

R.W. Kidder Middle School
Mountie Music



Band Handbook
2017~2018

Table of Contents

Page	
4	Welcome letter
5	Mission Statement
5	The Band Program
5	Expectations for Student Conduct
6	Classroom Code of Conduct
7	Grading
8	Instrument Practice Policy
8	Late Work Policy
8	Performance Attendance Policy
9	Daily Participation Points
9	Concert Etiquette
9	Instruments
10	Uniforms
10	Performance/Field Trip Policies
10	Band Booster Information
11	Parent/Teacher Communication
11	Class Supply Lists
12	2017-2018 KMS Band Calendar
13	KMS Band Handbook Contract
14	Student Membership Agreement

Dear Parents and Students,

Welcome to the R.W. Kidder Middle School Band Program!! This handbook has been written to familiarize you with the many aspects of the program and to ensure an enjoyable and educationally rewarding musical experience. Use this handbook throughout the year as your first source of reference when you have questions about band.

Upon receiving this handbook, please take the time to read it thoroughly and completely. Once you have read it, please sign and return the **Student Membership Agreement** and **Band Handbook Contract**.

Both forms are located in the back of this handbook. The personal information contained on this forms will be used for field trips, band mailing lists, e-mails, and other correspondences. These forms are due to be turned in by Tuesday, September 5th.

I want to begin by welcoming you to the band program! I am looking forward to an exciting year full of musical and educational experiences. The vision for this program is for each student to be given the opportunity, guidance, and support to develop into a proficient musician and solid citizen in our community.

Band requires both the effort of single individuals and the effort of the group. The sound each student makes affects the sound of the group. This involves practice outside of the classroom, both personal practice and after school rehearsals. Most students possess the musical and mental skills necessary to be good student musicians. Success is most likely if the student has the desire to learn to play; the parents and the students understand what is required for success; and the parents share responsibility for the music education of their child.

It is my belief that the concepts that students learn through music will make them successful both as musicians and as people. I look forward to working with you as we strive to make our students successful in both areas. I wish you a great year!

Sincerely,

Hannah Adams

Director of Bands
R.W. Kidder Middle School
Hannah.Adams@nwschools.org
517-817-4966

Mission Statement

The R.W Kidder Middle School Band Program strives to perform at the highest level of musicality and artistry while promoting a culture of leadership, teamwork, tradition, innovation, and inclusiveness.

The Band Program

The Jackson Northwest band program provides an experience in instrumental music for all students. As parents and educators, we are deeply interested in the educational experience our children are experiencing. We believe that music plays a vital role in the growth of every child. Current research confirms that the study of music is one of the most effective tools to improve learning throughout a child's academic curriculum. As educators and role models, we want to help students:

- Develop a habit of persistence that will help them through the tough times in life and keep them on task when it would be easier to quit.
- Learn to be responsible and to see mistakes as an opportunity to grow and make necessary corrections on the pathway to success.
- Master the skills of cooperation so they can enjoy working with their counterparts in every realm of personal and professional life.
- Create a set of personal values that will allow a prosperous and fulfilling lifelong journey and find a way to express these understandings.
- Find a meaningful form of contribution that is significant to self and others.

In many ways, the band experience is a training ground for all of these attributes, as well as many more. We believe that participation in the band has the potential to have a positive impact on important aspects of a child's life. Healthy participation in band develops a child's mind and character, and the disciplines learned in band classes can transfer to all of life.

Expectations for Student Conduct

The Kidder Middle School Band has a proud heritage. Wherever the band goes, its members are representative of Kidder Middle School and the community of Jackson. Whether in or out of uniform, at a performance or rehearsal, on the road, or at home, band members must conduct themselves in a mature and professional manner. Any action by a band member reflects either positively or negatively on the band and the school. The manner in which a KMS band member conducts his or her self should never be questioned for appropriateness.

