

**TUMWATER MIDDLE SCHOOL
2019-2020
BAND HANDBOOK**



James Harper

Director

james.harper@tumwater.k12.wa.us

360.709.7542

<http://tms.tumwater.k12.wa.us//Domain/1120>

Welcome

This handbook was created to provide you with some information about the TMS band program. When you have finished reviewing the handbook, copy the schedule of events onto the family calendar. Finally, fill out the last page and return it within one week. **Keep the rest of this document; you will need to refer to it throughout the year.**

Please read the entire handbook carefully. It will take you less than fifteen minutes to read it, and can provide you with critical information about the year. This handbook is not intended to be a list of “do”s and “don’t”s, but a clear outline of information and expectations so that you can have a successful and enjoyable experience in band.

Classroom Expectations

1. Come to rehearsal on time (in your seat, instrument out, ready to play); **downbeat is 2 minutes after the scheduled start of class.** Tardiness will not be accepted.
2. Be prepared - have instrument in good condition, music and **pencil** on stand.
3. Cases and backpacks need to be stored on the **edges** of the hallway or in lockers.
5. Save your conversations for another time. We are here to learn, not to socialize.
6. Always give your best effort.
7. Enjoy food, drinks, and gum **OUTSIDE** the music area (water bottles are acceptable).

Concert Expectations

1. **Be on time (AKA, early).**
2. Have pride in your appearance; it is important to look professional. Feel free to express your individuality during the normal school day, but do not show up to a concert with wild clothes, hair, or anything else that would otherwise distract from our performance.
3. Make sure you have all equipment needed for a successful performance.
4. Maintain silence and listen attentively while a member of the audience.
5. Stay for the entire program.
6. Help clean up/return equipment after the performance.

Instructional Goals and Objectives

Through participation in the TMS band program, students will work to learn key musical concepts and objectives to meet certain building, district, and state achievement goals. These key concepts include:

Musical Pitch – Learning to hear and play musical pitches accurately, reading notes on all staves, key signatures, sharps, flats, naturals, enharmonic tones, alternate fingerings, scales, understanding the use of proper posture, hand position, embouchure formation, and intonation and tuning in ensemble performance.

Musical Rhythm – Learning to read, write, count, clap, and play musical rhythms in simple and compound meters, reviewing and working with meter signatures, tempos, subdivision, and the basics of keeping accurate time.

Instrumental Technique – Learning and using proper hand position, proper breath support and breath control, fingerings, alternate fingerings, stickings, shifting, and positions appropriate for skill level; learning and practicing the Circle of Fifths, major and minor scales, thirds, arpeggios, and chromatic scales.

Music Theory – Learning and using new musical vocabulary, scale and chord construction, composition styles and forms, and various musical symbols and foreign language terminology.

Musical Interpretation and Appreciation – Learning through study and performance about different musical styles, historical perspectives, musical phrasing, and self expression in music.

Musical Performance – Understanding and practicing appropriate rehearsal techniques, study skills, practicing strategies; Practicing appropriate stage presence and behavior through self-discipline, respect for self and others, and pride in performance; Understanding of group effort and successful concert preparation and performance – i.e. the responsibility of planning ahead, being on time, dressed formally and appropriately, having music well-prepared, focus and concentration both on and off the stage, and the participation in stage crews and public announcing.

Private Lessons

Private instruction makes a **profoundly positive** impact on the individual student and the entire band program. Mr. Harper will assist you if you need help selecting a private instructor. The key to success is starting as soon as possible . . . SO START NOW! **See page 7** for a list of private teachers.

Grading

The grading system is outlined below. Grading in the TMS band program is based on your successful completion of assignments, tests, and active participation in rehearsals and performances. Simply be on time, do the work, and you will earn a good grade.

If you have questions about your grade at any time, please ask. If you are struggling with something, ask for help. Please don't wait to ask for help until it may be too late to resolve your situation.

40% - Attendance and participation in band performances: This portion of your grade is influenced primarily by your punctuality, proper attire, and positive contributions to the performance.

Performances - On time and properly dressed with all necessary equipment = 100% "A."

- Late = 75% "C" - Don't let this happen to you, be early.
- Lack of proper equipment (music, instrument, etc.) or uniform unacceptable = 50% "F"

All performances for your ensemble are mandatory and it is EXTREMELY important that everyone attends – your classmates are counting on you to be there!!! Plan ahead and always double-check that you have everything you need. All performance dates are listed on Page 6 of this handbook.

In the event that someone is sent home early from a performance for disciplinary reasons, the individual(s) concerned will earn a zero for that event.

