

Cuthbertson Middle School

Band Handbook

2017-2018



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Dear Band Parents and Students,

Welcome to the Cuthbertson Middle School Band! We are excited to begin a school year full of music making. We will strive to acquire the highest standards of performance and stage presence and with your cooperation, commitment, and hard work we will begin a tradition of excellence.

This handbook is designed to answer any questions you or your parents may have concerning the band program at Cuthbertson Middle School. The band program includes some of the most talented and dedicated middle school musicians around, and we are excited about the upcoming year. Please review the information carefully, then, sign the acknowledgement form that indicates both the student and a parent have read, understand, and agree to the conditions outlined in this handbook.

Students, as with all things in life, you will only get out of band what you put into band. Band is not a spectator sport, so put forth every effort, every day, and see how proud you will be of yourself and your band. Let's make this year truly superior! Remember, only you can take this band to the highest level. Maintaining a good attitude and committing yourself to acquiring good musical knowledge and skills is the way to be successful. Continue to do these things and you will have PRIDE in being part of a superior musical ensemble!

To our parents, I want to thank you specifically for supporting this wonderful endeavor for your child. I know that it takes extra time to bring your children to rehearsals, make sure they transport their instrument back and forth and just be a cheerleader at home when studying an instrument becomes "not as much fun" as it sounded at the first of the year. Thank you so much for all of the extra things you do to help your child and our school. I hope that each one of you has a positive experience in band this year. If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to contact us; the quickest way being through email. You can usually expect a reply within 24 hours. Also, please be sure to visit our website to receive important information. Updates will be added weekly, so check our site frequently!

Band Website: <http://www.cuthbertsonband.org>

We look forward to a great year of music making!

Musically yours,

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PHILOSOPHY

Our band program offers a positive approach to learning music. We promote a basic understanding and appreciation for music, and provide the necessary skills to allow students to participate in a variety of instrumental ensembles. Moreover, the student's musical experiences will prepare and motivate them to successfully continue participating in music programs at all levels.

The band program is open to all students with consideration given to grade level, instrumentation, playing ability, and attitude. Band is a course that requires a lot of self-discipline, responsibility, cooperation, and hard work on the part of its members. With these values band students can truly experience success in their development as a musician. Band also teaches many important life skills such as leadership, dedication, motivation, and pride. *Remember students, the more you put into band, the more you will get out of band!*

In order to have a successful band program, all students and parents need to familiarize themselves with the policies and responsibilities to the band program. Parental support is the key to success in any band organization.

COURSE DESCRIPTION FOR BAND CLASSES

Band classes meet everyday for 1 class period and work to strengthen individual, ensemble, and full band musical skills. These classes are the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd levels out of 7 (through high school), in a curriculum designed for band students to develop an appreciation of music, performance, and a lifelong participation of musical activities.

All students are expected to participate in the Winter and Spring Concerts. Other performance opportunities will be scheduled as they arise. Select students may be eligible to participate in multiple performing ensembles.

Instructional Goals

1. TONE – demonstrate characteristic tone quality and blending the tone into the ensemble
2. INTONATION – play in tune with the ensemble
3. TECHNIQUE – use different articulation styles precisely; expand the comfortable playing range on the instrument;
 expand rhythmical concepts
4. BALANCE & BLEND – within the ensemble and sections
5. INTERPRETATION – use expression, phrasing, style, and tempo correctly
6. MUSICAL EFFECT – artistry and fluency of the composition

AESTHETIC OUTCOMES are skills and knowledge that foster an appreciation and understanding of music as art. This is achieved through the study of the elements and basic principals of music as revealed in the music performed. These skills are cognitive and remain with the individual beyond participation in the band program.

- Musical Elements
- Historical Perspective
- Creative Activities
- Evaluative Skills

All students will learn a sense of personal discipline, pride, and group cooperation instilled by participation in the instrumental music program.