Classroom Code of Conduct

All band students are responsible for reading adhering to the R.W. Middle School Student Handbook. In addition, the following behavior policies should be observed in the band room and when representing Kidder Middle School at events off campus:

- **FOLLOW DIRECTIONS CAREFULLY.**
When dealing with large amounts of equipment and people, it is imperative that directions are followed exactly so that equipment and people are not damaged or injured.
- **RAISE YOUR HAND TO SPEAK.**
Common sense classroom procedure
- **STAY IN YOUR SEAT.**
Extraneous movement can lead to accidents and damaged equipment.
- **BE PREPARED.**
Learning cannot take place if one does not have the proper equipment or if one has not practiced his or her part.
- **RESPECT OTHER PEOPLES' PROPERTY**
Musical instruments are sensitive, fine-tuned machines. They should only be handled, touched, and/or played by the owner. Sharing of instruments is not allowed. Use your band locker for band only.
- **TREAT OTHERS AS YOU EXPECT TO BE TREATED.**
Common sense human behavior.
- **GUM, CANDY, FOOD, AND/OR DRINKS ARE NOT ALLOWED.**
These things can damage the working mechanisms inside instruments. They also encourage the growth of mold and other things inside mouthpieces.

Band directors work with unusually large classes. To maintain the high educational and musical standards, a high standard of conduct must be maintained. Parents and students invest a great deal of time, money and love into the band program to make this an organization in which to be proud. Therefore...

Any student who continually challenges these rules and procedures will be removed from the band program.

Classroom Etiquette

Students are expected to exhibit the following qualities on a consistent daily basis, including concerts:

Effort: proper posture, active listening, sincere attempt to demonstrate mastery.

Responsibility: turns in items on time, a positive contributor to classroom environment.

Attitude: pleasant demeanor, receptive to instruction, falls in line with class activities, obeys adults.

Standards-Based Grading for 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, 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 that the student has achieved mastery of the skill, while a score of 1 or 2 will indicate that 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 the 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, notation) 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, onstage, and backstage).

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)

Grading

Grades will be calculated based on the following formula:

- Music Preparation—20%
Demonstrated through in-class quizzes, playing checks, and pass-offs
- Music History, Theory, and Terminology— 10%
Demonstrated through worksheets, handouts, and class assignments
- Weekly Participation Grade – 35%
Demonstrated through behavior, cooperation, effort, and attitude in class
- Concert Participation—35%
Includes appropriate dress, performance etiquette, and preparation

Instrument Practice Policy

Weekly practice cards will not be required for students in the Kidder Middle School Bands. However, consistent daily practice is **expected** of all students. Students will demonstrate their preparedness on assigned repertoire, studies, and scales through frequent playing checks and quizzes. It is nearly impossible to do well on these assignments without frequent, focused practice. Therefore, we recommend students plan to spend at least 100 minutes (20 minutes, 5 days) per week practicing their instruments.

Late Work Policy

Classwork, homework, playing check, and quiz assignments are designed to help you master the material we are covering in class. Students will get the most benefit out of assignments if they are turned in on time. When a student is absent from class, any work assigned before the absence will be considered due on the date the student returns to class. Late work will be accepted for partial credit, beginning at 90% credit for the first 24 hours after the due date, and decreasing by 10% each subsequent day (For example, if you turn in an assignment 6 days late, it is worth $100 - (6 \text{ days} \times 10\%) = 40\%$).

Performance Attendance Policy

Membership within the R. W. Kidder Middle School Bands carries with it certain privileges. It also requires certain responsibilities. **Attending all performances if one of these responsibilities**. The size of music groups and their dependence on each member makes **attendance at all performances a requirement!**

If you cannot attend a performance because of a 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 to obtain this assignment, and it is due 1 week after the performance. Students with an unexcused absence will not be allowed to make up the concert grade. All performances listed in bold on the calendar are required to receive a passing grade in class. Please write them on your calendar.

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

Attendance in the weeks preceding a concert is a key element of the performance. Therefore, if any student is absent from school rehearsals for a period of 7 or more school days preceding a performance, that student will be asked to perform an additional playing check to determine their readiness for the concert. In the event that a student does not pass this playing check, they will not be permitted to perform at the concert and will receive an unexcused absence. Exceptions to this policy will be determined in advance of the concert by the Band Director and will be limited to severe illness (with a doctor's note) or family emergency.

How to handle conflicts

Students should be encouraged to participate in a variety of activities at this age, and sometimes conflicts will occur. Use the following guidelines to resolve any conflicts:

1. Copy the Band Calendar (included in this handbook) into your family calendar.
2. Notify the directors of any school conflicts, so that the directors may make arrangements with the sponsor.

