

OAK GROVE SCHOOL

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BAND HANDBOOK 2010 / 11

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WELCOME!

Welcome to the Band Program at Oak Grove School. We are looking forward to another great year of band, and we thank you in advance for your participation and cooperation. The purpose of this handbook is to acquaint you with the performing groups that make up the Band Department, and to inform you of our policies and guidelines, performance dates and other pertinent details.

The Bands at Oak Grove School have been in existence since 1958, and we strive to improve the quality and scope of the program each year. We now have four large performing groups and a smaller Jazz Combo. The Bands perform for the winter and spring concerts, for various school events throughout the year, and this year the Symphonic and Jazz Bands will participate in at least three festival events. We also present two Chamber Concerts and our own Solo and Ensemble event each year. Band is an activity that develops learning, social and sensory skills and fosters positive attitudes that can help your child in many areas of life. Making music is a unique experience that teaches us new ways of thinking, feeling and expressing ourselves.

The Oak Grove Band Department strives to instill in children a lifelong enjoyment of music, learning, camaraderie and FUN! Our philosophy and curriculum is designed in close collaboration with the directors at Libertyville High School and Vernon Hills High School, which have two of the finest high school music programs in the United States. Students who follow our program conscientiously are well-prepared to participate in these programs.

BAND REHEARSAL TIMES

SYMPHONIC BAND: Monday, Wednesday & Friday, 7:30 a.m. till 8:15 a.m. (7:20 arrival)

CONCERT BAND: Monday, Wednesday & Friday, 7:30 a.m. till 8:15 a.m. (7:20 arrival)

BEGINNING BAND: Thursday, 2:30 p.m. till 3:10 p.m.

JAZZ BAND: Tuesday & Thursday, 7:30 a.m. till 8:15 a.m. (7:20 arrival)

BAND LESSONS, GRADES & ATTENDANCE POLICY

Each student receives a group or individual lesson each week in addition to regular full band rehearsals and performing in concerts. **PUNCTUAL ATTENDANCE IS MANDATORY!** All band students will come out of various rotations for lessons so that no academic time is missed, and all students will have the same lesson times for the entire year. The lesson schedules for the school year are posted outside the band room, in classrooms and on the school web site. Teachers and administrators are given lesson schedules and are well aware of this system. If a student misses this weekly lesson, an unexcused absence will be given for that day. Students are required to attend lessons and rehearsals scheduled at these times according to school rules. Please understand that rehearsals and lessons are not "optional", but are an integral responsibility of being a part of the band. Any class work missed due to rehearsals or lessons must be made up. Absences for legitimate reasons will be excused only with a signed note from a parent. **ATTENDANCE AT ALL CONCERTS IS MANDATORY.** The Directors set the schedule for Band events well before the school year begins, and the Athletic Director sets the sports schedule to avoid conflicts. In the event of a conflict with team sports, band events will take precedence. Please be aware that five unexcused absences are grounds for dismissal from Band. Band grades will count towards your GPA.

BAND ROOM RULES

- No gum or other food items are allowed in the band room.
- Students are expected to be attentive and respectful.
- Students are not allowed to play any instrument other than their own, unless permission is granted by the director.
- Students must be ready to play on time with all materials (*pencil, music and instrument in good working order*).

BAND PLACEMENT

All beginning students will play in the Beginning Band and second year students will play in the Concert Band. All other students may be required to audition at the end of the school year to determine placement for the following year in either the Symphonic Band or the Concert Band. Chair placement for Symphonic Band members will be determined by the directors. Jazz Band is open to Symphonic Band members only except for piano, guitar and bass players who must audition for Jazz Band.

PRACTICE REQUIREMENTS

Each student is **required** to spend a minimum of 30 minutes per day practicing the required material. This can occur in 5-minute increments if necessary, but we musicians **MUST** spend at least a small amount of time each day working on “what we don’t know” as well as just having fun playing. Again, individual practice is not “optional” or “when we feel like it”, but is the **homework that must be done to meet the responsibilities that go with being a part of a team**. The idea is to have a fun, engaging musical experience. We can only do that if we have good skills on the instrument and a good understanding of the music. Skills and understanding come only with **daily** practice. Students will occasionally be called upon to play their parts alone, and should be prepared to do so.

PRIVATE LESSONS

Private lessons are strongly encouraged. A musician's level of playing and understanding of music will improve with steady practice, **but will increase dramatically with private study.** Every player should seriously consider taking private lessons in order to truly get the best experience from playing an instrument. Our teacher list changes regularly, so please check the band web site for a current list.

PLAYING TESTS

Short individual playing tests may be given each quarter in order to assess progress, adjust chair placement (Symphonic Band) where necessary, and to address any technical problems students may be experiencing with the music or their instruments.

REHEARSAL AND CONCERT MANNERS

When we rehearse, perform, and listen to others perform we must not let our own behavior distract other listeners or the performers. Talking, leaving one’s seat, etc. during a performance or rehearsal is considered rude because it draws attention away from the performers and directors who need and deserve our respect. **As performers, we must be attentive and respectful in rehearsals in order to get our work done.**

BAND ATTIRE FOR ALL EVENTS

Beginning & Concert Bands: Nice clothing ("Sunday Best" i.e., no jeans, gym shoes, t-shirts, etc.).

Symphonic Band: Black pants, black shoes, black socks and a white shirt for boys, and black dresses, skirts or skirts with white tops for girls. No logos or other writing on clothing, please.

