ADAIR PUBLIC SCHOOLS

HOME OF THE WARRIORS

BAND HANDBOOK

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Table of Contents

Preface **1**
Our Mission 2

Musical Instruments **3**
Individual-owned Instruments 3
School-owned/issued Instruments 3

Band Opportunities **3**
5th Grade Beginning Band 3
6th Grade Band 4
7th Grade Band 4
High School Band 4
Music Enrichment Program *4*
Private Lessons *4*
Solo and Ensemble Contest (8th-12th grade) *4*
All-District Band (8th -12th grade) *5*
Travel (8th-12th grade) *5*
Practicing 5

Performances **6**
Concerts and Contests 6
Concert/Contest Attire 6

Character **7**

Evaluation **7**
Grading 7
Eligibility 8
Absences/Tardiness 8

General Conduct/Expectations **9**
Behavioral Policy 9

Band Contract/Signature Page **10**

Recommended Instrument and Supplies **11**

Preface

Richard Newhart, Head Director

Welcome! The staff is excited about your choice to participate in band (instrumental music). Music is a life-long pursuit that allows each of us to express ourselves through creativity and mastery of a musical instrument resulting in personal enjoyment and intellectual growth. This handbook has been written to help students and parents gain the most from their band experience, as well as provide guidance to the practical everyday experiences of the band program.

The band program exists to provide excellence in music education placing an emphasis on comprehensive musicianship. This focus is achieved through individual study and varied performances in many venues such as local, regional, and national concert venues. Performance opportunities include large ensembles, chamber ensembles, and solo exhibitions. The competencies that band students acquire in these activities are directly related to skills necessary for auditions, presentations, and interviews in other career fields.

The band program also helps to develop a student's social skills. Participation in band enables the student to form close friendships within the school through their collaborative efforts. As an extension, these relationships offer the opportunity to work with their peers as part of a team, while making long-lasting friendships and developing a sense of camaraderie unique to music organizations. Goals are clearly established in a supportive environment, and the students depend heavily on each other to achieve excellence. As a result, the concepts of responsibility, teamwork, and good citizenship will yield many opportunities for musical fellowships and experiences through music.

The success of the band program centers on pride, commitment to task, and the willingness to work hard to achieve a common goal. We do not expect every student in the band program to become a virtuoso musician. We do however expect every student to establish both short and long range goals to improve on their instrument, to exhibit mature responsible attitudes and actions at all times, and to be willing to contribute consistent, sedulous levels of work for the benefit of all.

The ultimate goal of the program is to produce graduates who are knowledgeable about music, can perform successfully with confidence, can operate within a structured framework, and can work to develop the skills necessary to become a life-long musician. In addition, the program also strives to produce informed adults of high integrity who understand and appreciate music and musicians, and who will foster the continuing developments of artistic endeavors in their community.

We encourage parents to contact the band office at any time should questions arise. Again, we are excited about your participation in the Adair Band Program, and look forward to our time together for musical enjoyment and fellowship.

Our Mission

As an extension of the philosophies described above, the band exists to serve these general goals and objectives:

I. Mental and physical discipline

A. Develop concentration
B. Memorization techniques
C. Learn techniques of preparation as they relate to group and individual performances
D. Develop self and group discipline

II. Citizenship through group endeavor

A. Develop leadership abilities
B. Develop responsibility
C. Develop ability to cooperate with others and to work as a team member
D. Develop diligence
E. Develop mutual respect for each other

III. Physical conditioning—Develop strength, stamina, endurance, and coordination

IV. Value judgments—Obtain the ability to make musical value judgments through critical listening (as they pertain to a musical setting). The student will recognize quality of sound, pitch, style, tempo, rhythm, blend, balance, phrasing, dynamics, and articulation.

V. Music theory

A. Know and utilize note values and rests
B. Know and utilize keys, key signatures, and scales
C. Know and utilize musical terms, signs, and symbols
D. Recognize and tune intervals and harmony
E. Ear training/listening skills

VI. Proper instrumental technique

A. Care of the instrument
B. Assume correct posture and playing position
C. Develop the embouchure /stick grip/ hand position
D. Develop characteristic instrumental tone
E. Develop proper breathing techniques
F. Develop technical instrumental proficiency (fingering, articulation, rudiments, scales, etc.)

