

Band Handbook

Dr. David L. Anderson Middle School

7000 SE Atlantic Ridge Drive

Stuart, Florida 34997

-2019/2020 Revision-



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Welcome! You have made the decision to become a member of the Anderson Middle School Band Program. This organization has established a tradition of excellence and our reputation has been built by the hard work and dedication of every member, past and present. It is your responsibility to conduct yourself in such a manner that will enhance this position of honor and prestige.

Band is placed in the schools not only to turn out professional musicians, but more importantly, to train responsible citizens in the community. Aside from the obvious musical values, musical competence, as well as expression, the chief objectives are character building, loyalty, respect, dependability, responsibility, punctuality, and self-control.

The type of program we will have at AMS this year will depend upon the completion of the above stated goals. It is up to us to work together, to build on and take pride in our accomplishments, and to enjoy our privilege and talent which allow us to be a top-level participant in the Anderson Middle School Band.

T.E.A.M. = Together, Everyone Achieves More!

Membership

The Beginning Band is open to all AMS students with parental permission. The choice of being in band means making a year-long commitment. Students must realize that they may not always be able to play their first instrument of choice; however, every student will be allowed to try out all instruments and will be guided to an instrument appropriate for them. The band MUST be properly balanced musically through each group and this can only be accomplished through a properly balanced Beginning Band. Basic musical skills, including reading music notation, tone production, and technical proficiency, are acquired during this course.

Concert Band is made up of students who have developed their musical skills to a level that qualifies them to be promoted from Beginning Band. Further development of musical skills is concentrated on as well as developing ensemble performance techniques. This group performs for adjudication at the Florida Bandmasters Association (FBA) Music Performance Assessment (MPA) and musicians are encouraged to participate in the FBA Solo & Ensemble MPA. DIRECTOR APPROVAL IS REQUIRED.

The Symphonic Band is made up of the most proficient musicians in the school. It is the top performing ensemble at Anderson and concentrates on advanced literature and ensemble skills development. This development is geared towards success in the high school band program. This group performs at the FBA MPA and participation in the FBA Solo & Ensemble MPA is highly encouraged. DIRECTOR APPROVAL IS REQUIRED.

The AMS Marching Stallion Band is made up of Symphonic and Concert Band members. Performance requirements include local parades and some high school football games. The Drum Line is made up of all percussionists Symphonic and Concert Bands. DIRECTOR APPROVAL IS REQUIRED.

FBA Band Music Performance Assessment

For Symphonic and Concert Bands, FBA Band Music Performance Assessment (MPA) is the culmination of months of very serious rehearsal. This is the most important performance each year and parent support is crucial. This is the band equivalent to the FCAT, EOC, FSA, etc. Bands in the state of Florida have been subjecting themselves for peer review for over 60 years. Producing the highest level of artistic sensitivity and attention to musical detail is the end goal.

Three judges will make comments on and rate three musical selections. The first is a march. The next two are taken from the FBA Music List and are graded according to their degree of technical and musical difficulty. The size of the school determines the grade level that the band is required to play. Judges evaluate these performances with comment sheets and ratings of Superior, Excellent, Good, Fair, or Poor. A fourth

judge evaluates the band on the same grading scale in sight-reading. The band has a very short period of time to study two pieces of music and then must play them.

The three main categories are Performance Fundamentals, Technical Preparation, and Musical Effect. Sub-categories are for tone quality, intonation, physical articulation, beginnings and endings of notes, correct notes, rhythmic accuracy, dynamics (volume), blend, expression, and style. These are graded A, B, C, D, or F based on a subjective standard established through many years of band adjudication.

Are YOU a SUPERIOR Band Member?

How GOOD would our BAND be if everyone played just like YOU?

Responsibility

Anderson Middle School seeks discipline through individual responsibility and student leadership. The following is a minimum criterion which ALL students will follow:

1. Be polite at all times to everyone.
2. Have instruments in excellent playing condition.
3. Be prepared for class and rehearsals with necessary music, equipment, and supplies.
4. Be in attendance for all rehearsals and performances.
5. Be early for all scheduled events.
6. Clean up after yourself in all areas of use.

