

# Genoa-Kingston Middle School Band Handbook



Brian Ferguson  
GKMS- Band Director

Angelo Lekkas  
GKMS- Principal

Craig Butcher  
GKMS- Assistant Principal

Dear Band Parents and Students,

Welcome to the Genoa-Kingston Middle School Band Program. I am very excited to have you as a part of our program this year!

Please take the time to read over the Band Handbook. This will prepare you for your work and responsibilities as a member of the band. If a problem should arise, please consult the handbook first. If you cannot find the answer do not hesitate to contact me.

Students that take part in the Band program in Genoa-Kingston are challenged to grow musically and encouraged to achieve their highest potential. In order for this to occur, students must respect their director, their fellow musicians, their instruments, the music they perform, any guests, and all of the work that each person puts into the Band.

If you follow the rules as laid out in this handbook, your reward will be like nothing you have experienced before. You will feel pride, a sense of accomplishment, self-satisfaction, and FUN!!!!

I can't wait to work and grow with you. Let's have a fantastic year!

Sincerely,

Brian Ferguson

bferguson@gkschools.org or 815-784-5222 ext. 4603

**DO NOT HESITATE TO CALL OR EMAIL IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS**

## Band Mission Statement/Philosophy

The mission of the Genoa-Kingston Middle School Bands is to team with parents, students, and the school to provide an atmosphere where students can be successful in learning and performing on musical instruments, both individually and in a large ensemble. We believe strongly that music is a part of a student's comprehensive education. We aim to uphold the traditions of the past while maintaining a commitment to excellence within each student.

This excellence must begin with an attitude of success. As teachers, parents, and administrators, all of our actions must be geared towards creating a positive experience for these young students. A positive experience must begin with an understanding of the expectations for those who participate in the MMS Band Program. This handbook will help explain those expectations.

## Band Expectations

### **1. Be on time**

- a. Early is on time and on time is late

### **2. Have your materials**

- a. Instrument
- b. Supplies (Valve oil, reeds, cork grease, etc.)
- c. Book/Music
- d. Pencil

### **3. Do your best**

- a. Always strive towards your goals

### **4. Respect each other**

## **6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> Grade Band Grading Procedures**

A student's grade in band is a balanced reflection of musical achievement, technical skill on an instrument, participation in band activities, and effort both within class and at home. The grade is made up of three different factors: Rehearsal Grades, Playing Tests and Quizzes, Performances.

### **Rehearsal Grade**

Each day you will receive a rehearsal grade out of 10 points that is based on the following: (Rehearsal grades will be 20% of the students final grade)

1. You are prepared: you have your instrument, music, pencil, book, and you have practiced your music (4 points)
2. You participate appropriately (4 points)
  - You actively play your instrument
  - You answer questions asked by the director
  - You are quiet when other sections are rehearsing
  - You respect whoever is on the podium and all of your classmates
3. You are in class and in your seat with your instrument together 2 minutes after the bell rings. (2 points)

**If a student does not have their instrument for class they will be given a "rehearsal detective" sheet so they can still actively participate. Students will be required to turn the rehearsal detective sheet in to earn points for the class period. Failure to bring your instrument 3 days in a row will result in a detention.**

### **Playing Tests and Quizzes**

Playing tests will consist of students playing music on their respective instruments for grades. These are done in order to chart students' musical progress on their instruments and document student growth. There will be an average of **2 playing tests during each quarter**. Students will be given 2 weeks to complete the playing test from the date it is announced. Tests may be completed during sectional time, before or after school. All playing assessments will be turned in using Google Classroom. (Playing tests are 40% of the students' final grade)

### **Performance Points**

Concerts and performances constitute 40% of students' grades. Students will be graded on their concert attire, being prepared with instrument and music, their ability to play the music, and their attendance through the duration of the concert.

### **Purchasing an Instrument**

Please contact Mr. Ferguson before purchasing any kind of instrument. In recent years there have been a number of companies making instruments that are extremely affordable but not sustainable. Although the prices look great, they are known to break within a year and generally cannot be repaired because they are made with inferior metals. I am more than happy to supply specific instrument brands or stores to help you purchase a quality instrument.

## Supplies

Student's instrument supplies can be purchased in the following ways:

1. Students will be given an order form for Music and Arts that they may return to Mr. Ferguson with a check made out to Music and Arts. This is the preferred way so that students can receive the supplies at our school-discounted price. Students can see Mr. Ferguson for an order form. **(THIS IS THE PREFERRED METHOD. IT WILL SAVE YOU MONEY)**
2. Amazon- most supplies can also be purchased by Amazon. Please feel free to compare prices with the school order form in order to save the most money possible. If you have a question about a particular item, please email me a link and I will be able to answer any questions you may have.

## Required supplies

**All 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Students should have Essential Elements 2000 Book 1 (PLEASE**

**NOTE: Book 2 will be ordered later in the year at a discounted group rate.)**

**All 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Students will continue out of book 2 purchased last year.**

**All 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Students will be provided with a class method book set.**

### **Flute**

- Cleaning Rod
- Cleaning cloth

### **Oboe**

- 2 Medium Soft Reeds (Jones brand HIGHLY recommended)

### **Clarinet**

- 1 box of Reeds 2½ strength. (Vandoren HIGHLY Recommended)
- Cleaning Swab
- Cork Grease

### **Saxophones(All Varieties)**

- 1 box of Reeds 2½ strength. (Vandoren HIGHLY Recommended)
- Cleaning Cloth or "Shove-it"
- Cork Grease

### **All Brass**

- Mouthpiece to accompany instrument
- Trumpets, French Horns, Baritones, and Tuba: Valve Oil
- Trombones: Slide Cream and Spray Bottle

## **Concert Procedures**

### **ALL BAND CONCERTS ARE MANDATORY!!!!**

Concerts are worth 40% of your grade and they are one of the most fun and rewarding experiences a musician can be a part of. Our concert performances are a culmination of all the material that is learned in class and is treated as a formative assessment! Please mark all school concert dates on your personal calendar to avoid future conflicts!

## **Concert Dress**

Boys: Black slacks (no jeans or shorts)

White Long shirt or polo

Black shoes and socks (no open-toed sandals or tennis shoes)

Girls: Black pants or skirt (must be knee-length or longer)

White shirt or blouse

Black shoes (no open-toed sandals or tennis shoes)

All concert attire should follow school dress code.

## **A SCHEDULE WITH ALL DATES AND PERFORMANCES WILL BE SENT HOME AND POSTED ONLINE WHEN IT HAS BEEN FINALIZED.**

We have some big plans for the Genoa-Kingston Middle School Band this year, and we are really looking forward to helping you achieve your best in Band. We hope we all get to have a lot of fun while working hard.

If you have any questions, comments, or concerns please do not hesitate to contact us by phone at (815) 784-5222 ext 4603 or by e-mail at: [bferguson@gkschools.org](mailto:bferguson@gkschools.org)

**Your first assignment in Band class is to read through this hand book with your parent(s)/guardian(s), sign the agreement on the back page, and hand it back in to Mr. Ferguson by Friday 8/21!**

-----tear here-----

We have read the policies and concert dates in this book. We understand them and agree to their terms and conditions.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/guardian signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Home Phone Number

\_\_\_\_\_  
(e-mail) *\*Please provide a working e-mail address if possible*