

RSU #16

BAND HANDBOOK



"I believe that music has an intense power to connect us together, to inspire us to become ourselves." - Ani DiFranco

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Introduction

CONGRATULATIONS! By joining band, you have made the first step to a fun and fulfilling experience in learning how to play a musical instrument. Don't be nervous! If you try your best and don't give up you will succeed! I am very excited that you have joined the band because I know you will have a fantastic time!

Lessons:

At your lesson each week, you will focus on individual practice goals using your lesson book and how to become a great musician on your instrument.

Full Band:

When the whole band rehearses together, we will focus on the whole group (ensemble) and not individual needs. The purpose of full band is to work together to make beautiful music. It also serves as a learning experience about how musicians behave in rehearsals and performances.

Being in band will give you so much more than just musical training. You will learn: cooperation and teamwork, commitment and responsibility, as well as perseverance and self-discipline. Performing with a group also helps build self-esteem, confidence and pride in accomplishment!

Welcome to the Band!



Required Materials

All students should have the following items for band:

1. An instrument in working condition.
2. **Tradition of Excellence Method Book #1** (for your instrument) by Bruce Pearson
3. Pencil
4. Folder for full-band music

Additional items are listed below by instrument:

Flute: <i>1. Flute tuning rod (should come with instrument)</i> <i>2. Handkerchief or small piece of cloth for cleaning inside the instrument</i>	Clarinet: <i>1. Extra reeds (these will wear out or break and need to be replaced)</i> <i>2. Cork grease and cleaning swab</i> <i>3. Mouthpiece Cap</i>
Saxophone: <i>1. Extra reeds (these will wear out or break and need to be replaced)</i> <i>2. Cork grease and cleaning swab</i> <i>3. Mouthpiece cap</i>	Trumpet: <i>1. Bottle of Valve Oil</i> <i>2. Slide grease</i> <i>3. Soft cloth for cleaning</i>
Trombone: <i>1. Slide Oil</i> <i>2. Soft cloth for cleaning</i>	Percussion: <i>1. Sticks/Mallets</i> <i>2. Practice pad</i>

Suggested Materials

These may help when practicing at home:

1. Wire Music Stand
2. Metronome (keeps the beat)
3. Chromatic Tuner (check to see if your instrument is in tune)
4. Additional cleaning materials such as; mouthpiece brushes, pad savers, etc.)

Local Music Stores

Music & Arts

106 New Gray Road
Falmouth, ME 04105
(207) 797-3494
www.musicarts.com

Main Street Music

134 Main Street
Auburn, ME 04210
www.mainstreetmusiclessons.com

Music & More

220 Bath Road
Brunswick, ME 04011
www.musicandmoreonline.com

Musician's Hub

120 Center Street
Auburn, ME 04210
(207) 333-6700
www.mymusicianshub.com

Musician's 1st Choice

246 Western Ave.
Augusta, ME
(207) 623-0400
www.musicians1stchoice.wix.com

Guitar Center

198 Maine Mall Rd
South Portland, ME 04106
(207) 822-9822
www.guitarcenter.com

Student Responsibilities and Expectations

As a member of the band you are an important part of a team. The group is relying on you to arrive prepared and on time, to have a positive attitude and to do your best. Because lessons are during the day, you will be responsible to make up the work that you have missed in your regular classes.

Responsibilities

1. Be prepared- Have your instrument, pencil, method book and supplies (sticks, reeds, valve oil, etc..) at every lesson and band rehearsal.
2. Be on time- Know your lesson schedule
3. Make up your missed work- both in band and in class.
4. Practice at home- Take your instrument home every day and manage your time wisely.
5. Always do your best!

Rehearsal Etiquette:

1. No food or drink (except water) allowed in the band room.
2. Show respect to each other. We all have different challenges and needs.
3. Use the bathroom before coming to band.
4. Remember that the instrument you use in band is very valuable. Please be careful in the band room and respect your classmates and their space. Instruments can break easily and aren't always easily or cheaply fixed.



Home Practice Tips for Success

Students

1. **Find a quiet, distraction-free place.** If possible set up a "practice area" in your room or somewhere in the house. Your practice area might include a sturdy chair, a music stand, a place to put your instrument, and a CD player if you would like to play with the cd.
2. **Schedule a time to practice each day** (maybe include it in your homework).
3. **Always play with good posture.**
4. **Take your time!** It's good to go slow!
5. **Break it down.** If your'e stuck on a long song or phrase, practice a little section and then put it together.
6. **Three times is the charm.** Make sure you can play the piece correctly three times in a row before moving on to the next song.

Parents

1. Become involved in what your child is doing. Ask them what they've been learning in band or request they play a song that they enjoy.
2. If you don't know how to play an instrument, have your child teach you! If you play an instrument yourself, join in!
3. Encourage your child to always do his/her best. As with anything, positive encouragement goes a long way.
4. Check to make sure your child has completed their practice homework.
5. Inspire! Find a cd or youtube video of his/her instrument being performed by a professional or attend a concert! This is an exciting time. Enjoy!



Contract and Commitment Statement

Please read with your parents and return the bottom portion to Mr. Gagnon or Mrs. McFarland.

In order to be a member of the RSU #16 Band Program I...

1. agree to follow the Responsibilities and Expectations written in the handbook.
2. will take care of my instrument and respect the property of others.
3. will take responsibility to make up work that I have missed for my homeroom as well as for band lessons.
4. am committed to the instrument that I have chosen for at least 1 year unless Mr. Gagnon or Mrs. McFarland advises otherwise.
5. will attend all band performances during this school year.



Choose One:

What instrument do you want to play?

Flute Trumpet Clarinet Alto Saxophone Trombone Percussion

Choose One:

I am renting an instrument: _____

I am looking for an instrument (need assistance from the school) : _____

I have my own instrument: _____

Student Signature: _____ SCHOOL: _____

Parent Signature _____

Preferred contact: E-mail _____ Phone: _____