



Dodgen Middle School Band



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2020-2021 Band Handbook

Important Information for Every Band Student & Parent

Communication

In any large organization, communication is essential. Here are some of the ways we plan on communicating with you, and some ways you can communicate with us.

Band Website

Our first line of communication is the band website, www.DodgenBand.org. The site features several tools we use for communication, such as

- An always-up-to-date band calendar.
- Forms for all events. Most forms are online and do not need to be printed. Those requiring a physical signature will be available in printable format or sent home if possible.
- Sign-up information for parent volunteers.
- Sign-up information for Remind text messages.
- Details about upcoming and ongoing band events.
- Contact information for both directors.
- Photos, recordings and videos from band events.

Email

The primary way we send out information is through email. Parent email addresses for new band students are sourced from Cobb County School District records. Returning families should notify us of email changes.

CTLS

During online instruction, CTLS will be the primary mode of communication with students and parents.

Remind Text Messages

We use an opt-in text message system called Remind.com. You can register on the band website and you will receive “just-in-time” text message notifications, such as reminders that an event is coming up, or that something is due, etc.

PTSA E-Message

The Dodgen PTSA has an email they send out every week called the E-Message. This contains many school-wide announcements often including band announcements. You can sign up at www.dodgenptsa.org.

Best ways to get in touch with us

The most reliable way to get in touch with us is email. Our teaching schedule during online instruction does not allow for many opportunities to answer or use the phone from 12-4pm. If you really need to talk to one of us on the phone, you are welcome to call the school at 770-578-2728 or email us asking for a call back and the best number to reach you and when.

Band Uniform

The band uniform is worn at all performances unless some other attire is specifically requested. Please insure your child has all necessary items and that they still fit.

The Dodgen Band uniform consists of the following items:

- The official Dodgen Band polo shirt (order on PTSA Toolkit, details to be communicated ASAP)
- Solid black dress pants. **No jeans or athletic pants**, please.
- Black socks, long enough to completely cover the ankle when seated.
- Black dress shoes. No colorful logos or stripes.

Band Book

The Dodgen Band uses the Essential Elements series of band method books. Please purchase the book for your child's specific instrument as soon as possible as we will be working in them the 1st week of school. 6th graders will wait until the 3rd week of school to purchase once your child's instrument has been determined.

- 6th grade: Essential Elements for Band, Book 1
- 7th grade: Essential Elements for Band, Book 1. Book 2 will be required starting the 2nd 9 weeks.
- 8th grade: Continue with Essential Elements for Band, Book 2.

These books are readily available at local music retailers or for purchase online. If your child misplaces his or her band book, please acquire a new copy as soon as possible. The band book is required for regular class work, practice and playing test lines. Students who do not have their band book will quickly fall behind.

Instruments

Each student is required to have their band instrument daily, as well as all the parts and supplies that make it work. This could include a mouthpiece, reeds, valve oil, drumsticks, mallets, etc. Maintain your instrument to the best of your ability so that it does not require frequent adjustments or repairs. For woodwinds, the most important thing is to swab out your instrument frequently to prevent moisture buildup. For brass, it is important to keep the valves oiled or slide clean, and tuning slides greased. Brass also benefit from using a polishing cloth and an occasional thorough cleaning with lukewarm water.

If your instrument does have to go in for maintenance or repair, please email the band directors stating that it is out for repair and an anticipated return date. If there is no note, each class without the instrument will have a negative effect on the student's participation grade.

Band Lockers

Once we begin face-to-face instruction, students will be issued a band locker or storage location.

1. Keep only the band instrument (in the case), supplies, and band music in the locker
2. Always close the locker door. Open doors could hurt a student walking by.
3. Use only the lock we issue and keep the lock locked. Students are responsible for lost locks.
4. Use the locker with care to prevent damage to both the locker and your instrument.

Band Class Expectations

Class expectations for band embody the Dodgen Middle School theme of ROAR – Respect, Ownership, Acceptance, Readiness.

