

Roberts Middle School Band Handbook 2015/2016



Welcome! You have made the excellent decision to be a part of the successful band program in the Cuyahoga Falls School District! Through the instrumental music program, you will be representing, not only yourself, but the band program, our school, and our community. Our goals for the year not only include achieving musical excellence, but striving consistently to do our personal best each day.

Course Description and Objective

Music education is a primary means by which an educational institution can transmit to students the cultural heritage of society. Music transcends barriers of ethnic background, economic status, language, and even literacy in its power to reach the depths of the human soul. Experiences with music develop a student's ability to make value judgments, to function logically as well as intuitively, and to utilize one's innate creativity. Participation in performance organizations encourages initiative and leadership in the students, stimulates goal-oriented thought processes, creates an appreciation and respect for the efforts of others, and assists students to develop a sense of responsibility to themselves, the organization, and in a broad sense, society. Few amateur musicians make music a career. However, the mental discipline and thought processes required in the study of music are applicable in all fields of endeavor.

General Objectives

- To develop musical experiences that enhances students' overall educational experiences.
- To provide a suitable background in music instruction for those students who elect to continue the study of music after graduation.
- To develop a life-long appreciation for music and continuation of musical activities.
- To develop performing organizations that are a source of pride for the individual, the school, and the community.

The bands at Roberts Middle School are divided by grade into three periods, making three middle school bands (6th, 7th, and 8th grade). In addition, 7th and 8th grade students may participate in our extracurricular Jazz Band. Students will perform a variety of musical selections in a number of performances, including our Winter Concert, the All-City Band Concert and the Spring Concert. In addition, 7th and 8th grade students will have the opportunity to participate in several adjudicated events that are sponsored by the Ohio Music Education Association. These opportunities will present us with feedback about our performance and present new challenges as we strive for excellence.

Expectations for Rehearsal

The proper attitude during rehearsal affects the value of that rehearsal!

- Be present and on time. You cannot reap the benefits of a rehearsal or rehearsal segment you miss. Don't make plans that involve leaving rehearsal early or arriving late. Often some of the most important teaching in a rehearsal happens at those times. Arrive early enough to be in place, with all necessary equipment and materials, BEFORE rehearsal starting time.
- Be actively and intently involved in the rehearsal. Just "going through the motions" during rehearsal is as bad as not being there. **Always be thinking about your performance.**
- **There is to be no unnecessary talking.** Your only focus should be the objectives the ensemble is trying to achieve during that rehearsal.
- **An instruction that has to be given twice robs the band of rehearsal time and focus.** Don't cheat us all because you are not paying attention.
- **Be cooperative.** Even if you don't understand the motivation for a rehearsal activity, have confidence that your director does and execute as you are asked.
- Disrespect towards directors, teachers, and students will never make the band more successful. **All students are expected to show the proper respect for their peers and teachers,** and avoid exhibiting disrespectful attitudes such as eye-rolling, pouting, talking back, being unsupportive of directors and teachers or in any way questioning any instruction or direction given.
- **Being negative in rehearsal is a sure way to lessen the effectiveness of that rehearsal.** If you say things like "this will never work" there will probably be people around you that either believe what you say or are at least influenced by your opinion, and in either case they (like you) will be less productive. If you are keeping someone else from achieving their objectives, the entire organization is losing ground. Never be an obstacle to the success of others.
- Members are expected to give their utmost efforts during rehearsals in the pursuit of excellence in performance. **Any less is an insult to your peers, your directors, and yourself.**
- **Offer encouragement to your peers, instead of criticism.** It takes a lot of pats on the back to erase the sting of a kick in the pants.
- You can't be effective in rehearsal if you are unprepared. Know all music/work that is due to be worked on in rehearsal. **It is your responsibility to catch up should you miss a rehearsal.** Have your materials organized - music, pencil, mutes, reeds - in order and readily available.
- Be certain your equipment is always in good working order.
- **Making music is meant to be fun.** Keeping a good attitude and being prepared for rehearsal will allow the group to have fun making music with each other. Those who do not do their part hold us back, restricting music that we might be able to encounter or new skills we can learn.

The Roberts Middle School Bands can only reach its highest level of success when each individual, each section, and each element are all at their highest possible effectiveness. It is the responsibility of each individual to do everything possible to reach that level and to do nothing that would keep themselves or others from reaching their goals.

