

Oakland Mills Middle School
Band Handbook
2016-2017



Saul W. Green
Director of Bands

Megan Chrobak
Principal

Dear Band Members and Families,

Welcome to the Oakland Mills Middle School Band Program. We have an incredible year planned with over 10 performances. Please refer to this handbook as a primary resource for information regarding the OMMS Band Program.

Please identify the concert, assessment, adjudication, and after-school rehearsal dates that your child is responsible for attending. Attendance is crucial, every student's contribution is highly significant to the artistic experience of the performances.

Please don't hesitate to contact me for any questions or concerns.

I look forward to guiding OMMS Band students throughout an exciting musical year!

Sincerely,

Saul W. Green, Director of Bands

Oakland Mills Middle School

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Columbia, MD 21045

(410) 313-6937

Saul.Green@hcpss.org

Components of the OMMS Band Program:

Ensembles:

Concert Band:

Concert Band rehearses daily during **Period 1**
Monday- Friday: 8:05-8:55

Wind Ensemble:

Wind Ensemble rehearses daily during **Period 6**
Monday- Friday: 12:57-1:47

Jazz Ensemble:

Jazz Ensemble is an before-school group that meets on
TBD

Jazz Lab Band:

Jazz Lab Band is an after-school group that meets on
TBD

Band Sectionals:

Band sectionals will begin on **September 13th** and will occur on a rotating basis by excusing a student from one school-wide class each week. The sectional will last 40 minutes, and will allow the student to return to their regularly scheduled class and submit homework and collect any work from that lesson.

A band calendar with sectional information will be distributed on a monthly basis.
Band sectionals

Practice Sheets:

Practice Sheets are due weekly, and are submitted through a google form found on the OMMS Middle School Band Wikispace:

<http://oaklandmillsmsband.wikispaces.com/Practice+Journals>

Attendance:

Attendance for all of the scheduled band events is **MANDATORY**.

Those events include:

- Daily Rehearsals
- Weekly Sectionals
- All performances (Evening Concerts, Assessments, Adjudications, Field Trips)
- All after-school rehearsals

HCPSS POLICY 8090: Non-School Hour Participation requirements for Elementary and Secondary Curricular Programs states that rehearsals and performances scheduled before /during/ after-school/ evening are **REQUIRED** of the student participant and may be **GRADED** by the instructor.

The Howard County Public School System recognizes the following as excused absences: 1.) Serious Illness, 2.) Death in the Family, 3.) Required Court Appearance, 4.) School visitation, or 5.) Religious observance as excused absence. All excused absences will result in an alternative assignment.

If you know that you have a conflict with any of the scheduled events contact Mr. Green ASAP. Any conflicting absence that is not communicated to Mr. Green at least **14 days** prior to a performance will result in an unexcused absence.

Code of Conduct and Discipline:

In addition to following all of the OMMS School Rules, Band members are also expected to follow a set of rules that are applicable to band students at musical events.

The following will not be permitted during any band related event:

Damaging School Property (Instruments)

Chewing Gum or Eating Food

Playing or touching any instrument that is not yours

Swearing or using foul language

Using electronic devices

Showing any signs of disrespect towards: Peers, Adults, Performers, Chaperones

Failure to comply with the rules will result in the following:

1st Offense:	Re- direct and Re- teach
2nd Offense:	Teacher Warning and Parental Contact
3rd Offense:	MIR, Detention and Parental Contact
4th Offense:	Self-selected Team Member Conference and Parental Contact
5th Offense:	Assigned Consequence and Parental Contact
6th Offense:	Office Disciplinary Referral
Extreme Circumstances may result in immediate movement to step 4 or 5	

Rehearsal Policies and Procedures:

The following policies and procedures apply to all daily rehearsals.