Performances can only be excused for serious illness and family emergencies. Lack of transportation or proper attire are not valid excuses for missing a performance - plan ahead! **If you must miss a performance, there must be written notice signed by a parent at least two weeks in advance.** If you fail to provide this notice you will receive an “F” (0%) for that performance. **Please check your calendars in advance, because I will be very strict.**

If you provide written notice at least two weeks in advance, your excuse will be considered, and you *may* be excused from that performance. You will not receive points for being there, but those points will not be included in your total possible points for the quarter. This will make the rest of your performances and assignments count for a greater percentage of your grade, so plan ahead.

Emergencies will be considered on a case-by-case basis. If you are sick, make sure you bring a note. In any event, **I must receive a telephone call or voice message before the beginning of the performance.** Sickness will not be excused without a phone call. My voicemail is available 24 hours a day at 709-7542.

30% - Tests/Quizzes: Playing tests will be administered every 2-3 weeks. Playing tests are worth varying amounts of points and will evaluate your playing in areas such as: Tone, Posture, Rhythm, Pulse, Pitch, Articulations, Appropriate Speed. **A score which results in a “C” or lower will be considered “under standard” and will result in a required retest.** Students may retest as many times as needed to earn a satisfactory grade up to two weeks after the initial test. If you are absent, it is your responsibility to make the test up outside of class within one week of your return to school.

20% - Daily Rehearsal: Students can earn a total of ten (10) points per class period. Six of these points come from students showing up to class prepared with their instrument, music, pencil and other necessary materials and the remaining four points are earned through engaged participation/positive contribution to the ensemble. Points may be deducted from a student’s daily total for coming to class unprepared or lack of appropriate participation.

10% - Band Journal/Other Assignments: Students will be required to respond to on writing prompt every 1-2 weeks on various topics relating to band/music. Prompts are to be answered fully and thoughtfully if the student wishes to receive full credit. Band journals are due on Friday of the week in which they are assigned - there are no exceptions unless communicated by Mr. Harper in advance.

Students will also be required to complete various other written assignments throughout the year, which will be counted towards their total assignment grade.

Music

The band program will provide sheet music for students to play throughout the year. You are responsible for keeping track of and caring for your music. All students will be issued a music folder - you must store your music in this to keep it in good condition! Students in 6th Grade Band need a copy of "Sound Innovations, Book 1", Concert Band need a copy of "Sound Innovations, Book 2" and those in Symphonic Band need a copy of "Sound Innovations: Ensemble Development". 6th Grade and Concert bands will advance to the next level method book within the year, so it would be wise to purchase both. You may purchase these at any local music store or online. **It is your responsibility to bring it to class each day, and replace it if necessary.**

Performance Attire

Each student is responsible for being in the proper attire for each performance. You are a representative of our school and of our community every time you appear in public. Make sure your appearance and behavior reflect that responsibility.

TMS performance attire for all students is white button down dress shirt/blouse, black dress slacks, and black shoes/socks. **You must be wearing the proper attire to perform and receive credit.** If purchasing concert attire presents a financial hardship, please see Mr. Harper privately during the first month of school.

Use of School Instruments

Some members of the band will need to rent school instruments because these instruments are not available to rent from music stores or because they are prohibitively expensive. The cost of using a school instrument is \$20 per semester (\$40 per year). This fee will help to offset the cost of repairs for equipment. A rental contract must also be filled out. Percussion students should reference the required materials list provided in the TMS Band Handbook Percussion Supplement.

The school does not provide oil, grease, swabs, or other supplies necessary for the maintenance of the instruments. These can be purchased at any music store. Those students utilizing multiple school instruments will only be assessed the \$20 fee once per semester.

Lockers

Lockers appropriate to your instrument's size will be provided. However, you must provide your own combination lock (no key locks). You will need to provide Mr. Harper a note with your lock combo and locker number **within the first full week of school**. Make sure that your instrument and music are properly put away **and locked** before you leave class. Please note that TMS is not responsible for anything left in these lockers, and they should never be used to store other valuable items. Returning students will be assigned the same locker unless they request a different one. Lockers in the band room are not private and can be opened at any time to search for music, instruments, or anything else.

Call Me / Ask Questions

Please feel free to ask questions. I am here to help you, and want to get to know each of you. Feel free to stop by after school and chat. Please call me or send me an e-mail if any of the above information is unclear. My school phone number is **709-7542** (or call the front desk and ask for the band room). My e-mail is james.harper@tumwater.k12.wa.us.

The last page should be removed from the handbook.

