

# Handbook for FCA Falcon Bands



A year-long academic elective class

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Band Website: <http://teachers.stjohns.k12.fl.us/zentz-l/band/>

**Concert Band** and **Jazz Ensemble** are performance-based instrumental ensembles for experienced players. **Beginning Band** provides entry-level instruction on flute, oboe, clarinet, bass clarinet, bassoon, saxophone, trumpet, trombone, baritone, tuba, and percussion. **Jazz Ensemble** is by invitation and students must play in one of the other bands in addition to Jazz Ensemble. The band program provides students the opportunity to perform music from a wide range of styles. The content is designed to challenge the students' skill level and promote the development of musicianship. Music theory, language arts, math, reading, writing, and history are woven into the curriculum through the study of quality literature and the elements of music. Learning goals are derived from the Next Generation Sunshine State Standards for Middle School Music and the St Johns County Curriculum Maps for middle school band.

## ***Student Goals***

- Develop a love for musical performance and an appreciation of music as an art form
- Build technical aspects of music performance on chosen instrument
- Learn the basic concepts of music theory and vocabulary
- Learn steadfast self-discipline and make a commitment to musical excellence
- Participate in a musical "community" and contribute to the success of the ensemble
- Through the art of music, become more responsive to the world around them

## ***Student Expectations***

- Active, respectful participation in class, positive attitude and appropriate rehearsal etiquette
- Regular practice routine outside of class – band "homework" – including listening exercises
- Proficiency in assigned music, scales, and exercises
- Helpful support of other band members
- Respect for fellow classmates and their equipment
- Follow the FCA Way
- Honor the opportunity to learn and make music

## ***Performances***

There will be approximately THREE required performances, all specified well in advance via website, email, and calendar. Every member is vitally important to the band, and we need everyone present when we perform. Performances will count as Summative Assessments. Most performances will take place on campus at FCA.

## ***Band Books***

All band students will be provided with at least one method book as part of their “band fee”. The band director will provide all instructional materials for all the bands. Lost books will need to be replaced at a cost of \$10 each.

## ***Band Music***

Music will be on loan from the FCA Music Library at no charge. A replacement fee will be charged for music and folders that are lost. Band arrangements for middle school are expensive. PLEASE KEEP UP WITH YOUR FOLDER! It is your “text book”. There will be occasional “folder checks” for a formative grade.

## ***Band Fee***

Our band program operates on a budget handled by the band director and supported by the Band Booster Organization. The school district provides a very small amount of our operating expense. Therefore, we depend on the band families to contribute a band fee provide the band with the many things necessary for our success. The band fee covers purchases of music, binders, folders, tools, supplies, educational materials, uniform shirts, awards, technology, transportation, band professional organization fees (FBA and FSMA), and director’s professional development. The band fee is \$150/year, and is due by October 1 of the school year. Fundraising will be kept to a minimum and will benefit the total band program. No student will be denied the opportunity to participate in band because of inability to pay the band fee. Please contact the director if you desire a payment plan or payment waiver.

## ***Uniforms***

Our INFORMAL uniform is the official blue band t-shirt (provided by the band) with blue jeans and comfortable shoes. A more formal uniform will be used for Music Performance Assessment (MPA), including an embroidered band polo shirt.

## ***GRADING OVERVIEW***

**75% - Performance tests in class, written tests**

**25% - Musician responsibilities and Rehearsal etiquette**

**Performance Tests/ Written Tests – 75%**

Includes scales and exercises and any assigned individual playing tests. Attendance at performances is required.

**Musician Responsibilities and Rehearsal Etiquette – 25%**

Daily preparedness, folder checks, being on time, putting belongings away in the proper place. Forgetting an instrument or folder will lower this portion of the grade 5 points each time. Sustained focused attention, respect, and discipline are required during all rehearsals. Grade will be lowered 5 points each time these expectations are violated.

## ***Practice Requirements***

Practice outside of class is essential for growth and development on any musical instrument. Please help your child understand that practicing at home is the equivalent of doing homework in any other subject. When students practice at home, they improve rapidly and get much more out of their band experience. You as the parent will receive a better return for your investment in band if your child practices regularly. The suggested amount is once a week. Schedule a regular practice time if possible. Students will always have a particular learning goal that they are working toward in band. Some students respond well to being told to practice a certain amount of minutes, while others respond better to accomplishing a certain goal during the practice session, regardless of the number of minutes. For students who play large instruments that are difficult to take home, practice time will be built into the class period. We understand that we have a large number of bikers and walkers who will have difficulty taking their instrument home on a regular basis. Practice time will be built into our class time.

## ***Band Class Procedures***

Rehearsals are held during band class with emphasis on developing strong musicianship through working on performance fundamentals, technique, skill, musical style and interpretation, and theoretical essentials. We have much to accomplish during each class period in order to reach our potential. Respect for this time is expected!

1. Be on time and prepared. Slow down and be respectful of the expensive instruments and equipment in the room.
2. Exercise self-discipline in your voice level, and don't talk during the rehearsal. It's time to listen and learn.
3. Show respect and courtesy; treat others as you would like to be treated.
4. Have the music binder ready each day.
5. Listen carefully at all times during the rehearsal. If you are talking, you cannot listen carefully.
6. Keep your folder, your instrument, and the band room neat and clean – this is our band “home”. Show PRIDE!
7. No food or drink is allowed in the band room. Water bottles with lids are OK.
8. Rehearse as if you were performing a concert. Sloppy practice does NOT make progress!

## ***Behavior Expectations***

Students are expected to follow the FCA Way. “Focused on Safety, Committed to Responsibility, Always Respectful!” The school’s LiveSchool point system will be used in the band program. FCA is a gum-free school. Chewing gum can be dangerous while playing a wind instrument.

## ***PLAYING TESTS***

Students will be assigned scales and exercises that will be played during class individually. A grade will be assigned for each playing test according to the band rubric.