6TH GRADE BAND:

Students participating in 6th grade band will be divided up into 2 classes based on the instrument they play. Being grouped with similar instruments facilitates an easier time for learning beginning band techniques. 6th grade band students are eligible for participating in District Honor, All County, and All State bands based on audition.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

1. Students will learn the fundamentals of playing their particular instrument.
2. Students will learn to read and play rhythmic and pitch notation on the music staff.
3. Students will develop the technique necessary to properly play the instrument.
4. The student is introduced to the experience of being a member of a performing ensemble. The ensemble will perform two concerts this year. The music for each concert becomes gradually more challenging as the students progress on their instrument.

Additional Course Objectives:

- Perform the following one-octave major scales in quarter notes with a metronome marking of 100:
Concert F, B-flat, E-flat, A-flat.
- Demonstrate correct fingerings for all notes within the practical range of his/her instrument.
- Demonstrate the attack and release of a tone in selections of grade level 1 music.
- Demonstrate the use of appropriate interpretive markings for all music being studied.
- Demonstrate the appropriate playing position of his/her instrument.
- Demonstrate a tone quality characteristic of his/her instrument in the middle register.
- Perform music with rhythms that contain whole, dotted half, half, quarter, and eighth notes and rests.
- Perform music selections containing the following time signatures: 4/4, 3/4, 2/4.
- Demonstrate the proper care and maintenance of his/her instrument and equipment.
- Interpret music containing first and second endings, D.C. and D.S. indications, and codas.
- Interpret and perform music at sight at the grade 1 level.

7TH AND 8TH GRADE BAND:

Students participating in 7th and 8th grade band will be divided up into 1 or 2 bands for each grade level. These bands will include students based on instrument and playing test/performance scores from the previous year. Both 7th and 8th grade band students are eligible for participating in District Honor, All County, and All State bands based on audition.

Selected 8th grade band students will have the opportunity of performing with the Cuthbertson High School Marching Band. Students will be eligible to participate based on instrumental need and the student's demonstrated technical and musical ability. Teacher references and current grade reports indicating academic excellence will be required, as well as an individual audition, which will take place in the spring. If accepted, all regulations pertaining to the marching band and student participation listed in the Cuthbertson High School Band Handbook will apply. This is an activity where a student's individual participation directly reflects the group's success, so students and parents will need to make a full commitment for the entire season.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

1. Students will continue to improve their individual skill on the instrument through exercises in tone, technique, articulation, and music reading skills. The goal is not only to prepare to be a member of the high school band, but for music to become a lifelong hobby.
2. The class performs as a full time performing ensemble. Each performance continues to be more expressive and musical as students strengthen their knowledge of the elements of musical composition.
3. Students learn to interpret written musical symbols in order to perform on a more expressive and musical level.
4. Students expand their musical vocabulary to include rhythm, melody, tone, color, texture, dynamics, and harmony.
5. Students will perform more advanced literature from a variety of historical periods.

Additional Course Objectives:

- Perform the following 2 octave major scales: Concert C, F, G, B-flat, D, E-flat, A-flat, D-flat, G- flat.
- Perform a chromatic scale from memory over the practical range of his/her instrument.
- Demonstrate the correct fingerings, including alternate fingerings, for all notes within the practical range of his/her instrument.
- Demonstrate and respond to standard preparatory conducting beats, release motions, entrance cues, and expressive gestures.
- Demonstrate vibrato, as it relates to the tonal enrichment, for instruments where vibrato is characteristic.
- Adjust pitch of his/her instrument to a given standard during actual performance and with the use of a tuning device.
- Demonstrate the attack and release of a tone, in selections of grade level 2 and 3.

- Demonstrate the use of appropriate interpretive markings for all music being studied.
- Demonstrate the appropriate playing position of his/her instrument.
- Demonstrate a tone quality characteristic of his/her instrument in all registers and at all dynamic levels.
- Perform music with rhythms from grade 2 and 3 literature.
- Perform music selections containing time signatures appropriate for grade 2 and 3 literature.
- Perform music from three of the following compositional periods with characteristic interpretive elements: Baroque, Classical, Romantic, Impressionistic, and 20th Century.
- Perform with other instrumentalists to achieve a refined ensemble sound, including volume, timbre, balance, and blend.
- Demonstrate the proper care and maintenance of his/her instrument and equipment.
- Demonstrate legato, tenuto, staccato, and marcato markings as notated in musical selections.
- Interpret given tempo markings and alterations as notated in musical selections.
- Interpret music containing first and second endings, measure rests and repeats, D.C. and D.S. indications, codas, and rhythmic abbreviations.

