

CLARK-SHAW MAGNET SCHOOL BAND HANDBOOK

2023 – 2024



Crystal Reynolds, Director

Mrs. Timesha Taylor-Jackson, Principal

Dear Parents/Guardians and Students,

Welcome to the Clark-Shaw Magnet Middle School Band! I am excited to be the director of this program and look forward to working with each of you.

I have attempted to include as much information as possible regarding the policies and procedures of the Clark-Shaw Magnet Middle School Band program. Please keep this handbook in a place where you may refer to it easily whenever a question about the program may arise. After reading the handbook, please fill out the appropriate information found on the last page, detach the last page and return it to me by the end of the first week of school.

It is the mission of the Clark-Shaw Middle School band to teach solid music fundamentals, appreciation of all musical styles, music vocabulary, the skills necessary to continue in music and above all, the enjoyment of music.

Band is an ELECTIVE and SELECTIVE course. This program uses math concepts (rhythm); learning and applying a new system of notation; developing fine motor skills; developing the ability to listen critically; and becoming sensitive to the sound we make, to the conductor, to the sounds other make, and to the structural demands of the music. It requires cooperation with a conductor and a large team of musicians working together toward a common goal. Of course, it also requires practice at home, two evening performances, and investment in and proper maintenance of an instrument.

Thank you for supporting your student's involvement in band. The musical skill and knowledge learned here will last a lifetime. Research has shown that students with musical backgrounds often earn higher grades, score higher on standardized tests, and develop leadership and social skills that help them later in life. I am grateful to be part of this process.

If you have any questions regarding this handbook or the band program, please feel free to email or call me. I look forward to seeing your student grow in their musicianship.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Crystal Reynolds". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal line extending to the right from the end of the name.

Crystal Reynolds

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2023 – 2024 BAND CALENDAR

AUGUST 7 - First Day of School

AUGUST 10 – Mandatory Parent meeting

AUGUST 11 - Band Handbook Contract Due

AUGUST 15-17 - Jazz Band Auditions

OCTOBER 31 – Band Fee due

To Be Determined – MCPSS Honor Band Try-outs

DECEMBER 13 - Winter Concert @ Clark-Shaw gym

To Be Determined - Jazz Band performance @ Bellingrath Gardens

To Be Determined – MCPSS Honor Band Performance

JANUARY 27 - All State Band Auditions @ TBA

JANUARY 27 - District VII Honor Band Auditions @ TBA

MARCH 5-8 – Music Performance Assessment (8th grade only) @ TBA

MARCH 14-15 - District VII Honor Band Performance @ Daphne High School

APRIL 25-27 - All State Honor Band Performance @ Huntsville

MAY 4 – Solo and Ensemble @ TBA

MAY 14 - Spring Concert @ Clark-Shaw gym

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

Beginning Band

This course is open to all 6th grade students. Beginning Band students will learn to read music, tone production, posture, breathing and breath control, embouchure, articulation, and ear training.

Assigning Instruments – Beginning Band students will be assigned an instrument based on student interest, physical characteristics (formation of lips/teeth may not allow some students to properly form their mouth to be able to play the desired instrument), rhythmic coordination (for percussionist only) and instrumentation requirements (the number of students playing each instrument must be kept within reasonable limits in order to properly perform concert repertoire). Please know that I will do my best to ensure that your student is able to play the instrument of his/her choice, but there may be times when instrumentation requirements or physical characteristics will not allow that. Ultimately, I want your student to be successful on their assigned instrument. **Once instruments have been assigned students will be given an instrument information sheet for their parent/guardian.**

Performances – Beginning Band students are required to attend and perform in the Winter (December) and Spring (May) Concerts. All concerts will be held in the gym. Students are also encouraged to try out for the District VII Solo and Ensemble Festival.

Intermediate Band

This course is open to students who have mastered the beginning level of band. Students entering this course should be proficient in music reading, scales/rudiments, tone production, blending and balancing, dynamics and rehearsal procedures. All techniques from the Beginning Band course will be further developed in Intermediate Band. At this level there is a greater emphasis placed on performance. Private lessons are encouraged but not required for Intermediate Band students.

