

R. W. KIDDER
MIDDLE SCHOOL BANDS



MOUNTIE MUSIC
BAND HANDBOOK

2016-2017

Dear Students and Parents/Guardians,

Welcome to the R. W. Kidder Northwest Middle School Instrumental Music Program! You are now a proud member of our school district's prestigious Mountie Music program. I am excited to help all of my students excel as young people through the art of music. As members of the Northwest Bands, we will work together to be our best and show respect and responsibility for each other. You will be rewarded with an amazing experience – one of music making, pride, discovery, growth, success, and a connection with music.

Please share this information with your family and, hopefully, it will give you a “big picture” view of our band program. **After reviewing the handbook, please sign and return the information sheet.**

Should you have questions, comments, or concerns about band activities, please call Sherry Dopp at 817-4686 or e-mail me at sherry.dopp@nwschools.org.

Sincerely,

Sherry Dopp
Director of Bands
R. W. Kidder Middle School

Ambassadors of Northwest Community Schools

All of the Northwest Community is proud of the high level of achievement of the Northwest Band program. Our bands perform at concerts, community events, as well as throughout the country on trips and festival performances. Each time we perform, we represent our community to every person we come in contact with. Whether it is a bus driver, a teacher from another school, or parents from another town, we represent Northwest Schools to all of these individuals. Our community has provided us with the opportunity to travel and experience other places and cultures. It is our responsibility to never let our community down by behaving inappropriately. It is a privilege and honor to represent Northwest and we take extreme pride in being given the opportunity. We ask all band members to be mindful of this honor at all times and at all events.

The Band Room

Our rehearsal area needs to be kept clean. Do not use your instrument storage area as a second locker. Keep the band area for band needs only. Coats, books, bags, and other personal possessions only clutter up the rehearsal area. **THERE IS NO FOOD SUBSTANCE ALLOWED IN THE REHEARSAL AREA AT ANY TIME.**

Rehearsal Materials

All band students must have their instrument, music, pencils, and any other relevant materials at each rehearsal. Students must also have all other supplies (reeds, valve oil, sticks, mutes, etc.) as needed for their instrument. These items will be available for purchase before or after rehearsal. All students must have **their own** materials at every rehearsal.

All students will be issued a band folder and are expected to have a Method book, two pencils with erasers, and any band music that has been distributed **at every rehearsal.**

* The replacement cost for a piece of music is \$1.00. The replacement for all the band music is no more than \$5.00.

Rehearsal Atmosphere

Students need to be in their seat with all needed materials no later than two minutes after the tone sounds to begin class. There can be no talking at any time during the rehearsal. Rehearsal time is critical. If a director is working with another group of students, you must remain quiet and involved in the instruction. All of us need to try our very best at all rehearsals. Our band program has worked hard to earn a reputation for quality. Our philosophy is simple... **NOBODY OUTWORKS THE NORTHWEST BANDS!**

Instrument Storage

Band instruments are to be stored in an area designated by the director. Cases are not to be left sitting around the room. The cases must be kept closed and in the appropriate area. Any case in the rehearsal area needs to be closed and under the student's chair or in the designated storage area.

Courtesy

Do not touch, play or move any instrument that is not assigned to you. If you are not a percussionist, you may not touch the percussion instruments at any time.

Standards Based Grading-Grades 6, 7, and 8

Kidder Middle School is in the process of implementing Standards Based Grading throughout all grades. Students will be receiving feedback from practice, which may include things like home practice, class preparation, practice quizzes, and showing good rehearsal habits. They will also get feedback that indicates if they have mastered the “I can” statements for the class. A score of 3 or 4 will indicate the student has mastery of the skill while a score of 1 or 2 will indicate the student has yet to master the listed skill or standard. All students will have an opportunity, within a reasonable amount of time, to “retake” the test for the standard. A final letter grade will be based on a ratio of mastered skills divided by the total number of skills taught for that marking period.