Jazz Band: Nice, colorful clothing. No jeans, sneakers or clothing with writing.

INSTRUMENT RENTALS and TURN-INS

Most band students will need to rent or buy an instrument. Some options include **Music & Arts Centers (630-467-1077)**, **Great Lakes Music (847-566-6606)** and **Libertyville Music (847-573-8224)**. Oak Grove School has no preference or affiliation with any store, however, the Music and Arts rep makes regular Wednesday visits to the school. Some of the larger instruments such as bass clarinet and tuba, are provided by the school. Please call for availability. **Before buying any instrument, PLEASE check with the directors. We can guide you toward the best choices. Don't get stuck with a bad instrument!** When turning in a rental instrument, you must make your own arrangements with the rental company for the instrument to be picked up, or return it directly to the store. **The directors cannot be held responsible for making sure that your instrument is turned in and accounted for. The best procedure is to personally turn the instrument over to the rep, and get a receipt.**

REPAIR AND UPKEEP OF INSTRUMENTS

Band students are expected to perform routine cleaning and maintenance of their instruments. **Have your instrument adjusted by a professional repair person every few months, even if it seems to be working properly.** The director may be able to perform minor repairs in the band office if needed. Any repairs that cannot be performed by the director will need to be done by a professional repairman. Students are encouraged to leave their instrument with the director, as this will normally be the fastest way to get the repair done. Any expensive repairs will result in a phone call to the parents so that the repair can be approved. Most damage to instruments occurs due to simple carelessness. Save yourself the hassle and expense of a repair by safeguarding your instrument. **School instruments are given out in good working order, so students using them are responsible for repair costs.** A loaner instrument will be provided to students whenever possible.

INSTRUMENT STORAGE

Instruments may be stored during the day in the band room. **Students are required to bring their instruments and music home every night.** The school cannot be held responsible for lost or stolen instruments.

INSTRUMENT SUPPLIES

Supplies can be purchased at the local stores listed above, but also can be found online (usually at a discount) at any number of places, including wwbw.com, muncywinds.com, weinermusic.com and even Ebay. Woodwind players should buy reeds by the box. All students need to bring the following items to band:

- Instrument (in good working order).
- Music
- Pencil
- Instrument supplies - reeds, valve oil, slide cream, cork grease, etc.

DISMISSAL FROM THE BAND PROGRAM

Excessive tardiness and /or unexcused absences (more than five), failure to keep a regular practice routine, and discipline problems all hinder the progress of the group as a whole, and are grounds for dismissal from the program. We are reluctant to resort to dismissal, but problems such as these usually indicate a lack of interest and commitment, and in some rare cases dismissal is best for all concerned.

2010/11 OGS BAND CONCERTS AND EVENTS

Mark your calendars!

Thursday, Sept. 9th - Beginning Band Recruitment Night, 7:00 p.m. Band Room

Friday, Oct. 15th - 8th grade band members perform at LHS football game, 6:30 p.m.

Monday, Nov. 8th – Symphonic Band at Highland School for Pre-Fest rehearsal with other Jr. High bands - 7:00 p.m. till 9:00 p.m.

Tuesday, Nov. 9th - Concert and Beginning Bands Fall Concert - 7 p.m. Pat Patt Gym

Thursday, Nov. 11th – Symphonic Band performs at Veterans Day Ceremony

Thursday, Nov. 18th - Symphonic Band rehearses at LHS during the school day and performs at LHS Band Festival at 7:30 p.m.

Tuesday, Dec. 7th - Jazz Café (Jazz Band and Jazz Combo) - JH Cafeteria, 7 p.m.

Wednesday, Jan. 19th - Jazz Band at LHS Jazz Festival (all day)

Tuesday, Jan. 25th - Beginning & Concert Bands Winter Concert - Pat Patt Gym, 7 p.m.

Tuesday, Feb. 8th - Symphonic & Jazz Bands Winter Concert – Pat Patt Gym, 7 p.m.

Tuesday, March 8th - Jazz Band Concert - Pat Patt Gym, 7 p.m.

Saturday, April 16th - Solo and Ensemble event @ OGS, approx. 8:30 a.m. till 12:30 p.m.

Tuesday, April 19th - Beginning & Concert Bands Spring Concert - Pat Patt Gym 7 p.m.

Thursday, May 5th, Concert Band performs at Winchester House during the school day.

Tuesday, May 10th - Symphonic & Jazz Bands Spring Concert - Pat Patt Gym, 7 p.m.

Tuesday, May 31st - 8th grade band performs for OGS graduation at LHS.

Oak Grove Band Handbook Consent Form

(Please return this form to the directors by Friday, September 17th)

We understand that sometimes conflicts may arise between band events and class time, school events, or sporting events. Please be assured that the directors communicate with the staff in advance to make arrangements with teachers so that your child can be a part of our program and not be penalized for missing any class time or special projects. Band dates are set before the start of the school year and the staff is aware of the need for students' commitments to those dates. It is the student's responsibility to communicate with their teachers well ahead of the dates to make arrangements to make up missed work.

By signing the handbook consent form, we agree to make a commitment to the performances listed above, including the field trips that occur outside of the building. We have read the 2010/11 Oak Grove Band Handbook, understand its contents, and agree to abide by the terms within.

Student Name (please print) _____

Student Signature _____

Parent Signature _____

Phone _____

Parent e-mail address (very important!) _____