Performances – Intermediate Band students are required to attend and perform in the Winter (December) and Spring (May) Concerts. All concerts will be held in the gym. Students are required to audition for Mobile County Honor Band and are encouraged to audition for the District VII Honor, All-State Honor Band and District VII Solo and Ensemble Festival.

Advanced Band

This course is only open to students who have demonstrated the ability to perform more difficult music. Instrumentation is a consideration when selecting students for Advanced Band. Additionally, students considered for Advanced Band placement must have a proven record of reliability and good conduct. The skills learned in Beginning and Intermediate Band are further refined in Advanced Band and additional scales/rudiments and more difficult exercises are learned. Musical selections for Advanced Band consist of students playing individualized parts that blend with the rest of the band to create more advanced music. Because of the nature of the

music students must be willing to work hard to stay in Advanced Band. Private lessons are encouraged but not required for Advanced Band students.

Performances – Advanced Band students participate in rehearsals as well as concerts. Students are required to attend and perform in the Winter (December) and Spring (May) Concerts, Mobile County and district VII Music Performance Assessment, pep-rally's, and other performances as needed including some home sponsored sports events. Students are required to audition for Mobile County Honor Band and are encouraged to audition for the District VII Honor, All-State Honor Band and District VII Solo and Ensemble Festival.

Jazz Band

All 7th & 8th grade band students are eligible to audition for Jazz Band. Students wishing to perform in this band are required to attend after school rehearsals and performances. Auditions for Jazz band will be held after school. Rehearsals will be held Tuesdays and/or Thursdays from 3:00-4:00.

Performances – Jazz Band students will perform at the Winter (December) and Spring (May) Concert, Bellingrath Gardens (December) and may be asked to do additional performances during the school year.

BAND UNIFORM

Beginning Band and Intermediate Band 1 – Students will wear their band T-shirt with school uniform grey slacks/black slacks or floor length black skirt.

Advanced Band – Students will wear their band T-shirt with school uniform grey slacks/black slacks or floor length black skirt for Winter and Spring Concerts. Students will wear the school uniform with the white shirt to the Music Performance Assessment (MPA).

Jazz Band – Students in Jazz Band are required to purchase black pants and a black long-sleeved button-down shirt to wear. Students may wear school uniform shoes or black shoes that have been approved by the director. Ties will be provided by the director.

FINANCIAL OBLIGATION

Being in a band cost money and brings certain financial obligations that are the responsibility of the band member. Students are required to provide their own instrument, accessories (reeds, valve oil, cork grease, etc.), method book and any other expenses that may arise during the year. Please contact me if you are having problems meeting these obligations and this issue will be worked out confidentially.

Band Fee

The band fee is \$75 and is due by October 31st. The band fee covers the cost of the band T-shirt and goes towards the purchase of concert music and other band program needs. If there are any conflicts or hardships with the band fee, please contact me directly. Payment installations can be arranged if necessary.

SCHOOL OWNED INSTRUMENTS

The larger and more expensive instruments are available to rent through the school. These instruments include oboe, tenor saxophone, baritone saxophone, French horn, baritone, and tuba. Details for renting a school owned instrument can be found in the Instrument Rental Contract.

INSTRUMENT STORAGE

Students will be assigned a place to store their instrument during the school day. The band room and all storage lockers will be locked at all times. Students are recommended to take their instruments home each evening to practice. Any student caught messing with another students stored instrument will lose their storage privileges and will not have access to storage rooms.

The Mobile County Public School System does not have insurance or any plan that will cover damage, theft, or loss of privately owned equipment. If you want your equipment covered, it must be through the parents/guardians personal insurance, such as a homeowner's policy, etc.