YOU ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR YOUR OWN ACTIONS!

The hard work of a group of people depends on EACH individual. The band is only as strong as its weakest player and least responsible member. The following is a collection of statements NOT acceptable at AMS:

1. Couldn't get a ride (PLAN AHEAD)
2. Didn't know about it (BE RESPONSIBLE – CHECK YOUR SCHEDULE/CALENDAR)
3. Leaving town (INFORM DIRECTOR AT LEAST TWO WEEKS PRIOR)
4. Had to do homework (PLAN AHEAD – NO PROCRASTINATION ON PROJECTS!)

Excuses that will be accepted:

1. Extreme sickness or death in the family.
2. Prior, written, approved permission at least two weeks BEFORE the performance.
3. Emergencies that cannot be helped. Director must receive notification the day the student returns to school. Director has discretion on approval of excuse.

If you are sick and cannot make a rehearsal or performance, you must somehow let the Director know.

THE BAND ROOM

The Band Room belongs to the students. Its appearance will reflect the PRIDE that each student has in our program. AMS has many visitors during the year. Students have the responsibility to keep the room neat and orderly by checking underneath their seats before leaving class/rehearsal, cleaning up after themselves, and keeping their locker/storage area tidy. Our environment is reflected in our work and it also reflects the students' attitude towards music.

AFTER-SCHOOL REHEARSALS

From time to time, a section of the band or the full band will need extra rehearsal time. This usually occurs because classes need to be combined prior to their performances, or need more instrument-specific instruction. These after-school rehearsals are called only when necessary and with ample notice so that transportation arrangements can be made. These are not extra-curricular, they are co-curricular and always have a grade attached to them.

PERFORMANCES

Performances are an important part of any musical organization. We will have many performances this school year (SEE THE CALENDAR OF EVENTS). Please schedule family events and appointments around these important dates. Performances include concerts, parades, assemblies, MPA, festivals, field trips, etc.

One of the reasons students become involved in instrumental music is the opportunity to perform. In fact, part of the learning experience in band is to develop proper stage presence in a performance situation, as well as:

1. It is part of the learning experience, as well as your RESPONSIBILITY.
2. The band needs you! Sixty students in rehearsal sound great, but only twenty showing up for the concert won't.
3. It's fun! The performance and applause is one of the rewards you have earned for all those hours of rehearsal and individual practice.

The following is a list of concert rules that will make our performances appear more professional:

1. Be EARLY. Early is on time; On-time is late.
2. No pushing, shoving, horseplay, loud talking, or unauthorized playing of instruments in hallways or on stage, etc.
3. No gum, candy, etc.
4. ABSOLUTE QUIET when other groups are performing – Remember, other performers worked hard for their performance, too.
5. NO USE OF CELL PHONES, TEXTING, TAKING OF PHOTOS, ETC.
6. Wear the uniform that applies to your group.
7. Clean your instrument.
8. Help put up all equipment in a neat, orderly fashion.

AUDIENCE ETIQUETTE

Throughout the year, you will participate in many concerts, often as an audience member. It is important that you set the proper example. Mostly, it boils down to the simple fact of THEY PERFORM AND YOU LISTEN. Do not talk or make distracting movement during a performance. Do not eat, drink, chew gum, or anything else that might distract the performers or other audience members. CELL PHONES SHOULD BE TURNED OFF AND TEXTING IS NEVER ALLOWED. When someone is performing, do not enter/exit the venue or leave your seat until the piece of music is complete. This, if absolutely necessary, should be done quickly and quietly during applause.

**A CONCERT IS NOT A SPORTING EVENT –
PLEASE BEHAVE ACCORDINGLY!**

FEES

If at any time there are financial concerns for your family and paying the requisite fees become a strain, please do not hesitate to contact the Director. Every effort will be made to work with each situation on an individual basis. MONEY WILL NEVER BE A REASON FOR A STUDENT TO NOT PARTICIPATE IN BAND. That being said, each student will be assessed \$65 for the school year. These fees allow the program to provide students with new music, uniform cleanings, and other useful educational tools. Checks should be made payable to Anderson Middle School.

