Haymon-Morris

Middle School

Band

 Handbook

2019 – 2020

***TO All HAYMON-MORRIS MIDDLE SCHOOL BAND MEMBERS….***

# WELCOME!

I look forward to having you participate in one of the most active and exciting activities at Haymon-Morris Middle School. Please realize that **you** are the future of the band program at H-MMS. We encourage you and your family to become actively involved. Band is an activity that takes some extra effort but is extremely rewarding.

Most of you already know what it takes to achieve success as a member of the band. I expect each of you to strive for both improvement and achievement through pride and commitment.

The band program at H-MMS forms an important part of the total middle school life. The band represents a large, visible, and highly disciplined segment of the school. The performance of the band at concerts, festivals, and community events adds a great deal of color and life to the surrounding community. It is possible, by setting your schedule in a reasonable manner, to be in the band and still maintain a high scholastic standing.

The main emphasis of the H-MMS band program is **individual musicianship**. Achieved through hard work, it is the pride of a job well done that makes our efforts worthwhile. The success of the organization comes from the progress of each individual.

*WELCOME TO THE HAYMON-MORRIS MIDDLE SCHOOL BAND PROGRAM!!!*

THE HAYMON-MORRIS MIDDLE SCHOOL BAND PROGRAM

**CONCERT/SYMPHONIC BAND** - The primary performing group for each grade is the concert band. This band is the one from which all of the other bands are formed. Jazz band, and solo/ensemble groups are all extensions of concert band. Concerts are performed throughout the year. There will be some required after-school rehearsals. 7th/8th grade students will be placed in either Symphonic or Concert Band based on the following criteria: Instrumentation, playing ability, conduct and behavior, and desire to excel and contribute on his/her chosen instrument.

**JAZZ BAND** – A small ensemble consisting of saxophones, trumpets, trombones, baritone, tuba, percussionists (with drum set experience), piano, guitar, and bass player. The main emphasis is on jazz styles, articulations, and improvisation. Members are selected by the director and rehearse during ELT time in the morning.

## SOLO AND ENSEMBLE – This is an individual learning activity for the student. Students are given the opportunity to sign up for the Solo and Ensemble Festival, which is held during the spring semester of the school year. The band director will suggest music appropriate for the ability level of each student. Participants perform for a judge who gives them a rating. A superior rating (I) earns the student a blue medal and an excellent rating (II) earns the student a red medal.

**Percussion Ensemble-** This group meets after school one day a week and is make up of both percussionist and non-percussionist.

# Haymon-Morris Middle School Band Guidelines

## A. Personal Conduct Rules: It is the right of every musician to learn, and it is the right of your director to teach. These rules are designed to make sure all rights are preserved and respected.

1. Always follow directions.

2**. Have a pencil on your stand to make notes to help you follow directions.**

3. Raise your hand when you wish to speak and wait for your director to call on you.

1. Show proper respect to people and property.
2. Be seated with your instrument and music immediately.
3. No food, drinks, or gum will be allowed in the band room. **(Water in a bottle is allowed)**
4. **Equipment Rules:** Your family and our school system have invested a large sum of money in musical instruments and equipment. We will use these rules so everyone may understand the proper care of equipment.
5. Do not touch any instrument except your own.
6. Do not play your instrument at the bus stop or on the school bus.
7. Do not leave music or books on the music stand after class.
8. Always put your instrument in the appropriate storage area when not in use. Do not “hang out” in storage areas.
9. Please do not move, lean on, or write on music stands.
10. Keep your instrument in perfect working order.
11. Instrument, music, pencil and agenda are required for class every day. If an instrument must be repaired, please bring a note from your parent stating where it is being repaired.

# DISCIPLINE

We do not anticipate major problems with our students simply because band is a privilege and students are there because they want to be there. If a problem does arise, students will be expected to comply with these steps:

1st incident in one day: friendly reminder/warning

 2nd incident in one day: Conference with student

 3rd incident in one day: Move up on the discipline chart

We will contact parents to notify them of recurring problems, and we will be glad to set up a conference if needed. Students who do not maintain a passing average in band and acceptable classroom behavior will not be allowed to travel with the band.

**BAND INSTRUMENT**

Band is a performance based class and activity. In order to participate students, need to have their instrument in good working order, every day in class.

Each time that a student does not have their instrument there will one point taken off their overall participation grade. If a student misses their instrument more than 10 times throughout the school year they will not be allowed to participate in the end of the year trip.

If a student has their instrument in the repair shop points will not be deducted for their grade and it will not count against them in any way. We do ask that if their instrument is in need of repair that it is taken care of in a timely manner.

# GRADING

Grading will be based on playing test (scales, excerpts of the method book), theory work, rehearsal attendance, performance, participation in class (having instrument, music, pencil), and practice records.

**Daily grades (practice records, rhythm sheets etc.) 10%**

**Quizzes (playing test, pass-offs, test) 30%**

**Major grades (participation, performances) 60%**

**Scheduled Performances**

**Tuesday October 1st**- 7th, 8th and jazz band fall concert.

**Tuesday December 5th**- 6th grade band, Jazz band and Percussion Ensemble Christmas concert

**Tuesday December 9th**- 7th and 8th grade band Christmas concert

**Wednesday March 13th-** Possible LGPE performance (8th grade band)

**Thursday March 14th-** Possible LGPE performance (8th grade Band)

**Tuesday May 7th-** 7th and 8th grade band spring concert

**Thursday May 12th-** 6th grade band, Jazz band and Percussion Ensemble Spring concert

# Concert Attendance

If a band member is not able to participate in one of the scheduled performances a written statement from the parent/guardian will need to be given to the band director explaining the absence. **An additional written assignment will be given to any student who misses a performance to take the place of the concert performance grade that was not earned.**

**Any student that has an unexcused absence from a performance is not eligible to go on the end of the year band trips**

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# CONCERT UNIFORMS

We require that our students wear the following:

**Fall/Spring Band Concerts/6th grade performance for 5th graders**–  **Black** pants or **Black** long floor-length skirt, H-MMS band polo, **solid black dress** shoes and socks (or black hose)

SHIRTS MUST BE TUCKED INTO PANTS/SKIRTS IN ORDER TO BE IN PROPER UNIFORM.