Labeling Instruments – All instrument cases are required to have the student's name. Quite often students will have the same instrument case and, if unlabeled, could accidentally grab another student's instrument. Luggage tags are an excellent way to label rented instrument cases. If you own your instrument, you can even use a paint marker to label your instrument case and make it look unique. The band director will keep a record of instrument serial numbers.

Percussion - Never leave out mallets/sticks.

1. Always put auxiliary percussion instruments back to their assigned spot.
2. Mallet instruments should never have foreign objects on top of the keys.
3. Do not lean on mallet instruments.
4. Only percussion students are allowed to touch percussion instruments, unless told to by a director.
5. Do not take apart equipment unless told to by a director.
6. Always play with good technique to protect mallets and instruments from unnecessary damage.

GRADING POLICY

Tests and Performances – 60%

This is the largest category and encompasses all performances, playing tests and written tests. Playing test will be anything that we have worked on in the method book as well as scales/rudiments.

Participation and Activities – 40%

This category is mostly about class participation. Participation is 20 points per day totaling 100 points per week. As long as the student is participating in class and has all of the necessary class materials then they will receive 20 points for the day. If an instrument is in the shop the parent/guardian must provide a note stating this fact. If a student is too ill to play, they must provide a note from the doctor or parent to excuse daily participation points.

Daily Supplies

1. Method Book/any issued music
2. Pencil
3. All supplies relative to their instrument (see instrument specific supplies below)
4. Working instrument
5. Black 3 ring binder with notebook paper and sheet protectors

Instrument Specific Supplies

Woodwinds – At least 3 good reeds, swab, cork grease

Brass – Mouthpiece, valve oil/slide cream, mute (as needed)

Percussion – Appropriate sticks/mallets, stick bag, bell kit with practice pad

CONDUCT

Band classes are often large. It is necessary to hear students play individually or in small groups during normal band rehearsals. It is essential that students understand the importance of remaining quiet and attentive when individuals or groups are being asked to play. Proper behavior while listening to other students play is just as important as playing well. Students must demonstrate proper conduct to remain in the band program. **If a student is unable to control their behavior, and it becomes a continuous problem, they may be removed from the band program** (see withdrawal/dismissal policy).

BAND EXPECTATIONS

General Rules

1. All students are expected to follow the rules, procedures and policies of the CSMS band program as well as the MCPSS Student Code of Conduct. Failure to follow the rules, procedures and policies may cause the student to be removed from the program.
2. No food or sugary drinks in the band room. Students may have a bottle of water.
3. No cell phones, earbuds, earphones, or air pods. Please review your CSMS Student Handbook.
4. Throw away all trash in the correct trash can.
5. All students must play on their own individual instrument and/or the instrument that was assigned to the student under the instrument rental contract.
6. All students in Intermediate and Advanced band audition for district and county honor bands.

CLASSROOM PROCEDURES

Preparation:

- Check the board daily for announcements and information.
- Follow all written and verbal instructions.
- Be in your seat before the bell rings.

Learning Environment:

- Do not play or talk while the director is talking.
- Remain silent throughout the rehearsal.
- Watch the conductor.
- Raise your hand and wait to be acknowledged before asking questions.
- Do not leave the room until you are dismissed.

Room Cleanliness:

- Do not bring food, drinks, or gum into the classroom.
- Put instruments and music in the proper storage areas.
- Respect school property.
- Students are not allowed in the band office, band library or storage room unless invited by a staff member.
- Keep stands and chairs orderly.

Consequences:

- First and second offense – Loss of daily points
- Third offense – Call to parent or guardian
- Fourth offense – Administrative, parent, and teacher conference

WITHDRAWAL/DISMISSAL POLICY

The Director of Bands reserves the right to dismiss any person from the band who poses a constant behavior problem, but only after all other courses of action are pursued. A student may be recommended for dismissal from an ensemble or the entire band program for excessive attendance violations, attitude problems, poor performance level, poor or failing grades in band

classes, poor or failing grades in academic classes, destruction of property, school discipline problems, continual violation of band rules and regulations, or other poor conduct unbecoming to Clark-Shaw Magnet School.

