



Nevin Platt Middle School 2009-2010 Band Handbook

Parents and Students,

I want to welcome everyone back to school! Last year was fantastic and I know everything is just going to keep getting better and better. We have a lot of exciting events already in the works. I look forward to working with every one of you.

Included in this handbook is information that will help you understand what will be expected of you as an active member of the various bands. Information is divided into the following sections:

- *Goals*
- *Expectations in the Classroom*
- *Discipline Procedure*
- *Care of Equipment and Music*
- *Grading*
- *Practice Card Due Dates*
- *Materials*
- *Concert Dress*
- *Concert Attendance*
- *Concert Dates*
- *Letter for Parents*
- *Contract – **PLEASE SIGN AND RETURN!***

If you have any questions, feel free to contact me at school at any point throughout the year.

Caleb Starbuck

720.561.6289

caleb.starbuck@bvsd.org

Goals

Students in band will:

- Learn to work as a member of a group
- Learn to or continue correctly playing their respective instrument
- Develop and improve musical techniques and skills
- Be exposed to a wide variety of musical styles

Expectations in the classroom

As a member of this group, you will be expected to:

- Treat others with respect
- Take care of music, folders, stands, and, above all, instruments (both school owned and privately owned) – See below for more information regarding care of equipment and music...
- Be an asset to the band
- Participate with enthusiasm in class and at performances

Consistent with expectations throughout Platt Middle School, students in the band program will be expected to adhere to the HOWL guidelines for behavior:

H onorable O rganized W illing L earners

Daily rehearsal guidelines

- Be in your seat and ready to tune as quickly as possible
- No food or drink is allowed in classroom (water bottles are acceptable)
- Adequate time will be given at end of class to pack up

Discipline Procedure

Generally, very few behavior problems occur in my classroom. However...

Consistent with the rest of Platt Middle School, the music department has moved to a Positive Behavior Support system of discipline and classroom management. In this system, students will have several opportunities to reflect upon and change their behavior. Their progression through these various levels/steps will be documented. Major offenses (as outlined in the school handbook) will result in an immediate office referral.

Care of Equipment and Music

- Students are responsible for having instruments repaired within a reasonable amount of time. All rehearsal time is vital! See Mr. Starbuck for details regarding local repair shops.
- Music will be checked out to each student and checked in again after use. Regarding **original** copies, fines may be assessed for torn pages, any non-erasable marks, folded, rolled, or stained music, and/or missing music. If students lose their photocopied parts, they will be responsible for making copies with their own money.
- Do not write or lean on music stands.
- Instruments need proper care. Students are expected to:
 - Clean instrument on a daily basis. You are responsible for all necessary swabs and/or brushes.
 - Avoid eating right before you play. Sugars and food particles accumulate in your instrument and contribute to sticky valves and stinky instruments! If eating right before you play is unavoidable, please do your best to clean out your mouth.
 - Keep instruments out of extreme heat or cold
 - Keep instruments in cases and in a safe place

Grading

Through the use of various assessments, students will be challenged to demonstrate growth and proficiency in musical knowledge and skills, thereby developing a thorough appreciation for the value of music as a curricular subject and art form. The integrity of the band music program will be enhanced with student grades that are based on valid and reliable assessments of learning. Evidence of success

from assessments will be the main resource to which I will formulate wise instructional decisions that stimulate further learning.

Summative and Formative Assessments		Preparation and Practice
90%		10%
Grades in this category reflect student <u>mastery</u> of course standards. Grades will be based on assessments such as:		Grades in this category reflect student <u>effort</u> in completing work. Grades will be based on assignments and activities such as:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Written Tests ▪ Performance Tests 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Class Projects ▪ Mini Assignments 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Practice Cards ▪ Completion Work

4 Point Scale	Standard Level Description
4	Advanced
3	Proficient
2	Partially Proficient
1	Not Proficient/Remediation Recommended
0	Reserved for incomplete work

BOULDER VALLEY MUSIC CONTENT STANDARDS:

- Standard 1: Students will sing, alone and/or with others, a varied repertoire of music.
- Standard 2: Students will perform on pitched and no-pitched classroom instruments, alone and/or with others, a varied repertoire of music.
- Standard 3: Students will create, improvise, and/or compose music.
- Standard 4: Students will read and notate music.
- Standard 5: Students will listen to, analyze, and describe music.
- Standard 6: Students will evaluate music and music performances.
- Standard 7: Students will understand relationships among music, the other arts, and disciplines outside the arts.
- Standard 8: Students will understand music in relation to history and culture.