Digital Class Expectations

1. Prior to each scheduled session, check the CTLS class board and read announcements posted.
2. Have instrument assembled and materials ready at the beginning of each live digital session.
3. In order to provide appropriate feedback, have your camera on during live sessions if at all possible.
4. To respect student privacy; no screenshots, photos, or videos may be taken during live sessions.
5. Recommended camera angle is eye height with face and instrument in view.
6. If you have a question, use the hand raise button or message the director. Wait patiently.
7. Respect the right of others to learn by not engaging in visually or audibly distracting behaviors.
8. Follow all verbal or written instructions and put forth your best effort.
9. Take ownership. Practice as much as necessary to prepare all music and assignments on time.
10. Practice is necessary for optimal skill development. On average, 20 minutes per day is recommended.

Face-to-Face Class Expectations

Before School

Bring instrument and music folder to the band room and place it in your locker or appropriate storage area between 8:45 AM and 9:00 AM, or immediately if arriving late.

During Class

1. Enter class quietly and prepare for class quickly.
2. Follow posted instructions to get ready for class.
3. Except for emergencies, no questions during the first few minutes of class.
4. Respect the right of others to learn by not talking, playing out of turn, or engaging in other distractions.
5. Follow all verbal or written instructions and put forth your best effort.
6. Use all class time wisely and proactively study assigned music or skills quietly during any downtime.
7. At the end of rehearsal, take care in putting away instruments and straightening chairs and stands.
8. Common areas for percussionists and tubas must be maintained daily by all members in those sections.
9. Do not leave the room until you have been dismissed by the directors.

Outside of School

Take ownership. Practice as much as necessary to prepare all music and assignments on time.

Bring to Class Every Day

Instrument, music, band book, pencil, and all supplies needed to play your instrument (reeds, valve oil, sticks, mallets, etc.)

Grading Scale

- Participation - 50% (based on successful adherence to the class expectations)
- Performance Assessments - 35% (including Tone)
- Non-Performance Assignments - 15%

Behavior Guidelines

Our standards for musical excellence in the Dodgen Band are high. To ensure musical success, our behavior standards are high as well. Students are encouraged to follow the Class Expectations included in this handbook. If students follow these guidelines, they will enjoy a very productive, positive and fun year in Band. However, as with all of us, some days are more difficult than others to perform at our best. Therefore, we have a plan in place to help assist those in need of reminding and to help ensure continued progress not only for the individual student, but for the entire class. Off-task or disruptive behaviors will be treated in the following sequence:

Online Instruction

- Low intervention prompts (muting student, turning off video)
- Verbal reminders of class expectations
- Parent contact by email or phone
- “Detention” assignments to check for understanding of class expectations
- Administrative referral – only if all other interventions fail or if the infraction requires immediate referral based on school or county technology use policies

In-Person Instruction

- Low intervention prompts (eye contact, teacher proximity cues, etc.)
- Verbal reminders of the class expectations
- Parent contact by letter, email, or phone
- Alternate seating arrangements (if appropriate or possible)
- Morning Detention with Band Directors
- Administrative referral – only if all other interventions fail or if the infraction requires immediate referral based on school or county policies

Please do not be discouraged if your child needs assistance in improving his or her class conduct at any time during the year. School is a place to learn and enhance many skills including proper interaction with peers and adults in structured settings and best practices for managing class time efficiently and expediently.

The success of the Dodgen Band Program over the years is a direct result of a group culture based on productive rehearsal. When possible, we host social activities in recognition of these productive rehearsals.

At the end of each year, two students are recognized from each grade level for Outstanding Citizenship. The directors recognize those quietly leading by example who exhibit the positive behaviors that teachers try to instill in all students. By working together (students/parents/teachers), all band students will experience a positive and successful year!

Student Recognition Opportunities

Many of our Dodgen Band students are recognized throughout the year for outstanding achievement in instrumental music. The areas for recognition are outlined below.