2019 - 2020 TMS Bands Performance Schedule

Date	Event	Location	Ensemble
October TBD	BHHS Home Football Pep Band	TSD Stadium	Symphonic
October 24 th	TMS Fall Band Concert	TMS	All Bands
November 8 th	Veterans' Day Assembly	TMS	Symphonic
November 15 th	Seattle Symphony Trip	Seattle, WA	Optional
November 23 rd	Capital City Jazz Festival	WCPA	Jazz Band
December 10 th	TMS Winter Band Concert	TMS	All Bands
February 11 th	CMEA Jazz Festival	BHHS	Jazz Band
February 15 th	WMEA Junior All-State Band	Yakima, WA	Optional
February 25 th	Northend Band Festival	BHHS	All Bands
March 19 th	TMS Arts Gala	TMS	Concert/Symphonic
March 21 st	MS Solo & Ensemble Festival	Griffin	Concert/Symphonic
April 2 nd	TSD Jazz Night	THS	Jazz Band
April TBD	Swing Dance	TBD	Jazz Band
April 16 th or 17 th	MS Large Group Band Festival	SPSCC	Concert/Symphonic
May 15 th or 16 th	CWU Jazz Festival	CWU	Jazz Band
June 9 th	TMS Spring Band Concert	TMS	All Bands

*Please note the location for each performance and check to make sure your ensemble is performing.. Concert start times are 7:00 PM unless otherwise specified

If other performances are added, I will give as much advance notice as possible. Please understand that the dates listed above should be **immediately placed on your family calendar.

Private Teachers in the Olympia/Tacoma Area

This list represents the teachers that I am aware of in our area right now. I want to keep this list current, so please let me know of additional teachers. If you find that the telephone numbers listed no longer work, please notify me so I can remove them. This list is not an endorsement; it is simply some information to get you started. Local music stores may be able to help you find additional names and numbers.

Flute	Daniel Buscher	360-550-8344	Richard Lince	360-943-3588
	Laura Dickinson	360-459-7919	Leland Huff	360-786-5290
	Ninee Petchprapa Wolff	360-584-3251		
	Shawn Meloy	360-878-3566		
Clarinet	Ashley Cook	360-338-1155	Tracy Knoop	253-627-7355
	Tom Dickinson	360-459-7919		
	Aaron Wolff	360-878-0764		
	Shawn Meloy	360-878-3566		
Oboe	Laura Harper	206-406-0822		
	Karen Beretz	360-943-9592		
	Karen Gheorgiu	360-754-1225		
	Shawn Meloy	360-878-3566		
Bassoon	Lantz Beretz	360-943-9592		
	Anna Garrett	360-754-4861		
Saxophone	Aaron Wolff	360-878-0764		
	Shawn Meloy	360-878-3566		
	Brad Schrandt	360-259-8331		
	Tracy Knoop	253-627-7355		
Trumpet	Greg Allison	360-352-1438	Tracy Hooker	360-236-7866
	Ben McDonald	360-956-0411	Jerry Huff	360-280-7716
	Tom Mettler	360-705-2359		
	Keith Holder	360-753-5747		
Horn	Emma Richart	360-486-4543		
	Liz Ward	253-845-6044		
	Kristin Woodward	425-435-0012		
Low Brass	Ryan Wagner	253-640-2141	Michael Giuliani	610-764-6126
	Richard Lopez	360-956-1655		
	Richard Pasko	360-273-3723		
	Tiffany Anderson	360-412-8079		
Percussion	Darlene Jones	360-705-8528		
	Cary Gansberg	360-352-5166		
	Dan Adams	206-545-3770		
	Maria Joyner	360-402-0089		
	Keith Mitchell	360-956-2995		

Local Music Stores

Music 6000

3738 Pacific Ave. S.E.
Olympia, WA 98501
(360)786-6000

Ted Brown Music

6228 Tacoma Mall Blvd.
Tacoma, WA 98409
(800) 562-8938

Music & Arts - Lacey

4017 8th Ave SE
Lacey, WA 98503
(360) 456-4200

Yenney Music

2703 Capital Mall Dr. SW
Olympia, WA
(360) 943-7500

Music Websites

The following are online resources for purchasing sheet music, method books, instruments, instrument accessories, and other supplies you will need, as well as resources for learning music theory, etc. These and more can also be found under the “links” section of the band website.

www.jwpepper.com – Sheet music supply store

www.wwbw.com – Woodwind & Brasswind, wind instruments and accessories

www.musicarts.com – Music & Arts, wind/percussion instruments and accessories

www.steveweissmusic.com – Percussion instruments, sticks/mallets and other accessories

www.musictheory.net - Online music theory lessons and exercises

www.metronomeonline.com - Web-based metronome

www.alexdemartos.es/wtuner - Web-based tuner (requires microphone)

wfg.woodwind.org - Online finger/trill charts for all woodwind instruments

Also check out these apps: Tempo, Cleartune, Tonal Energy, Tunable, insTuner Free, iReal Pro

Return This Page

I have read the preceding material carefully, and understand the policies of the Tumwater Middle School Band. **We have noted the performance dates on the family calendar.**

_____ (student signature)

I have also read the band handbook, and understand that my student will be held accountable for the information that it contains. I also release the school to seek emergency medical attention for my student in the event of an accident or other medical emergency. I understand that I am responsible for any costs of medical attention unless I have a school issued insurance policy.

_____ (parent signature)

