

2016 -2017



FRUIT
COVE
MIDDLE
SCHOOL
BAND

BAND HANDBOOK

FCMS Band Handbook

Updated 7/09/16

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Welcome to the Fruit Cove Middle School Band. In this handbook you will find information that pertains to the expectations associated with being in the FCMS band class. It is important to understand and follow these guidelines in order to have a successful experience in the band. If you need further explanations regarding the policies found in this handbook please see Mr. Isabelle for clarification.

PLEASE GO TO THE BAND WEBSITE
AND COMPLETE THE INFORMATION FORM

<http://teachers.stjohns.k12.fl.us/isabelle-d/>

Block Schedule

Classes are in block schedule. Students must have their instrument on their band day because each day is equivalent to two classes. Band classes are 90 minutes long.

Band Classes Offered

The following classes are offered at FCMS but acceptance into a class is determined by Mr. Isabelle and is based on each student's level of ability and instrument placement. All students are given as much opportunities as possible. Students who work hard to improve will be able to move to higher levels of difficulty at a faster rate.

- **Beginning Band** – designed for entry level musicians. No prior experience required.
- **Symphonic Band** – designed for the 2nd tier musician, incoming students with 1 year of experience, and students who are in at least the 7th grade that have no prior band experience.
- **Wind Ensemble** – designed as an advanced level band. Students generally have at least 1 year of experience and have reached the bench marks needed for the increased difficulty. This class is a mix of all grades.
- **Wind Symphony** – designed for the highest level of musician at FCMS. Students generally have at least 2 years of experience and have reached the bench marks needed for the increased difficulty. This class is mostly 8th graders.
- **Jazz Ensemble** – designed as a specialty course which participants are selected by Mr. Isabelle for placement. Strict instrumentation is used to fulfill the group and participation in a main band class is also required. Students also must agree to extra performance requirements prior to accepting the position of membership in the group.

Instruments

Band instruments are described as being a member of the Brass, Woodwind, and Percussion family of instruments as well as the String Bass from the string family. Instruments must also be student owned/rented with the exception of the instruments with the (*) marking below. Those instruments will be provided by the band (as supplies last (**)) is very limited) but may also be purchased by the student but is not required. Instruments are required for class every day. Instruments that are in repair will be excused but confirmation must be presented from the repair company. School owned instruments must be returned every day. All school owned instrument repairs must be brought to Mr. Isabelle and not to the music store directly.

- Piccolo * - for the advanced flutist and used in Symphonic, Wind Ensemble, and the Wind Symphony.
- Flute – woodwind instrument that uses an edge tone to create its sound.
- Oboe – woodwind instrument that uses a double reed.
- Bassoon ** - low woodwind instrument that uses a double reed.
- Clarinet – woodwind instrument that uses a single reed.
- Alto Clarinet ** - woodwind instrument that uses a single reed
- Bass Clarinet * - low woodwind instrument that uses a large single reed.
- Alto Saxophone – woodwind instrument that uses a single reed.
- Tenor Saxophone – woodwind instrument that uses a single reed.
- Bari Saxophone * - low woodwind instrument that uses a large single reed.
- Trumpet – brass instrument that uses a cup mouthpiece to produce its tone.
- French Horn ** – brass instrument that uses a cup mouthpiece to produce its tone.
- Trombone – brass instrument that uses a cup mouthpiece to produce its tone.
- Euphonium/Baritone * – brass instrument that uses a cup mouthpiece to produce its tone.
- Tuba * – brass instrument that uses a cup mouthpiece to produce its tone.
- Percussion – students must have an instrument at home to practice with. School will provide classroom instruments although they will not be able to be remove from the room for student use at home. Students MUST have their own sticks/bag/mallets – they are encourage NOT to share their equipment with those who are not prepared for class.
- String Bass * - orchestral skills used to create the tone. Student will need to have an instrument to practice on at home (electric or acoustic)

Uniform

All students are required to wear their uniform to their performances. Students out of dress code may not be allowed to perform.

- Beginning Band – **Khaki dress pants, black socks, and black shoes are to be supplied by the student.** Students will be supplied a band polo shirt.
- Symphonic Band, Wind Ensemble, and Wind Symphony – students are supplied a vest with tie. **White long sleeve Oxford shirt, black dress pants, black socks, and solid black shoes are supplied by the student.**
- Jazz Ensemble – students are supplied a jazz ensemble shirt. **Khaki pants and black socks/shoes are for formal performances. Khaki shorts for informal performances.**

All students will receive a band t-shirt for each class they are part of. These shirts will be worn for informal gatherings as well as any field trips.

All 8th grade students will also receive a *Future Power of Creekside* t-shirt.