When words leave off, music begins.

Heinrich Heine

Grading

Weekly Participation Grade – Each week, students will be given a grade for their class participation equal to five points for each school day that week (i.e. 25 pts most week, 20 pts in a 4-day week). Coming to class without required materials, disruption of class, and inappropriate classroom behavior are all grounds for losing these points.

Weekly Practicing Grade – Beginning the second week of school, all students are expected to practice for a minimum of 60 minutes per week. This represents a bare minimum of effort required to succeed in instrumental music. Students should be sure to practice beyond that 60 minutes if needed to be successful in their playing assignments.

Playing Assignments – At various times throughout the year, students will complete playing assessments based on songs or pieces we have worked on in class. These assessments may be recorded, or they may be based on solo performances for one of the directors. They will range from homework grades to quiz grades and will make up a substantial portion of the student's grade.

Written Assignments – Part of building total musicianship is understanding *music theory*, or how music is put together. Throughout the year, students will be given short written assignments including worksheets and short projects to assist with and demonstrate learning of the basics of music theory. These assignments will be worth between 10 and 50 points each.

Concert Grades – Successful performance at band concerts and other events depends on every student being present at every required event. Missing even a single student can have a significant impact on the band's sound. In order to provide the best learning opportunity possible for our students at concerts, students are required to attend. Concerts will be graded out of 50 points, with timely attendance, proper behavior, focus, performance and concert etiquette as parts of that grade.

Concert excuses are VERY RARE, and include only medical and family emergencies. Such excuses must be cleared with the directors BEFORE the concert in order to be considered. The full concert schedule for the year has been provided. Please mark your calendars today!

Student work on playing tests will be assessed using a rubric. Student performance on written work and concerts will be determined using a percentage. All grades will be entered into Progress Book using a percentage. The correlation between these two methods is shown above.

Music is a defining element of character.

~ Plato

Instrument Care

- **All instruments must be clearly labeled with the student's name.**
- School-owned instruments become the responsibility of the student to whom they are issued. **Any damage other than normal wear and tear will be repaired at the student's expense.**
- Privately owned instruments must always be maintained in top playing condition. Always show the director your instrument before taking it for repairs (some minor things directors can fix!).
- Remember that horseplay can cause damage to instruments and equipment. Be careful with your own instrument, place it out of harm's way if it is necessary for you to put it down, and **never play around with or play on anyone else's instrument.**
- All instruments and music are to be stored properly in the designated area. This includes **storing the instrument in its case and locking the latches** to prevent the instrument from falling out. This also includes covering the percussion instruments and putting all mallets and accessories into the proper place at the conclusion of rehearsal.
- Random locker checks will be done in order to guarantee instruments are put away correctly, and to remind those who are not properly caring for their instrument the importance of putting their instrument in a case.
- The care of the percussion equipment is the responsibility of the entire percussion section. All instruments are to be covered at the end of rehearsal and mallets and auxiliary percussion items are to be put away in the cabinet. **Only percussionists are permitted in the percussion area.**
- Students that own their instrument should be sure to have a copy of the instrument information at home. This includes the brand of the instrument, description of the case and serial number on the instrument.

Instrument Equipment Store: Beginning this year, the Band will be selling reeds as needed for students to purchase. The music department receives a discount for ordering in bulk through the company Fredwiener. The music department makes NO PROFIT from selling reeds; this is a service for convenience only, to ensure students are provided with the equipment they need to better themselves as a musician. It is not a requirement to purchase reeds from the band directors, you are still allowed and welcome to continue to purchase reeds on your own.

PRICE LIST:

BERP(BRASS PLAYERS)

\$15.00

CLARINET REEDS

\$2.00(INDIVIDUALLY)

\$18.00 (10 PER BOX)

BASSOON/OBOE REEDS

\$15 each

ALTO SAXOPHONE REEDS

\$2.00(INDIVIDUALLY)

\$20.00(10 PER BOX)

B.CLARINET&TENOR/BARI

SAXOPHONE REEDS

\$3.00(INDIVIDUALLY)

\$15.00(5 PER BOX)

*We accept cash or checks made payable to IMP

*Payment is expected in advance when placing an order for a box of reeds.

*Please try and have exact change when purchasing.

