

August 21, 2013

2013-2014 School Year



“CREATING A CULTURE OF EXCELLENCE THROUGH PERFORMANCE;
ONE MUSICIAN AT A TIME”

Oakridge Middle School Golden Eagle Bands

Welcome to the Band!

Welcome back for a new year of making music! I am very excited about this year and I hope you are ready to get down to business! This packet contains information you will need about grades, performance requirements, and all things related to band. **Please read it carefully with your family, and then sign and return the contract to school with your \$35.00 band fee by September 3.** Make sure the contact information is complete and accurate.

Each of our bands has the same expectations. At Oakridge, we expect our students to be **positive, punctual, persistent and prepared.** We expect them to be ready to learn, with all of their materials in class

each day and always remember that they are responsible for making their band the best it can be. A band is only as strong as each member, so we must work together to meet our performance standards. Always remember that band is an elective class and that you chose to be here. Parents make a significant financial investment in order for their student to learn to play an instrument, so each student is responsible for making the most of this opportunity. Therefore, we ask you to work hard, be **polite** to each other, and treat all students and adults with dignity and respect. That way, we can be about the business of making great music!

Parents please remember

that you are always welcome in the band room and we encourage you to visit at any time. Performance dates for this year are listed in this packet, so make plans to join us for those. My email and contact information is also on the last page. Feel free to contact me at any time so I can better help your student succeed. Again, welcome back and let's make music!



Daily Class Procedures

Band class must have procedure and order to function well. We have twice the number of students as a regular classroom, and our activity involves creating sound, so there must be some ground rules to protect the learning environment. These procedures will help make that happen.

Students should come to class each day with their **instrument in good working order, music folder, music book, notebook and pencil. Woodwinds must have the correct reeds. Always keep at least 3 working reeds in your case.** When you

enter the room, go straight to the instrument room, get your instrument and go straight to your seat. Assemble your instrument and then check the board for today's required page numbers and music. If there is a written warm up, then begin, but **do not play your instrument until instructed to do so.** Warm up is an important part of the lesson, so the band will do that together.

Once the rehearsal begins, there should be no talking that does not pertain to the rehearsal. You can't very well play an instrument if your mouth is running! If

you have questions, please raise your hand and wait to be recognized. Our band classes are very large and this will help us respect each other. At the end of class, return all materials to the proper place and wait in your seat to be dismissed. Please help keep the rehearsal area clean by **never bringing gum, candy, food or any drinks into the band room.**

All instruments must go home each day for home practice. Turn in completed practice records as required. If you are in class, you will be expected to participate! Good Luck!

Grading Procedures

Getting a grade in band class is based on your musical and written work. Band students earn grades, they are not given arbitrarily. These are the grading criteria.

Daily class performance/participation: Student has an instrument AND book and plays in class each day. This earns 20 points each day for a weekly grade of 100. *If students are well enough to be at school, then they are expected to play their instrument and participate in class.*

Playing Tests: Students will perform assigned sections of their music individually for a grade. Evaluations are based on a set rubric. These may be announced, or they may not. Students using Smart Music have the option of playing their tests at home. Each playing test will be averaged as an individual grade.

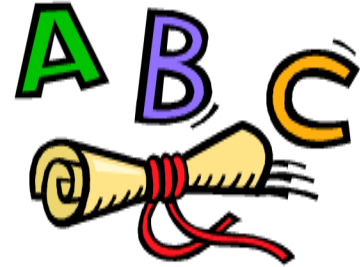
Written Tests or Work: Written work is to be completed as assigned and is part of the daily grade. Tests are averaged as individual grades.

Home Practice: Students are required to practice at least 75 minutes a week. Home practice is a critical part of being a great musician, and if you do not make this commitment, you will never be successful.

Performances: These are the culmination of all class work and represent one third of your grade in the nine weeks when they occur. They are required for all students and occur in the evenings 6th, 7th and 8th grade students perform in December and May.

If you have any questions about your

grade at any time, please feel free to ask!



Remember, there are 2 things that you cannot hide; Practice and hard work and the lack of it.

Choose well for success!

Make Up Policy

The only way to be a success at school is to be there! Students not in band class miss more than that day's assignments. They miss a musical experience that can not be duplicated. When emergencies arise and you have to be out of class, these procedures will apply:

Bring a note explaining your absence and place it on the director's podium as you enter class. **If you missed a test, writ-**

ten or playing, check with me to set a date for make up. Playing tests need to be made up within 3 class periods after you come back to school. **Any written assignments you missed are due on the next class day after you receive them. Playing tests or written quizzes or tests must be made up within the nine weeks they are assigned.**

Students who are absent from class on

challenge days may lose their seats! **Please note:** If you are not present at the beginning of class when I take roll, you will be marked absent and may lose your points for that day. **DO NOT under any circumstances miss class to be with another teacher without my permission IN ADVANCE. When other teachers hold you out of this class they affect your grade for the day.**

Changing Instruments

Some students will be allowed to change instruments so that our band can have correct instrumentation. This is a perfect opportunity to try something new. Typically switches are made within the family of instruments you already play; brass to brass and woodwind to woodwinds, however there are some exceptions. No one is allowed to switch to percussion without the director's permission and a demonstrated need of the ensemble. If you wish

to make a change you must check with me to see what is available (I will choose based on what we need, not always what you want) ask your parents for permission, and set up a time to see me about what equipment will be needed. Once you have made a change, you will stay on that instrument. Some students who wish to change may be eligible to use a school instrument. These are **VERY EXPENSIVE** and are assigned at the director's

discretion. Forms will be signed saying families are responsible for their care and maintenance while you are using them.



