



A2 Steam M.S. Band Handbook



Welcome to MS Band at A2 STEAM!

I hope you had a great summer and are ready for the new school year. My name is Mrs. Boden. I am very excited to work with you and help you all become better musicians! I am also excited to announce that the 6th Grade Band will have a co-teacher twice per week, Mrs. Melissa Carpenter.

Contact Information

I encourage you to communicate with me often. boden@aaps.k12.mi.us
You will also find a ton of information on my website. a2steamband.weebly.com

Course Description

The band class curriculum is based on the National Core Arts Standards: Creating, Performing/Presenting/Producing, Responding, and Connecting. Students will achieve these standards by doing exciting projects and performances! All band classes meet 5 days per week.

Grading

Students will receive an overall score of A-E on their report each trimester.
Students will be evaluated on the following categories:

- * Rehearsal Skills
- * Playing Skills
- * Written Work
- * Performance(s)

Performances

Concerts and other performances are scheduled at the start of the school year, and reminders are given in class. Attendance is required at all performances. It is impossible to recreate the educational value of a “live event” experience such as a concert. However, conflicts do occasionally occur. Students may make up the grade only if the absence is due to an unexpected emergency (e.g. illness, family emergency) or if the director approves the absence in advance.

PLEASE check this calendar with your family activities, such as work schedule, sports, scouts, etc. If there are any conflicts, please contact me immediately.

CONCERTS THIS YEAR:

November 19, 7:00pm, A2 STEAM Multipurpose Room - 7th & 8th Grade Band Concert

January 30, 7:00pm, A2 STEAM Multipurpose Room - 6th Grade Band & Orchestra Concert

February 20, 7:00pm, A2 STEAM Multipurpose Room - 7th & 8th Grade Band Concert

(March 17, 7:00pm, Huron High School – 8th Grade Band *possible* performance at “Bands In Review” Concert)

May 12, 7:00pm, A2 STEAM Multipurpose Room - 5th Grade Band, Orchestra, & Vocal Concert

May 18, 7:00pm, A2 STEAM Multipurpose Room – 6th, 7th & 8th Grade Band Concert

OPTIONAL (but highly encouraged) Events and Auditions

Solo and Ensemble Festival

Optional performance for interested 7th & 8th grade students Saturday February 8, 2020 in Livonia, MI. This festival is sponsored by the Michigan School Band and Orchestra Association, District 12. Entry fee and application due Oct. 28, 2019. Most solos require piano accompaniment, so there is an additional cost to hire an accompanist. Transportation is not provided by the school.

Michigan All-State Honors Band

7th & 8th grade band students from all of Michigan are invited to audition for the Michigan All-State Band. This band will perform as part of the Michigan Music Conference (MMC) held January 16 – 18, 2020 in Grand Rapids. If selected from your audition, you will join hundreds of other top instrumentalists from all across the state of Michigan in Grand Rapids for this three-day event. Application to audition and fee of \$15 due to Mrs. Boden by Sept. 23, 2019. Auditions held October 26 or 2 at Saline High School. If selected, there is a registration fee of \$60. Other expenses such as transportation, hotel, and meals are the parents/guardians responsibility.

Music Camp Scholarship Auditions

Summer music camps are a great way for your child to expand their musical experience, meet new friends, and enjoy some great activities in the summer. Many of them, however, are quite expensive. The good news is that your child can earn scholarship money to lower the cost of camp by playing for some scholarship auditions – these usually occur in February. Registration for special AAPS scholarships occurs in December. Students should prepare scales and solos for these auditions.

High School Band Auditions

All 8th graders are HIGHLY encouraged to participate in band when they get to high school. It's a wonderful musical experience, a great way to make friends in a big new school, and satisfies their fine arts requirement. Every 8th grade band student will prepare the audition material regardless of whether they are planning to join high school band, and this performance will be part of their third trimester grade.

Concert Uniform

*The school does not provide this uniform. Contact me if you need to borrow an item.

The uniform for all band performances is all BLACK: shirt, pants, socks, shoes, accessories. Students may purchase a black band shirt through an order that is done in late October.

Classroom Expectations - "Be a better band!"

Everything you do in class should promote quality music education for you and the band. This means respect all people and things, and follow the band rules. It also means that it is your responsibility to ask for help when you need it, and to help your fellow classmates when they need it.

Practice – "Practice makes progress!"

Excellence is achieved through persistence and hard work. Band students are expected to work hard in class, as well as practice their instrument outside of class. My experience has shown that students who practice regularly are the ones who are successful and happy with their band experience because they feel comfortable with their instrument and the class material. Make practice part of your daily homework routine – you will be happy you did!