Late Enrollment: Students may have the opportunity to begin taking band in either 7th or 8th grade. Prior to student enrollment, both the parent and student will meet with the band director to discuss all aspects of the program, and what qualifications the student must meet before entering the band class. Teacher recommendations must all reflect positive work ethics and the ability to adapt within a learning environment. The student will need to meet several times after school with either the director or another student (at director's discretion) for individual practice prior to being placed within the band class and students are expected to meet the above course objectives before being promoted to the next year level of band. Both parents and student will be required to read and sign in agreement of all policies in the band handbook. Additional after-school tutoring may be required after entering the class to ensure student success.

Please Note: Students who withdraw from band will not have the opportunity to rejoin at a later time.

After School Rehearsals

Additional band activities may only meet after school in which case students will need to be present for all rehearsals. The Band Directors will work with all teachers, coaches, and directors of other activities to give each student every opportunity to be part of other groups. Non-school sponsored activities, teams, and organizations must not conflict with the practice/performance schedule of the band. Unlike other classes where students may succeed or fail independent of others, the band's success relies on the participation of all its members. These rehearsals are essential for our band program to build a tradition of excellence. Students need to be picked up no later than 30 minutes after the rehearsal ends. *Check your calendars! Routine doctor and dentist appointments are not considered excused and therefore should not be scheduled during your rehearsal time.* It is expected that the band member and the family will make every effort to avoid or solve conflicts before requesting to be absent. The Band Director and other staff members understand that students' time is valuable, and we take pride in the fact that we use time wisely and begin/end rehearsals as promptly as possible. Students and parents are asked to give the band program the same consideration and cooperation. Any conflicts should be discussed with the Band Directors as early as possible.

What You Can Expect From Your Participation in Band

- **You Will Have Fun.** We enjoy the process of creating a top-notch performance.
- **You Will Have Musical Literacy.** You will leave the program with understandings and appreciations of music that will last a lifetime.
- **You Will Have Quality Instruction.** Your director and your staff are well trained and experienced in their fields. Just say the word if you need assistance in any area and we will be glad to help you.
- **You Will Make a Contribution.** In life, you can be a contributor or a consumer. Music is a gift, and a performance is not a performance until you give it to someone. Through band, we contribute to our school, community, and society. As a musician, never forget what you can give is unique and important.
- **You Will Be Organized.** Band members are on time, accountable, and reliable. This is simply because band doesn't work any other way.
- **You Will Make Lifelong Friends.** Your lasting memories of band will be more about whom you made music with, rather than the music you made.
- **You Will Learn More Than Music.** Don't be surprised to see yourself gaining in confidence, listening skills, self-discipline, compassion, self-esteem, self-discipline, work ethic, concentration, leadership, patience, and teamwork. Past band members mention these things and more when asked the most important things they learned in band.

- **You Will Have A Challenge.** Music has a way of finding the level you think you are at, and then pushing you past what you think you can do. Work within our system, trust your instructors, and you will be amazed at what you (and your band) can achieve!

What the Band Program Expects from You

- **A Quality Effort.** This entails being on time (early), being prepared with needed instruments, equipment, uniform, and music (all in excellent condition), and being prepared to make your unique contribution to the band (that means practicing).
- **Communication.** If you can't make something, let us know in advance. If you have an emergency, call. If you have a question, raise your hand. If you need help, let someone know. You owe this to the organization that is depending on you.
- **A Quality Attitude.** Band is what you make it. You will enjoy your experience much more if *you choose to do so*. It's not anyone's job to make you happy, to make you a good player, or to entertain you. It's all up to you – Attitude is Everything!