Performance Procedures

Performances are required for all students and are part of the nine weeks grade. They are held in the evenings outside of the school day. Students who miss a performance cannot receive credit for that performance. Emergencies will be handled on an individual basis, and if it is warranted, a makeup assignment will be given. These are not small assignments since they must duplicate the stress of a public performance. **Failure to complete**

the make up assignment will result in a loss of credit regardless of the reason for missing the concert.



For performances students will:

- 1) Report at the assigned time for warm up.
- 2) Remain for the entire performance.
- 3) Remain quiet throughout the performance. **Personal conversations are never appropriate.**
- 4) Students will sit as a group in an assigned area and follow the instructions of the adults assigned to supervise.
- 5) Understand that violation of these procedures will result in a loss of performance privileges and grade deductions.

Concert attire will be:

- 1) **Ladies** will wear black dress pants or skirts and the Oakridge Band polo shirt. Skirts must be knee length. Appropriate dress shoes and hosiery must be worn.
- 2) **Gentlemen** will wear black pants, and the Oakridge Band polo shirt. Appropriate dark dress shoes and dark socks must be worn. Shirts will be tucked in and belts must be worn.

Please Remember!

Denim is not a dressy fabric, so no jeans, no matter how much they cost. Sneakers and flip flops are NOT dress shoes and may not be worn. Concerts are special dress occasions and must be treated as such! You MUST pay your band fee to receive your band polo

Oakridge Band Fees

All Oakridge Band students will pay the \$35.00 band fee. This fee covers the cost of your band polo shirt for performances and the sheet music that must be purchased for our concerts. Since we only order shirts at the beginning of the school year, it is most important that you return this fee to school with your signed band contract as requested by **Tuesday September 3, 2013.**

Please make checks payable to Oakridge Middle School Bands. Please put your student's name on your check or envelope. Band programs are very expensive because our equipment is very specialized. We are fortunate to have a beautiful new facility in which to work. These fees help offset the cost of important learning materials. Please complete the Parent Student

Contract in this packet and return it to school with the band fee. **Make sure you mark the correct size shirt your student will need! Please note the difference between youth and adult sizes! Thank you for your help!**



Do you know how to practice?

All students are expected to practice at home for 75 minutes a week, but do you know how? There is an important formula! Here's how to do it right for the best results!

1. Practice in the same place each day. Stay away from TV and distractions.
2. Begin with long tones (Half step exercises) Concentrate on a good sound. Check posture, hand position

and embouchure.

3. Spend time on scales. Start slowly and work for speed and accuracy.
4. Work out of your method book each day. Try to stay several lines ahead of the class.
5. Practice your music. Work on parts you find difficult slowly at first and then increase speed. Work a measure

at a time. Once you are able to play it 5 times without a mistake, then move on. Pay special attention to details such as key signature, time signature, accidentals, dynamics and articulations. Look up fingerings you do not know.

6. Finally, play something just for fun! Give your family a short concert to share!

Contact Mr. Reese at:**Mark Reese****Oakridge Middle School****5650 Highway 557****Clover, SC 29710****803-631-8013****mark.reese@clover.k12.sc.us****Best time to call: before
9:15am or after 3:45pm, email
any time!*****Just for Parents***

You are a vital part of your child's musical experience and I value your input. Please feel free to share any information that you feel would help me help them be more successful. Band provides a great forum for families to interact in years when young people are sometimes uncomfortable about their parents' presence at school. As a band parent, you have a chance to be involved with your child through the end of high school. At this level, you can make a huge difference in their success. First of all, help them schedule a regular time and place to practice. Make sure it is consistent and honor their commitment by only signing the practice record if the work has been done. Do not allow younger family members to touch the instrument. That should be something special just for your young musician. Treat practice for what it is, a daily assignment that must be completed before social activities. Listen to them play and give encouragement, even if it sounds really awful! At the beginning, it just might! I hope this year will provide the opportunity for your family to strengthen your musical experience. Thank you for the chance to work with your greatest treasure; your child.

**Performance Calendar**

6th Grade Students:

Thursday December 5, 2013 at 6:00pm

Thursday May 1, 2014 at 6:00pm

Thursday May 15, 2014 at 9:00am. (Performance for visiting 5th grade students)

7th and 8th Grade Students:

Wednesday December 11, 2013 at 6:00pm for 7th grade and 7:00pm for 8th Grade

Wednesday May 14, 2014 at 6:30pm at CSDA for 8th grade

Thursday May 15, 2014 at 6:00pm for 7th Grade

