations for each rehearsal all centered on the pursuit of excellence. Because the band's success depends on each member, all students are expected to be supportive of one another in their efforts to improve. Students will be given an opportunity to fix any RT problems on their own, however if the student fails to make the necessary corrections, parents will be asked to intervene. Severe or repetitive conduct issues, whether in band or another class, may cause a member to be suspended from rehearsal, performance or removed from the program entirely. It is the hope of the Directors that each student works hard to be a good citizen throughout the school day and beyond.

🎵After School Rehearsals

From time to time it may be necessary to schedule an after school rehearsal. These rehearsals are scheduled at least 2 weeks in advance, and will ideally be included on each student's Objective Sheet.

🎵Performances

All of the bands at Oliver Middle School perform numerous times throughout the school year, and most of these concerts will occur outside normal school day. **ALL students are expected to participate in ALL performances.** An informational letter and communication slip are always sent home at least 3 weeks prior to the event. In addition, most dates will be sent home in a performance calendar early in the year, and will also be posted on the band's website: www.olivermiddleschoolband.com.

🎵Private Lessons

All band students have the opportunity and are HIGHLY encouraged to study privately with a professional teacher. We have private teachers available at OMS to teach your child during his or her band time for a fee. There are often scholarship opportunities available to many of our students based on financial need. If you would like more information about private lessons, please contact Mrs. Waters, Mrs. Harrah or Mr. Jankowski. **Wind Ensemble students are especially encouraged to study privately.**

🎵Progress Reports

Progress reports will be sent home by the school halfway through each grading period.

🎵Concert Dress Code

The Oliver Middle School Band Program prides itself in looking its best for each and every public performance. The dress code for each band is as follows:

- ***Beginning Band:***

Ladies- appropriate church dress, skirt or pants outfit, dress shoes
Gentlemen- Dress pants, shirt and **tie**, dress shoes
Any color is acceptable

- ***Intermediate:***

Ladies-black dress knee length or longer, black FLAT dress shoes, hose or tights,
NO BARE LEGS (Formal dress pants are acceptable)
Gentlemen-Black suit, white dress shirt with a collar (black bowtie provided)

UNACCEPTABLE ATTIRE INCLUDES:

Hair tinting or dyeing that is not a naturally occurring hair color

Jeans or athletic wear skirts/dresses above the knee
Leggings, sleeveless shirts or dresses
Tennis shoes, flip flops, boots or high heels
Please reference the following website for APPROPRIATE young ladies' attire:
www.formalfashionsinc.com

- ***Symphonic and Wind Ensemble:***

Ladies will be required to purchase a performance dress, approximately \$65. Ladies will wear flat ballet style shoes with this dress.
Gentlemen-Black suit, white button up dress shirt with a collar (black bowtie provided)

Hair tinting or dyeing that is not a naturally occurring hair color is not acceptable for any performance.

Students who are not dressed correctly will have their grade lowered and risk losing the privilege of performing.

🎵Discipline and Academic Expectations

All MNPS Student Code of Conduct Rules apply during all band functions. Members are expected to maintain an acceptable level of control and decorum when in rehearsal, performances, and other classes. We are a team, and if one member of our team gets into serious trouble, it reflects poorly on the organization. The opposite is also true; when one member of our team achieves greatness in any area, it reflects positively on the band program.

All band members are encouraged to study hard and maintain acceptable grades. Students' academic progress is tracked regularly and teachers are free to express concern about any band member's behavior or academic issues. Students who are failing 2 subjects may be put on playing probation or performance suspension until the grade is raised to passing. We recognize that band members are often involved in a number of activities, so it is essential that a balance be achieved between school, home, and organizational/team commitments. We want all of our band members to enjoy and excel in all of their endeavors.

🎵Fund Raising

The limited funding from the Board of Education makes it necessary for us to raise money to purchase music, supplies and instruments. The purchases always benefit the entire program; therefore we encourage 100% participation in fund raising efforts. Fund raising activities for the year may include: Concert donations, Corporate Sponsorships, Bake Sales, Chocolate sales and two Solo and Ensemble Festivals. Students are also given an opportunity to raise money through the Kroger card program and other programs to pay for their performance trip(s) and MNPS summer band camp. *(We do not want any students to miss the opportunity to travel with us because of financial hardship. Please communicate concerns to a director as soon as possible so we can help find ways for your child to attend.)*

The Oliver PTA is very active and generous with regard to the funding of the band. In turn, we ask that you support the PTA in any way that is possible.

🎵Band Booster Organization

The growth of the Oliver Band Program has necessitated the formation of an official Band Booster Organization. This group will support the funding and function of the Oliver Middle School Band Program. We will hold meetings periodically throughout the year to plan events and discuss program needs. Please plan on becoming an active part in this vital organization.

Please send all general Booster related questions to: omsbandboosters@gmail.com.

Please send all financial questions to: finance.omsbandboosters@gmail.com

Directors' Email: susan.waters@mnps.org katie.harrah@mnps.org kevin.jankowski@mnps.org