Musical Instruments

Individual-owned Instruments

Upon beginning your band study, students will be given a list of approved models and brands of instruments. These instruments are of a standard that should prove adequate throughout secondary school for the majority of students. However, those students who excel at band may opt for an even higher standard of instrument as they progress in instrumental music.

To aid in this process, the Adair Bands will have a vetted local or regional professional music company on site at the band room in August. At this meeting, representatives from the music company, along with the band directors, can answer your questions and provide instruments and accessories necessary for student success. Appropriate instruments, books, and needed supplies will be available for rent/purchase as directed by the Adair Band Program. This meeting is also an excellent time for current band students to upgrade their instruments to a more professional instrument.

School-owned/issued Instruments

After learning the basics of music and achieving an exceptional level on their beginning instrument, some students will be given the opportunity to "switch" to a specialized instrument within their instrumental family. These instrumental changes are based on a high degree of aptitude on their beginning instrument, along with a dedication and likelihood of success on the specialized instruments. Consideration is also based on need for balanced instrumentation for the ensemble. Adair Public Schools provides a limited number of specialized instruments such as: piccolo, alto flute (when necessary), bass clarinets, tenor saxophone, baritone saxophone, French horn, euphonium, tuba, and general percussion equipment.

Generally, this equipment is purchased by the school district for student use because of its extremely high value. Thus, all school-owned equipment must be handled with optimum care. Students failing to care for, or take care of, their school-issued instrument will lose the privilege to use such instrument and be responsible for possible repairs/replacement.

Band Opportunities

5th Grade Beginning Band

Come play a musical instrument in a fun environment! Beginning students may choose to learn selected woodwind, brass, and percussion instruments (tbd: flute, clarinet, alto

saxophone, trumpet, trombone, or percussion instruments). Yearly, the 5th-grade band plays at the Winter concert and Spring concert.

6th Grade Band

The 6th-grade band middle school band performs at the Winter and Spring concerts. This performing ensemble combines with the 7th-grade Band on these concerts. Students must have completed 5th-grade band or equivalent to be a part of this ensemble.

7th Grade Band

The 7th-grade band middle school band performs at the Winter and Spring concerts. This performing ensemble combines with the 6th-grade band on these concerts. Students must have completed 6th-grade band or equivalent to be a part of this ensemble.

High School Band

The High School Band is comprised of 8th-12th grade students. The ensemble represents Adair Schools and community with pride while performing at venues such as high school football games, parades, concerts, and marching contests. In the past, these performances have occurred at local, regional, state, and national venues. Participation in this group is contingent upon successful completion of the middle-school band program or equivalent.

Music Enrichment Program

Private Lessons

Private lessons are not required but are highly recommended and essential for a young musician to advance their knowledge of his/her own instrument. Students that take private lessons usually advance at a much faster rate, and are usually more successful in general performance and assessment, solos, ensembles and other various performing opportunities. If you are interested, please contact the Band Office. Lesson costs vary by teacher dependent upon scope, breadth, and depth of lessons offered.

Solo and Ensemble Contest (8th-12th grade)

The annual solo and ensemble competition allows music students to display their talents on an individual basis. Students have the opportunity to perform at a district contest either as a soloist, or as part of a larger ensemble. This one-on-one judging allows students to develop

their talents at an individual pace and level. If you are interested, please contact the Band Office. A nominal fee is required to participate.

All-District Band (8th -12th grade)

Similar to solo and ensemble competition, the annual All-District Band audition allows students to excel at the regional level, and if selected, to perform at a district-wide band festival/concert. Auditions and concert dates are typically in January/February. If you are interested, please contact the Band Office. A nominal fee is required to participate.

Travel (8th-12th grade)

Band provides the opportunity to travel and experience other cultures and share our musical cultures with one another. As an integral part of our music study and curriculum, traveling to contests (locally and regionally) affords our students the opportunity to experience these musical styles. Live performance through music is one of the last vestiges of our culture that is still produced without the aid of electronic devices, thus truly exposing our students to the world of fine arts. In the words of Samuel Johnson, "The use of traveling is to regulate imagination by reality, and instead of thinking how things may be, to see them as they are."

Practicing

Like any life pursuit, practicing is an integral part of consistent development culminating in enjoyment through self-expression. To achieve this, middle school band students are required

to practice an average of 15 minutes per day (100 minutes a week). This consistency will ensure that students are successful and have a meaningful and fun experience. In order for students to be successful, the band staff encourages parents to:

1. Provide a quiet place for practice (free from electronic devices and other distractions)

2. Encourage regular practice in a positive manner. Students may not be able to hear/ perceive daily improvement, but it is happening.