I can statements (standards for band)

1. I can play scales according to grade level.
2. I can perform rhythms according to grade level.
3. I can perform using correct articulation.
4. I can read and play musical notation according to grade level.(Correct fingerings, rhythms, dynamics, style, tone)
5. I can define and demonstrate music theory (symbols, terms, notations) in music that I am playing.
6. I can demonstrate good rehearsal habits. (posture, instrument position, breathing, readiness, focus, solving rhythm/fingering issues)
7. I can perform alone to an audience of my peers.
8. I can perform with the ensemble at concerts in appropriate attire.
9. I can demonstrate good concert etiquette. (Audience, on-stage, and back-stage)

Habits of Excellence

1. I have developed good practice habits.
2. I take good care of my instrument.
3. I am prepared for class. (instrument, music, pencils, attitude)

Practice records- These are assigned weekly and will be due at the beginning of each week. Sixth grade students are expected to practice 60 minutes per week (15 minutes a day, 4-5 times a week) and 7th and 8th graders should practice 100 minutes weekly (20-25 minutes a day, 5 times a week.) Please encourage your student to practice a few minutes a day throughout the week, as opposed to trying to practice it all in one sitting. Daily practice will bring much better results, as most students do not have the endurance for a lengthy,

effective practice session. These practice records will be recorded as part of the homework grade in band.

Performances Band members will be expected to participate in all performances in order to be eligible to attend the field trip to Cedar Point at the end of the year.

Performance Attendance Policy

Membership in any of the R. W. Kidder MS bands carries with it certain privileges. It also requires certain responsibilities. **ATTENDING ALL PERFORMANCES IS ONE OF THESE RESPONSIBILITIES.** The size of music groups and their dependence upon each member makes **ATTENDANCE AT ALL PERFORMANCES A REQUIREMENT!**

If you cannot attend a performance because of severe illness or death in the family, notification by parent/guardian must be done by note, email or phone. You will be excused and allowed to do a make-up assignment. It is the student's responsibility to contact the director for the assignment and is due 7 days following the performance. Students with an unexcused absence will not be allowed to make up the concert grade. The following performances are required to receive a passing grade in class. Please write them on your family calendar:

Mountie Montage	Concert/Symphonic	October 19, 2016
Winter Concert	All Bands	December 8, 2016
MSBOA District Festival	Concert/Symphonic	March 3 or 4, 2017
Collage Concert	All Bands	May 18, 2017

Instruments

Percussion students are required to provide their own sticks and mallets in a stick bag clearly labeled with their name.

Students are required to provide necessary accessories for their instrument.

Reed players are required to have at least three working reeds in cases at all times. Reeds and valve oil are available from Mrs. Dopp, however, prices and inventory may vary. I recommend that reed players purchase an entire box of reeds, either by placing an advance order or buying from a local retailer. Reeds **MUST** be purchased before class.

A small number of school instruments **MAY** be available for students in need. An instrument usage contract must be completed and students will be required to provide their own accessories (mouthpieces, reeds, etc.) and will be responsible for any damage that is beyond normal use. Instruments must be returned at the end of the year in the condition in which it was issued.

If an instrument is in need of repair, a representative from Quinlan & Fabish Music Company visits each week to pick up needed repairs and returns it the following week. Students will need to fill out the repair tag and place it in the designated place for pick up. It is your responsibility to pay the repair bill in a timely fashion.

Uniforms

All band students will need plain black dress socks (crew length), black dress shoes, and a Mountie Music T-shirt, which will be available for purchase.

Beginning Band members will also need to provide black dress pants or knee length skirts, along with the dress shoes, socks and the Mountie Music T shirt.

Concert and Symphonic Band members are also required to purchase a white tux shirt, black bow tie, and pay a dry cleaning fee, with the cost determined by our supplier. The school will provide concert vests and pants. Please notify Mrs. Dopp for help if you are unable to afford these items. Care of the school uniforms is the responsibility of the student. Loss or damage to uniform parts will result in a replacement charge. Students are asked to keep their uniform cleaned and pressed in order to show the utmost pride in their appearance at all performances.

