

**WELCOME**  
to the Herndon Middle School Band Program!!

**Congratulations**  
for choosing to be a part of it all!!

As we begin this school year together, I would like to take this opportunity to say “*Welcome back!*” to all of my former students and their parents, and extend a warm “*Welcome!*” to all newcomers to the Herndon Middle School Band Program. I am certain that this will be another exciting and rewarding school year for all of us as we work and grow together.

The performing arts are an integral part of the curriculum in the Fairfax County Public Schools. The band program at Herndon Middle is structured to provide the student with an opportunity to discover his/her talent in music and to develop this talent and interest to whatever level of achievement he/she desires.

The band provides a liberal education by expanding the student’s learning experiences and by developing many mental and physical skills which can be applied to other areas - all while we have FUN! Self-discipline in instrumental music is the key to many learning experiences that will enrich the life of every individual. I hope that each student will take advantage of this opportunity to participate in a discipline which may lead to many years of pleasure.

The purpose of this handbook is to introduce the band students and their parents to the band program at Herndon Middle School and to establish guidelines for a successful program. This handbook will inform the students as to what is expected of them as members of the band program and of the many opportunities which the instrumental program at Herndon Middle offers to each of them to share and improve their musical skills.

A number of evening concerts and special activities have already been scheduled for the school year. For your convenience, they have been listed on the following page. Please mark these dates on your home calendar. If there are additions or changes, I will notify you immediately.

I look forward to working with you during the school year!

Musically Yours,

*Sharon J. Bonneau*

Sharon J. Bonneau  
Director of Bands

## HERNDON MIDDLE SCHOOL BAND CALENDAR 2008 - 2009

September TBA*	7:00 PM	Annual Band Parents Meeting	HMS
October 18	8 AM - 5 PM	Herndon Homecoming Parade Football Game (Symphonic & Concert Bands)	Town of Herndon & Herndon High School
TBA		Music Department Fund Raiser	
TBA	2:30 - 3:30 PM	Ice Cream Social (All Band Students)	HMS Cafeteria
December TBA	7:00 PM	Winter Band Concert (All Band Students)	HMS Auditorium
December TBA	7:00 PM	Winter Concert Snow Date (All Band Students)	HMS Auditorium
January 10	TBA	All-District Band Auditions (Mandatory for 1 <sup>st</sup> chair Symphonic members, voluntary for all others)	McLean High School
February 6 & 7	TBA	All-District Band (Selected students only)	Chantilly High School
TBA*	7:00 - 9:00 PM	Rising 7 <sup>th</sup> Gr. Orientation/ Fine Arts Festival (Jazz Band)	Herndon Middle School
February TBA	7:00 PM	Pre-Festival Concert (Symphonic & Concert Bands)	Herndon Middle School
February TBA	7:00 PM	Pre-Festival Concert Snow Date (see above)	
March 6	TBA	District XII Band Festival (Concert Band)	Marshall High School
March 7	TBA	District XII Band Festival (Symphonic Band)	Marshall High School
April 18	All Day	Solo and Ensemble Festival (Voluntary for all bands)	Langston Hughes
TBA	8:00 AM	Honor Roll Assembly (Jazz Band)	HMS Auditorium
May TBA	All Day	Spring Band Trip (Symphonic & Concert Bands)	Busch Gardens
May 8	7:30 PM	Pyramid Concert (Symphonic Band)	Herndon High School
TBA	7:00 PM	Spring Band Concert (All Band Students)	HMS Auditorium
June TBA	7:00 PM	Band Celebration & Awards	HMS Gym/Cafeteria

\*Most dates were not available for scheduling when this document was created. Additional dates will be provided when available in September/October 2008.\*

# **CLASSROOM PROCEDURES FOR SUCCESS IN BAND**

Students arriving after the bell are tardy.

If the student has a late pass, it should be given to Ms. Bonneau.