Daily Participation Points

Students will receive up to 3 points each day for appropriate participation. In order to receive full points, students must be on time to rehearsal, have all supplies for class including all instrument parts, music, and pencil, and must participate appropriately for the entire class period. Any activity or behavior that detracts from the rehearsal and the progress of the band as a whole will result in a loss of participation points.

Concert Etiquette

Our concerts are always a lot of fun and represent the fine efforts of our students during the preparation process. Due to the excitement these concerts bring, students can become overzealous in their audience participation. Please help them by reminding them what appropriate concert behavior is. The purpose of these concerts is to showcase the students' musical achievements, not to draw attention to performer or audience behavior.

Performer Etiquette:

- Do not talk or play out of turn; this is not different from class.
- Do not stand, wave, or draw attention to yourself.
- Keep an eye on the podium to get instructions.
- After you perform, stay and watch the other groups performing after you.

Audience Etiquette:

- When the lights go down, quickly get quiet.
- Silence any cell phones, pagers, etc.
- Do not enter the Theatre when the band is playing; wait until the selection is over, then enter quietly.
- Applaud for everyone, after every song – each group has worked equally hard.
- When you applaud, do not make unnecessarily loud noises.
- Stay for the entire concert.

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 as needed.

Reed players are required to have at least 3 working reeds in cases at all times. Reeds and valve oil are available before or after class, though prices and inventory may vary. It is frequently easier and cheaper for reed players to purchase an entire box of reeds, either by placing an advance order or buying from a local retailer.

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 (mouthpiece, 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 same condition that they were issued.

If an instrument is in need of repair, a representative from Quinlan & Fabish Music Company visits each week to pick up needed repairs. Instruments sent for repair will be returned the following week. Students will need to fill out the repair tag and place it with the instrument in the appropriate location for pick up. It is the student and parents' 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, to be worn along with the dress shoes, socks, and 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 Ms. Adams 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.

Performance/Field Trip Policies

A student's participation in a band field trip or performance is contingent upon that student meeting criteria established by Kidder Middle School as well as the director. Some of the criteria may include:

- Minimum GPA requirements
- Payment of all band fees/school instrument rental fees
- Demonstration of acceptable behavior (i.e., not receiving referrals, detentions, tardies, etc.)
- Past concert or class participation
- Class assignments completed
- Turning in of requested materials, equipment, or uniforms

Students will be given reasonable chance to fulfill these requirements in the time preceding each event. If a student does not qualify for a particular event, his/her grade for that event will be determined by the completion of an alternative assignment, to be determined by the director.

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. Parents are always welcome to join this wonderful organization, which supports our students! All Band Booster meetings dates are notated on the calendar at the end of this handbook.

Parent/Teacher Communication

E-mail

Hannah.Adams@nwschools.org

E-mail is the most convenient form of communication that any band director can employ. IT IS ALSO THE MOST EFFECTIVE WAY OF CONTACTING ANY BAND DIRECTOR to ask questions, get information, or to voice concerns. E-mails can be answered at times that a phone call would not be prudent.

Parents and students can be added to the band's distribution list by filling out the Band Handbook Contact Form located in the back of the handbook. The distribution list will be used to:

- Send event reminders
- Solicit parent help with band activities
- Solicit parent input regarding band activities
- Send any other parent correspondence

Telephone

Band Office: 517-817-4966

Though the phone is not the most effective method of communication, every effort will be made to respond to phone calls in a timely manner. I thank you ahead of time for your patience.

Mountie Music Website

<https://sites.google.com/site/mimountiemusic/>

The band webpage is the most up-to-date listing of upcoming events and performances as well as a complete listing of assignments for each class. This handbook is available online as well as any pertinent forms needed for the year.