Band Boosters

The Northwest Band Boosters is a voluntary, non-profit organization dedicated to support the instrumental Mountie music program. Members include any resident of the Northwest School District interested in supporting the bands. The Band Boosters raise thousands of dollars by operating the football concession stand at home games, MSU concessions, and many other fundraising activities. The Boosters assist with Interlochen expenses, contribute money for our student lesson program, and help with many other band related expenses. Please join this wonderful group of volunteers in supporting our students.

Northwest Band Booster Meetings 2016-17

All meetings 7:00 PM in the Kidder MS Band Room unless otherwise announced

September 8

October 13

November 10

January 12

February 9

March 9

April 13

May 11

June 8

**Northwest R.W. Kidder Middle School
Band Calendar 2016-17**

September 8	NW Band Booster Meeting, 7:00 HS Band Room
September 12- September 26	Yankee Candle Sale
September 23	Yankee Candle Sale 1 st collection date
September 26	Yankee Candle Sale Final collection date
October 13	NW Band Boosters meeting, 7:00 MS Band Room
October 19	Mountie Montage @ NW Cafetorium 7:30 PM Call time 7:00 PM Concert and Symphonic Bands
November 10	NW Band Boosters meeting, 7:00 MS Band Room
December 8	Winter Concert @ NW Cafetorium 6:00 PM 6th Grade Call time 5:40 Concert, and Symphonic Bands 7:00 PM Call Time 6:45
January 12	NW Band Boosters meeting, 7:00 PM MS Band Room
January 27	Spring Solo Ensemble Registration/Fee Deadline
February 9	NW Band Boosters Meeting, 7:00 PM MS Band Room
March 3 or 4	MSBOA District Band Festival (location TBA) Concert and Symphonic Bands
March 9	NW Band Boosters Meeting, 7:00 PM MS Band Room
March 10	MS Honors Band recording deadline
April 13	NW Band Boosters meeting, 7:00 MS Band Room
April 22	Spring Solo/Ensemble Festival Location TBA
May 11	NW Band Boosters meeting, 7:30 PM MS Band Room
May 13-14	MS Honors Band- Location TBA
May 18	MS Band/Choir Collage Concert @ NW Cafetorium 6th Grade-6:00, Concert Band-7:00, Symphonic Band 8:15 Call times TBA
June 8	NW Band Boosters meeting, 7:30 PM MS Band Room
June 9	Cedar Point Trip All band members with perfect concert attendance and a grade of C- or better are eligible to participate

BOLD PRINT INDICATES REQUIRED EVENTS

Dear Mrs. Dopp,

I have read the Northwest Middle School Instrumental Handbook with my student and find that all the policies, rules and activities are reasonable expectations for my child.

I will support my student throughout the year in upholding these policies and participating in band activities and the following required concerts.

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|----|-------------------------|-------------------|------------|
| 1. | Mountie Montage Concert | Concert/Symphonic | October 19 |
| 2. | Winter Concert | All Bands | December 8 |
| 3. | District Band Festival | Concert/Symphonic | March 3/4 |
| 4. | Spring Concert | All Bands | May 18 |

Signed _____ Date _____
(Parent or legal guardian)

Please enter an e-mail address to receive band information, permission slips, and volunteer information.

The e-mail address I check regularly is (PLEASE PRINT LEGIBLY):

Optional second e-mail address is:

I _____ have read the Northwest Middle School
(Student name)
Instrumental Handbook and find that all the policies, rules and activities are reasonable and that I can uphold them for the school year. I will attend the concerts listed above and other band activities.

Signed _____ Date _____
(Band member's signature)

Signed _____ Date _____
(Parent signature)

Please return this slip by Wednesday, August 31 for full credit for this assignment.