INSTRUMENT AND EQUIPMENT NEEDS

Students are expected to provide their own band instruments except those playing low brass and low reed instruments that are too expensive for many players to own. If the instrument is in the repair shop, the student needs to bring in a note signed by a parent, preferably with an estimate of how long it will take to repair the instrument. Students who do not have a note or an instrument will receive a deduction from the daily participation grade.

Unless otherwise notified, each student will need to purchase or rent an instrument from a local music store. There are some modifications to the standard rental equipment, so please check the list below and request that your music company make these changes.

Clarinet players should play on a Vandoren B45 or a Hite Premiere mouthpiece and a Bonade ligature
Saxophone players should play on a Selmer C* mouthpiece
Both Clarinet and Saxophone players should use only **Vandoren** reeds
Trumpet players should play a Bach 7C or 5C mouthpiece
Trombone and Euphonium players should use a Back 6 ½ AL mouthpiece

Instrument Storage

Instruments are to be taken home from school every day and are not to be left at school overnight. At the end of the day, they must be picked up. Students may bring their instrument to the band room in the morning at locker time to be stored throughout the day.

All cases must be clearly labeled with the student's name on the outside. No instruments may be left over the holidays (Thanksgiving/Winter and Spring Breaks) in the band room.

School Owned Instruments

Certain instruments will be supplied to students to give the band a well-balanced instrumentation. It is the duty of each student playing a school instrument to take best possible care of it. The school supplies school owned instruments to players under the following conditions:

1. The student has completed mouthpiece evaluation and has exhibited the aptitude to play the instrument.
2. The selected instrument is available. Priority will be given to students based on experience.
3. The student/parent/guardian must sign a form of responsibility for the proper care of the instrument during the school year.
4. Students are expected to purchase a mouthpiece and the appropriate supplies for their instrument that they will own. These can be purchased at the local music store. See the director for the exact type needed.

Percussion

1. Beginning students will be selected by audition for the percussion section. Auditions will be based on ability on the current instrument, behavior, and natural talent.
2. Percussion students will need to own the following items: bell kit, practice pad, snare sticks (Vic Firth 2B), and a pair of rubber xylophone mallets (Mike Balter blue or green medium to hard strength). Students will need to bring only the mallets and snare sticks to class each day. These items should be marked with the student's name and can be rented or purchased through our local music store.
3. Percussionists are responsible for knowing how to play their individual part and the mallet part for every piece.
4. Students are responsible for taking care of the school owned equipment. Students who do not take care of the instruments may be removed from the section.
5. Behavior is a must for this section! Students should be looking over music and not talking during class time.

Supplies

Most supplies for instruments can be purchased here at the school store during homeroom for your convenience. Some of these items include: reeds, method books, cork grease, slide oil, valve oil, cleaning kits, swabs, and pencils. A list will be posted of all available supplies and their cost after the start of school.

Instrument Specific Supplies

These items are made specifically for each instrument and are needed to help keep them in good working order and to prevent expensive damage to the instrument. Item checks may be held at any time and will be graded.

- Flute – Polishing cloth, tuning rod
- Oboe/Bassoon – 2 working reeds, cork grease
- All Clarinets/Saxophones – 3 working reeds, cork grease, reed guard (recommended)
- French Horn – Rotor Oil, Slide grease
- Trumpet/Baritone/Tuba – Valve Oil/Slide Grease
- Trombone – Slide Oil, Spray Bottle
- Percussionists – Snare Sticks (2B) and hard rubber xylophone mallets (see brand)

CONDUCT

Membership in the Cuthbertson Middle School Band is an honor. Along with this honor come expectations and responsibilities. Our reputation and successes will be the result of much hard work and dedication. Students are expected to exhibit proper conduct at all times. The band is not about individuals, there is no "I" in band. Respect yourself and each other. Never insult another band student's integrity. Remember that the actions of individuals will reflect on the entire band. Always put yourself and the band into a position where a positive image is presented.

NOTE: The Cuthbertson Middle School Code of Conduct will be in effect at all band-related functions. Please familiarize yourself with the Student Code of Conduct as well as the rules that relate to the band.