We do not want to exclude anyone from participating due to a need; however, students attending H-MMS band performances without the proper uniform may not be allowed to perform. Anyone unable to obtain the proper concert outfit should contact the band director as soon as possible. Each matter will be handled individually and discreetly.

### MATERIALS NEEDED

1. Instrument in good working order!
2. **THREE RING BINDER WITH POCKETS**
3. Pencil and Agenda: every day!!
4. Method Books Needed- 6th grade Essential Elements 2000 Book 1 7th grade Essential Elements 2000 Book 2
5. Accessories:

**Brass –** valve oil, slide grease, cleaning “snake”, mouthpiece brush, mouthpieces: 5C or 7C for trumpets, 6 ½ AL for trombones & baritones, Farkas MDC for horn, Bach 18 or 24AW or Conn helleberg for tuba

**Flutes** – cloth or “fuzzy” pad saver swab, tuning rod

**Clarinets** – 3 good reeds daily! Cloth swab (cotton/silk handkerchief type), reed holder, ligature, cork grease. **Recommended mouthpiece - Vandoren 5RV, or Premiere by Hite; Recommended ligature – Rovner or Bonade**

**Saxes** – 3 good reeds daily! Cloth or “fuzzy” pad saver swab, reed holder, sturdy neck strap, ligature, cork grease. **Recommended mouthpiece – Rousseau NC4 or Premiere by Hite, Recommended ligature – Rovner or Bonade**

**Double reeds** – 2 good reeds daily! Swab, reed case

**Percussion** – Vic Firth SD1 sticks, Musser M4 mallets, Vic Firth staccato timpani mallets, stick bag, and practice pad or Vic Firth or Innovative Percussion Education pack

**ALL INSTRUMENT CASES MUST BE CLEARLY LABELED WITH THE STUDENT’S NAME!!!!**

**School instrument checkout**

Haymon-Morris Middle School Band has a limited amount of instruments that can be checked out to students. The instruments that the school checks-out are oboe, bassoon, bass clarinet, tenor saxophone, baritone saxophone, french horn, euphonium, and tuba. We have a very limited amount of flutes, clarinets, alto saxophones, trumpets, and trombones. In order to check-out a school instrument an instrument check-out form must be filled out and returned before the instrument will be given to the student. **There is a $50.00 fee for use of the instrument for the year that needs to be paid along with the instrument check out form before the instrument will be given for check out.** When instruments are check out to students they are in working condition. Students are responsible to keep the instrument in good working condition and return the instrument in the same condition as they received the instrument.

**Parent involvement**

There are many opportunities for parents to be involved in the band program. Many of the extra activities that we do as a band are possible because of the help of our parents. Ways that parents can get involved are: volunteer to help with fundraisers as chaperones and to distribute fundraiser items, and chaperone on band trips.

**Band Fundraisers**

The band does two fundraisers each year. Both fundraisers will be during the fall semester. **We ask that all students participate in all fundraiser.**

Money raised by fundraising is used to purchase new music, repair instruments, purchase new instruments, and bring in guest in to work with the bands just to name a few.

# TRAVEL POLICIES & BUS RULES

All school rules and policies apply to band members when those students are with the band. In order to travel on end of year trips with the band, students must maintain a passing average, have no unexcused absences from any performances, and exhibit acceptable classroom behavior. The ability to participate in the end of the year trip is not a right. The end of the year trip is a reward for those students who have participated in all mandatory concerts and have displayed proper behavior in class and in school. **Simply put if you behave in school you can be trusted on a trip, if you do not behave in school you cannot be trusted on a trip.**

1. There should be at least two adult chaperones per bus.
2. Only our students, school personnel, and chaperones are allowed to ride the bus.
3. Students will return on the same bus they go on.
4. Students may return home with a parent if they have arranged to do so prior to departure. A note from the parent is required and needs to be initialed by the band director and given by the student to his/her chaperone.
5. Students should stay in their seats while the bus is in motion.
6. Loud, boisterous, profane language or indecent behavior will not be tolerated.

There is to be no food or drinks taken onto school buses.

I look forward to another great year for the Haymon-Morris Middle School Band program. If you have any questions please feel free to contact me by email at william.threadgill@barrow.k12.ga.us or by phone at (678) 963-0602

**Stay connected with what is going on in the H-MMS Band @** [**www.hmmsband.wix.com/h-mms-band-**](http://www.hmmsband.wix.com/h-mms-band-)

**Remind Groups**

**6th grade band:**

Text @hmms6thgb to 81010

**7th grade band:**

Text @hmms7thgb to 81010

**8th grade band:**

Text @hmms8thgb to 81010

**Jazz Band:**

Text @hmmsjazz to 81010

**PLEASE RETURN THIS PAGE SIGNED TO**

**MR. THREADGILL BY 8/8/18**

I have read and understand the policies and procedures in the band handbook.

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parent Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parent Signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_