GMEA Honor Band and All-State Band

Students have the opportunity to earn a seat in the GMEA District 12 Honor Band and the GMEA All-State Band through an audition process. The audition consists of performing 4 major scales as posted on www.GMEA.org plus the chromatic scale for the full range of the student's instrument, from memory. In addition to scales, students must successfully sight-read two musical passages written in contrasting styles. Students auditioning for the All-State Band must also prepare an etude for their specific instrument posted on www.GMEA.org. Students earning a spot in one or both of these groups will also earn a GMEA medal.

*Our state and district GMEA Organizations are currently working on scheduling and format for this year's Honor Band and All-State events. They are committed to providing some sort of event, even if it does not follow the typical format. We will communicate with families as we receive information.

The Dodgen Band Wall of Fame

Students earning a seat in the GMEA All-State Band, the highest honor a middle school band student can attain, will have a plaque on permanent display in the band room on the Dodgen Band Wall of Fame!

GMEA Solo & Ensemble Evaluation

This event will most likely not occur during the 2020-2021 school year. If it does, it will be during the Spring semester. We will communicate with families as we receive information.

End-of-Year Awards

Each year at our Spring Concerts, band students are recognized for outstanding achievement. The list below reflects the awards students can earn. One award is presented in each category for each grade level. Perfect attendance at all mandatory concert performances is one of the criteria for awards eligibility in this category.

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Outstanding Flute Student• Outstanding Clarinet Student
(includes clarinet and bass clarinet)• Outstanding Double Reed Student
(includes oboe and bassoon)• Outstanding Saxophone Student
(includes alto, tenor, and baritone sax)• Outstanding Trumpet Student• Outstanding French Horn Student• Outstanding Trombone Student• Outstanding Euphonium Student• Outstanding Tuba Student• Outstanding Percussion Student | <p>Recipients Chosen from the Full Band</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 2 Rising Star Band Students• 2 Most Outstanding Band Students• 2 Outstanding Citizenship Students |
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Morning Ensemble Program

Ensembles will not be able to meet during digital learning. Once face-to-face instruction resumes, the directors will share a registration form with details about schedule and ensembles offered at that time.

In a typical school setting, Dodgen Band Ensembles are extracurricular groups that meet once a week before school providing additional instructional and performance opportunities. An ensemble is a fun and satisfying way to get in some extra practice and instruction on your specific instrument! Our ensembles have performed at such diverse venues as the Georgia State Capitol, Georgia Governor's Mansion, the Georgia Aquarium, Taste of East Cobb, Marietta Square, East Cobb Park, the Lassiter High School Concert Hall, our feeder elementary schools, and many more! Typical performances include a Fall and a Spring Ensemble Showcase, as well as community performances as those opportunities arise. The groups also typically perform at the GMEA Solo and Ensemble Evaluation and have consistently received the most Superior ratings in the county!

All 7th and 8th grade students are eligible to join, as well as 6th grade students with at least one year of previous playing experience. Once we begin face-to-face instruction, and have evaluated to see which ensemble will be able to rehearse safely and effectively, we will post the sign-up form on the forms page of www.dodgenband.org, along with morning drop-off instructions and safety protocols.

Morning Ensembles offered in past years include:

Flute & Double Reed Ensemble: Piccolo, Flute, Alto Flute, Bass Flute, Oboe, Bassoon
(Fridays with Mr. Jeffres)

Clarinet Ensemble: Eb Clarinet, Clarinet, Bass Clarinet, Contra Alto Clarinet, Contra Bass Clarinet
(Tuesdays with Mr. Westphal)

Saxophone Ensemble: Soprano Sax, Alto Sax, Tenor Sax, Bari Sax
(Mondays with Mr. Jeffres)

Trumpet Ensemble: Trumpet, Flugelhorn, Bass Trumpet
(Fridays with Mr. Westphal)

Low Brass Ensemble: French Horn, Trombone, Euphonium, Tuba
(Mondays with Mr. Westphal)

