



Dodgen Middle School Band



John A. Jeffres, Director of Bands
Brian Westphal, Associate Director

2019-2020 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 a number of 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.
- 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. New student emails will be sourced from Cobb County School District records. Returning families should notify us of email changes.

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 a concert is coming up, or that fundraiser money 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 does not allow for many opportunities to answer or use the phone. 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.

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 for a limited time at the start of school)
- 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 2nd 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 2
- 8th grade: Continue with Essential Elements for Band, Book 2.

This book is readily available at a number of local music retailers. If your child loses or destroys their band book, please acquire a new copy as soon as possible. The band book is required in class every day because students who do not have their band book in class daily will quickly fall behind.

Instruments

Each student is required to have their band instrument in class every day, as well as all the parts and supplies that make it work. This could include a mouthpiece, reeds, valve oil, drum sticks, 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 cleaned and tuning slides greased. Brass also benefit from an occasional thorough cleaning.

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

Band Lockers

All students issued a band locker should follow the guidelines below.

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 locker locked. Students are responsible for lost locks.
4. Use the locker with care to prevent damage to both the locker and your instrument.

Class Expectations

Before School

Bring instrument and music to the band room and place it in the appropriate storage area between 8:45 AM and 9:00 AM or immediately if you are 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 distracting behaviors.
5. Follow all verbal or written instructions and put forth your best effort.
6. While waiting, use time wisely by quietly fingering through assigned music or skills.
7. At the end of rehearsal, put away instruments and straighten the room.
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.

Outside of School

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

- Written Work- 10%
- Tone Quality- 10%
- Individual Performance Tests- 30%
- Participation-50%

The participation grade, which is 50% of the final average, is based on successful adherence to the class expectations.

Behavior Guidelines

Our standards for musical excellence in band are high. To insure musical success, our behavior standards are high as well. Students are encouraged to follow the Class Expectations included in this packet. 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 and to help insure 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:

- 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)
- Detention
- 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 class conduct at some time during the course of the year. School is a place to learn many skills, including proper interaction with peers and adults.

The success of the Dodgen Band Program over the years is a direct results of a group culture based on productive rehearsal. We reward all band students for their commitment to this ideal by having periodic Breakfast Bashes in the band room before school where they may meet new friends, share breakfast food, and watch a light-hearted movie. We also have a post-evaluation performance celebration where 7th & 8th grade band students have a pizza party after school in the cafeteria to reward them for their extra effort.

At the end of each year, one student is recognized for each grade level for Outstanding Citizenship. These are those silent leaders who establish an example, exhibiting the positive behaviors that all 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. Audition dates are posted on our band web site www.dodgenband.org, and registration forms are on the Forms page. Audition fees for Honor Band are \$10. All-State is \$25. Honor Band and All-State together is \$35 total.

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

GMEA sponsors a Solo & Ensemble event where students have the opportunity to perform as a soloist or as a member of an ensemble. Most before-school ensembles participate in this event and those registration fees are covered by the band. Students may also register to perform a solo or create their own small ensemble (duet, trio, quartet, quintet, etc.), with a registration fee of \$12. Students awarded the top two ratings of Superior (I) or Excellent (II) will earn a GMEA medal. The registration form is posted on our website at www.dodgenband.org.

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.

- Outstanding Flute Student
- Outstanding Clarinet Student
(Includes clarinet and bass clarinet)
- Outstanding Oboe Student
- Outstanding Bassoon Student
- Outstanding Saxophone Student
(includes alto, tenor, and baritone saxophone)
- Outstanding Trumpet Student
- Outstanding French Horn Student
- Outstanding Euphonium Student
- Outstanding Tuba Student
- Outstanding Percussion Student
- Most Improved Band Student
- Most Outstanding Band Student
- Citizenship Award

Morning Ensemble Program

The 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! Scheduled performances include a Fall and a Spring Ensemble Showcase, as well as community performances as those opportunities arise. The groups also perform annually 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 invited to join, as well as 6th grade students with at least one year of previous playing experience. To join, visit the Forms page at www.dodgenband.org and fill out the Morning Ensemble Registration form. Before signing up, make sure your child can attend the weekly rehearsals from 8:00-8:45am, as well as the scheduled performances on the band calendar. **Drop off location for all rehearsals is the Bus Entrance** in the back of the school.

Morning Ensembles offered for the 2018-2019 School Year include:

Flute & Double Reed Ensemble: Piccolo, Flute, Alto Flute, Bass Flute, Oboe, Bassoon
(Fridays with Mr. Jeffres in room 402)

Clarinet Ensemble: Eb Clarinet, Clarinet, Bass Clarinet, Contra Alto Clarinet, Contra Bass Clarinet
(Tuesdays with Mr. Westphal in the Band CAVE)

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

Trumpet Ensemble: Trumpet, Flugelhorn, Bass Trumpet
(Fridays with Mr. Westphal in the Band CAVE)

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

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

Jazz Band (Audition at beginning of year): Alto Sax, Tenor Sax, Bari Sax, Trumpet, Trombone, Piano, Bass, Drum Set, Guitar
(Tuesdays with Mr. Jeffres in the Band Room)

Dodgen Pops (Audition at end of previous year): All Band Instruments
(Thursdays with Mr. Jeffres in the Band Room)



Dodgen Band Supply List

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

7th and 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 (specific to your make & model), cotton cleaning swab or bandana.

Oboe: 3 reeds at all times (Jones medium-soft, or equivalent), 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, or equivalent), 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 silk 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: Valve oil, tuning slide grease, mouthpiece brush, cleaning cloth. (Bach 5C mouthpiece or equivalent is best for 6th & 7th Grade and then Bach 3C for 8th Grade.)

French Horn: Valve oil, tuning slide grease, mouthpiece brush. (Instrument provided by school. Students may purchase their own mouthpiece, or one can be provided by the school. Schilke 30 mouthpiece or equivalent is best.)

Trombone: Slide lubricant, tuning slide grease, mouthpiece brush, cleaning cloth. (Bach 6 ½ AL mouthpiece or equivalent is best.)

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

Percussion: Percussion Combo Kit: Bells, Snare Drum, 8-inch Practice Pad and Stand. **The stand must be able to hold the batter head of the snare drum at least 39" from the floor.** A shorter snare drum stand designed for drum set use is not acceptable.

Practice Pad and Bell Set may be left at home for practice AFTER introductory instruction in 6th grade.

Stick bag with the following (or equivalents):

1. Vic Firth SD1 General concert snare sticks.
2. Yamaha Rubber mallets
3. Vic Firth M1 Yarn mallets.
4. Vic Firth T1 General Timpani mallets.