

Maryvale Middle School

6th Grade Band
7/8th Grade Band

2026-2027 Handbook



Mrs. Phelps

6th Band, 7/8th Band, HS Band/Orchestra Director

Dear students and parents,

I would like to welcome everyone back to another great education and music-filled year! I hope that everyone enjoyed their summers while getting a lot of practice in as well.

For any new students and families to our program, I would like to welcome you and introduce myself. My name is Mrs. Phelps, and I am the director of the 6th grade band and the 7/8th grade band. We have been working very hard in this district to build up a strong music program for the future!

In this handbook you will find expectations, grading policies, concert dates, required music events, and other helpful tips and guidelines for our young musicians. After carefully reading this handbook, I ask that every student and parent complete the last page of this handbook and return it to me by **Friday, September 18th**.

It is important to remember that by being in band with other students, we are a part of a team where we all contribute to our musical environment. We do this by respecting one another for who we are, listening actively to others, and being thoughtfully engaged in class activities. When this happens, we are all able to learn and grow together as an ensemble!

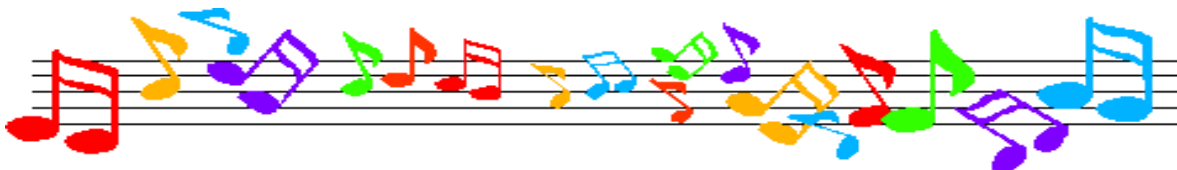
I am looking forward to a fantastic year of new friendships, wonderful music-making, and learning as we all grow as an ensemble together.

Musically yours,

Mrs. Becca Phelps

6th Grade Band, director

7/8th Grade Band, director



Lessons and Grading Policy

Every student is expected to attend rehearsals and lessons (with their instrument, music, folder, and a pencil) unless the student has an excused absence according to the school's attendance policy. The following is this year's class schedule for the middle school:

7/8th Grade Band - Mod 2, days 2, 4, 6 (8:20-9:00am)

6th Grade Band - Mod 3, days 2, 4, 6 (9:03-9:43am)

Lessons

Students will be placed in lesson groups according to their instrument and level of playing ability. Lessons will take place mods 1, 3, 4, 5, or 6 based on a rotating schedule. Students should never miss one particular class more than once per month or so. All students will receive a copy of the lesson schedule. The lesson schedule will also be posted on Google Classroom and will be featured in the morning announcements. Students are required to attend their lessons unless they have an excused absence pre-approved by me before the lesson. **Excused lessons may include: test in class, excused school absence, school field trip, or class presentations. If a lesson is missed, it is the student's responsibility to find a time to make it up with the teacher.** Watch for Google Classroom updates for opportunities to make up lessons. Lessons will begin the week of September 21, 2026.

Students will be responsible for written and playing assignments that are given during lessons. Students will be graded based on lesson attendance, preparedness, and effort/practice outside of lessons.

Grading Policy

Grading for band will be based on the following scale:

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| • Effort/Participation: | 30% |
| • Lessons: | 30% |
| • Required Concert Attendance (MP2, MP3, MP4): | 20% |
| • Preparation/Attendance: | 20% |

Extra Credit

If a student misses a lesson, they may bring in an extracurricular ensemble program of a concert that they performed in, (such as the Greater Buffalo Youth Orchestra, All-County/All-State solo festival or ensembles, a church group, etc), to gain full credit for the missed lesson. One program is allowed per quarter.

A student may gain up to 5 points extra credit on their total grade per quarter if they go to a concert (outside of the district) and write a critique (written review) within a week of the concert date. This can be any concert!

All extra credit must be approved by the teacher.