UNIFORMS

Any time a band member is in uniform or in a performance situation, the musician shall be neatly groomed. It is always to be remembered that you are representing your family, school, and community. Take PRIDE in your appearance.

The Beginning Band uniform shall consist of the band collared shirt, jeans, and dress code appropriate shoes. The shirt will be worn TUCKED IN – NO DISCUSSION!

The Concert Band (Advanced Band) shall consist of a BLACK dress shirt, BLACK pants, and a BLACK BELT for boys. A plain black ankle length dress/gown will be required for ladies. All students are required to wear black socks (if applicable) and black dress-code appropriate shoes. All items above should be acquired on your own.

The Symphonic Band (Advanced Band) uniform is professional concert attire provided for students by their class fees. Students will be fitted for a uniform, and will be responsible for it during the school year. It is important that parents and students follow the uniform care instruction sheet which is given to each student the moment their uniforms are distributed. Failure to follow the rules of the uniform care instructions may lead to damages of the material. Costs to replace damaged uniforms are to be borne by the student and his/her family. PLEASE REFERENCE THE UNIFORM CARE GUIDE.

Marching Bands' uniforms shall consist of the AMS Marching Band jacket, Black DRESS PANTS (not jeans, not spandex.), TALL BLACK socks, and black band shoes. Used shoes are provided at a first come first serve basis. Used shoes (if obtained for free) must be returned at the end of the school year or you will be responsible for a full replacement cost. If damaged, student will also be held responsible.

EQUIPMENT

It is every band member's responsibility to show the utmost care for all band equipment, instruments, uniforms, band room, and storage facilities, etc. Any school materials lost, destroyed, or damaged will be charged to the student(s) responsible. Percussionists are responsible for the care of all percussion equipment, music, and keeping the storage area and drum room neat.

Students that are assigned a school-owned instrument will be charged a rental/maintenance fee of \$70.00 per school year. This fee may be split per semester, if necessary. This fee is used to help pay for regular maintenance costs for the instrument NOT ABUSE.

Students must keep instruments in EXCELLENT playing condition. When repairs are needed, it is expected that it will be handled promptly.

And finally, IF IT'S NOT YOURS, DON'T TOUCH IT!

FUNDRAISING

Fundraising activities benefit the entire program, not just individuals. Guidelines and minimum requirements will be outlined per activity. ***The Director prefers to run as few fundraisers as possible!***

CLASSROOM RULES

1. You may come into the band room before and after school and during your band class period. You may not come into the band room any other time unless you have received prior permission.
2. NO FOOD, DRINK, OR GUM/CANDY ALLOWED IN THE BAND ROOM AT ANY TIME.
3. Throw all trash in the trash cans, not the on the floor.
4. Report all acts of vandalism immediately, no matter how small.
5. NEVER leave money or valuables in the band room.
6. Public displays of affection and/or profanity will not be tolerated.
7. Do not enter the Director's office for any reason unless he is present.
8. Other people's instruments and property are off-limits. You do not have permission to play the school drums, tubas, pianos, bass, etc.
9. Do not call out or argue during class. If there is a question about music, raise your hand and wait to be recognized. Use good taste and common sense.
10. NEVER lean on the music stands. They hold music, not bodies.
11. NEVER rock back in chairs.
12. Upon entering the band room, quiet shall be maintained. Loud talking, running, and horseplay will not be tolerated.

EXPECTATIONS OF REHEARSAL

1. Have your stuff (working instrument, music, supplies, pencil, and highlighter).
2. Play at the right time.
3. Play your best.

AND....

4. Correct posture and playing position.
5. Positive attitude.
6. Returning paperwork and assignments in a timely fashion.
7. QUIET once the Director enters the room and steps on the podium. No talking should occur once class has started. Musical cooperation comes in two parts: performing your part in tune and rhythmically accurate, and being silent at the appropriate time. Because performing music WELL requires such a high level of aural accuracy, any extra or unnecessary sounds diminish the quality.
8. Students are not allowed to leave rehearsals or performances early unless prior arrangements have been made with the Director.