- **Do not talk or play when the conductor is on the podium**
- Attempt to be the best musician you can be at all times
- Begin the warm up when signaled from the conductor or student leading the tuning
- Be as quiet as possible during the Tuning Procedure
- As soon as the conductor raises their baton, instruments should be lifted into their best playing position
- When the conductor stops the ensemble, listen carefully for all feedback and directions
- Have all of your daily required materials with you at every rehearsal (please refer to the list)
- Be sitting in your designated seat with your instrument completely assembled by the designated warm up time, 3 minutes after the late bell rings

(Concert Band - 8:08, Wind Ensemble- 1:00)

- Cellphones and electronic devices are not to be used during any part of rehearsal (Metronome/Tuner Combos are the only exception)
- There is no gum or food allowed in the band room at all times
- Do not start packing up your instrument until Mr. Green instructs you to
- No students are allowed to play or touch any instrument other than their own (Percussionists are the only students allowed to touch or play any percussion instrument)
- If students arrive to class after the late bell has sounded, they must fill out information in the late book
- Please label all music and paperwork efficiently based on feedback provided so the ensemble can reach its' full potential

Grading:

Rehearsal Participation and Effort – 35%

- Students are expected to follow all rehearsal procedures, expectations and demonstrate a positive attitude. Students are expected to be on time, get their instrument out and ready to play in a timely way. Students are also expected to have all of their daily required materials at **EVERY** rehearsal.

Sectional Participation and Effort – 15%

- Sectionals are a time when students receive more individualized attention. Sectional attendance is **REQUIRED**. It is not optional.

Performances – 15%

- Students will be graded on their effort and behavior in concerts. Following the dress code is included in this grading policy.

Quizzes and Assessments – 15%

- Written quizzes will be administered throughout the course of the school year. Playing assessments and seating tests will take place throughout the school year.

Homework / Practice – 10%

- Students are expected to practice 30 minutes a school day. Practice charts will be passed out weekly (on Thursdays) and students should keep them in their band folder. Practice expectation is 30 minutes for each school day of the week. A five day week = 150 minutes of practice time.

Extra Rehearsal Participation - 10%

- There will be after-school rehearsals throughout the school year. The majority of these rehearsals will have a guest clinician

Possible reasons for not receiving a full score in the grade book:

Absence at a sectional, rehearsal (including after school), or performance of any kind

Improper uniform for a performance (see uniform policy below)

Turning any assignment or required paperwork in late

Being unprepared for a rehearsal (including after school), sectional, or performance of any kind

Examples: **Not having your instrument or required accessories**

(You must have your Tuner/Metronome Combo, A working reed and mouthpiece)

Not having your music folder with all of your music/ documents

Not having a pencil (Your memory is only as good as the amount of lead on your pencil)

Required Materials for all OMMS Band Students:

Below is a list of required materials that need to be purchased by Tuesday, September 6th. All of these items are essential in the development in all of the musicians in the OMMS Band Program. They will be checked by Mr. Green on Tuesday, September 6th.

**THESE ITEMS NEED TO BE WITH ALL STUDENTS BY
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 6th**

Metronome/Tuner Combo:

Korg TM50 Tuner/ Metronome Combo

We will be using this Tuner/Metronome Combo everyday in class during our warm up. This device will be revolutionary in achieving effective and productive practice sessions at home.

Method Books:

Concert Band: Hal Leonard Intermediate and Foundations for Superior Performance



Wind Ensemble: Band Technique Step by Step and Foundations for Superior Performance



Percussionists should refer to the "Percussion requirements and expectations" page

Required Instrument Accessories:

Flute- Cleaning rod and Cloth

Clarinet (also Bass CL)- Pack of Vandoren Reeds (size 3), Mouthpiece cap, Cork Grease

Saxophone (All Saxophones)- Pack of Hemke Reeds (size 3), Mouthpiece cap, Cork Grease

French Horn- Rotary Valve oil, Slide Grease

Trumpet- Valve Oil, Straight Mute

Trombone- Slide Oil, Slide Grease

Euphonium- Valve Oil, Slide Grease

Tuba- Valve Oil, Mouthpiece Pouch

**ALL WIND ENSEMBLE STUDENTS ARE REQUIRED TO PURCHASE A LYRE
FOR THEIR INSTRUMENT**

This will be used for the Marching Band Night and ES School recruitment events

All of these accessories allow instruments to function at their highest possible level.