Duties of the Band Member

- 1) Be on time for all practices and performances At least five minutes early is "on-time", and "on-time is LATE!
- 2) Arrive at all practices with the correct supplies and a positive attitude.
- 3) Make a real effort to improve on your instrument daily, including practicing your instrument at least 150 minutes per week
- 4) Be responsible for your actions, and assume the consequences, positive or negative.
- 5) Have proper respect for those in authority, including using polite manners.
- 6) Follow all class and school rules both on and off school property.
- 7) Show respect and courtesy to directors, teachers, substitutes, instructors, parents, and fellow students at all times.

- 8) Respect all school-owned property including: band instruments, sheet music, method books, stands, chairs, percussion instruments, equipment, etc.
- 9) Only touch what belongs to **YOU**.
- 10) Be responsible and not have **GUM**, food, or drinks in the band room.

DISCIPLINE POLICY

All successful band students possess a degree personal discipline. This element is essential to a strong band program and is a must for every individual. Examples of personal discipline include:

1. **Prepared for class**
2. **Responsibility**
3. **Individual practice**
4. **Dedication**
5. **Effort**

Behavior Policy

We believe that all students can behave appropriately. **Students are expected to do so at all times. No student has the right to interfere with the teaching or learning of other students in the ensemble.** Due to our large class sizes and expensive instruments, good behavior is a must to participate in band.

Rules

1. Students will sit in assigned seat and not get up without permission.
2. Talking is not permitted when the director is on the podium.
3. Students will not play instruments out of turn.
4. Students will not eat, drink, or chew **gum** in the band room.
5. Students will show respect to adults, other students, band property (instruments, drums, chairs, stands, etc...)

Consequences

The following procedures will be followed for inappropriate behavior (not necessarily in this order):

1. Warning (verbal or via clear eye contact)
2. Work assignment (writing assignments, band room duties)
3. Lunch Detention and parent contacted (by phone/email)
4. Office referral (for a severe offence, immediate office referral)
5. Removal from the band program

Daily Procedures

1. Students will enter the room on time in a quiet, orderly manner and quickly get their instrument and music and sit down in the assigned seat.
2. Students should check the board and put music in the order listed.
3. Students are ready to learn when the director steps on the podium. No questions will be answered at this time.
4. Students will stay seated during class and pay attention at all times.
5. Students will not play instruments out of turn.
6. There is **NO** talking while rehearsal is in progress.
7. No **GUM**, food, or drink is allowed in the band room.
8. Students may only touch or play **THEIR OWN** instrument.
9. Students must use proper posture and instrument positions while playing.
10. Students will not disturb the learning of others in the room

Warm-Up

Be reasonable in your individual warm up; this is **NOT** the time to see how high, loud, or fast you can play. Instead, it is important to do each of the following on a daily basis:

- Long Tones/Lip Slurs
- District Band Scales
- Daily Assignments

GRADING POLICY

This policy will affect all band members regardless of grade level. Grades will be based on the elements listed below and given the following weights:

- 30% Performance Attendance (Concerts, performances, etc.)
- 30% Participation (daily grade)
- 20% Playing tests/Item Check/Exams/Instrument Inspections
- 20% Weekly Practice Record

Appropriate participation is defined as follows:

1. Each student should have the following items in class every day:
 - a sharpened pencil
 - your instrument (sticks or mallets for percussionists)
 - your music and folder
 - at least three working reeds (clarinets and saxophones)
 - at least two working reeds and a water canister (double reeds)
2. Student uses proper posture and instrument positions.
3. Student is attentive towards the authorized person in front of the band and exhibits good conduct.
4. Student is making an effort to perform the music that has been assigned.
5. Student is listening to instructions and not preventing other students from learning.

From time to time during the school year, you will have an unannounced materials check. If you have all the items listed above, you will receive a grade of “A.” Your grade will be lowered one letter for each item you are missing. The easiest way to make sure you receive a “free A” is to have everything that you need at all times.

Band room care & maintenance *Take care of our band room; it's the only one we have!*

If it's not yours, Leave it alone – No students may play any school-owned instrument, including all percussion instruments, unless assigned to that instrument.