MARCHING BAND REGULATIONS

1. No talking, moving, or playing out of turn once the band has been called to PARADE REST AND/OR ATTENTION.
2. Play your instrument only during organized and authorized periods of time. THIS RULE INCLUDES THE DRUM LINE!
3. Stand in assigned spots and do not move from that spot during functions.
4. No band member will behave in a manner that will bring negative attention to him or herself or the band.
5. When quiet is requested, respond immediately.
6. Refreshments are only allowed when the Director indicates. CHEWING GUM IS NEVER ALLOWED!
7. Only authorized band members and chaperones are permitted around the band. No visitors are allowed.
8. The uniform must be worn appropriately at all times!
9. No visible jewelry or excessive make-up may be worn.
10. Hair must be tidy, out of the face, and of a natural color (no green, purple, blue, etc.).

All band members will stand for inspection prior to each performance. Your punctuality, bearing, instrument condition, and personal grooming will be checked carefully. Any time the band is marching, you are to act in a professional manner. You are constantly being recorded, so this necessitates no talking, no waving to family and friends, and certainly no horseplay. You are to stand tall and straight, eyes forward, and concentrate on your job.

Consequences for infraction of rules include, but are not limited to, the running of laps at rehearsal, parent contact, administrative action, elimination of field trips, or possible removal from the band program.

ATTENDANCE POLICY

All members are expected to be present at all activities. Each player is a vital part of the whole. If you miss rehearsals and/or performances, your grade will be affected as will the performance of the group. **WE'RE DEPENDING ON YOU!** Performances are like exams in other classes. Unfortunately, they cannot be made up once missed. An unexcused absence from a performance will automatically be entered as a zero.

Rehearsals are reflected in the grade as well. If you do not show up, do not participate, or have the necessary equipment to do so, a zero is also recorded for that rehearsal.

Any concerns about conflicts with other school-related activities must be brought to the attention of Mr. Egan. Most times, we are able to work out conflicts with the sponsor of the other activity. As a team-based activity, it is important that the director is given enough time to accommodate an absence. As such, a **MINIMUM** of a 2 week notice is required on any schedule conflict to be considered excused. Examples of excused and unexcused absences are outlined on page 3 of this handbook.

After-school band activities are NOT extra-curricular, they are co-curricular. The difference is that you do NOT receive a grade for extra-curricular, but you do for co-curricular. This is just like grades received for homework and projects completed out of class. Missing scheduled after-school rehearsals and activities will seriously affect your grade.

HOME PRACTICE

Home/individual practice plays an important part in the musical growth of any musician. Further, educational research has proven that a student's ability to perform on a musical instrument will improve at a rate directly proportional to the quantity and **QUALITY** of regular practice. So, practice does not make perfect, but **PERFECT** practice makes perfect. The Director seeks parental help in encouraging home practice and making a special effort to be aware of the musician's habits. The parent's awareness will enable you to offer praise when it is due. **Home/individual practice is the musician's homework.** This homework should be completed on a regular basis. Musicians need to practice at least four days a week for 20 minutes each time to maximize results. Graded after-school band rehearsals do **NOT** count toward individual practice; ASP time does. Students will be instructed on proper practice procedures in class. For focused practices, the director reserves the right to assign homework via the official Home-Practice Assignment Sheet (HPAS) as often, as little, or to specific students/sections as needed based on the musical demands of the program.

Completing all assigned HPAS charts will account for 10% of the grade and will be checked every time one is due, and will require parent signatures. Parents are asked to help students fill these out with **HONEST AND SERIOUS PURPOSE OF MUSICAL IMPROVEMENT**. Any HPAS charts not filled out correctly will not be accepted. The charts should chart musical growth, not generate landfill.

Parents should set aside a dedicated practice space in the home to facilitate success. The student will require a place to sit up straight and hold their instrument properly, a music stand, adequate lighting, and a

metronome or metronome (free!) app on computer or smart phone. Students should also have regularly scheduled days and times to practice so that good musical habits are formed.