Classroom Supplies

Students **MUST** have the following items every day to be prepared for class

- Instrument in working condition
- Music folder – supplied by the band (may be required to share)
- Pencil
- Music Theory workbook.
- Reed instruments must have at least 3 good reeds
- Brass instruments must have valve oil and slide grease
- Percussion students must have a stick bag with 5A or 5B sticks, timpani mallets, hard rubber xylophone mallets, and yarn xylophone mallets. Any additional mallets are at the discretion of the student.
- String players must obtain their bass rosin for their own personal use
- Jazz Ensemble students must have a personal instrument stand for their instrument.

Lockers

Students will be provided an individual or shared locker for their instrument

- Band Locks are provided by the student. (school locks may be used if requested)
- Combinations will need to be submitted to Ms. Barfoot
- ANY lock that is unable to be open will be cut off the locker and destroyed
- ONLY band items are allowed to be stored in the lockers. NO books, clothes, etc
- Certain instruments will not be provided a locker due to the nature of the instrument, ex: percussionist

Classroom Rules

Students MUST follow the classroom rules. Some of these rules are similar to the school rules but due to the large number of students in the band class the rules will be strictly enforced.

- Students will keep their instrument in their locker when not in use.
- Instrument cases will need to be placed back into their locker during class.
- **NO CASES ARE ALLOWED IN THE SEATING AREA OF THE BANDROOM.**
- Students may come into the room at any time to place their instrument into their locker or retrieve it but they need to not disturb a class that is in session. Students are not allowed to remain in the room after their instrument locker break.
- Students may only use the restroom pass during class one time and may not be a habitual user. ONLY one student is allowed out at a time!
- **NO GUM** is allowed in the bandroom. ALL violations will receive a written warning. NO verbal warnings will be issued for this event.
- Students **WILL NOT** be allowed to play or hold another student's instrument without Mr. Isabelle's permission.
- Students must have their FCMS band music folder and keep the music in returnable shape. **All music** will be returned when requested.
- Students will sit in their assigned seat or section to be determined by Mr. Isabelle. NO EXCEPTIONS!
- Students **WILL NOT** leave the room prior to being dismissed.
- ANY student who is determined to disrupt the flow of the class will be given ONE letter of notification that their behavior must comply to the class guidelines. The second incident will result in a schedule change to remove them from the band class. NO fair share refunds will be returned.

Concert Etiquette/Performances

In order to be aligned with the Florida State Standards students will be required to attend their semester performances. The students will also be expected to attend four (4) additional performances during the school year. **One performance per grading period.**

ALL PERFORMANCES ARE TO BE ENTERED ONLINE FOR VERIFICATION

See the band website for the link.

Examples below:

- Any FCMS band performance other than the one that you are involved with.
- A CHS/NHS/BTHS/etc band/chorus performance.
- A JCE or HCE band/chorus performance.
- A UNF/UF/UCF/etc band/chorus performance.
- ONLY **one weekly** religious performance will be accepted as concert entry for the **entire** year.
- In lieu of a performance attendance the student would write a research paper on a famous composer. Paper must be typed and at least 3 pages with references. This is ONLY if you don't go to any concerts.

When students are attending a concert they will use proper concert etiquette and refrain from talking, cell phone use, texting, or general disrespect for those who are in attendance.

Practice Cards

Practice cards are VERY important in order for your child to succeed. The forms will be submitted on the last day of each month. Please see the band calendar for the schedule. Practice times vary depending on the class you're in. All times are per month amounts. We will be using Google Docs for band form submissions. Ex: Practice Cards

- Beginning Band– 240 per month
- Symphonic Band – 300 per month
- Wind Ensemble– 360 per month
- Wind Symphony– 400 per month
- Jazz Ensemble – additional 120 per month. Ex: Wind Symphony = 400 + 120 = 520 per month

Grades – EOC Exams

Grades are determined by the following criteria.

- Attendance with participation
- Music Theory Workbook (Master Theory)
- Concert participation
- Instrument preparedness
- Tests/quizzes

Band Website

The **Band Website** is provided as a main avenue of information. A biweekly newsletter will be provided by email. Check the calendar often for updates.

<http://teachers.stjohns.k12.fl.us/isabelle-d/>

We will be using Google Docs for band form submissions. Ex: Performance Verification, Practice Cards

- **NO personal information** will be shared outside of the band database

Band Fair Share

Fair Share is the financial process of funding the band program. We have fees and purchases that are needed to allow the students to participate. Listed below are some of the expenses that are incurred throughout the school year.

- FBA fees
- FMEA fees
- FSMA fees
- MENC fees
- Convention fees
- Music purchase
- Instrument repairs and supplies
- Copy machine supplies
- Band Shirts
- Bus transportations to performances
- Awards
- Band instruments that are too expensive for individuals to purchase.

This is just a sample of the purchases and more items throughout the year are added. Band Fees are due at the beginning of the year.

Band Fair Share – discounts for multiple family members

One Student - \$140

Two Students - \$220

Three Students - \$280

Amounts should be paid in full or you can make three payments

– September \$50, October \$50, and November \$40.

If the above schedule is unable to be adhered to please indicate the timeline on the band information form.