3. Try to practice everyday. Short concentrated efforts are more productive.

4. Provide a working instrument that is in good condition. Quality yields quality.

5. Give encouragement and praise and show commitment in their study. Some aspects of music can be learned very quickly while other techniques may require a few extra practice periods.

Performances

Concerts and Contests

Band *concerts* are free and open to the public; some *contests* are free, while other *contests* may charge a nominal fee (dependent upon hosting institution). These fun concerts/contests demonstrate our students' abilities and achievements in the highest form of intellectual interaction through performance in the fine arts (completing the cycle of learning processes). Examples of our concerts range from the annual festive Winter Concert to the Spring Concert. These concerts are performed locally and are free to the public, while contests are held locally and regionally.[1]

These concerts and contests are mandatory, given their scope and importance.

Concert/Contest Attire

Grade	Ladies	Gentlemen
5TH , 6TH & 7TH GRADE BAND	Sunday best dress. No jeans, t-shirts, or tennis/athletic shoes. Socks must be long enough to cover skin in a seated position.	
8TH-12TH GRADE (HIGH SCHOOL) BAND	Solid black dress shoes, solid black dress socks, solid black dress pants, solid black shirt. Please observe modesty. No Jewelry. Socks must be long enough to cover skin area in a seated position.	Solid black dress pants, solid black dress socks and solid black dress shoes. Black belt and black button-up long sleeve shirt. Socks must be long enough to cover skin area in a seated position.

[1] See section on "Travel" for more information about local and regional contests.

Character

Character in an instrumental music program is revealed not only through talent, but through pride, attitude, and effort. Pride shows in caring for one's instrument and honoring the ensemble, while attitude shapes how challenges, feedback, and teamwork are approached. Consistent effort—both in rehearsal and beyond—builds trust and growth over time. Together, these qualities form the foundation of a musician who contributes positively to the group and strives for excellence with quiet confidence and purpose.

Evaluation

Grading

Grades may be accessed through the Adair School Parent Portal.

The grading scale is as follows:

A=90-100%
B=80-89%
C=70-79%
D=60-69%
F=0-59%

The 5th, 6th, and 7th grade band student's grade will be assessed and weighted based on the following general category criteria:

1. Daily Participation	50% of semester grade
2. Tests	30% of semester grade
3. Scales	20% of semester grade
4. Concerts	(see *Special Note* below)*

The High School band student's grade will be assessed and weighed based on the following general category criteria:

1. Daily Participation	50% of semester grade
2. Attendance	25% of semester grade
3. Music	25% of semester grade
4. Concerts/contests	(see *Special Note* below)*

Special Note
Students who do not attend a concert or contest due to death in family or severe sickness will constitute an excused absence with 1) advanced notification to the Band Staff and 2) proper documentation.

Students who fail to attend a concert or contest for any other reason will result in a grade of "F" (fail) for the semester.

All students must remain for the entire concert to support their peers.

Eligibility

In the classroom, your attitude, behavior, and attendance matter just as much as your effort. We will conduct ourselves with character, and allowing grades to fall behind is not acceptable—academic ineligibility is not an option. If a grade becomes an issue, you will be given three weeks to correct it: a probation week to serve as a reminder and opportunity to refocus, followed by a first and second ineligible week, each marked by a a Warrior reminder. These steps are meant to support accountability and growth, but continued ineligibility after the second week will result in permanent dismissal from the band program. We hold this standard because strong character includes responsibility in the classroom, and we will not tolerate student-musicians representing our program without meeting that expectation.

Furthermore, in accordance with Adair School Policy and the State of Oklahoma OSSAA requirements, academic eligibility is required for participation in all OSSAA-sponsored extracurricular activities, including band. This expectation applies to every competition, performance, and event connected to the Adair band program. Each member plays an important role in our collective success, and maintaining eligibility ensures that everyone can contribute fully and consistently. Academic responsibility is not separate from our goals as a band—it is a vital part of the commitment we make to one another and to the standard we represent.

Absences/Tardiness

Daily absences during a normal school day should be communicated and cleared through the School Office. There is no need to contact the Band Office for these absences.

However, absences that affect band events such as sectionals, special rehearsals, lessons, concerts, and contests ***must be*** *communicated to the Band Office in advance.*[2]

[2] Regarding absences for concerts and contests, please see "Grading" section of this manual.

