

Welcome to Band!

Dear Parents and Students,

Welcome to the Mayo Middle School Band Program!

Students that take part in the band program at Mayo are challenged to grow musically and encouraged to achieve their highest potential. Each and every one of our participants is an essential part of our band and brings something unique and wonderful to our program! This band is a family, and each person is just as important as the next. We feel that each student's relationships with their peers and the surrounding community are essential to their education and believe that our purpose is to foster that community here in the Mayo Band Program and help our students grow as musicians and as individuals.

Family members: music is a beautiful medium through which to teach students the skills they need to become successful members of society: respect for themselves and their peers, communication skills, decision-making, responsibility, etc. Our band program cannot do everything our students deserve without the help and support of our parents and community. Please ask your students about their experiences, find out what excites them, and encourage them to grow as musicians and as people.

Please take some time to read over the Band Handbook. This will prepare you for your work and responsibilities as a member of the band. If a problem should arise, consult the handbook first. If you still cannot find the answer, please do not hesitate to contact me!

I can't wait to work and grow with you. Let's have a fantastic year!

Sincerely,

Christina Farley Wilkie

Band Director
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Please do not hesitate to call or e-mail should you have any questions.

Our Band Philosophy

The Mayo Music Program is to team with parents, students, and the school to provide an atmosphere where students can be successful in learning and performing on musical instruments, both individually and in a large ensemble. At Mayo, we feel that the process is just as important as the product; individual development and growth is our goal, and our group performances are just a demonstration of the great things we have been doing in class! Music is a part of a student's comprehensive education and aim to uphold the traditions of the past while maintaining a commitment to excellence within each student.

"Music Education opens doors that help children pass from school into the world around them - a world of work, culture, intellectual activity and human involvement. The future of our nation depends on providing our children with a complete education that includes music."

-President Gerald Ford

"A performance is just a celebration of some of the successes that we have during rehearsals."

-Dr. Alicia Neal

In our program, we strive to:

challenge each student to grow as a musician and person.

instill an appreciation and desire for music.

create a sense of community within each ensemble.

build lifelong characteristics of teamwork, commitment and confidence.

participate in activities that give back to the community.

create an experience to show the importance of music in one's daily life so that he or she can promote and support music programs in the future.

General Rules

1. Respect our time.
2. Come prepared.
3. Always respect the feelings of others.
4. Maintain a positive attitude.
5. Strive to do your best.

Attitude and Conduct

We are a visible organization in our community; our performances are public, therefore open to criticism. Others will judge our actions; these may be positive or negative. This means our behavior reflects our school, community and the entire music program. Always conduct yourself in ways that bring credit to you and your school. We want our actions to represent our school in the highest of standards. Students will conduct themselves in accordance within the school handbook policies. Let it be known that there will be NO public display of affection (hugging, holding hands, kissing, cuddling, hooking arms, etc.) before, during or after band functions. It is inappropriate in a group environment. Required, appropriate attire is also considered a large part of these expectations. If anyone insists on testing these expectations, grades will be deducted and parents will be notified.

Ensembles

6th Grade Band (Mayo MS)

Open to all 6th grade students at Mayo Middle School with at least one year of prior band experience or director approval.

1. **Rehearsals**
 - a. Full band rehearses daily.
 - b. In the fall, this group will prepare concert pieces for the formal concerts.
 - c. In the spring, these students will have the opportunity to prepare music for the Solo and Ensemble Contest as well as preparing concert pieces for the formal concerts.

2. **Performances**
 - a. EIU Band Day: TBA - November
 - b. Holiday Band Concert: December 12th - 5 PM call, 6:30 PM concert
 - c. TBD Winter Band Concert: February 23rd - 5:45 PM call, 6:30 PM concert
 - d. ILMEA Large Ensemble Festival: March 11th - TBA
 - e. IESA Solo and Ensemble Contest: TBA - March
 - f. Festival of Bands: TBA - March
 - g. Spring Band Concert: May 8th - 5:00 PM call, 6:30 PM concert
 - h. Other performances may occur upon director discretion.

3. **Music**
 - a. Keep in Concert Band Folder with your name on it.
 - b. Keep your folder AND binder in your band cubby.
 - c. If you lose it, see the director.
 - d. You are expected to take these folders home and practice.

7th and 8th Grade Band (Mayo MS)

Open to all 7th and 8th grade students at Mayo Middle School with at least one year of prior band experience or director discretion.

1. Rehearsals

- d. Full band rehearses daily.
- e. In the fall, this group will prepare concert pieces for the formal concerts.
- f. In the Spring, this group will will prepare pieces for the spring concert, the EIU Concert Band Festival, and the ILMEA Large Ensemble Festival.