If you use it, Take care of it – All instruments, chairs, stands, accessories, etc. should be treated with care. Do not lean on stands or chair legs, mistreat equipment, or use it in a manner for which it is not intended.

If you take it out, Put it away – instruments, sticks, percussion accessories, must be put away at the end of class/

If you move it, Put it back – This is self-explanatory!

Practice Records

1. Students are required to practice **150** minutes a week (think of it as 30 minutes every school day), for 8th and 7th grade and 100 minutes (think of it as 20 minutes every school day) for 6th grade, as their homework assignment from band. A student who practices this amount will receive an A for that week.
2. Students will complete their practice records online during this year to start. Once regular practice occurs, practice records may not be required.
3. Parents are asked to verify practice times. A copy of the practice record will be sent home on the progress report.

The benefits of playing an instrument increase in direct proportion to the number of hours practiced. To play an instrument is very similar to working out or running. The stronger your muscles get, the better you will play. This is called muscle memory. If your muscles don't remember how to play, you will not sound good.

Practice records are not needed to tell if you have practiced or not! Keep this saying in mind: If you don't practice for a day, you can tell. If you don't practice for 2 days, your band director can tell. If you don't practice for 3 or more days, everyone can tell!

Practice tips & Ideas

Here is a model, of one good way to structure your practice time.

1. Warm-up (5-10 Minutes)
 - Every one - Start slow, work on breathing and a good sound.
 - Brass – Long tones, lip slurs, scales

- Woodwinds – Long tones, finger exercises, scales
- Percussion – stretch hands, arms, wrists. Bounces, single strokes, rudiments, scales on mallets.
2. Technical Practice (10 Minutes)
 - Practice with a metronome at all speeds
 - Start slow and gradually work up speed
 - Range Studies
 - Technical arts of band music and solos
 - Practice specific trouble spots, go slow enough not to allow any mistakes
 3. Performance (10 Minutes)
 - Play as if you are performing in public.
 - No stopping, count all rests, no going back, no excuses
 - Remember problem spots to practice later
 4. Sight read/Browse fun music (5-10 Minutes)
 - Search and play new music from Smartmusic
 - Get a book of tunes you know and have fun reading and playing
 - Feel free to borrow books from friends
- Good Ideas
- Play with friends (duets are great!)
 - Perform for friends, family, the dog, or whoever will listen
 - Take it one measure at a time
 - Take it as slow as you need to
 - Always think about what you are doing
 - Listen to and record your sound

Remember why you practice...
 To become a better performer...
 And to have more fun as a musician!

Performance Attendance

All performances are considered mandatory participation. It is impossible to have a truly successful performance unless each member is in attendance. Therefore, we always give advance notice for performances so all members can arrange their calendars accordingly. Please do not schedule appointments or make out-of-town trips when a performance is scheduled! The only excused absences will be: **1.) Personal illness with a doctor's note, 2.) family crisis, 3.) pre-arranged absence with the director at least one week in advance.** If a student is absent from a band performance for any reason, a written note from a parent must be produced to the director the next day. Any absence without a note from home will be considered unexcused and no credit will be given.

Performance Criteria (grade for each performance)

- Student is on time for performance warm-up
- Student has instrument and appropriate materials
- Student is wearing appropriate performance clothing
- Students displays good behavior during the performance
- Student is attentive and contributing to a good performance
- Individual part performed at a high level of proficiency

Performance Dress Requirements

6th grade Concert Dress – Band T shirt and black pants

7th and 8th grade Concert Dress – Blue & Black Band performance polo, black pants, dressy shoes (no white)

Please have your attire ready several weeks before your performance. Don't wait until the last minute!

The Four A's of Concert Attendance

Attend – Showing support is huge. Be sure to be seated on time!

Allow – A concert is like live television. Anything could happen whether it was scripted or not. Your patience is appreciated.

Appreciate – You are witnessing and experiencing the fruits of our labors. We hope you enjoy the progress!

Applaud – It is our custom to applaud. Its how large groups can say thank you as a whole.