**STUDENTS BORROWING SCHOOL OWNED INSTRUMENTS ARE REQUIRED
TO OBTAIN THESE ACCESSORIES**

Instrument Security and Instrument Identification:

Students are responsible for bringing their instrument home **EVERY DAY** to allow home practice and ensure it's safety.

It is **REQUIRED** that an identification tag be placed on every instrument case (including percussion bags).

Please write the following on the identification tag:

Student's Name
OMMS
Instrument
Phone Number
Email Address

Instrument Storage:

Instrument storage is determined by type of instrument.

The following instruments will be stored inside of the **band room** on their designated shelves:

Flutes
Oboes
Clarinets
Alto Saxophones
Trumpets

The following instruments will be stored in the **large instrument storage** room in their designated spots:

Bass Clarinets
Tenor Saxophones
Baritone Saxophones
French Horns
Trombones
Euphoniums
Tubas

Students who do not play any of the instruments listed above are **not** permitted in the large instrument storage room during Concert Band or Wind Ensemble.

Daily Required Materials:

The following materials are required for all daily rehearsals and sectionals:

Instrument with required accessories and identification tag
(this includes a working instrument with a working reed and mouthpiece)

Metronome / Tuner Combo

Method Book

Music Folder with all music, warmups, and documents

OMMS Band Practice Sheet (can be placed in Music Folder)

Sharpened Pencil (a working mechanical pencil is fine)

(Your memory is only as good as the amount of lead on your pencil)

OMMS Student Planner

Band Uniform:

Each member of the band program is responsible for acquiring all of the necessary components of the OMMS Band Uniform. Concert Band and Wind Ensemble students will wear the following uniform for all of the performances in the 2016-2017 school year.

Oakland Mills Middle School Red Polo Shirt

(A second shirt is **NOT** permitted to be worn underneath)

Black pants or a long black skirt

(Skirt must go below the knees and)

(Jeans are **NOT** permitted for any performances)

Black Socks

(Nude Panty Hose or No Socks are **NOT** permitted)

Black Dress Shoes

(Open- Toed Shoes are **NOT** permitted)

An order form for the OMMS Band Polo Shirt is attached to this handbook

Private Lessons:

Private Lessons are highly encouraged! Howard County is home to many amazing professional musicians that teach private lessons.

Please see the attached list for details.

Musical Opportunities outside of OMMS:

Below is a list of some amazing musical opportunities that are available to OMMS Band Students:

Howard County Middle School Gifted and Talented Band (Requires an Audition)

Howard County Middle School Honors Band (Requires an Audition)

Howard County Solo and Ensemble Festival (Secondary)

Maryland All State Junior Band (Grades 7-9) (Requires an Audition)

Maryland State Solo and Ensemble Festival (Requires qualifying score at Howard County Solo and Ensemble Festival)

Please contact Mr. Green if you would like more information about any of these opportunities. It is highly recommended that you take private lessons or set up help sessions in preparation for any of these amazing opportunities.

Band Payment Information:

The policy for how payment will be accepted is explained below:

Checks and Money Orders will be the only form of payment accepted
NO CASH WILL BE ACCEPTED

All payments must be made out to **OMMS**
Please staple each payment to its necessary form

Checks will not be accepted if they do not adhere to the guidelines listed above

If you have any type of financial concern, please speak with Mr. Green prior to any due date. Financial concerns addressed on or after a due date will not be considered for financial assistance.

Saul_Green@hcpss.org

410-313-6937

Online Resource Tool:

Please use the following Wiki Space as an online resource for gathering important information. All paperwork that is distributed to OMMS Band Students will be posted on the Wiki Page. Study recordings as well as assessment and adjudication recordings will be posted on the Wiki Page as they become available. A **Canvas** page is in the process of being developed. Please stay tuned as more information becomes available.

<https://OaklandMillsMSBand.wikispaces.com>

OMMS Music Department:

The Oakland Mills Middle School Music Department is holding a “Back to Music Night” on Thursday, September 8th at 6:30pm in the OMMS Cafeteria.