Class Supplies

Band students will need the following items by the beginning of the 2nd week of school

Beginning Band

Pencils
Approved instrument & accessories
Folding wire music stand (at home use)
Essential Elements 2000 Book 1
1 subject spiral notebook

Concert Band & Symphonic Band

Pencils
Approved instrument & accessories
Folding wire music stand (at home use)
Essential Elements 2000 Book 2
1 subject spiral notebook

**Northwest R. W. Kidder Middle School
Band Calendar 2017-2018**

September 7	NW Band Booster Meeting, 7:00 HS Band Room
October 12	NW Band Boosters meeting, 7:00 MS Band Room
October 26	Mountie Montage @ NW Cafetorium 7:30 PM <i>Call time 7:00 PM —Concert and Symphonic Bands</i>
October 28 or 29	MSBOA MS/HS All State Band Auditions (location TBA)
November 9	NW Band Boosters meeting, 7:00 MS Band Room
December 6	Winter Concert @ NW Cafetorium 6:00 PM 6th Grade <i>Call time 5:40 PM—Beginning Band</i> Concert and Symphonic Bands 7:00 PM <i>Call time 6:45 PM</i>
January 11	NW Band Boosters meeting, 7:00 MS Band Room
January 29	Spring Solo & Ensemble Registration/Fee Deadline
February 8	NW Band Boosters Meeting, 7:00 PM MS Band Room
March 2 or 3	MSBOA District Band Festival (location TBA), Concert/Symphonic Bands
March 8	NW Band Boosters meeting, 7:30 PM MS Band Room
March 16	MS Honors Band recording deadline
April 12	NW Band Boosters meeting, 7:00 PM MS Band Room
April 14	Spring Solo & Ensemble (Jonesville HS)
May 10	NW Band Boosters meeting, 7:00 PM MS Band Room
May 19-20	MS Honors Band—location TBA
May 17	MS Band/Choir Collage Concert @ NW Cafetorium 6th grade—6:00 PM, Concert Band—7:00 PM, Symphonic Band—8:15 PM
June 14	NW Band Boosters meeting, 7:00 PM MS Band Room
June 7	Cedar Point Trip <i>(Members with perfect concert attendance and a C- or better are eligible)</i>

BOLD PRINT INDICATES REQUIRED EVENTS

Kidder Middle School Band Handbook Contract
PLEASE READ, FILL OUT, SIGN AND RETURN BY AUGUST 31

Personal Info (all information will only be used for record keeping and e-mailing band information)

Student Name _____

Address _____

City _____ Zip Code _____ Home Phone _____

Student E-mail Address (if available) _____

Same address and phone for mother? Yes/No Father? Yes/No

Alternate Address _____

Grade _____ Gender _____ T-Shirt Size (S, M, L, XL, XXL) _____

I take Private Lessons Y/N Private teacher _____

I am interested in taking Private Lessons Y / N

Instrument _____ Instrument Brand _____ Serial # _____

"I have access to the internet at my home." Yes / No

Parent/Guardian 1: First name _____ Last Name _____

Home Phone _____ Cell Phone _____ Best time to call _____

Email Address _____

Parent/Guardian 2: First name _____ Last Name _____

Home Phone _____ Cell Phone _____ Best time to call _____

Email Address _____

Return this page by August 31 to receive full credit for this assignment

Student Membership Agreement
2017-2018 Kidder Middle School Bands

By signing this pledge, I acknowledge that I have read and understand the Band Handbook. I know that it is my responsibility to be aware of assignments, quizzes, and concerts, and to inform my parents of these events. I agree to abide by all rules and policies in this handbook, and I understand that failing to do so may jeopardize my grade and/or my status as a member of the Kidder Middle School Band Program.

Furthermore, I understand that as a member of the Jackson Northwest Band program, I am a visible representative not only of my band and my school, but of my community as well. I pledge to behave in a manner befitting such responsibility at any and all band performances, rehearsals, and activities. I will make every effort to be a responsible and committed band member.

Student Name (Printed): _____

Student Signature: _____ **Date:** ___/___/___

Parent Agreement

I have read the Northwest Kidder Middle School Instrumental Handbook with my student and find that all the policies, rules, and activities are reasonable expectations for my child. I understand the grading policies and performance dates outlined in this handbook, as well as the concert attendance policy. I will support my student in upholding these policies and participating in band activities and the following required concerts:

October 26 (no 6th grade)
December 6

March 2/3 (no 6th grade)
May 17

I am interested in supporting the KMS band program through

- Video recording concerts
- Selling concert tickets
- Band Boosters Fundraising
- Other: _____
- Donation of professional skill: _____
- Chaperoning field trips
- Assisting with uniform distribution/fittings

Parent/Guardian Name (Printed): _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ **Date:** ___/___/___

Please return this page (front and back) by August 30 for full credit.