Playing tests/Item Checks/Instrument Inspections

Students will be given a series of playing tests during the year. Tests may or may not be announced previously. Any music that the band is working on may be used for a playing test. Students are encouraged to know their parts and practice them at home. Written exams on music theory material studied in class may be given. Instrument inspections will be conducted at the discretion of the director and be graded on a standardized handout. Instruments must be in good playing condition to receive credit. Every instrument has necessary items that keep the instrument in good working condition and prevent expensive damage. Students who do not have the items listed below for their instrument have a much greater chance of damaging their instrument and their grade.

Playing test rubric

These are the grading criteria that will be followed for playing tests.

	A	B	C	F
Notes	Played all notes correctly, no fumbling, no missed accidentals, appropriate articulations.	Played most notes correctly, very little fumbling, mostly appropriate articulations	Played some notes correctly, some fumbling, some missed key signatures, some appropriate articulations	Played few notes correctly, considerable fumbling, missed most of the accidentals, and ignored articulations
Rhythm/Tempo	Played all rhythms accurately, at appropriate tempo, with a steady beat	Played most rhythms accurately, at appropriate tempo, with a somewhat steady beat	Played some rhythms accurately, inappropriate tempo, with an unsteady beat	Played few rhythms correctly, no discernable tempo or beat
Tone	Beautiful, focused tone, good breath support all the time	Good, mostly focused tone, good breath support most of the time	Weak, somewhat focused tone, inconsistent breath support	Poor, unfocused tone, little or no breath support
Dynamics and Style	Played all dynamics and style markings correctly	Played most of the dynamics and style markings	Played some of the dynamics and style markings	Played few dynamics and style markings

TRAVEL

The Cuthbertson Band Program is a very active program that provides opportunities for students to travel off-campus for performances. These performances can include festivals, clinic bands, recruitment, and other scheduled performances. Students will be notified in advance when a trip has been scheduled. **All band trips are school sponsored and students will follow all Cuthbertson Middle School Guidelines.**

Inappropriate behavior will be handled by the director in the manner outlined by Cuthbertson Middle School and the Union County School Board of Education, and if deemed necessary by the band director, the student will be sent home at the parent's expense.

Opportunities such as District Honor Band, All-State, All-County, and Clinic Bands are open by audition only. Students are strongly encouraged to audition, as this will improve their playing abilities and confidence. Students will be given materials and dates in advance of the audition and are encouraged to see the director for extra help. No student is permitted to audition outside the band without performing the material for the director first. Extra credit may be given for participation at the discretion of the director.

- All students will be given a permission form, which must be filled out, signed by a parent, and returned to the director.
- All students must ride designated buses. (A student may return from an event with his/her parents or relative, providing they have submitted the transportation release form **prior** to leaving for the event, and with approval from the director).
- All bus safety rules will be observed
- Buses are to be treated with care and trash will be picked up before any student is dismissed.

MUSIC

1. Music is considered the band textbook and will be issued once to students. Your grade could be affected if the loss hinders your rehearsal or performance. Music is to be kept only in designated band folders supplied by the director. Lost folders will need to be replaced by the student.
2. It is the student's responsibility to come to class or practice "owning" their parts. Only when students can perform their parts at a proficient level will they be allowed to participate fully in performances. This is the only way to ensure a successful band performance. Time will be given in class to ask questions about parts of the music students do not understand. When a piece of music has been passed out, it is the student's responsibility to find these parts within the first two weeks and practice them at home.
3. It is also the student's responsibility for marking changes in the music, in pencil only, the first time they are given. Music should not be folded or crinkled.



PRIVATE LESSONS

In a band class it is difficult to provide one-on-one instruction for any length of time. Private or group lessons are designed to help the individual student become a better performer and learn more about his/her instrument. Specialists on the different instruments may be brought in by the director to help student achievement. This is similar to tutoring and students are better able to become proficient on their instrument. We encourage all students wherever possible to participate in lessons, as this will make practice time less difficult and performances even more fun. If you are interested please pick up a form from the director. Private lessons are highly recommended in order to increase the advancement of performance skills on a musical instrument. The one-to-one approach allows the student to benefit from the attention of the private teacher.