If the student does not have a pass, he/she will print his/her name legibly on the "TARDY TO CLASS" sheet and quietly go to his/her seat.

## **Before Rehearsal:**

1. Get a drink of water (if needed) & enter room quietly. Restroom passes are allowed during "non-instructional" time only.
2. Get instrument & sit in assigned seat. Be sure to close your lock on your locker. Locks found unlocked will be confiscated.
3. Place pencil & music on the stand.
4. Put instrument together.
5. Place instrument case under or next to your chair. Percussionists will place all books, etc. on the floor. Only *percussion instruments* are allowed on the percussion table.
6. Attendance will be taken 2 minutes after the bell rings. Students who are not in their seats at that time will lose 3 Rehearsal Skills points.
7. Sit quietly and silently "air" (finger only) your music until Ms. Bonneau begins the full-band warm-up.
8. Students who need replacement music will get it from Ms. Bonneau either *before or after school*. Replacement music will not be given out during class.

## **During Rehearsal:**

1. Instruments will remain in rest position except when Ms. Bonneau asks you to play.
2. No talking unless given direct permission to do so.
3. Raise your hand if you have a question and wait until called upon.
4. Treat each other and the director with respect.
5. Sit on the front half of the chair with a straight back and feet flat on the floor when playing.
6. There will be no water breaks, so be sure to get a drink *before* coming to band.

## **After Rehearsal:**

1. Remain in your seat until Ms. Bonneau dismisses you.
2. Put your chair and stand back in original position and clean up around your area.
3. Pack up instrument & lock it in your band locker.
4. Percussionists will return all sticks/mallets to the drawers in the percussion cabinet & return any equipment that was moved to its original place.

5. You may talk quietly with one another.
6. Band room doors will remain closed and all students will stay in the band room until the dismissal bell rings.

## The Grading System

The main focus of the Band Program is to provide the student with the opportunity to succeed. With this in mind, the following grading system will be used to evaluate students in the band program.

The student's grade is based on **100%**, divided differently depending on whether or not there is a performance during the grading period.

Grading periods **with** a Performance:

35% - Rehearsal Skills

25% - Practice Charts

15% - Tests

25% - Performance Participation or Concert Review (only when not participating in a performance)

Grading periods **without** a Performance:

50% - Rehearsal Skills

25% - Practice Charts

25% - Tests

The grading scale:

A = 94-100

B + = 90-93

B = 84-89

C+ = 80-83

C = 74-79

D+ = 70-73

D = 64-69

F = 63 or below

### **Rehearsal Skills**

Rehearsal Skills are critical to each student's musical success. When students exhibit good Rehearsal Skills, they succeed at the highest musical level, allowing the Band Department to continue to maintain its musical excellence. In order to continue our successes, the following method of assessment will be used:

Each student will automatically receive 100 points at the beginning of each grading period. When a student chooses to achieve and maintain proper Rehearsal Skills, he/she will keep

all 100 points. BUT if a student chooses not to apply him/herself towards musical excellence, points will be deducted:

- 3 for no pencil in class (pens are not acceptable)
- 3 for not being seated and ready to play 2 minutes after the bell rings
- 3 for no music/book in class
- 3 for missing materials (4 good reeds, valve oil, cork grease, this handbook, cleaning rods, cleaning swabs, slide grease, towel for water key, etc.)
- 3 for not demonstrating proper instrument position
- 3 for not demonstrating proper playing posture
- 3 for not producing a tone that is characteristic to your skill level
- 5 for not following verbal and/or physical conducting cues
- 5 for repeated misbehavior / for talking after a warning has been given
- 5 for no instrument in class
- 5 for chewing gum, eating or drinking in band room
- 5 for playing/touching any instrument other than your own
- 5 to replace each piece of lost music
- 5 to get a confiscated lock back

*The important question for students to ask themselves before they take action is, "How will this help the band get better?" If it won't help the band, then don't do it!*

In order to allow students to be actively involved in their musical assessment, points can also be ADDED:

- +3 for every non-HMS band concert attended (have parents sign the program from the event and give it to Ms. Bonneau)
- +5 for performing in a non-school related recital or concert (bring program or church bulletin in with a short parent note)
- +10 for auditioning for music groups outside of school (for example: All-District Band, American Youth Philharmonic orchestras, etc.)
- +10 for participation in Solo & Ensemble Festival

Other opportunities to earn bonus points will be announced in class. Students will have a clean slate each marking period.