Uniforms

All students are required to wear their band uniforms for each performance. This includes Khaki/Tan slacks or **floor length** skirts, the Roberts Band Polo shirt, and tennis shoes or FLAT dress shoes. The cost of the shirt is about \$15.00. Students will be given an order form for the Band Polo within the first few weeks of school.

Required Materials:

Books

6th Grade: Traditions of Excellence, Book 1

7th Grade: Traditions of Excellence, Book 2

8th Grade: Traditions of Excellence, Book 3

Instrument Accessories

Reeds, Valve Oil, Mouthpieces, neck straps.

7th/8th Grade Percussion

Stick bag with yarn mallets, rubber plastic mallets, timpani mallets, drum sticks.

8th Graders

Chromatic tuner and metronome (Korg TM-50 recommended)

Other required materials

PENCILS!

Instrument Storage:

Storage rooms are provided near the band room for instruments. Students should leave their instruments in the storage rooms in the morning and pick them up for band class. Instruments MAY be left in the storage rooms overnight (they are safely locked) but are reminded that daily practice is the most important step to their musical development. An instrument that goes home is infinitely more likely to be practiced than an instrument that does not.

Private Lessons

Private lessons are key in developing a superior musical organization. Students who study their instruments privately with a professional show rapid improvement in individual musicianship. As these students improve, their excitement towards practicing increases, they continue to improve, and they become a stronger contributor to the overall success of the band. Private instruction has a great impact on the individual student and on our band program both this year and in the future. The key to satisfactory results from private instruction is to start as soon as possible ... SO START NOW.

The directors interview private lesson teachers and have a list of reliable teachers available upon request.

Band Room Practice Hours

It is understandable that some students do not have the ability to practice at home. Students are allowed and encouraged to come early to school and practice in the band room any school day morning from 7:15-7:55. Students who choose to come and practice in the morning must be practicing (not doing other school work) and must remain in the band room until the morning bell rings. Students are also allowed to stay after school on Mondays and Wednesdays until 4:00 p.m. to practice, and again, the student must be practicing and must remain in the band room until they choose to leave. Those who attend morning and afternoon practice times will not need to fill out a practice journal for that time.

IMP and Fundraising

Fundraising is a fact of life in our musical organization. All students and their families are **strongly encouraged** to participate in the fundraising activities. The monies raised from these events goes directly to funds for instrument repair, the purchase of new music and instruments, and entry fees for participation in Ohio Music Education Association events. Additionally, the IMP provides a monthly newsletter with information for all band students throughout the district, including details about upcoming performances and

The Instrumental Music Patrons (IMP) are the parent support group responsible for these activities. Parents are encouraged to attend the IMP meetings the third Tuesday of every month in the high school band room at 7:00 p.m. All parents of our band programs are invited to attend.

Roberts Band Event Calendar, 2014-2015

Sept 4 – Marching Band Night @ CFHS (8th Grade Only)

Sept 12 – Tag Day @ CFHS (8th Grade Only)

Dec 15 – ROBERTS WINTER CONCERT @ CFHS (**all students**)

January 20 – ALL CITY BAND CONCERT @ CFHS (**all students**)

March 17 – All City Percussion Concert @ CFHS (7th & 8th Grade Percussionists Only)

April 9 – OMEA Solo & Ensemble (Participating 7th & 8th Graders Only)

April 26 – ROBERTS SPRING CONCERT @ CFHS (**all students**)

May 13 OR 14 – OMEA Large Group Contest (8th Grade only, details TBA)

Contact Information

Director: Mr. Jim Lang
330-926-3809 x502441
cf_langj@cfalls.org
www.cfbands.com

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Roberts Middle School Band

Parent/Student Signature Page

We have received and reviewed the policies, guidelines, and calendar in the Roberts Middle School Band Handbook. I understand my obligations of attending required events for my grade. I fully agree to carry out my responsibilities to the best of my ability.

(student signature)

(date)

(parent signature)

(date)

Parent email address (please print legibly): _____

Parent phone number: _____

Preferred method of contact: (circle one) email _____ phone _____

Would you like to be included in an email reminder listserv for upcoming events/performances?
(circle one) yes no

I give permission for _____'s
photograph and name to potentially appear in press releases on our
Tiger Band website or Falls News Press and in band programs.

(parent signature)

(date)