It is my goal that feedback on scholastic progress of the music standards will be a continuous flow between teacher, student, and parent. The student and parent portals will be updated in the most accurate and efficient manner. I will do my best to articulate the goals of each project in the description of the assignment. I encourage timely and honest communication on any and all concerns dealing with assessment and student progress in my class. Students have the opportunity to retake all tests and quizzes and may correct and turn in all formative assignments for full credit up until the last week of each trimester.

Practice for instrumental music is equivalent to the homework given in other classes. Given that our classes are only 46 minutes long, the only way for students to make significant progress is through individual practice at home. Each student will be given a practice record that needs to be signed by a parent each week. Practice sheets will be turned in every third week. Set aside a regular practice schedule – preferably daily. The grading scale is as follows:

Grading Scale

- ≥100 **average** minutes per week: 4 (Advanced)
- 61-99 **average** minutes per week: 3 (Proficient)
- 31-60 **average** minutes per week: 2 (Partially Proficient)
- 0-30 **average** minutes per week: 1 (Developing Proficiency)

What to practice:
 Scales (Concert rhythm, arpeggios, major, minor, Scale Karate, in thirds...)
 Lip Slurs – BRASS!
 Long tones
 Articulation exercises
 Band Music – Including Jazz Band music!
 Standard of Excellence (Review from class and look ahead!)
 Sight-Reading
 Improvisation
 Honor Band Audition music
 Solos/Duets/Trios etc.
 Fun stuff (Beatles, movie music, pop tunes, etc.)

Practice Card grades fall under the Practice/Preparation category of assessments. Assessments in this category will amount to 10% of the final grade.

Practice Card Due Dates

Trimester One:

1. September 8, 9
2. September 28, 29
3. October 19, 20

Trimester Two:

1. November 9, 10
2. December 7, 8
3. January 11, 12
4. February 1, 2

Trimester Three:

1. February 22, 23
2. March 15, 16
3. April 12, 13
4. May 3, 4
5. May 24, 25

Materials needed at every class

Instrument – Students who forget their instrument and/or necessary equipment (mouthpieces, reeds, etc.) will be asked to take detailed notes concerning material covered in class and will receive reduced credit for their daily participation. Instruments must be functional!

Pencil – Keep several in your folder and/or case. We will be doing many activities that will necessitate a writing implement and you are encouraged to write (using light pencil marks) on your music.

Music – Students will be responsible for bringing their folder and music to every class period. Please refer to the Care of Equipment and Music for the sheet music policy.

6th Grade Students:

You are required to purchase *Standard of Excellence, Book 2* for your respective instrument. We will begin the year with *Standard of Excellence, Book 1* but transition to *Book 2*.

7th Grade Students:

You are required to have your own copy of *Standard of Excellence, Book 2* for you respective instrument. We will begin working out that book as soon as possible.

8th Grade Students:

You are required to purchase *Standard of Excellence, Book 3* for your respective instrument. We will begin the year reviewing *Standard of Excellence, Book 2* but transition to *Book 3*.

Music stores we have worked with...others are available. Check your yellow pages.

Flesher Hinton Music Co. 3936 Tennyson Ave., Denver	(303) 433-8891
H. B. Woodsongs 2920 Pearl St., Boulder	(303) 449-0516
Kolacny Music 1900 South Broadway Dr., Denver	(303) 722-6081
Lafayette Music 1280 Centaur Village Dr., Lafayette	(303) 661-9335
Music and Arts 7350-B West 88th Avenue, Westminster	(303) 427-0601
Robb's Music 2691 30th St, Boulder	(303) 443-8448
Rockley Music 8555 West Colfax Ave., Lakewood	(303) 233-4444
Travis Instrument Repair 1715 Pearl St # B	(303) 413-0054

Concert Dress

All school rules regarding appropriate attire will be in effect for all concerts. Administration will be present at each event and the dress code will be enforced.

Concert dress year will be a Platt Middle School Band t-shirt and blue jeans. Band t-shirts are \$5.00 each. If this is a financial difficulty for you, please come see me and I will take care of the fee for you.

Concert Attendance

The performance experience is a key element to the orchestra program, allowing us to share all that we learn and to experience the thrill and energy of a concert. It is essential that all band members be at each concert to facilitate a successful and balanced program. Therefore, attendance is required at all performances and dress rehearsals. Two weeks prior notice in writing from parents will be required should a conflict arise. Excused absences may include illness or family emergencies, but do NOT include babysitting, baseball games, work, studying, or lack of planning ahead. Excused absences are the student's responsibility to make up. The student will need to meet with Mr. Starbuck to plan appropriate measures to make up the missed work.

