

Fisher Middle School

Band Handbook

Mr. Peter Silipino - Director

psilipino@ewingboe.org

(609)538-9800 x8502

<http://ewing.k12.nj.us/Page/1233>

Introduction

The information that follows is intended to provide students and their parents/guardians with descriptions of pertinent areas of the Fisher Middle School band program. Parents/guardians and students are encouraged to review the following procedures.

Group Lessons

Each student will be assigned a weekly, rotating lesson time. The lesson schedule will be posted outside of the band room and distributed to all students and teachers. The lesson schedule will also be posted in the school bulletin and read on the morning announcements each day.

Students are responsible to know when their lesson is scheduled and attend regularly on time. Each student is expected to be at their lesson location, seated with their instruments assembled and **ready to play at the scheduled start time of their lesson.** Students are required to bring the following materials to each lesson.

- **Their instrument (percussionists must have their sticks)**
- **A pencil (no pens, markers, etc.)**
- **A music folder containing all music, worksheets and books**

All students are required to make-up any class work missed while attending group lessons.

Group Lesson Attendance Policy

Students are required to attend all scheduled instrumental lessons except in the event of a test, class trip, or absence from school. If a student is aware of a future absence, they must contact Mr. Silipino and schedule an alternate lesson time in advance. Failure to do so will result in an unexcused absence and the student will receive a zero for that lesson. Students who accumulate three or more unexcused absences during a marking period may be dropped from the band program.

Band Rehearsals

All band students are expected to actively participate and display proper classroom behavior during all band rehearsals. Failure to follow proper rehearsal etiquette will negatively impact the band rehearsal portion of a student's grade. Students who are absent on the day of a band rehearsal will not be penalized. Students are required to bring the following materials to each band rehearsal.

- **Their instrument (percussionists must have their sticks)**
- **A pencil (no pens, markers, etc.)**
- **A music folder containing all music, worksheets and books**

Concert/Performance Attendance Policy

Students are required to attend the evening winter and spring concerts and remain for the complete duration of each performance. **Failure to do so will result in loss of credit and may result in removal from band.** Honors Symphony students are required to attend both the orchestra and band concert dates. If a student cannot attend a concert or performance because of an unforeseen emergency, a written excuse can be submitted for approval by an administrator. If it is known that a student cannot attend a concert or performance in advance, a written letter must be submitted to Mr. Silipino **two weeks prior** to the event for an administrator's approval. Students must be able to play all concert music to the director's satisfaction two weeks before a performance.

Concert Dates

Band Winter Concert: January 14th, 2020

Band Winter Concert Snow Date: January 22nd, 2020

Band Spring Concert: May 13th, 2020

Orchestra Winter Concert: January 16th, 2020

Orchestra Winter Concert Snow Date: January 22nd, 2020

Orchestra Spring Concert: May 19th, 2020

All concerts begin at 7:00 pm. Students are required to arrive at 6:00 pm.

Concert Dress

All students must arrive at each performance in proper concert attire. **Students deemed inappropriately dressed will not be allowed to perform and will lose credit for their concert attendance.**

Proper concert attire is considered the following:

Gentlemen - Collared dress shirt (solid white), dress pants (solid black), dress shoes (black) and necktie.

Ladies - Dress pants/long skirt (solid black), dress blouse (solid white), or a long dress (solid black). Dresses and skirts must be knee length or longer. Low cut, or sleeveless tops will not be permitted.

All concert dress options must follow the FMS dress code. Students are not permitted to wear excessive jewelry, perfumes, colognes or body spray. A student, who is not sure if their concert attire is appropriate, must contact Mr. Silipino prior to the performance date.

Home Practice

All students are required to practice a minimum of 100 minutes a week and document their practice sessions on a practice record. Practice records must be turned in at each group lesson and will not be accepted without a parent/guardian signature. If a student is absent from school on a lesson day or if school is closed due to inclement weather, he/she can submit their practice record to Mr. Silipino on the following day or at the next band rehearsal. Five points will be deducted for every school day that a practice record is late.

Instrument Care

All instruments are the property of Ewing Township Public Schools. Students are expected to properly maintain and care for all school owned instruments. Students and their parents/guardians will be financially responsible for any damage that is done to an instrument, be it purposeful, accidental, or due to neglect or abuse. Instruments are inspected at the beginning and at the end of each school year. Instructors and administrators reserve the right to assess fines through the end of June. Damage estimates may not be available at the time the damage occurs.

Classroom Rules

The following rules of behavior are to be observed at all times while in the band room.

- 1. Be on time with all of your materials. (instrument, band folder, music, books, worksheets, drumsticks if applicable and a pencil)**
- 2. No food, gum, drinks, etc. allowed.**
- 3. Remain seated at all times unless directed to do otherwise.**
- 4. No talking while music is being rehearsed.**
- 5. Once the rehearsal has begun, play only when directed.**
- 6. No loud or inappropriate playing of instruments.**
- 7. Take proper care of all the items that have been loaned to you. This includes instruments, accessories, folders and music. Students will be fined for any lost or damaged items.**

Assessment

The grading policy is designed to reflect student effort through rehearsal participation, classroom performance assignments, and practice records. **No student is graded against the performance skills of another student.**

To earn full credit for rehearsals and group lessons, students must be on time to class with all of their necessary materials and display proper behavior and rehearsal etiquette.

To earn full credit on classroom performance assignments and practice records; students must be able to adequately complete the given assignment to the director's satisfaction and submit the practice records on time.

To earn full credit for concert attendance, students must arrive to school at 6:00 pm, in proper concert attire and remain for the entirety of the program.

The following averaging system will be used to calculate a student's final grade:

1. Band/Concert Participation (25% of final grade)
2. Lesson Participation (25% of final grade)
3. Practice Records (25% of final grade)
4. Classroom Performance Assignments (25% of final grade)

A final grade of 79% or lower in band will result in keeping a student from making the honor roll.

Any student who receives a failing grade for two marking periods during the school year may be removed from band.

Resigning from band

Those students who request to leave the band program and drop the class may do so by submitting a signed parent note before the dates listed below.

1. Before September 13th
2. Before the start of the 3rd marking period
3. At the end of the school year

Ewing Township Public Schools
Instrument Permission Form

Permission is hereby given to our child to use one of the musical instruments provided by the Ewing Township Board of Education. We understand that this instrument will be loaned to our child for the present school term and instruction in the use of it will be given without charge.

If either instrument or case is damaged as a result of carelessness, we will pay for the necessary repairs. If either or both are lost or completely destroyed, we will pay a proportionate amount based on the present market value, but not less than fifty dollars (\$50.00).

We will encourage our child to practice regularly and make the most of the opportunity, which he or she has in learning to play this instrument and profit from the larger offering of the school. We fully understand that our child can lose this privilege because of poor academic performance, discipline, failure to practice or misuse.

Student's name:

Instrument: _____ **Date Issued:** _____

Case Number: _____ **Serial Number:** _____

Issued From: Fisher Middle School **Instructor:** Mr. Silipino

Signature _____ **Date:** _____

(Student)

Print Name _____

(Student)

Signature _____ **Date:** _____

(Parent/Guardian)

Print Name _____

(Parent/Guardian)

Please Sign and Return this form Mr. Silipino by Friday, 9/13/19.

By signing this document, I understand and agree to the terms and conditions in the Band handbook.

Points of Emphasis:

- 1. Group Lessons/Attendance**
- 2. Concert Dates** (Honors Symphony members must attend both the band and orchestra concert dates):

Band Winter Concert: January 14th, 2020

Band Winter Concert Snow Date: January 22nd, 2020

Band Spring Concert: May 13th, 2020

Orchestra Winter Concert: January 16th, 2020

Orchestra Winter Concert Snow Date: January 22nd, 2020

Orchestra Spring Concert: May 19th, 2020

- 3. Students must remain for the entire concert.**
- 4. Students must be in concert dress to perform at concerts.**
- 5. Classroom rules**
- 6. Parents are financially responsible for school owned instruments.**
- 7. Home Practice**

Signature _____ Date: _____
(Student)

Print Name _____
(Student)

Signature _____ Date: _____
(Parent/Guardian)

Print Name _____ Home Phone: _____
(Parent/Guardian)

Work/Cell Phone: _____

E-mail Address: _____
(Parent/Guardian)