2. Performances

- i. ILMEA Auditions: RECORDED by October 5th
- j. ILMEA Concert: November 19th: TBA
- k. Holiday Band Concert: December 12th – 5:00 PM call, 6:30 PM concert
- l. Winter Concert: February 24th - 5:45 PM call, 6:30 PM concert
- m. Festival of Bands: TBA - March
- n. IESA Solo and Ensemble Contest: TBA - March
- o. ILMEA Concert Band Festival: TBA
- p. TBD EIU Concert Band Festival: TBA
- q. Spring Band Concert: May 8th – 5:00 PM call, 6:30 PM concert
- r. EIU Band Day - TBA - April
- s. Other performances may occur upon director discretion.

3. Music

- e. Keep in Concert Band Folder with your name on it.
- f. Keep your binder in your band cubby, and your folder in your assigned folder slot.
- g. If you lose it, see the director and be prepared to pay a fee.
- h. You are expected to take these folders home and practice.

4. Sectionals

- a. Sectionals will be held each week during 8th hour.
- b. Students will be pulled from their eighth hour class, at the discretion of the classroom teacher, to attend these sectionals. If a student is unable to attend, they must still turn in their signed lesson slip to get credit for their sectional.
- c. Sectional participation and attendance is worth a grade.

Redbird Pep Band (Mayo MS)

All 7th and 8th grade band students are expected to participate in all Redbird Pep Band events. Any 6th grade band students who are interested may participate with director's discretion.

1. Rehearsals

- a. Rehearsals will be held during school hours, during full band rehearsals upon director's discretion.

2. Performances

a. Basketball Games

- Please see the schedule attached for dates.

b. Pep Assemblies

- Usually these are during the activity period during the day
- If students are involved in activities during the assembly, they may choose to sit with those people involved with that activity after the band performs at the beginning of the pep rally.

c. Parades

- Honeybee Parade: 9/24
- Christmas in Paris: 11/26

d. March/Pep Band with the Tigers

- March with the Tigers: 9/16
- Pep Band with the Tigers: The Mayo pep band will play with the High School band at a High School game. The date is TBD.

3. Music

a. Pep Band Binder

- Each student is responsible for their own binder. At the end of the year all students need to turn in their binders. If lost, be prepared to pay a fee.

Redbird Jazz Band (Mayo MS)

This is an extracurricular ensemble. Open to all 6th, 7th, and 8th grade students at Mayo Middle School with at least one year of prior band experience or director approval. Note: all instruments welcome!

1. Rehearsals

- a. Redbird Jazz band rehearses outside of school Monday and Wednesday from 7:15 to 8:00 AM.
- b. Sectionals may be held throughout the year.

2. Performances

- a. Mayo Holiday Band Concert: 12/12 - 5:00 PM call, 6:30 PM concert
- b. EIU Jazz Festival: 2/11 - TBA
- c. Choir/Jazz Concert: 4/25 - 5:30 PM call, 6:30 PM concert
- d. Jazz Café: TBA - May
- e. Other performances may occur upon director discretion.

3. Music

- a. Keep in Jazz Band folder with your name on it.
- b. Keep folder in your band cubby or case.
- c. If you lose it, see the director and prepare to pay a fee.
- d. You are expected to take these folders home and practice.

5. Sectionals

- d. Sectionals will be held at the discretion of the director.
- e. One selected student will be in charge of mediating rehearsals, will be expected to ensure each student is participating in sectionals, and check in with the director.

- f. After rehearsals, each student will be required to turn in their sectional paperwork, discussing what all they worked on their participation in the rehearsal.

Extra Activities

Solo and Ensemble Contest

Open to all 6th, 7th and 8th grade band students with at least one-year prior music experience AND director and parental approval.

1. Solo and ensemble contest will be an additional activity and, ultimately, an additional responsibility for the student/group of students.
2. Soloists and chamber ensembles will rehearse weekly with the director and their accompanist. They will perform at IESA solo and ensemble contest.
3. Students are expected to acquire and reimburse an accompanist. For more information, check the accompanist form that can be found on the website.

ILMEA All District Contest

Open to all 7th, and 8th grade students with at least one-year prior music experience AND director approval. Note: students must register for ILMEA auditions in advance. For more information, check the ILMEA hand-out.

1. Students wishing to audition for the All District ensembles (concert band, symphonic orchestra, and jazz band) will be required to meet with the director regularly to ensure the student is ready for the audition.
2. ILMEA auditions will be recorded and submitted by October 5th. For more information, check the ILMEA hand-out.

