

Dear Band Parents and Students,

Welcome to a new school year and to the GFMS 2018 – 2019 Band.

This handbook is our effort to make clear the expectations for the band and its members. In it you will find policies regarding rehearsal and lesson attendance, home practice commitment and, of course, performances. I urge you to keep this handbook at home where it can be used to check performance dates, special events, and to clear up questions regarding policies.

Please note that while this handbook details our policies and expectations, it can't anticipate every situation that we may encounter during the course of the school year. When questions or special circumstances arise, please contact us.

In order to make sure all students and parents have read this handbook and understand all the information, please ***sign and return the contract agreement*** found on this page. As always, thank you for your continued support. We are looking forward to a terrific year!

Musically,

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GFMS Band Contract 2018 – 2019

I have read the information found in this packet and agree to support the band by following the policies and guidelines set forth therein, including lesson attendance, performance participation, and home practice requirements. I will contribute my very best effort throughout the course of the school year.

Student Name _____ **Grade** _____

Instrument _____

Student Signature _____

Parent Signature _____

Rehearsals

Students are required to bring the following materials to each rehearsal:

- Their instrument, including all the ‘extra’ supplies that go with it.
- A sharpened or mechanical pencil. NO PENS OF ANY KIND!
 - The pencil should be kept in their band folder at all times for easy access.
- **A SMALL BINDER FOR BAND ONLY WITH PAGE PROTECTORS**
 - You can also have your their band folder (which will be given to students at the beginning of the school year) with current music, Practice Cards, and their lesson book.

Extra Materials:

- **7th and 8th grade parents please see Requirements letter that went home in June (also available on website page “BAND,” then find 7th grade supplies)**
- 6th graders will need Measures of Success Book 1 AND Book 2 for their specific instruments

7th and 8th grade percussionists will need the following books – this is INSTEAD of the above

1. Fundamental Studies for Mallets by Garwood Whaley
2. Fundamental Studies for Snare Drum by Garwood Whaley

Lessons

All members of the band will participate in lessons. Students will be placed in small groups with the same or similar instruments. The students’ lesson schedule will rotate throughout the day. Just like in the rehearsals, all the same materials are crucial to their success in lessons.

Lessons are a crucial part of the instrumental learning experience. Students need to check in with their teachers first prior to coming to lessons. **Lessons are where students learn the fundamentals of how to play their individual instruments therefore students should miss lessons for no other reason than a test or test review.**

**Lessons are a crucial part of the instrumental learning experience.
Students shall miss lessons for no reason other than a test.**

Lessons assignments will be available WEEKLY on our carmelschools.org websites

Grading

Please note – ALL grades will be posted and updated bi-weekly onto Home Access

Students could have a *band playing test during lessons 1 time per month* in lessons

50% - Band: including but not limited to participation, attendance, attentiveness, being prepared including reeds, instrument, music, book, etc.

Accountability Items	Points off per weekly Participation Grade (weekly grade out of 100 points)
No instrument	-20 points per time (over course of week)
No music – MUSIC BINDER	-10 points per time (over course of week)
No reeds/sticks/mouthpiece where applicable	-15 points per time (over course of week)
No pencil	-10 points per time (over course of week)

20% - Lessons: attendance, preparedness including have lesson book, instrument, etc.

Lesson Preparation Grade	Points off per weekly Participation Grade (weekly grade out of 100 points)
No instrument	-50 points per lesson
No music – MUSIC BINDER	-10 points per lesson
No reeds/sticks/mouthpiece where applicable	-15 points per lesson
No pencil	-10 points per lesson

30% - Practice Card Preparation: having done and completed the written work in addition to the signed card.

Practice cards are due at lessons and will only be accepted one 6 day cycle late, for partial credit. Students will only receive full credit on practice cards if their performance for lessons reflects their minutes and work on their practice card.

Percussionists: please remember your assignments will be submitted digitally weekly

Practice Card Preparation Grade	(weekly grade out of 100 points)
Hand in practice card and 100% prepared with markings in your music and clear evidence you practiced	Receive 100 points
Hand in practice card but only partial evidence of practicing with little markings in music	Receive 80 points
Hand in practice card with zero evidence of practicing and no markings in music	Receive 60 points

Home Practice

All band members are expected to practice their instruments at home in preparation for lessons, rehearsals, and performances. Home practice is to be documented on the practice cards, which their teacher will provide during their first lesson. These cards must be turned in at each lesson and must be signed by a parent or guardian.