Percussion Ensemble: A wide variety including Steel Drums
(Fridays with Percussion Instructor Mr. Boyd)

Jazz Band (Auditions TBD): Alto Sax, Tenor Sax, Bari Sax, Trumpet, Trombone, Piano, Bass, Drum Set, Guitar
(Tuesdays with Mr. Jeffres)

Dodgen Pops (Auditions TBD): All Band Instruments
(Thursdays with Mr. Jeffres)



Dodgen Band Supply List

6th Grade Band Method Book: Essential Elements Book 1 (Yellow)

7th Grade Band Method Book: Essential Elements Book 1 (Yellow), Moving to Book 2 (Red) 2nd 9 Weeks

8th Grade Band Method Book: Essential Elements Book 2 (Red)

A PENCIL is required every day for rehearsal notes.

Instrument-Specific Supplies: (equivalents are fine)

Flute: Tuning rod (typically comes with the flute), cotton cleaning swab or bandana.

Oboe: 3 reeds at all times (Jones medium-soft. Hand-made equivalent is better), reed case, small canister (such as a prescription bottle) for reed soaking, weighted silk swab, cork grease.

Bassoon: 3 reeds at all times (Jones medium-soft. Hand-made equivalent is better), reed case, small canister (such as a prescription bottle) for reed soaking, weighted silk swabs (one for boot joint and one for wing joint), bocal brush (or long pipe cleaners), cork grease. (Instrument provided by school)

All Clarinets: 4 reeds in a reed case at all times (Vandoren Traditional or equivalent: strength 2 ½ for 6th Grade, strength 3 for 7th & 8th grade.), stock mouthpiece and ligature are fine (such as Fobes Debut or Vandoren), weighted swab, cork grease.

All Saxophones: 4 reeds in a reed case at all times (Vandoren Traditional or equivalent: strength 2 ½ for 6th grade, strength 3 for 7th & 8th grade), stock mouthpiece and ligature are fine (such as a Yamaha 4C, Vandoren Optimum, or Rousseau NC4), neck strap, weighted swab, cork grease.

Trumpet: Trumpet Care Kit including valve oil, tuning slide grease, polishing cloth and cleaning brushes. (Bach 5C mouthpiece or equivalent size is best. Many rentals default to offering 7C to start which is too small for most students after only a few weeks of instruction. We recommend asking to trade the 7C for a 5C, if possible, to avoid buying an additional mouthpiece.)

French Horn: If you have another brass instrument care kit already, it should have everything you need. Valve oil, tuning slide grease, mouthpiece brush and polishing cloth. (Instrument & mouthpiece provided by the school. Students may purchase their own mouthpiece if desired. Schilke 30 mouthpiece or equivalent is recommended.)

Trombone: Trombone Care Kit including slide cream or oil, tuning slide grease, polishing cloth and cleaning brushes. (Bach 6 ½ AL mouthpiece size or equivalent is best. Many rentals default to offering 12C to start which is too small for most students after only a few weeks of instruction. We recommend asking to trade the 12C for a 6 ½ AL, if possible, to avoid buying an additional mouthpiece.)

Euphonium & Tuba: Valve oil, tuning slide grease, mouthpiece brush and polishing cloth. (Instrument & mouthpiece provided by the school. Students may purchase their own mouthpiece. For euphonium, a Bach 6 ½ AL mouthpiece or equivalent is recommended. For tuba, a Bach 24 AW mouthpiece or equivalent is recommended.)

Percussion: Vic Firth SD1 drumsticks or equivalent. Plastic bell mallets. Snare & Bell Kit with Practice Pad & Stand. **The snare drum stand must be able to hold the batter head of the snare drum at least 39" from the floor.**
***Please measure the stand because a shorter snare drum stand designed for drum set use is not acceptable.**

Once face-to-face instruction resumes, directors will notify percussion parents of what items to keep at home and what items to have in the school building. We may recommend you purchase yarn mallets and timpani mallets.