Uniform Policy

Concert Band (6th Grade)

1. Uniform consists of:
 - a. All black
 - b. Black pants, shoes, socks, shirt, skirt, pantyhose, etc. No legs/ankles showing.

Concert Band (7th and 8th Grade)

1. Uniform consists of:
 - a. All black
 - b. Black pants, shoes, socks, shirt, skirt, pantyhose, etc. No legs/ankles showing.

****If there is a problem acquiring any of the required items for the uniform, please do not hesitate to contact the director. For your convenience, we have a concert black closet we can dip into as needed.****

Jazz Band

- I. Uniform consist of:
 - a. All black with one red accent piece (tie, scarf, socks, suspenders, headband, shoes, etc).

****If there is a problem acquiring any of the required items for the uniform, please do not hesitate to contact the director.****

Pep Band

- I. Uniform consists of:
 - a. Pep-band shirt, jeans, student's choice of shoes. A Student that does not wear their uniform for a performance will NOT get full credit for participation.

****If there is a problem acquiring any of the required items for the uniform, please do not hesitate to contact the director.****

Attendance Procedures and Policy

Attendance and promptness at every rehearsal AND performance is of utmost importance. For rehearsals, any absences and tardiness for unexcused reasons will result in a deduction of participation points/grades. Any desired absence or tardy from a scheduled rehearsal must be in paper or e-mail form at least 2 weeks before the event so that attendance records can be accurate.

All required performances or events are only excused by the director's discretion (serious illness, death in the family, engagements of long standing, etc.) School activities which conflict with band rehearsals are excused as long as advanced notice is given. A student with a school conflict must attend the remainder of the band rehearsal when the other school activity/practice is done (i.e. If a baseball practice is over at 5:30 and music rehearses until 6:00, the student MUST attend the remainder of the music rehearsal; or, if band begins at 4:00 and Cheer practice begins at five, the student is REQUIRED to attend as much of band as is possible before Cheer starts). Music performances and competitions take precedence over other practices.

****Concerts and any performances (pep band games, parades, etc) are always required. Absences and tardiness are not excusable****

Family vacations, doctor appointments and other NON-SCHOOL RELATED conflicts should be scheduled around your band schedule when possible. Band is more than what occurs in daily rehearsals at school. PLEASE mark your schedule now and know that these dates are a requirement.

Grading Policy

Daily grades will be based on a point system according to the activity.

Concert Band:

Participation/attendance in rehearsal **5 points each day**

Participation in rehearsals consists of showing up, not talking, paying attention, and having all of your required materials. If you forget your instrument, or cannot play for the day, you can make up 2 of the 3 points by attending rehearsal and filling out the “rehearsal substitution” worksheet throughout rehearsal.

Sectional handouts **5 points each handout**

The sectional handout is required and must be turned in on the way out of the room after sectionals.

Theory worksheets **20 points each worksheet**

Any theory sheet assigned must be completed and turned in for credit.

Instrument Inspections **5 points each inspection**

Instrument inspections will be held at the discretion of the director. One inspection minimum will occur each quarter. These inspections will consist of checking reeds and mouthpieces, condition of the instrument, and overall hygienic upkeep.

Projects **10 - 75 points each project**

Individual and group projects will occur throughout the school year. These will vary in size and point value and will be assigned at the discretion of the director.

Playing Exams **25 points each exam**

Playing exams will occur at the discretion of the director. One exam minimum will occur each quarter. These exams will be done in person or submitted through “Google Classroom.”

Playing Reflections **10 points each reflection**

Playing reflections will be assigned after each playing exam. A maximum of one week will be permitted between the playing exam and turning in the playing reflection.

Concert Attendance **100 points each concert**

Concert attendance is required as the band is a community and is reliant on the attendance and participation of all members. If you have an excused absence, students may make up the concert attendance grade by completing a project deemed appropriate by the director and student. If an unexcused absence occurs, only 50 percent of the grade can be redeemed after completing a project assigned by the director.

Pep Band:

Participation/attendance in rehearsal **5 points**

Participation in rehearsals consists of showing up, not talking, paying attention, and having all of your required materials. If you forget your instrument, you can make up 2 of the 3 points by attending rehearsal and filling out the “rehearsal substitution” worksheet throughout rehearsal.

Performances**25/50 points**

Concert attendance is required as the band is a community and is reliant on the attendance and participation of all members. If you miss a performance, you can make up all (if the absence was excused) or 18 (if the absence was unexcused) of the 25 points by completing a project of equal value.

Additional group activities and points will be added at the director's discretion. A copy of this point system and standards can be obtained upon request.