The Director of Bands also claims the right to refuse membership to any student who fails to meet the minimum standards for musicianship, or who has outstanding financial obligations to the band.

SMART BAND TIPS

1. Parents/Guardians are responsible for damages caused by student's neglect or abuse of school instruments.
2. Students are responsible for keeping their instrument in good playing condition. Any instrument needing repairs should be promptly taken to the repair shop.
3. Any instruments left in the band room are required to be in their assigned storage place. **MAKE SURE YOUR NAME IS CLEARLY MARKED ON YOUR INSTRUMENT CASE.**
4. Reed players are always required to have three (3) good reeds. When a reed breaks students should inform their parents/guardians so that the student is never caught without a playable reed. The band director will have a limited number of reeds for sale.
5. **ATTENDANCE AT BAND CONCERTS ARE A REQUIREMENT OF BAND MEMBERSHIP.** Band is a performance-based class. If you are going to miss a performance, it must be cleared by the director at least **THREE** weeks ahead of the performance date.
6. Students who do not make adequate progress, do not meet the required standard of behavior, or do not display responsibility for meeting their obligations may be transferred to a different level and more appropriate band class after parent notification.
7. Students must display proper concert etiquette during performances.
8. Students must sit with their band during concerts. Sections will be marked off and students must be in the appropriate section to receive full credit.
9. Each student should learn to **LISTEN**: to his/her own playing, to others around him/her, and to the director's instructions.

OVERVIEW OF BAND EVENTS

Winter and Spring Band Concert

These concerts are required performances for Beginning, Intermediate 1, Advanced and Jazz Band. The concerts will be performed in the Clark-Shaw gym starting around 6 pm. Students are to arrive by 5:30 in their band T-shirt and school uniform grey slacks/black slacks or floor length black skirt.

Mobile County Middle School Honor Band

Honor Band is open to members of Intermediate Band and Advanced Band. Audition materials and requirements will be provided by the director. Auditions are held in November. This honor band is open to middle schools throughout Mobile County. Students selected to participate in the

Honor Band will have two rehearsals under the guidance of a guest clinician in January and will perform a concert on the evening of the second rehearsal. I will provide transportation to the rehearsals, but it is the responsibility of the parent/guardian to transport their student to the evening performance.

All State Band

Alabama All State Band is made up of Alabama's finest musicians in grades 7 and 8. Audition materials and requirements will be provided by the director. Auditions are held in January. Chosen participants must travel to the selected city that will host the Alabama All State Festival in April to be a part of this unique and exciting experience. Students will spend three days rehearsing with a guest clinician and play a concert on the last day. It is the responsibility of the student's parent/guardian to accompany the student to the designated city for the weekend and to provide for any necessary expenses (food, transportation, hotel, etc)

Mobile County Band Assessment

Advanced band students are required to attend the Mobile County Band Assessment during the school day. I will provide a bus to the performance site. The band will present three pieces of music and adjudicators will use an evaluation form to rate the band.

District VII Solo and Ensemble Festival – Students have the opportunity to perform a solo and/or ensemble in front of a judge. Ratings range from I (Superior) to V (Poor). Students who receive a superior rating receive a medal to wear. This event takes place on a Saturday at the end of April or beginning of May. If your child wants to participate in the festival, he or she must practice their music. The parent or guardian is responsible for transportation to this event.

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CLARK-SHAW MIDDLE SCHOOL BAND
STUDENT, PARENT/GUARDIAN INFORMATION

(Please Print)

Student Name _____ Grade _____

Parent/Guardian _____

Home Phone _____ Cell Phone _____

Parent/Guardian Email Address _____

I have read a copy of the Clark-Shaw Middle School Handbook. I understand my responsibilities as a member of the Clark-Shaw band, and I understand that I will abide by the information contained within this handbook.

Parent/Guardian Signature _____

Student Signature _____

Detach, sign, and return this page only. This is due back to the director at the end of the first full week of class.

THIS WILL COUNT AS YOUR FIRST GRADE!

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