## Home Practice Chart

Students will receive a Home Practice Chart at the beginning of each grading period. A **MINIMUM OF 180 MINUTES PER WEEK IS REQUIRED** in order to receive an "A". **Practice Charts will be checked on Monday of each week** (or Tuesday if Monday is a holiday) **throughout the grading period, for a grade, and then collected at the end of the grading period.** The student must have his/her chart signed by a parent or guardian at the end of each week. **If the chart is not signed, the student will not receive credit for practicing.**

A one week “grace period” will be granted for forgotten/unsigned practice charts (practice charts are only checked on the designated day). After the grace period, students will receive a zero for that weekly practice grade. Please keep in mind that the grace period is a “privilege” and will be revoked, at Ms. Bonneau’s discretion, from classes in which students consistently and continually neglect to bring in their practice charts.

If a student is out of school because of illness or an emergency for five consecutive days, practice will be excused for that week. This does not include pleasure trips.

Daily in-school band rehearsals do **NOT** count towards weekly home practice times! However, each after-school rehearsal directed by Ms. Bonneau will count as 30 minutes towards the home practice time.

Private lessons will count as 30 minutes of practice time on the day of the student’s lesson.

The following grading chart will be used to determine weekly practice chart grades:

A	= 180 minutes per week
B +	= 165-179
B	= 155-164
C+	= 145-154
C	= 135-144
D+	= 125-134
D	= 115-124
F	= 1-114
0	= 0

**Students may earn 1 extra credit point for every 30 minutes past 180 minutes of practice time.** For example, a student would earn 1 extra credit point if he/she practiced 210 minutes during the week.

## Tests

Students will be taking several playing tests throughout each marking period. Some will be announced and others will not. Written tests may also be given.

## Performance Participation

Performance is the ultimate goal of any band. Therefore, **attendance IS REQUIRED** at every performance. A performance is the equivalent of a major unit exam in other subject areas, but because it is a group activity, it cannot be made up. A student’s absence from a performance without a **prior** note from his/ her parent will be considered unexcused, and subject to a grade of zero for that activity.

Several examples of excuses which are considered **unexcused** are:

- 1) “I forgot!” (“We had a concert?!”)
- 2) “I had to baby sit.”

- 3) "I had a soccer (football, basketball, etc.) game."
- 4) "I didn't have a ride."
- 5) "Something came up!"

According to Fairfax County Regulations, excused absences include:

- 1) Student illness on day of concert
- 2) Death in the family
- 3) Doctor appointments
- 4) Suspension
- 5) Religious holidays
- 6) Prearranged absences from school

A written excuse from the parent or guardian must be **received by Ms. Bonneau two (2) weeks before** the concert date for doctor appointments, religious holidays and prearranged absences.

If student illness is the reason for the absence, a **note, voice mail, or e-mail** from the parent or guardian must be **received by Ms. Bonneau** the day of the concert, the day after the concert, or the day the student returns to school. To reach me by phone, call 703-904-4841 anytime 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. To reach me by e-mail: Sharon.Bonneau@fcps.edu

In the case of an *excused* absence, a Concert Review would be assigned to make up for the performance absence, and the grade received for the review would take the place of the performance grade for that activity.

A performance is an opportunity for students to show their family and friends how hard they have worked. It is important that families mark their calendars as soon as possible. Your attention is called to Fairfax County's Department of Instrumental Service's Program of Studies which states, "*Band offers students several performance opportunities and requires rehearsal and performance outside of normal school hours.*"

**Students are expected to stay for the entire concert unless prior written notification has been given and has been approved.**



## Concert Reviews

If a student is *excused* from a scheduled performance, another public performance must be attended and a two page review must be written. The review would be due by the end of the present grading period. "Pop" and "Rock" concerts do not fulfill this requirement, and reviews of recordings will not be accepted. The Concert Review grade will replace the Performance Participation grade for excused absences.

When working on the Concert Review, follow these guidelines:

- Include the following information: **who, when, where, what** (music they played) and if you **did or did not enjoy** the concert and **why** you did or did not enjoy the concert. Did the performers sit correctly and play with dynamics? How musical was the performance?
- Research a composer of at least one of the concert pieces. Write four to five paragraphs about their life, their music education, and what kind of music they wrote. \*Use more than one source (two different websites are fine), write using your own words, and list your sources on a separate page at the end of the paper.
- TYPE the review
- Attach the concert program to the review

## Tardy Policy

Rehearsal begins two (2) minutes after the class bell rings. This allows ample time to put together your instrument. Three (3) points will be deducted from the “Rehearsal Skills” portion of the grade for not being seated and ready to play two minutes after the bell rings.

Unexcused tardiness to class will be dealt with according to HMS policy. Please refer to your Herndon Hawk Manual for more information.

If a student has a late pass, it should be given to the teacher and is considered an excused tardy.

## Competitions and Festivals

Each year the Virginia Band and Orchestra Director’s Association (VBODA) sponsors several statewide activities for band members. The VBODA has divided the state into 16 districts. Herndon Middle School is in District 12.

### **All-District Band**

The All-District Band is comprised of the best middle school band members in our school district. The band rehearses and performs with a nationally known band director. Membership in the All-District Band is determined by auditioning students in early January on a Saturday. Registration information will be available in November. Audition information is posted in the band room. Being selected as a member is extremely prestigious, and the audition experience is invaluable. An audition fee (approximately \$5.00) will be charged, and if a student is selected for the All-District Band, there is a participation fee (approximately \$25.00). All fees are nonrefundable. **Auditions for this event are required for first chair players in Symphonic Band,** and voluntary for all other band members.

## **District XII Band Festival**

The Concert and Symphonic Bands participate in the District XII Band Festival, which usually occurs in late February or early March. All schools participate in this big event. Each band performs three selections for a panel of judges.

The judges grade the band on their performance, giving each band a rating (superior, excellent, good, fair or poor) and comments. Specific information on dates and times will be given as soon as it is determined by VBODA. Attendance at this festival is mandatory if you are a member of Concert or Symphonic Band.

*This event is comparable to the SOL tests in academic classes!*

Family and friends are asked to come and support our groups at Festival. They are also encouraged to stay and listen to other schools' ensembles.

## **Solo & Ensemble Festival**

This Festival takes place at a Fairfax County school during a Saturday in April. The festival is open to all band members at HMS. Students attending this festival perform their music for a judge. The judge gives them advice on how to improve their playing. Students who take private lessons may choose to perform a solo with piano accompaniment (the student provides his/her accompanist), as well as a small ensemble piece. Students who do not study privately may play a duet, trio or quartet with other band members. Judges give each student or ensemble a rating (superior, excellent, good, fair or poor) for his/her performance, as well as written comments. Those students receiving an "Excellent" or "Superior" rating will receive a Virginia Band and Orchestra Director's medal for their accomplishment. An entrance fee must be paid by each participant. Participation in this event is voluntary and open to all band members.

## **Spring Trip**

Symphonic and Concert Bands go on an annual spring trip with the orchestra and chorus. This festival gives us the opportunity to perform for a panel of distinguished judges. The judges give each group:

1. Verbal and written comments
2. A rating (superior, excellent, good, fair or poor) and
3. Placement (first, second, third, etc.) for their performance.

After the groups perform for the judges, the students spend the remainder of the day in an amusement park (Busch Gardens this year!). This tradition has become quite popular with our students, and is both educational and fun for all!

## **Who may go on this trip?**

In order for Symphonic and Concert Band students to earn the right to participate in this trip with the Herndon Middle Music Department, they must have demonstrated exemplary behavior throughout the school year. If students are unable to accept the responsibility of behaving properly during school hours, we cannot accept the responsibility of taking them on this trip.

The cost for this trip is approximately \$110.00 per student – please plan accordingly. For purposes of financial and logistical planning, once a student has committed to participating in this trip (festival), there can be NO REFUNDS FOR ANY REASON (i.e. illness, discipline, suspension, or change of plans). The director retains the right to reconsider a student’s participation in this activity due to poor behavior at any time.

## After-School Rehearsals

Periodically during the year, after-school sectional or full band rehearsals will be scheduled to assist in preparation for a concert. These rehearsals are necessary to the growth and development of the individual student and to the success of the group as a whole and are considered a test grade. Every effort will be made to provide the students with at least two weeks notice of a rehearsal. Each student needs to organize his/her schedule so that he/she is able to attend these rehearsals.

Please do not schedule medical appointments on Mondays or Wednesdays before 3:30 p.m., because most after-school rehearsals will take place on these days. Students are expected to attend **all** rehearsals. An excused absence from a sectional rehearsal requires that the student provide a written explanation from the parent/guardian **prior to** the rehearsal. For an *excused* absence, a recording of the student playing his/her band pieces will be submitted for the test grade. An *unexcused* absence may cause the student to be moved down one chair in his/her section, and he/she will receive a “zero” for this test grade.

## Challenges

A challenge system is used in the Cadet, Concert and Symphonic bands to determine changes in chair positions within the various sections. Students who wish to challenge must first demonstrate to Ms. Bonneau their ability to perform the All-District Band requirements (“Pre-Challenge”). These requirements are posted in the band room.

Pre-challenges take place before both challenge weeks. A successful pre-challenge in the 2nd quarter does **NOT** “carry over” for the 3rd quarter challenges. You must successfully complete a pre-challenge each time you want to participate in challenge week. Students have **TWO** attempts to successfully complete a pre-challenge.

In Cadet Band, a complete or partial re-audition of a section of the band or of the entire band may take the place of the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter challenge.

As soon as his/her competency to perform these requirements has been verified, the student will be allowed to participate in “Challenge Week”. One week during 2nd and 3rd quarters will be designated for all challenges for that quarter. The challenges will take place after school for the entire week. All band students **MUST PUT ASIDE 2:30-3:30 P.M. FOR THE ENTIRE WEEK**, since a student who wins a challenge is allowed to continue to challenge higher students until the week ends! Not being “available” to challenge is not an excuse! Ms. Bonneau will try to schedule all challenges on late bus days. However, if many students are challenging, non-late bus days will be used and students will need to get a ride home.

Challenges will not take place at any other time during the quarter!

1. You may only challenge the student directly ahead of you. If you win the challenge, you may challenge the next person and continue for the remainder of the week. You must inform the person you are challenging about the challenge, then both students confirm the challenge with Ms. Bonneau. The challenge will be scheduled and posted.
2. Challenges will take place after school from 2:30-3:30 p.m. during the designated "Challenge Week".
3. Challenges will consist of the following:
  - a. Any music in the folder that has been rehearsed in class.
  - b. If the person you are challenging has a higher part than you (1st vs. 2nd), you must play the higher part.
  - c. Any major scale through four sharps and four flats, played in the manner stated in the All-District Study Guide, memorized. Failure to successfully perform the scale portion of the challenge will cause the challenge to be over without proceeding to other music.
  - d. The chromatic scale as stated in the All-District Study Guide
    - slurred up, tongued down and memorized.
  - e. Percussion challenges will consist of the All-District Study Guide rudiments and scales. Both players will perform the band music of the person being challenged.
4. If you do not "show up" for the challenge, you automatically forfeit your position. A missed challenge due to illness will *try* to be rescheduled.
5. If you are not "available" to challenge, you automatically forfeit your position. (This is why you must put the entire week aside!)
6. If a student has extenuating circumstances during challenge week, such as a broken limb or hospitalization, no challenges will take place against that student and the student will not lose his/her chair. Challenge week will not occur for that section and will not be re-scheduled. Ms. Bonneau will make the final decision on this.
7. If you lose a challenge, you may not re-challenge that person until "Challenge Week" during the next quarter.
8. A "tie score" means that the seat placement remains the same.

***Due to extenuating circumstances, seating assignments may be changed at the director's discretion.***

## **Awards**

At the end of the year, student awards are presented at the Band Celebration and Awards Ceremony in recognition of outstanding musicianship and distinguished musical contributions. A band student may earn an award by fulfilling certain requirements.

## **Master Musicianship Award** (seventh grade)

Requirements:

1. Student must be in seventh grade
2. Earn an “A” in band for all grading periods\*
3. Participate in the HMS Marching Band (Symphonic & Concert band students only)
4. Audition for All-District Band
5. Earn a Superior or Excellent rating on a Grade 3 or higher solo at the Solo & Ensemble Festival
6. Participate in all concerts and performances
7. Display appropriate conduct at all times when participating in any band activity

## **Outstanding Musicianship Award** (eighth grade)

The following criteria must be met in order to receive this award:

1. Student must be in eighth grade
2. Earn an “A” in band for all grading periods\*
3. Participate in the HMS Marching Band (Symphonic & Concert band students only)
4. Be a member of All-District Band
5. Earn a Superior rating on a Grade 3 solo OR a Superior *or* Excellent rating on a Grade 4 or higher solo at the Solo & Ensemble Festival
6. Participate in all concerts and performances
7. Display appropriate conduct at all times when participating in any band activity

\*Fourth quarter interim grade will be the cut-off date for this

## **Performance Dress**

Training, Cadet and Percussion Ensemble members are to wear:

- Boys: black dress shoes, black socks, black dress pants, white long sleeved ironed shirt with a collar, and straight plain black tie
- Girls: black dress shoes, black socks or hose, black dress pants, white long sleeved ironed shirt (please avoid off-whites, creams and beiges)

Symphonic and Concert Band members are to wear:

- Boys: black dress pants, black shoes, black socks, ironed HMS white tux shirt and white t-shirt, 4 black studs, HMS bow tie & cummerbund
- Girls: black shoes, black hose, long black skirt (mid-calf to ankle length and non-conforming to the body), ironed HMS white tux shirt and camisole (or white t-shirt), 4 black studs, HMS bow tie & cummerbund

## Activity Fee

**Symphonic and Concert Band** members will pay an activity fee of \$25.00 for the year. This fee covers the cost of the band t-shirt (mandatory for our spring trip), as well as the tux shirt / studs / bow tie / cummerbund usage fee. If a student loses the HMS tux shirt, 4 studs, bow tie, or cummerbund there will be a replacement fee, which the student is required to pay when he receives the replacement item. No uniform items will be sold on the night of a concert. Students who are not dressed in the complete uniform will not be allowed to perform. Plan ahead!!!

## Instrument Storage Area

A storage area is available adjacent to the band room. If students choose to use this facility, their name must be visible on the outside of their instrument case. Failure to display the student's name will result in **removal of the instrument** and **loss of locker privileges**. HMS will provide a combination lock to secure the assigned storage locker. If the assigned lock is lost/stolen, the student will pay a \$5 fee to replace it.

Lockers will be assigned on a first-come, first-serve basis to students who turn in completed band paperwork. **Instruments stored in unlocked lockers will be removed and the student will lose the privilege of using the band lockers.** Locks left unlocked on the locker will be confiscated and returned to the student for a 5 point Rehearsal Skill penalty. Only students storing instruments are permitted in the storage area. Students may choose to store their instruments in their hall lockers.

## Instruments and Instrument Rental

Most band students at Herndon Middle own their instruments or rent them from local music dealers. Herndon Middle also has a number of instruments available for use. These instruments are primarily the larger and more expensive instruments not often available for rental from music stores.

**Students using school-owned instruments** have a music instrument contract and pay a rental/maintenance fee for the use of the instruments. All percussionists are required to pay a rental/maintenance fee for use of the school percussion equipment.

Please note that **no fee will be charged for instruments used by students on a daily basis when the student has previously used a privately-owned instrument and transfers to a school-owned instrument** in order to meet a specific need of the band. The waiving of the fee is in effect for the remainder of the school year in which the student changes instruments.

Students using an HMS instrument either at school or at home should clean, oil, and/or grease it regularly. Students must provide their own supplies such as valve oil, slide grease, cork grease, reeds, neck straps, etc.

Students using a school or county instrument who do not treat the instrument with proper care will lose the PRIVILEGE OF USING THE INSTRUMENT.

Proper care means:

1. Keeping the instrument in good working order - clean, oiled and greased
2. Storing the instrument correctly - putting the instrument away properly with the case latched
3. Clearly marking the outside of the case with the student's name and address

IT IS STRONGLY RECOMMENDED THAT ALL PARENTS MAKE A NOTE OF THE INSTRUMENT'S SERIAL NUMBER AND BRAND and keep this information in a safe place at home.

## Instrument Repair

School-owned instruments damaged through normal use and wear are repaired at no cost to the student. Students should report any damage immediately to Ms. Bonneau.

**If a school instrument needs repair** bring it to Ms. Bonneau as soon as possible. **Do not try to fix the instrument on your own or have it fixed by a local music dealer – you will not be reimbursed.** The Fairfax County Public Schools have contracted instrument repair services from ATEC Music, and parents who have school-owned instruments repaired at local music dealers cannot be reimbursed.

Repair costs for damage to HMS or county instruments due to student abuse or neglect will be billed directly to the student's parent/guardian.

## Student Responsibilities to Equipment

Each student is responsible for books and sheet music provided to him or her. Loss of music or damage beyond normal wear will result in students paying for such materials. Students will be allowed to mark in their books and music, but only in pencil, and **all pencil marks must be erased** before returning the material to Ms. Bonneau.

Use **ONLY** your own personal instrument and accessories, or the instrument and accessories assigned to you. Students are not permitted to touch or to play another student's instrument **or the percussion instruments** (if you are not a percussionist).

## Instrument Accessories and Supplies

The following is a list of instrument accessories and supplies. Students are responsible for providing these items, as well as their instruments.

\* = items which the students must have in class EVERY DAY!

## **All Band Members**

Music stand for home practice  
Metronome for home practice  
Pencil \*  
Student's name on outside of instrument case \*  
GREAT ATTITUDE! \*

## **Flute**

Cleaning rod and cloth \*

## **Oboe / Bassoon**

Cleaning rod, swab (silk works best)(for the oboe) \*  
3 good reeds at all times \*  
Cork grease \*  
Reed case  
Water container

## **Clarinet / Bass Clarinet / Contra Clarinet**

4 good reeds at all times! Recommended: Mitchell Lurie or Van Doren strength 3 or 3-1/2 \*  
Reed guard to hold 4 reeds  
Cleaning swab (handkerchief style - Buffet makes a good one) \*  
Cork grease \*  
Advanced Bb clarinet players should use a good quality mouthpiece and ligature.  
Recommended: Pyne Polycrystal or Van Doren 5RV Lyre mouthpiece with either a Bonade inverted Ligature or a Rovner "regular" ligature