Travel Policy

The travel policy for the music department is a strict reflection of the travel policy stated in the school handbook. It is important to realize that all classroom rules apply outside of the classroom when with the group. These rules can be seen under the "General Rules" and "Attitude and Conduct" sections of the band handbook.

When traveling for competitions or performances, a detailed itinerary will be sent home with the student **at least three days** before the scheduled departure.

If we are traveling out of state, there will be **at least** two, hour-long meetings detailing the expectations and requirements for the trip.

Please, do not hesitate to contact the director with any concerns.

"Cubby" Policy

Cubbies and music slots will be provided for students with both school and personal instruments. The student will need to fill out and turn in a cubby/music slot request form to the director before they will be given access. Students who abuse their cubby and do not follow expectations will lose their cubby privileges. Cubbies should be used for band instruments/equipment only.

Student Responsibilities

Handouts, Handbooks and Folders/Binders

1. The final page to the handbook must be signed and turned in no later than the Friday of the first full week of classes.
2. All class related hand-outs, worksheets, and projects need to be placed in your binder.
3. All music needs to be kept in your band folder.
4. Folders and binders must be kept in your cubby. If it is found outside of your cubby when you are nowhere to be found, you will be deducted points for the day.

Instruments and Equipment

- I. School Owned Instruments
 - a. Whichever instrument the student checks out at the beginning of the year is the instrument the student plays for the entire year.
 - b. It is the student's responsibility to maintain the upkeep of the instrument. Valve oil, reeds and slide grease are the responsibility of the player, not the director.
 - c. Students will be required to sign a contract and pay a \$25 dollar rental fee before they are given access to the instrument; this allows the student access to the instrument for the entire year, including the following summer.
 - i. The rental fee may be waved based on financial need OR if the instrument is a secondary requested by the Director – all decisions are at the discretion of the Director.
 - d. Each student will get the instrument checked out and in by the director and any damage done to school owned instruments will be paid for by the persons responsible for the damage.
2. Personal Instruments
 - a. If your instrument is off of school property, we are not responsible for any lost or stolen items. Any lost or stolen items must be reported to the director within 24 hours.
 - b. Maintenance is the responsibility of the individual student. Upkeep will be necessary for inspections.
 - c. The student will be responsible for the necessary accessories/equipment.

Brass (Supply List)

Slide Grease
 Valve Oil
 Mouthpieces (Clean)
 Instrument (Clean)

Woodwinds Supply List

Plenty of reeds? (3-5)
 Swab
 Mouthpiece (clean)
 Ligature (clean)

Percussionists may be required to purchase their own sticks and mallets.

Students may purchase reeds/oil/etc. in the band office either before or after rehearsal. If needed, an item may be charged, but all debts will to be paid by the end of each quarter.

Instrument Conditions and Maintenance

- I. Flutes
 - a. Head joint slides in easily
 - b. Pads and corks in place
 - c. Foot joint inserted properly; no leaks
 - d. Head joint cork and end piece in place

- e. Recently cleaned- no silver polish!

2. Clarinets

- a. Wooden- Recently oiled
- b. All tenons in place; no leaks
- c. All keys and accessories fitting properly
- d. Reed in good shape, No lipstick
- e. Pads and Corks in place
- f. Ligature has both screws
- g. No Candy Reeds

3. Saxophones

- a. Octave key working properly
- b. No sticking pads
- c. Reed in good shape; no lipstick
- d. Strap in good shape
- e. Ligature has both screws
- f. Neckpiece inserted properly; no leaks
- g. No Candy Reeds

4. Trumpets, Baritones, Euphoniums and Tubas

- a. Valves working freely
- b. Casings recently cleaned
- c. Tuning slide recently cleaned and greased
- d. All valve slides working
- e. Lead pipe recently cleaned (inside)
- f. Whole trumpet polished (dry cloth)
- g. Water keys sealing

5. Trombones

- a. Slides working freely
- b. Lock for slide working
- c. Slide and horn recently cleaned
- d. Tuning slide working properly
- e. Polished
- f. Water keys sealing

6. Percussion

- a. Lugs recently vaselined
- b. Cymbals polished
- c. Sticks recently taped and not broken
- d. Snares straight and unbent
- e. Instruments clean
- f. All needed mallets and sticks
- g. Take proper precautions when moving instruments

- h. Put instrument away when you're done

Student Preparation Expectations

Daily Rehearsal:

1. Come to class with all materials needed – instrument, all music, folders, binders, a pencil, etc. (if there is a problem with acquiring all materials, speak with the director).
2. Attend and participate in all rehearsals – this means that your music is ready for our full band rehearsal!