Recent studies have shown that over 80% of students in the All-State Band take private lessons regularly. Participation in honor bands increases the chance that students will receive a college scholarship.

INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

Band Parent Meetings

The regular meetings of the Cuthbertson Band Boosters will be held in the Cuthbertson High School Band room at 7 P.M. on the 3rd Thursday of every month during the school year. During these meetings, we volunteer for committees and projects, discuss upcoming activities, share the good news about the program, and receive important dates and other information. Additional meetings are held by our committees as needed. We hope every parent finds an activity or a committee to which they can contribute.

Website

The band site has the latest and greatest information, as well as resources such as links, forms (including Band Booster membership), and an interactive calendar. This website will be updated daily until school starts and then bi-weekly so be sure to check back often. The address is a little lengthy, so be sure to bookmark the site.

Online Notification (e-mail group) - This has proven to be an excellent method of communicating messages to our parents, especially since handouts do not always make it home! Last minutes details and instructions are often sent through this service. Be sure to join the group and to check your e-mail often. Also keep updated with the latest updates by following the Cuthbertson Band –Official Site Facebook page! This is a great resource for finding out information such as return time from football games as well as other school performances.

As a Parent:

- Support your young musician with a quality instrument and supplies.
- Note the care of the instrument. The cost of repairs is high. Make sure repairs are dealt with in a timely manner.
- Enroll your child in private lessons whenever possible.
- Arrange a regular time and quiet place for your child to practice.
- Acknowledge and reward their efforts. Complement often. **Be their biggest fan!**
- Make it possible for your child to attend professional concerts and buy band-related recordings.
- Consider upgrading and adding to instruments and equipment if you have the means. Keep the lines of communication open between parent, band member and director.
- Encourage your child to play for others when opportunities arise at home, at school, church, and in the community.
- Teach the importance of being on time for rehearsals and performances.
- Come hear our concerts and support your child and the other band members

Numerous studies indicate parental attitude, support, and involvement are important factors in a child's ability to successfully learn to play and to enjoy music Your decision to provide your child with a quality musical instrument is an investment in your child's future. In making it possible for your child to play a musical instrument, you are providing the opportunity for self-expression, creativity and achievement.

ADVICE ON GETTING AN INSTRUMENT

Buying an instrument is a big step and can be confusing. However, sometimes leasing an instrument for more than a year will end up costing much more in the long run. I will give you some seasoned advice in regards to instrument purchasing, and let the parents and student decide what works best for their situation.

Student Line Instrument/Beginner Instrument: The student line model is recommended for those beginning on an instrument for the first time. Most music stores lease these less expensive student models. These instruments are made to be relatively inexpensive and relatively durable. They are not necessarily made to play with the best tone quality or to stand up to many years of intense playing. Simply put, they sometimes “wear out” or musicians “grow out” of them as they gain more experience.

Intermediate/Professional Model Instrument: These instruments are made with better quality materials and better quality control. In some cases these instruments have more keys or have a bigger bore (to help get a bigger sound), or are made of more expensive metals. Some of these options are cosmetic, and some are truly beneficial. Generally, if your child is serious about band, and really enjoys playing their instrument, this can be an excellent option.

Recommendations for purchasing instruments:

- Shop around.
- Do not purchase an instrument on e-bay or the internet without consulting the band director or private instructor first.
- Used instruments are plentiful and can have excellent value. However, as with buying a used car, the rule is “buyer beware.”

If buying a used instrument, consider the following:

- Quality of instrument when it was new.
- Age of instrument – old is not necessarily bad if it's a quality model.

- History of instrument – How long was it played? How long has it sat unused? An instrument that was played for 2 years and sat for 10 is most likely a better than a 5 year old instrument played all 5 years.
- Repair history – How often was it serviced and checked?
- Appearance of instrument – Several dings and dents can harm sound of a brass instrument.
- Most used instruments will need some kind of repair to put it in the best possible playing condition.