TRIPS

School and Band rules and regulations are in effect for the duration of all school-sponsored activities. Infractions will be dealt with as required by the severity.

All students and chaperones will ride the buses to and from all events, unless specifically designated in advance. At the end of the activity, students will be released only to people listed on the emergency card/band contract.

All trips will be chaperoned. The chaperones are with us to help us carry out our duties and responsibilities. They will help enforce the rules and maintain order. Questions and/or problems should be filtered through the chaperones. The chaperones will be treated with RESPECT. Any student showing disrespect for a chaperone may be denied future participation in trips with the band and can be referred to Student Services, which could result in loss of school trips.

In years past, the Anderson Middle School Bands have performed at Disney World, Universal Studios, and Busch Gardens. If selected again, there are certain criteria that must be met by all students if they are to participate:

1. Must meet the school's incentive trip requirements,
2. Must always show respect for all teachers, guest teachers, all students, and chaperones,
3. Must attend all rehearsals and performances deemed necessary by the Director,
4. Must meet Director-designated requirements, such as pay appropriate cost, and
5. Must meet the approval of the school administration.

Departure and return times are always indicated on the permission slips. We make every effort to keep to the schedule. Students, please make arrangements to have your ride WAITING for you when we arrive back at the school. Parents, you must pick your child up within ¼ hour after any band activity is over. The Director has other obligations. If your student is not picked up on time, it may become necessary to contact local law enforcement. This may seem harsh, but we CANNOT leave your child unattended.

AFTER SCHOOL PRACTICES (Beginning Band Recommended; Advanced Band Requirement)

Aside from, and not to be confused with scheduled after school rehearsals, ALL advanced band students will be required to attend one (1) after school practice session per month during the fall Marching Band season (August –December), and two (2) after school practices a month during the spring Music Performance Assessment season (January to May). For Advanced Band members, this will be a monthly quiz grade.

After-school practices are held every Tuesday and Thursday from 4:00-5:00pm in the Band Room. It will be up to the student to schedule when he/she will be available to come to these practices, and at a maximum of eight practices a month, this provides the students with some flexibility. Students will be required to sign-in to afterschool practice, and the list will be checked at the conclusion of each practice. Activity bus will be available, and a full bus route list is located in the Band Room. Beginning Band students are welcome to join!!!

INSTRUMENTS

All instruments shall be kept clean and well-maintained. Every band member shall have the necessary tools and accessories needed for cleaning and performing on their instrument. All instruments will be neatly

stored in the appropriate storage facility with cases latched shut. Each case should be labeled with the student's name. All percussionists must have their own sticks and bell mallets and must have a snare/bell kit at home. INSTRUMENTS ARE VERY DELICATE AND EXPENSIVE AND SHOULD BE TREATED ACCORDINGLY.

STUDENT LEADERSHIP POSITIONS (Advanced Bands)

The student officers of the AMS Band Program and their duties are listed below. Only students who have displayed outstanding qualities of leadership, character, loyalty, and musicianship will be allowed the honor of holding a leadership role within the band. All student leaders will meet the requirements specified and will help to set the example by following and demonstrating the proper use of the band rules and regulations. All student leaders answer directly to the Director and can be removed from office if they do not fulfill their duties or do not maintain a 2.5 GPA with no F's, as well as maintaining an "A" average in band throughout the entire year.

General Responsibilities/Conduct

The primary responsibility of ALL officers will be leadership through example (attitude, loyalty, dedication, musicianship, conduct, cooperation, etc. All leaders are expected to abide by all band policies, procedures, and traditions, including all AMS rules and procedures. All leaders are expected to maintain a reputation of honesty, promptness, dependability, and quality work in all aspects of school and community life. Band and school responsibilities must be placed in the highest priority, above other outside school activities (i.e., jobs, appointments, etc.). Student leaders must realize that extra hours above and beyond that expected of other members of the band will be required.

ALL leadership positions will be appointed by the Director, following completion of application with parental approval, teacher recommendation forms, formal essay submission, and interview (date to be determined).

Section Leaders (Flute, Clarinet, Saxophone, Trumpet, French Horn, Low-Brass, Percussion):

1. When asked, assist in teaching music.
2. Be able to perform and rehearse all music parts in sectionals.
3. Help others learn and memorize music.
4. Check students daily for attendance and preparedness. Report to the Director.
5. Communicate with section members regarding sectionals, techniques, announcements, etc.
6. Keep section members on task during rehearsals and performances.
7. Be a constant musical example to members in your section.
8. Treat EACH band member as an equal member (no favorites).
9. Provide energy and enthusiasm for the band!
10. Attend after-school practice sessions to assist beginner and advanced band members.

PRIVATE INSTRUCTION

Private instruction is an important factor in serious music training. Band class seldom provides enough one-on-one instruction for superior musical growth. The Director is available for limited after-school help and tries to provide extra assistance but in no way can she offer consistent private help. IDEALLY, all students would study privately. If a student would like to study privately, the Director will be happy to provide names of qualified instructors in the area. Rates vary, but are approximately \$25.00 per half hour.

SUMMER MUSIC CAMPS

Information on summer music camps (which are lots of fun!) can be received from the Director. This information is usually available by April. Outstanding summer programs include the Treasure Coast Band Camp at JBHS, Mr. Bozone's camp at Hobe Sound Bible College, Indian River State College in Ft. Pierce, Florida

State University in Tallahassee, Stetson University in Deland, and the Florida Southern University in Lakeland to name but a few. This can be a GREAT and FUN way to keep up with your instrument during the summer.

COMMUNICATION – REMIND App

For the 2019-2020 School Year, the AMS Band Program will be using the smartphone application “Remind” to keep Band Parents AND students in the loop about assigned home works, performance dates, major announcements, updates during field trips, and of course, important reminders. Also, this application allows us to communicate with each other in cases that require it. Parents and students are *strongly* encouraged to download!

If you possess a smartphone (iPhone, Android, etc.) you can download the application Remind from your app store. Login/Create an account, and search for Anderson Middle School. Please join the classrooms that you will be participating in next year – Beginning Band/Concert Band/Marching Band. If you are a parent interested in joining our incredible Band Parent Association and interested in volunteering, please find the Band Parent Association classroom and join it as well and see the Band Parents Association section below.

If you do NOT possess a smartphone – don’t worry! Please text the classroom ID to the phone number 81010.

NOTE: Advanced Band Parents, please only join the Band Parent Association classroom! Due to limitations set by Remind on classroom announcements based on size, you will be removed from other classes. Do not worry, I will echo important information from class to class.

Symphonic Band Classroom ID-	@49dbf6
Concert Band Classroom ID -	@98g2d7
2 nd Period Beginning Band Parents and Students Classroom ID-	@g7h38h
4 th Period Beginning Band Parents and Students Classroom ID -	@43f626
5 th Period Beginning Band Parents and Students Classroom ID-	@fgaehec
Band Parent Association Classroom ID-	@2bhdd9

BAND PARENTS ASSOCIATION

The Anderson Middle School Band Parents Association is a group of volunteers who assist the Director with fundraising, uniforms, performances, transportation, chaperone duties, special projects, and to help each student work to their full potential. Parents are encouraged to be active working members of the AMS PTSA, as well as the AMS BPA, as we receive great support from their organization. The Band can only be strong with the support of our favorite people – OUR PARENTS!

The Director will call quarterly meetings and will keep them within an hour in length. Our time is valuable. The Director will primarily use the preferred method of communication by collecting email addresses so that calendar updates, newsletters, etc. can be sent out on a regular basis through Charms, school website, etc.

Please know that any assistance you are able to give to the band program will be greatly appreciated. Let us know how you’d like your skills and talents used for the advancement of the Anderson Middle School Band by attending our quarterly meetings.

I AM LOOKING FOR PARENTS TO FILL THESE LEADERSHIP ROLES!! Please contact me if you are interested.

[**eganj@martin.k12.fl.us**](mailto:eganj@martin.k12.fl.us)