Outside Preparation:

1. For curricular classes, students are expected to put in the work necessary to learn their instrument and music to a high level of quality. Like homework in other classes, practicing your music is essential for individual and group success.
2. For extracurricular classes, students are expected to put in the amount of work necessary to have a positive contribution to the ensemble. If the student demonstrates a lack of interest or inadequate preparation, there will be required meetings with the director outside of rehearsal until the student's behavior turns around.

Performances:

1. Students are expected to arrive early for performances and be fully **ready to play** by the designated arrival time.
2. Students should be prepared with all materials necessary and are expected to act professionally at all times – performing, as members of the audience, transportation, etc.

Band Room Policy

1. **Care**
 - a. All loose paper and music needs to be placed in its proper place after each rehearsal.
 - b. All instruments should be placed in the appropriate cubby (and in a closed case) after each rehearsal and performance.
 - c. Please: **NO FOOD, SOFT DRINKS, GUM OR CANDY IN THE BAND ROOM** without prior director approval.
2. **Practice Room**
 - a. If you are in the practice room, you are practicing.
 - b. Please be sure to respect the contents of the practice room and put everything back in order when you leave.
 - c. The practice room may be used before school (7:45) or after school

(until Ms. Farley leaves) as long as there is no groups rehearsing in the band room (jazz band, 5th grade band, etc.).

- d. The practice room can be closed as the director sees fit.

3. Equipment

- a. Any equipment, be it personally or school owned, needs to be taken care of while in the band room.
- b. Each student should play on his or her own instrument at all times.
- c. The technology and pianos in the room are not for individual student use. If a student desires to utilize the technology, permission must be granted. After use, all used parts must be returned to their former position.

4. Locating Items

- a. As an incoming new student, you should become familiar with the band room and figure out where the equipment that concerns you resides. If an item is lost, please notify the director and the lost and found in the office.

Awards

1. Directors Award

- a. This will be awarded at the final concert.
- b. It is given to an 8th grade member of the band.
- c. The recipient displays leadership, musicianship and discipline.

2. Outstanding Improvement

- a. This will be awarded at the final concert
- b. It is given to a 6th, 7th, and 8th grade band member of the band.
- c. The recipient displays great improvement throughout the year.

3. Most Outstanding Musicianship

- a. This will be awarded at the final concert and recognized at the Mayo Award Night.
- b. It is given to a 6th, 7th, and 8th grade member of the band.
- c. The recipient displays great musicianship, leadership, and always goes above and beyond. This is the highest award as a band student.

4. Brian K Russell Jazz Instrumentalist Award

- a. This will be awarded at the final concert.
- b. It is given to an 8th grade member of the jazz band who displays good performance and creativity.

Fundraising

There will be several types of fundraising available for the Mayo Middle School Band student to participate in.

Fundraising for a major trip:

1. Two years before a major trip. Band fund raising will escalate considerably. At that time, the students will have personal accounts established, and any fundraising they do will go towards their own personal accounts.
2. The two years immediately following a trip, the fundraising will account for adjunct teachers' salaries, clinicians, special performances, extra transportation, etc.
3. Eighth grade students will be included in the fundraising activities two years before the major trip.
4. The amount of profit varies from one fundraiser to the next.

Profit shares are an option through some of the fundraising companies. These monies will be made available as soon as everyone has paid their proceeds from the materials sold.

Any student that does not come up with the full share of proceeds for the materials they sold is subject to having grades held until they come up with the money.

When individual accounts are established, strict guidelines will be enforced. For instance, there will be no shared monies between accounts, no interest accrued, and students will not be able to handle any of their money. If a student quits band/graduates and they have money in their account, if they have a sibling in band below them, the money will go into their sibling's account. If not, that money will go into the general fund.

Band Commitment/Understanding of the Handbook Signature Form

Sign and return this page only by the **August 24th** for a grade.

****By signing and returning this, you agree that you have read and agree to all aspects of the handbook****

I, _____, will be a member of this band program's concert, jazz and/or pep band. I understand the commitment of time, individual and group practice and sectional time I will have to give to do my part in participating. I am aware of the attached schedule of events and also understand that I will be expected to fulfill most all of the school year commitments.

Student Printed Name _____

Student Signature _____

Date _____

Each member of our band program plays an intricate part of the ensemble. As a parent, I will support my child in all music activities and I understand that he/she will be expected to fulfill their commitment to participate in performances, individual and group practices, and concerts through the entire school year. I am also aware that my student is the one responsible for giving me the dates and times of each event and I have seen the attached schedule myself.

Parent/Guardian Printed Name _____

Parent/Guardian Signature _____

Date _____

The following are medical/other concerns that you should be aware of concerning my child:
