

**Band is all subjects, including life, rolled into one! Students will learn through a dual curriculum: what we learn as an ensemble (full band), and what we learn as an individual (lessons). Besides learning to play an instrument and appreciate music, students will also come away with life skills that will help them be more successful now and in the future. Playing an instrument is also one of the most comprehensive brain activities, which means it is a great “work-out” for the mind!**

## **Everything You Need to Know About Franklin Band**



### **If you do these 5 things you will be successful in band at Franklin:**

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1. Try.
2. Take care of all equipment. Treat musical equipment like it is fragile and expensive. Because it is!
3. Show up with all the materials you need. If you lose your book, you need to get a new one! If your reed breaks, you need to get a new one! If you need help; ASK!
4. Show up to concerts. No excuses, no exceptions, just show up!
5. Show up to lessons. Learn the songs you need to learn for your lessons.



## Concerts! The BEST part of band!

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◆ Concerts are a required portion of being in band. There are three required concerts for all three grades: **November 15, February 27** and **May 25**. The 6<sup>th</sup> graders have an additional required concert on **October 10** and the 8<sup>th</sup> graders have Adventureland on **Saturday, May 6**. Please mark these dates on your family calendar! The full band calendar is also printed in this packet.

Concerts are what we spend months preparing for and your classmates are relying on you to be there. Concerts are less than one hour in length and students are expected to stay for the entire concert unless there is a special circumstance that has been discussed with Mrs. Davies or Mrs. Shanley in advance.

◆ If there is a situation out of our control, such as a funeral or you are home from school sick that day, please e-mail Mrs. Davies or Mrs. Shanley before the concert. If we do not know why you are gone, we think you just didn't show up and a zero will show in the gradebook.

◆ **WHAT TO WEAR TO A BAND CONCERT:** For all concerts (unless otherwise instructed), students should wear their *best* set of clothes. *Please: no jeans, no sweatpants/ warm-ups, and no revealing clothing (shorts or skirts should be knee-length when sitting).* Wearing appropriate clothing is part of the concert grade. If you cannot afford appropriate concert attire, please speak with Mrs. Davies or Mrs. Shanley in private and appropriate clothing will be provided.



## Grades

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- ◆ Band should be an "easy 'A'!" Grades are based on these three criteria:
1. **LESSONS.** Students are assigned approximately 10-12 exercises from their lesson book that will go towards their grade each quarter. 6<sup>th</sup> grade lesson grades include a weekly practice sheet.
  2. **CONCERTS.** Band requires participation outside the school day for our concerts. Each concert is worth 50 points.
  3. **CLASSROOM PARTICIPATION.** This includes bringing all needed materials (instrument, music, and pencil) and conducting yourself in a respectful and cooperative manner throughout rehearsal. Full classroom participation is worth 50 points.



## Lessons

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- ◆ You will be pulled out of class once per week for a 15- minute lesson with Mrs. Davies, Mrs. Shanley, or Mr. Wacker.
- ◆ You may opt-out of these school lessons if you are taking private lessons outside of the school day (opt-out form is attached).
- ◆ If there is a certain class you would like to avoid being pulled out of for lessons, please fill out the attached lesson preference form and I will do my very best to make those accommodations. The lesson time preference sheet is **due Friday, September 2** by the end of the school day.
- ◆ Below is a chart of where students *should* be in the lesson book. However, lessons will be tailored to each student. **8<sup>th</sup> Grade Parents: You will notice that 8<sup>th</sup> graders MUST have a blue book this year. Those can be purchased at West Music or Griggs Music or on Amazon.**

	<b>Quarter 1</b>	<b>Quarter 2</b>	<b>Quarter 3</b>	<b>Quarter 4</b>
<b>6th</b>	to #32	to #55	to #73	to #89
<b>7th</b>	to #111	to #126	to #138	Finish red book!
<b>8th</b>	Blue book to #24	to #41	to #56	to #103



## Make-up Lessons

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- ◆ If you miss a lesson and you still have exercises from your lesson book to complete, you will need to make it up! **Here are the easiest ways to make up a missed lesson:**
  1. Period 8. You **MUST** get your planner stamped by Mrs. Davies or Mrs. Shanley. You may not drop in.
  2. Drop in to make up your lesson any day **after school except for Friday**. You may also speak to Mrs. Davies or Mrs. Shanley ***in person*** to schedule a special time.



## Ways to Earn Extra Points in Band:

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1. Turn in a "Century Card" which means 100 minutes of practice in one week! This form can be found on the class web-site or in the band room. (*Maximum of two per quarter.*)
2. Attend a band/symphony orchestra concert and turn in the concert program and the brief Concert attendance instructions and questionnaire found on the class website or in the band room. (*Maximum of two per quarter.*)
3. Participate in Jazz Band I, Jazz Band Too, and/or Illumination Band (*10 points each quarter for each ensemble, must display good attendance to receive credit.*)
4. Perform outside of school (such as at church or at a nursing home). This form can be found on the class web-site or in the band room. (*Maximum of two per quarter.*)
5. Participate in an optional band activity including: the Washington Band Festival on January 26, All City Music Contest on April 1, any of the honor bands, etc.



## Homework (Practicing)

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◆ In Band, your only homework is practicing. You are expected to come to your lessons prepared to play your assigned songs. Even during busy weeks, you should never come to a lesson without having looked at your assignment at all!

### Here are some helpful suggestions for practicing:

- ♪ Start out by playing each song THREE times. The first time through might be a disaster! Stop as much as you need to, but plow your way through. Second time will make a little more sense. Third time will be much easier.
- ♪ Concentrate on **quality** more than **quantity**. You don't need to set a timer!
- ♪ Make it a routine. For example, you could play every night while dinner is being prepared or before your favorite TV show!
- ♪ Practice with a friend or a group of friends! Every band instrument can practice together as long as you have your own lesson book.
- ♪ If your book came with a CD, play along with it!
- ♪ Set a goal for yourself. "Today I would like to practice for \_\_\_ minutes," or "today I would like to perfect \_\_\_ songs."
- ♪ Encourage yourself as you go and praise yourself when you do something well!
- ♪ Reward yourself after you practice. This could be playing a video game or watching a TV show when you are done.
- ♪ If you start to get frustrated, take a break! But remember, there is a difference between taking a break and quitting!

♪ Parents: Even if you know nothing about music, you are the most important factor in your child's success in music. Just being supportive and expressing an interest by asking to hear them play something for you will do wonders for their motivation.



## **Band Web-Site & Canvas Page**

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Please feel free to access the Band class link found on the Franklin web-site. On the website and on our Canvas page you will find:

- ♪ All forms needed for the year (should you happen to misplace it after it is handed out!)
- ♪ Important dates!
- ♪ This handbook which can answer your questions regarding grading and expectations
- ♪ Links to websites with music theory drills and games, list of great music apps
- ♪ Lesson schedules
- ♪ Solo/Ensemble Contest schedule (usually completed 1-2 weeks before contest)
- ♪ Calendar for the year
- ♪ Information about your band teachers

\* **Copies of everything can also be found in the band room!**



## **Questions or Concerns**

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◆ If after giving it your best try you decide that band is not for you, you may drop the class at the end of any quarter. Out of courtesy for our counselors, teachers, and other students you may not drop band in the middle of a semester. The deadlines for dropping band are as follows: **August 26 and January 13**. Because of our grading/ scheduling/ attendance program, **THESE DATES ARE NOT FLEXIBLE**. Please email Mrs. Davies or Mrs. Shanley and Ms. Jacobo.

◆ Mrs. Davies and Mrs. Shanley are always willing to answer your questions and/ or concerns about anything regarding Band.

Mrs. Davies: e-mail, [bdavies@cr.k12.ia.us](mailto:bdavies@cr.k12.ia.us) or phone, 319-558-4126

Mrs. Shanley: e-mail, [vshanley@cr.k12.ia.us](mailto:vshanley@cr.k12.ia.us) or phone, 319-558-3272

# Franklin Band Handbook Quiz

Quiz Time!! Yes, this is graded. All answers are found in the handbook.  
Students, please answer the following questions:

List the two easiest ways to make up a band lesson:

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_

When are the required concerts for the year?

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. (6<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> only:) \_\_\_\_\_

Where can you find extra copies of anything you need for Band (2 locations!)?

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_

Where should you be in your lesson book by the end of this first quarter?

\_\_\_\_\_

What should you wear to a band concert?

\_\_\_\_\_

What is NOT okay to wear to a band concert?

