

Dixon Middle School Band Disclosure Statement

Welcome to the Dixon Middle School Band! Whether you are new or returning to the program, we are pleased to have you as a member of this great organization! As a member of the band you will have opportunities to develop your skills as a musician, learn basic music theory skills, and participate in public performances.

This disclosure is being provided as a source of information to parents and students. If you have any questions please feel free to call me at (801) 374-4980 ext. 1417. Or email at christygi@provo.edu

Thank You,
Ms. Christy Giblon

Daily Attendance

In order to be successful you need to be in class on time every day. **“On time” means in your seat with all materials-ready to play when class starts.** It is very difficult to make up for lost rehearsal time.

Class Rules

1. Be prepared and on time
2. Follow directions
3. Show respect for teacher, peers, and property
4. Keep mouth, hands, and classroom free of gum, food, candy, and beverages
5. No hall passes except for extreme emergencies

Grades

Grades will be divided into the following categories:

Participation/Preparation	35%
Performance Assessments/Concerts	45%
Written Assignments	20%

Participation

Students will receive 10 points each day for fully participating in class activities. Non-participation at any point during class will result in a loss of these points. Students who are tardy or not ready to play when we begin rehearsal will lose a portion of these points.

Preparation

Students will earn 5 points for being prepared for class each day. This includes having all appropriate materials such as instrument, mouthpiece, good reeds, pencil, music, music stand, etc. Part of this grade category will be earned by practicing class materials each day at home.

Performance Assessments

Students will be assigned material from method books and/or band music to prepare for assessments. These assessments will be played in class. There will be some solo assessments as well as some assessments that may be performed in a group.

Public performances (such as concerts) will be a **significant** part of this grade category. Each concert will be worth 100 points. Attendance at dress rehearsals and concerts is required. Absences from performances will only be excused in cases of extreme emergency. Part of the public performance grade will be earned by wearing appropriate attire. (See section on concert attire)

Written Assignments

Written work will be used to reinforce concepts learned in class. Most written work is designed to be completed during the class period, not as homework. Written work must be turned in by the due date in order to receive full credit. Students who are absent will have one week to complete work for full credit.

Materials

Students must have these materials in class every day:

- instrument and all accessories (reeds, neckstraps, drum sticks and mallets, valve oil, etc.)
- method book (it is recommended that you buy your own, we have some available to check out)
- music folder (folders and concert music will be provided, there will be a replacement fee for lost or damaged music and/or folders)
- pencil

Fees

\$12.00 class fee for each band class. (May have already been paid with school fees)

Lost music \$ 1.00 per page

Lost Book \$10-18.00

Lost pad lock \$5.00

Student will be charged for causing any damages to classroom equipment

Instrument Rental

It is suggested that you rent or purchase an instrument from a reputable music store. **Please call Ms. Giblon before getting an instrument from the internet or any other source.**

We have a limited number of instruments available to rent from the school. These instruments are meant to be used by students who have no other way of obtaining an instrument, not by students who just don't want to take their own instrument to school each day. The school rental charge is \$75.00 for the school year.

Concert Attire

Concert attire will consist of the following:

Boys: Black slacks, white dress shirt, tie, black socks, black dress shoes

Girls: Long black skirt (must cover knees when seated) or slacks, white dress shirt, black socks or tights, black dress shoes

No denim, No T-shirts, No sandals, No bare feet/legs

iTime

iTime open practice will be available once we begin having iTime as a school. We have days each week that are enrichment practice days. This means that if a student is passing all classes and does not have a stamp to attend another class, they can come in the band room and practice independently. This is a great option to supplement home practice and to practice with friends. We will have at least one iTime day each week that is a dedicated music help day. This is a good time to come in and get

additional help or retake playing tests.

Instrument Inspections

We will have instrument inspections in December and May. Students will be required to thoroughly clean their instruments and show that they have all of the appropriate cleaning supplies for their instrument. This will be part of the participation and preparation grades. There will be a demonstration in class prior to inspections on how to properly clean instruments. Lists of necessary supplies will be distributed in class. If you are having trouble getting the appropriate supplies, see Ms. Giblon.

Practice Tips

1. Schedule a time that you can practice and make it a part of your routine every day.
2. Practice in a quiet place that is free from distractions such as the telephone or television.
3. Use a metronome (available at local and online music stores) to practice keeping a steady beat.
4. Start with a 10-15 minute warm-up (examples of appropriate warm-ups will be demonstrated in class)
5. Practice exercises to build your musical skills such as scales, finger pattern drills, and counting exercises.
6. Break challenging music into small “bite-sized” pieces. Once you have mastered a few small sections (4-6 measures), combine them to work on a larger section (12-16 measures).
7. Practice slowly and carefully. Make sure that you have completely mastered the correct notes and rhythms before playing a section at a faster tempo. Slow and accurate is better than fast and sloppy!
8. Practice performing for family and friends. This will help you to overcome performance anxiety or “stage-fright”.

Tips for Parents

1. Help students schedule a daily practice time. A consistent routine is important to developing musicians.
2. Read through the practice tips with your child and encourage him/her to use them.
3. Ask your child to play parts of their assignment for you. Provide positive feedback and acknowledge improvements.
4. Attend local concerts and other musical events with your child.
5. **An instrument of good quality is crucial to student success! Beware of poor quality instruments sold at discount retail chains and online. Many of these instruments that are available at “too good to be true” prices are very difficult to play due to poor materials and construction. Check with Ms. Giblon for recommendations of reputable instruments and instrument dealers. Often good quality used instruments are available for less than the cost of a new, poor quality instrument.**
6. Make sure that your child’s instrument is properly cared for and that it is stored in a place where it will be safe from siblings or pets. Do not allow your child to leave their instrument in the car! Extreme heat or cold will damage instruments.