Concert Dress

Concert attire is **required for each concert** for the bands and orchestras and is as follows:

Girls: Long or short-sleeve black dress shirt; black pants or skirt (must be below the knee); black socks/tights; all-black dress shoes

Boys: Long sleeve black dress shirt or short sleeve black polo; black pants; black socks; all-black dress shoes

For an ensemble to look and be treated as professionals, we must dress uniformly as such. If you have any questions/comments/concerns regarding concert dress, please do not hesitate to contact Mrs. Phelps via email at phelps@maryvaleufsd.org.



Performance Dates and Events

September 17, 2026:	First rehearsal with instruments
September 18, 2026:	Handbook Permission Slips <u>DUE</u>
December 10, 2026:	6th Grade Winter Concert (6:00pm)
December 10, 2026:	7/8th Grade Winter Concert (7:15pm)

Students must be in the high school band room dressed in their concert dress no later than 5:30pm (6th) and 6:45pm (7/8th) with instruments and music.

January 9, 2027:	ECMEA Solo Festival at Depew HS (Grades 4-6)
January 16, 2027:	ECMEA Solo Festival at Orchard Park HS (Grades 7-9)

If a student is interested in participating at a solo festival, please contact Mrs. Phelps! It is a great opportunity and motivator for all students to work on their music reading and instrumental skills.

March 18, 2027:	Pops Concert - Grades 7-12 only (7:00pm)
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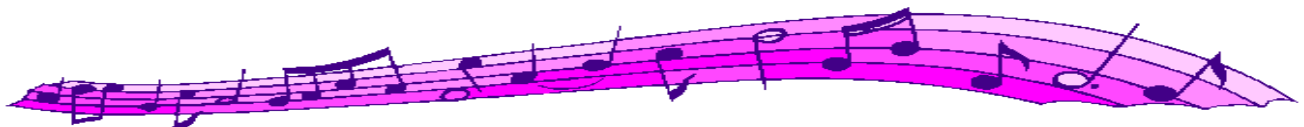
Students must be in the high school band room dressed in their concert dress no later than 6:30pm with instruments and music.

May TBD:	Darien Lake Music Festival (9:00am-6:15pm)
June 2, 2027:	6th Grade Spring Concert (6:00pm)
June 2, 2027:	7/8th Grade Spring Concert (7:15pm)

Students must be in the high school band room dressed in their concert dress no later than 5:30pm (6th) and 6:45pm (7/8th) with instruments and music.

June 5, 2027:	NYSSMA Solo Festival at Orchard Park MS
June 7, 2027:	Final day to turn in school-owned instruments

****This schedule of events is subject to change. Times may be changed, and some events may be added throughout the year.****



Local Music Stores

Brass Monkey Music

159 Indian Trail, Williamsville, NY 14221 (716) 213-7423

- Band instrument sales and rentals, instrument supplies, and music books.

Twin Village Music

44 Central Ave., Lancaster, NY 14086 (716) 683-4879

- Instrument sales and rentals, instrument supplies, and music books.

Northtown Music

3648 Harlem Rd., Cheektowaga, NY 14215 (716) 838-3835

- Instrument sales and rentals, instrument supplies, and music books.

The Music Room

444 Borden Rd., Buffalo, NY 14224 (716) 668-5441

- Instrument sales and rentals, instrument supplies, and music books.

Monaco's Violin Shop

55 Crosspoint Pkwy., Amherst, NY 14068 (716) 688-8600

- String instrument rentals, repairs, and supplies.



Please complete and submit this form to Mrs. Phelps by:

September 18th, 2026

I _____ have read the Maryvale Middle School band handbook, and I understand and will follow all rules and policies of the music department.

Student Signature

Date



I _____ have read the Maryvale Middle School band handbook and I understand and will help my child towards following all the rules and policies of the music department.

___ I am interested in helping out with any extra activities that might occur during the school year in the music department.

___ I am interested in being a part of the Maryvale Music Boosters!!!

Email Address: _____

___ If a school day field trip were to be planned in the Spring, I would potentially be available to chaperone!

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

Phone Number