All band members are necessary for the success of the group and many students perform solos throughout band literature. Undoubtedly, a symphony does not sound good with 15 seconds of silence in the middle of the movement. We will do everything in our means to work with you regarding an excused absence from such events.

Historically, and by the very nature of the discipline, band students are not tardy. As a rule: "If you are 5 minutes early, then you are 10 minutes late." In other words, be in the proper location for rehearsal/performance at least 15 minutes before prescribed start time. This time should be dedicated to setting up, getting the instrument in working order, and warming-up before rehearsal. Tardiness will be handled as per School Policy.

A good rule of thumb throughout life is to: *Be at the right place, at the right time, with the right attitude…and you will be successful.*

General Conduct/Expectations

Each band member is to conduct him/herself within the rules and regulations set by the Adair Public School System. While with the band or on band activities, you are expected to behave in such a manner as to bring honor and promote pride to our State, our community, our school, and our band program. Behavioral issues will be dealt with at the Administrative level on an individual basis, as per school policies.

General classroom discipline is rare in the Adair Band Program. Should this occur, discipline issues will be handled quickly and directly. Students will be disciplined according to the Adair Public Schools procedures. Responsibility and consequences are outlined in the student handbook. Both parents and students are encouraged to read and understand these policies. Persistent discipline problems will be handled at the Administrative level, as per policy, with a phone call from the Band Staff to communicate the issues and develop resolutions with the parent. It is our desire to make our students' experiences fun and exciting within our structured environment.

Behavioral Policy

1st Offense	Verbal warning
2nd Offense	Written assignment on good behavior
3rd Offense	Parent contact and/or meeting
4th Offense	Administrative meeting with vice principal

Band Contract/Signature Page

Please return the necessary band contract page by the last school day in August. For questions, please call Band Office at 918-785-2424.

Parent Initials	*Student Initials*	*Band Student will:*
☐	☐	Hold himself/herself to the highest possible standard of behavior in my particular ban classroom, at all performances, as well as when I am participating as an audienc member.
☐	☐	Have an attitude of humility, encouragement, and helpfulness, because I understan that a band needs to work together to be successful.
☐	☐	Make it a *goal* to practice my instrument 100 minutes per week (15 minutes per day). understand that band rehearsals are for putting together all the different parts—not t practice individual parts.
☐	☐	Do my best to maintain good grades in ALL of my classes. I will make up any misse work immediately.
☐	☐	Consider preparing the audition materials for the All-District Band and/or Solo an Ensemble competition.

We have read the Band Handbook and understand the commitment that being in the Adair School Bands represents.

_____ _____

STUDENT SIGNATURE PARENT SIGNATURE

_____

DATE

We look forward to making many musical memories together. Many thanks in advance for your patronage and support!

Recommended Instrument and Supplies

ADAIR BANDS-Recommended Instrument and Supplies
918-785-2424

Flute • YFL-361 (Offset G and Open Hole) • Saied Cork grease • Leblanc Polishing Cloth • Old T-shirt/lint free cloth • Accent on Achievement Book 1 for flute • Black Saied wire stand • Korg TM-40 Metronome and Tuner • Pencils	***Oboe*** • School owned instrument fee ($50.00) • Saied Cork grease • Jones medium soft oboe reed (2 reeds) • Leblanc polishing cloth • Accent on Achievement Book 1 for oboe • Black Saied wire stand • Korg TM-40 Metronome and Tuner • Pencils
Bassoon • School owned instrument fee ($50.00) • Saied Cork grease • Jones medium soft Bassoon reed (2 reeds) • Leblanc polishing cloth • Accent on Achievement Book 1 for bassoon • Black Saied wire stand • Korg TM-40 Metronome and Tuner • Pencils	***Clarinet*** • Buffet E 11 France Clarinet or YCL–450N • Vandoren B45 Mouthpiece (Included in Rental) • Bonade Inverted Ligature • Saied Cork grease • Vandoren 2.5 Reeds (box of ten) • Leblanc Polishing Cloth • Rico clarinet reed case • Accent on Achievement Book 1 for clarinet • Black Saied wire stand • Korg TM-40 Metronome and Tuner • Pencils