Additional Help

Mr. Starbuck will be available to give extra help after school. Individual conferences are also an option on a pre-scheduled basis.



Concert Dates for 2009-2010

Updated 11/09/2009

All events are in the NPMS Auditorium unless otherwise stated.

Please note grade level indicated for applicable events.

<u>DATE</u>	<u>EVENT/STUDENTS INVOLVED</u>	<u>TIME</u>
Friday, Sept/October (Date TBA)	Fairview Football Game "Open-house" (Open to interested 7th and 8th grade students)	evening
Wednesday, October 28	Fairview Marching Exhibition (8 band)	morning
Tuesday, December 8	Band Concert (6,7,8,C)	6:00 PM
Friday, December 18	Holiday Tour Performances (8 Band, 8/C Orchestra, 8 Choir)	all day
Thursday, February 18	Platt Café (Jazz Combo)	5:30 P.M.
Monday, Feb/March (Date TBA)	Choir, Band and Orchestra School Perf.	TBA
Thursday, March 18	Middle Level Concert Band Festival (at Fairview, classes TBD)	all day
Wednesday, April 7	Middle Level Jazz Band Festival (at Fairview, Jazz Bands)	all day
Tuesday, April 13	Jazz Band Concert (6,7,8,C)	6:00 PM
Thursday, April 22	Band - Small Ensemble Concert (6,7,8,C)	6:00 PM
Thursday, May 6	Elitch Gardens Music Festival (7,8, C)	all day
Tuesday, May 18	Band Concert (6,7,8,C)	6:00 PM
Thursday, May 27	8th Grade Graduation (8 Jazz Band & 8 Choir Performs) (Gym)	morning

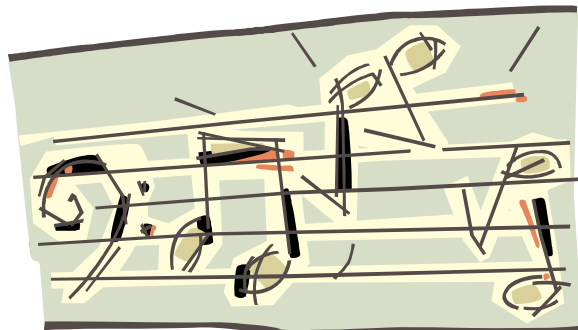
For Parents...

Boulder Valley has one of the finest band programs in the state. Every year, our students are selected for numerous honors and special programs. Opportunities for travel and college scholarships abound. Students in band not only learn how to express themselves in a creative way, they also learn about personal discipline and goal setting. They learn to be part of a group and build valuable social skills. Your child's success in band not only depends upon his or her dedication and commitment, but also on parent support. Here are some thoughts as we enter into this new school year:

- Show an interest in your child's musical study – despite the occasional “strange sounds”
- Establish a regular time for practice
- Find a quiet place for practice without interruptions
- Ask your child to demonstrate what they are working on
- Find a safe place to keep the instrument
- Be patient and give plenty of praise
- Be committed to your child's participation in band
- Teach your child to be on time to rehearsals and concerts
- Faithfully attend all musical activities.

I look forward to working with your child during what promises to be a phenomenal year. I encourage you to take an active role in his/her music education and academic progress. Please feel free to contact me at school should you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,
Caleb Starbuck
Band Director
Nevin Platt Middle School
Caleb.starbuck@bvsd.org
720.561.6289



In an effort to conserve paper,
the 2009-2010 band handbook is available online at:
<http://bvsd.org/schools/platt/performingarts/>

Please sign and return this sheet along with \$5.00 for the t-shirt no later than

August 28, 2009:

As a student and a member of the Nevin Platt Middle School Band, I have read these expectations and understand the rules, grading procedures, concert attendance, and other aspects pertaining to this class. I will assume the obligations and responsibilities and do my best to accomplish the objectives and follow the principles, rules, and regulations.

Name (Please Print)

Student Signature

Date

As **parent/guardian** of this child, I/we understand the rules and regulations which my/our child is expected to follow.

Name (Please Print)

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

Emails about upcoming band events will be sent to the address(es) below:

Parent/Guardian Email address

Additional Email address

Student T-Shirt Size:

(youth small, youth medium, youth large, small, medium, large, extra large)

I am interested in volunteering for the band program in the following capacity:

_____ Chaperoning on field trips

_____ Administrative help (compiling email lists, arranging T-shirt order, etc.)

_____ Recording / Videotaping band concerts

_____ Other: _____