An introduction and overview of the OMMS Music Department will be given. In addition, leadership positions will be voted upon for parents who wish to donate their time and expertise to the OMMS Music Department. If you are unable to attend the meeting but wish to volunteer for a specified position, please email your interest to Mr. Green before the meeting time: Saul.Green@hcpss.org

Howard County Parents for School Music:

In addition, Howard County has a parent run organization that supports the music programs across our county. The **Howard County Parents for School Music** (HCPSM) is an advocacy group whose members are parents with children involved in public school music programs. The primary goal of HCPSM’s activities is to raise awareness among the decision makers and the community as a whole so that our schools’ music programs have the support they need to maintain quality programming. If you want to know more about HCPSM, please visit their website:

<https://sites.google.com/site/hcparents4schoolmusic/about-hcpsm>

Mandatory Dates for Band Students:

Concert Band

Winter Concert

Wednesday, December 14th

Call Time: **5:45 PM**

Performance: 6:30 PM

Oakland Mills **HIGH SCHOOL**

After-School Rehearsal

Thursday, March 16th

2:45-5:00 PM

OMMS Band Room

Howard County MS Band Adjudication

Thursday, March 30th or

Friday, March 31st

Approximately 3:00PM- 9:30PM

Atholton High School

Spring Concert

Tuesday, May 23rd

Call Time: **5:45 PM**

Performance: 6:30 PM

Oakland Mills **HIGH SCHOOL**

Wind Ensemble

MS Marching Band Night Rehearsal

Wednesday, October 5th

6:00-8:30 PM

Oakland Mills **HIGH SCHOOL**

MS Marching Band Night Performance

Friday, October 7th

6:00-7:45 PM

Oakland Mills **HIGH SCHOOL**

Recruitment Performance # 1

Friday, October 28th

Field Trip in the AM

Stevens Forest ES

After-School Rehearsal # 1

Tuesday, December 6th

2:45-5:00 PM

OMMS Band Room

Winter Concert

Wednesday, December 14th

Call Time: **5:45 PM**

Performance: 6:30 PM

Oakland Mills **HIGH SCHOOL**

Recruitment Performance # 2

Wednesday, December 21nd

8:00-10:45 AM

Talbott Spring ES

After-School Rehearsal # 2

Tuesday, March 7th

2:45-5:00 PM

OMMS Band Room

Wind Ensemble CONT.

After-School Rehearsal # 3

Wednesday, March 15th

2:45-5:00 PM

OMMS Band Room

Howard County MS Band Assessment

Thursday, March 23rd **or**

Friday, March 24th

Approximately 3:00PM- 9:30PM

River Hill High School

Music in the Parks

Adjudication / Field Trip

Friday, May 12th

Approximately 5:00 AM- 10:00PM

Kings Dominion

Spring Concert

Tuesday, May 23rd

Call Time: **5:45 PM**

Performance: 6:30 PM

Oakland Mills **HIGH SCHOOL**

All of the following items must be completely filled out and all of the materials must be in class with the student by:

Tuesday, September 6th

Commitment Form (Blue)

Method Books

All Bands- *Foundations for Superior Performance* (\$6.95)

Plus

Concert Band- *Hal Leonard Intermediate Band Method* (\$5.95)

Wind Ensemble- *Band Technique Step by Step* (\$4.95)

Metronome Tuner/ Combo

Korg TM-50 Tuner Metronome Combo (\$29.99)

Identification Tag attached to Instrument Case/ Percussion Stick Bag

Required Instrument Accessories

(This includes LYRES for Wind Ensemble Students)

Parent Volunteer Interest Sheet (Yellow)

Places to purchase all of the required materials:

These music stores have this information and are stocked with all of the materials

Mike's Music 4872 Montgomery Rd, Ellicott City, MD 21043 (410) 465-0700	Amazon www.amazon.com	Music and Arts 11200 Scaggsville Rd, Laurel, MD 20723 (240) 568-0600
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