Practice cards will be accepted **once a week ONLY**. **If students miss a week for a reason, cards can be turned in during band, or at the next lessons. Please note: no more than 2 practice cards will be accepted at a time.**

Additionally, the grade for a practice card will be based on the practice card AND the preparation. If students hand in a practice card but are not prepared for lessons they will not receive full credit on their Practice Card Preparation grade.

Band members in the 5th and 6th grade are required to practice a minimum of 80 minutes per week. Band members in the 7th and 8th grade are required to practice a minimum of 120 minutes per week.

SMART MUSIC

Smart music while not required, **we HIGHLY RECOMMEND THIS** practicing tool. It is a program to download to your computer with a yearly subscription. Our Measures of Success book is part of this program as well as LOTS of our band pieces. Students can play and practice along with the computer which can assist with fingerings and performance. www.smartmusic.com

Percussionists' Responsibilities

Percussionists are responsible for their own equipment at the beginning and at the end of the period. NO percussionist will be allowed to leave class until all percussion equipment is put away and the teacher checks it. Percussionists should take their percussion bin to the back of the room at the beginning of the period and return it to the percussion room at the end of the period. No mallets or equipment of any kind should be left in the back of the room. Students will be assigned days that they are responsible for the equipment.

Percussionist will need to once a rotation send in a video of them playing through two examples from their practice charts by the following week's lesson

Lockers

Lockers will be assigned to students in 7th and 8th grade first. If lockers are still available they will be made available to the 6th graders as well. Locker assignments with locker numbers and combinations will be distributed to all students. Instruments must be stored in the lockers at all times when not being used. Locks will be provided for the students and are school property. Students are responsible for the condition of the lock and locker.

School-Owned Instruments

NO STUDENT UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES IS ALLOWED TO TOUCH A SCHOOL – OWNED INSTRUMENT WITHOUT PERMISSION OF INSTRUCTOR.

Classroom Rules and Expectations

- 1) Students will bring a pencil, folder, and their instrument to every rehearsal.
- 2) Students will come ready to learn with a positive attitude and open mind.
- 3) Students need to stay quiet when in their seats and refrain from talking or playing once rehearsal begins.
- 4) When the teacher steps on to the podium, students need to stop talking and playing and get ready to begin rehearsal.
- 5) Students MUST lock lockers after taking their instrument out of their locker at the beginning of the period and relock it at the end of the period when instruments are put away. (Lockers are given out according to grade level)
- 6) Students will be given 2 minutes at the beginning of the rehearsal to assemble instruments and warm up.

Extra-Curricular Activities – **please note these are still TBD and we are not sure if they are running**

Jazz Band – Open to all 7th and 8th grade who are not clarinet players.

Meets once a week on Mondays afterschool

- Perform at HS Pops Concert in Fall – Anticipated March 2nd
- Extra-Curricular Music Concert – Wednesday March 6th

Clarinet Choir – Open to all 7th and 8th grade clarinet players

Meets once a week on Mondays afterschool

- Perform at HS Pops Concert in Fall – Date: Anticipated March 2nd
- Extra-Curricular Music Concert – Wednesday March 6th

Required Performances

Performances will take place outside of the regular school day. These performances are a way for the students to show their parents, friends, and school faculty the pieces and aspects of music that they have been working on during the school year.

The students are required to attend the performances by their musical group and highly encouraged to attend other performances by the other groups at GFMS as well as by the High School. All performances take place in the GFMS auditorium. The concert dates are as follows:

When it gets closer to concert time, your child will get a reminder notice about what time they need to be at school.

8th grade students will be performing at the HS Pops concert: Anticipated March 2nd at CHS GYM

Winter Concerts:

6th grade groups: January 9th
7th grade groups: December 19th
8th grade groups: December 17th

All County Music Festival:

7th and 8th grade groups: Feb. 1st and 2nd at GFMS

NYSSMA Solo Festival: George Fischer Middle School May 11th and 12th

Spring Concerts:

6th grade concert: June 13th
7th grade concert: June 6th
8th grade concert: June 3rd

The concert dress code for all students is as follows:

Boys & Girls: White dress shirt, **Black dress pants**, Black dress shoes

Schedules and dates available online:

www.carmeschools.org

Click on the monthly calendar on the left hand side of the web page