\_\_\_\_\_

***\*Turn over for lesson time request and contract!***

# Lesson Time Request Form

Your name \_\_\_\_\_

Please help us schedule your lesson at a good time for you. Remember that we cannot pull you out of an Exploratory class (P.E., Art, Wellness, Computers Skills, and Engineering Technology) or PARRT/EL (period 8). There are some lesson times available during Band. I will try my very best to be accommodating!

The <b>BEST</b> time for me to do my band lesson is period (please circle):						
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
My <b>SECOND CHOICE</b> for band lessons is period (please circle):						
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
The <b>WORST</b> time for me to do my band lesson is period (please circle):						
1	2	3	4	5	6	7

*If you are an Extended Opportunity student or have any other concerns or comments regarding lesson scheduling, please put that here:*

## Franklin Band Contract

We have read through the expectations for the Franklin Band program and understand the attendance policy, the grading criteria, and how to reach Mrs. Davies or Mrs. Shanley with questions. **We have posted the calendar for the year and/ or recorded it on our family calendar** and we are looking forward to a fun and rewarding year in band!

This contract is **due to Mrs. Davies or Mrs. Shanley Friday, September 2** by the end of the day. It is worth 20 points. If it is not turned in by September 2, it will be marked as a missing assignment and you will lose 1 point for each day it is late so be prompt!

Student Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent e-mail address \_\_\_\_\_

# PRIVATE BAND LESSONS

Dear Franklin Band Parents,

Many Franklin Band students take private lessons outside of the school day from a teacher who specializes in teaching their particular instrument. Private lessons are an outstanding way for your son or daughter to become fine musicians. A list of private lesson teachers is also on the back of this sheet.

This year again we are giving students the option of using these private lessons toward their band letter grade rather than taking lessons here at Franklin during the school day. This means students should be getting in **at least 7 lessons each trimester**. At the end of each trimester, a private lesson grade form must be completed and turned in to Mrs. Davies to receive credit. The grade form is passed out 2-3 weeks before the end of the quarter and can also be found on the Franklin Band web-site. If the grade form is not turned in: the first time will result in a drop of one letter grade, the second time will result in a drop of two letter grades, and a third time will result in a drop of three letter grades and the student will lose the privilege to opt out of school lessons. If you discontinue your lessons, you must let Mrs. Davies or Mrs. Shanley know immediately so you can be placed in a school lesson group.

Please complete and return the following permission form if your son or daughter will be taking advantage of this opportunity. **DUE DATE: FRIDAY, September 2.** It is important that I have this information by then so I can complete the lesson schedule. Should you decide later to take private lessons, this form can also be turned in at any time during the course of the school year.

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**Student Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

*My son or daughter will be taking private lessons this year. Please do not include him or her on the Franklin band lesson schedule.*

**Name of private lesson teacher:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Parent Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

# Every day in Band you will learn...

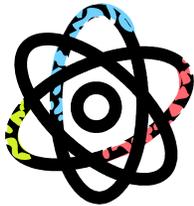


## Math

Music is rhythmically based on the subdivisions of time into fractions which must be done instantaneously, and not worked out on paper.

## To read and develop creativity

Music is read left to right, just like a book. Music teaches us to interpret meaning and to form lyrical, melodic thoughts. Music also helps us to commit what we learn to memory making learning more fun.



## Science

Music is exact, specific, and it demands exact acoustics. Your music is a chart, a graph which indicates frequencies, intensities, volume changes, melody, and harmony all at once and with the most exact control of time. Music develops insight and demands research.

## Foreign Languages

Most music terms are in Italian, German, or French; and the notation is certainly not English - but a highly developed kind of shorthand that uses symbols to represent ideas. The semantics of music is the most complete and universal language.



## History and Social Studies

Music usually reflects the environment and times of its creation. It may even depict a certain event in history. Music is also very unique from culture to culture often depicting a country and/or racial feeling.

## Physical Education

Music requires fantastic coordination of fingers, hands, arms, lips, cheeks, and facial muscles, in addition to extraordinary control of the diaphragm, back, stomach, and chest muscles, which respond instantly to the sound the ear hears and the mind interprets.



## Art

Music allows you to take all these dry, technically, difficult techniques and use them to create emotion. That is one thing science cannot duplicate: feeling, emotion and humanism. Music will instill in all of you discipline, dedication, positive self-esteem, and greatness.