Alto Saxophone • YAS- 200AD or YAS-23 • Selmer C* Sax Mouthpiece (Included in Rental) • Saied Cork grease • Vandoren 2.5 Reeds (Box of Ten) • Micro fiber cloth • Accent on Achievement Book 1 for alto sax • Rico saxophone reed case • Black Saied wire stand • Korg TM-40 Metronome and Tuner • Pencils	***Tenor/Bari Sax*** • School owned instrument fee ($50.00) • Selmer C* Sax Mouthpiece (Included in Rental) • Saied Cork grease • Vandoren 2.5 Tenor Sax reed (box of ten) • Micro fiber Cloth • Rico Tenor Saxophone reed case • Accent on Achievement Book 1 for tenor sax • Black Saied wire stand • Korg TM-40 Metronome and Tuner • Pencils
Bass Clarinet • School owned instrument fee ($50.00) • Saied Cork grease • Vandoren 2.5 bass clarinet reeds (box of five) • Micro fiber Cloth • Accent on Achievement Book 1 for bass clarinet • Black Saied wire stand • Korg TM-40 Metronome and Tuner • Pencils	***Trumpet*** • YTR- 200ADS or YTR- 2335S (Preferred) • Getzen 700SP or Bach TR300HS • Bach 3C or Accent 3C mouthpiece • Al Cass Fast Valve Oil • Selmer tuning slide grease • Leblanc silver polishing cloth • Accent on Achievement Book 1 for trumpet • Black Saied wire stand • Korg TM-40 Metronome and Tuner • Old T-shirt for wiping up grease • Trumpet cleaning snake, valve brush and mouthpiece brush • Pencils
French horn • School owned instrument fee ($50.00) • Holton MDC Mouthpiece or Accent 11 • Al Cass Fast Valve Oil • Selmer tuning slide grease • Micro fiber cloth (found at Walmart) • Old T-shirt for wiping up grease • French horn cleaning snake and mouthpiece brush • Accent on Achievement Book 1 for French Horn • Black Saied wire stand • Korg TM-40 Metronome and Tuner • Pencils	***Trombone*** • YSL-448G or Getzen 1047F/1036 trombone • Bach 6.5 AL or Accent 6.5AL mouthpiece • Yamaha trombone slide oil • Selmer tuning slide grease • Micro fiber cloth (found at Walmart) • Small/compact water bottle (Bone bottle or super slick bottle) • Trombone cleaning snake and mouthpiece brush • Old T-shirt for wiping up grease • Black Saied wire stand • Korg TM-40 Metronome and Tuner • Pencils

Euphonium	***Tuba***
• School owned instrument fee ($50.00) • Schilke 51D mouthpiece • Al Cass Fast valve oil • Selmer tuning slide grease • Micro fiber cloth (found at Walmart) • Euphonium cleaning snake and mouthpiece brush • Old T-shirt for wiping up grease • Black Saied wire stand • Pencils	• School owned instrument fee ($50.00) • Conn Helleberg Tuba mouthpiece • Al Cass Fast valve oil • Selmer tuning slide grease • Micro fiber cloth (found at Walmart) • Old T-shirt for wiping up grease • Tuba cleaning snake and mouthpiece brush • Korg TM-40 Metronome and Tuner • Black Saied wire stand • Pencils
Percussion (Grades 5-6)	***Percussion (Grade 7 and High School)***
• Practice Pad: Meinl Rubber Stick and Brush 12-inch practice pad Item #: SB509 (do not get marshmallow pad) **OR** Evans RealFeel 2-sided 12-inch practice pad Item #: RealFeel122 • Accent on Achievement Book 1 for percussion (drums and keyboard) • Snare Drum Sticks: Vic Firth Tim Genis model **OR** Vic Firth 5A model (wood tip only) **OR** Vic Firth 5B model (wood tip only) • Digital Metronome: Many free/nominal cost apps online **OR** available at local and online music stores (Boss DB-30 recommended). • Percussion stick/accessory bag; many designs and sizes available	• Snare Drum Sticks: Vic Firth Tim Genis model **OR** Vic Firth 5A model **OR** Vic Firth 5B model; other professional models available at discretion of director • Percussion stick/accessory bag; many designs and sizes available • Digital Metronome: Many free/nominal cost apps online **OR** available at local and online music stores (Boss DB-30 recommended). • Any necessary sticks/mallets for general concert-style performances and/or music auditions (varies throughout year based on need); minimally Vic Firth Signature-style snare drum sticks. Director can suggest necessary mallets as needed.