## **Saxophone**

4 good reeds at all times! Recommended: La Voz strength medium, Van Doren strength 3 or 3-1/2 \*  
Reed guard to hold 4 reeds  
Dependable neck strap \*  
Cork grease \*  
Cloth cleaning swab (for the body of the sax) \*  
Advanced saxophone players should use a good quality mouthpiece and ligature.  
Recommended: Selmer S90 mouthpiece and a Rovner "regular" ligature

## **All Brass Instruments**

Valve oil (Rotary oil for French Horn and Slide oil for Trombone) \*  
Tuning slide grease \*  
Towel to absorb water from water key (it is not allowed to empty the water onto our floor!) \*

Advanced Brass members should use a good quality mouthpiece. Recommended:

Trumpet/Cornet:	Bach 5C
French Horn:	Holton Farkas MDC
Trombone/Baritone:	Bach 6-1/2 AL
Tuba:	Conn Helleberg

Advanced trumpet players should also purchase an Alessi-Vacchiano straight mute.

## **Percussion**

Percussion Ensemble:

Percussion Kit \*, which includes a drum pad, adjustable stand, 2-1/2 octave set of bells, 2B drum sticks, bell mallets

All Other Percussionists:

At least two pair of Vic Firth SD-1 snare drum sticks (it is HIGHLY recommended that students have one or two extra pairs of snare drum sticks). Stick tips must be free of chips and defects that will cause damage to the snare heads. Small bell set to practice on at home.

## **Individualized Instruction**

Individualized instruction (“private lessons”) are an excellent opportunity for student musicians to improve their skills and make the most possible musical progress. Interaction between a young musician and a skilled teacher provides a wealth of motivation and knowledge that can only be achieved through private instruction. Private lessons work well with all levels of students:

**Advanced musicians** – advanced techniques and extra challenges are possible

**Average level** – focus on the musical needs and progressive skills of the student

**Basic level** – extra help or “catch up” with progress of band class or grade level

There are many private instructors in our area, and cost and length of lessons vary. Ms. Bonneau has a list of private instructors known to teach in our area and who have worked well with students in the past.

## **Helping Your Child At Home**

1. Arrange a regular practice time and make sure it is followed. This is the most important thing you can do to help your child. Daily practice is the best thing that can be done to maintain and to further musical progress.
2. Provide your child with as good an instrument as you can afford and a safe place to keep it. Keep a record of the brand name and the serial number of the instrument.
3. Identify the case with your child’s name, address, and phone number.
4. Realize that most students do NOT practice on their own. They usually need to be reminded, particularly after the novelty of the instrument has worn off.

5. Students should practice in a room with adequate lighting and use a music stand.
6. Make sure that siblings stay away from your child during practice time. Turn off the television if it is located in the practice room and keep interruptions and distractions to an absolute minimum.
7. Show an interest and be enthusiastic in your child's practice. Take time to listen to his/her practicing, give help if your child asks, arrange family concerts where the entire family listens to your child play some or all of the assigned lesson. Be creative.
8. Never make fun of not-so-musical sounds that your child may produce.
9. Help your child to remember to bring his/her instrument, music, and supplies to school every day. Putting these items by the door after the child practices usually helps.

## Questions?

Parents are invited to e-mail **Ms. Bonneau** at: [Sharon.Bonneau@fcps.edu](mailto:Sharon.Bonneau@fcps.edu) if they have any questions or need additional clarification. Ms. Bonneau may also be reached by phone at: 703-904-4841. This is a direct line to the band office. Please leave a message if no one is available to take your call.

Be Sure to Check Our Website at:  
[www.herndonband.org/SOH](http://www.herndonband.org/SOH)

*Thank you for supporting your child's musical education!*

"If you refuse to accept anything but the best, you very often get it."  
- Anonymous

## LET'S HAVE A GREAT YEAR OF MUSIC!