Music

Each band member will receive a music folder, method book, and one copy of each piece. Please keep the music in your folder, and bring it to every band class. It is your responsibility to keep track of all the music and have it at each rehearsal. You must return books and music at the end of the year.

Band Equipment

All students will use school equipment of some kind for band, whether it is an instrument, a music stand, or other equipment. Students are responsible for the equipment they use, and will be held responsible for any damage or loss they cause, accidental or intentional. Your instrument case should be labeled with your name. For safety reasons, take your instrument home with you at night.

**PARENTS - You are advised to check your home owners/renters policy for personal instrument coverage outside the home and to keep a record of the instrument information (make, model, serial number).

***Please note that to be successful, students should have an instrument that works properly, including that the instrument is clean, all keys, valves and slides move freely, and water key corks are not worn out. You also need proper supplies, such as quality reeds, valve/slide oil, tuning slide grease, a soft polishing cloth, and/or cleaning supplies (swab or snake and mouthpiece brush).

Instruments

*Basic band instruments are provided to AAPS students in 5th grade, and then most middle school students rent or buy their own. Exceptions to this are due to size, difficulty, cost, and financial need. Contact me if you need to borrow an instrument for short-term or long-term use due to logistics or financial need. Also, as your child develops, they may “outgrow” their instrument and/or mouthpiece if they are playing on a basic student model. In middle school or early high school, some students upgrade their mouthpiece and/or instrument so that they are not held back by basic equipment. You may consult with a private lesson teacher or myself for upgrade suggestions.

Private Lessons

All students are encouraged, but not required, to take private lessons on their instrument. Students seeking more of a challenge, students who wish to become better players, and students who may be having difficulty with their instrument are all great candidates for private lessons. In lessons, a student not only receives help with their instrument, but also receives the much needed individual attention of a fine musician. Contact me for a list of names and numbers of instructors in our area.

Supplies Needed

Clarinet and saxophone players will need 4 reeds at all times – **most students play on strength 2-1/2 or 3 reeds**. Reeds are cheaper to purchase in boxes of 10 than individually.

Recommended brands are Royal, Vandoren, Mitchell Lurie, and LaVoz. Students will also need to have cork grease, a swab, reed holder, and mouthpiece brush.

Trumpet, French horn, baritone, euphonium and tuba players will need valve oil, slide grease, cleaning snake, and mouthpiece brush.

Trombone players will need slide cream or SuperSlick, a small spray bottle, slide grease (for tuning slide), cleaning snake, and mouthpiece brush.

Percussion players:

6th Grade Equipment:

Snare drum sticks: Vic Firth “SD1 General” (no skinny sticks or plastic tips)

Medium Bell/Xylophone mallets: Balter “4B” or Vic Firth “M 132”

Hard Bell Mallets: Balter “91R” or Vic Firth “M 133”

Stick bag/carrier: A zippered drum stick bag or sturdy bag from home is fine.

7th & 8th Grade Equipment:

Timpani mallets: Vic Firth “T-1”

Chromatic pitch pipe for tuning timpani

Suspended Cymbal/Marimba mallets: Mike Balter MB-13R medium yarn

Music Stores and Repair Information

- Meridian Winds, 1-517-351-2263, Okemos, MI. A repairman visits STEAM every week for repairs, rental drop off, supplies, etc.
- Anderson Music, 1-313-278-0100 or 1-800-385-7022, Dearborn, full-service music store for sales and instrument rentals
- Music Go Round, 1-734-662-1080, Ann Arbor, Oak Valley Center (near Target), used instruments, books, supplies
- Woodwind and Brasswind, South Bend, IN, www.wwbw.com, 1-800-348-5003, lowest price mail-order pricing
- Horn Works, Ann Arbor, brass instrument repairs, 734-769-6361
- Oz’s Music, Packard Road, 1-734-662-8283
- Pepper Music, 1-800-345-6296, www.jwpepper.com, sheet music and music books



Band Handbook Contract: Due September 13

Student Name: _____ **Instrument** _____

- We have read the Band Information Packet and understand the student's requirements for class, performance attendance, and performance attire.
- We have put the mandatory band concert dates on the family calendar

*Please print and sign here so that I know you received this information.

Parent's Name (printed): _____

Parent/Guardian's Signature: _____

Volunteer Opportunities

I always appreciate any help that you can give to the Steam Band program! If you can volunteer time or skills, please indicate below.

_____ Yes, I can help. Explain what time(s) or skills you want to share: _____

Donations (Optional)

As we outfit our developing band program, we still have some needs. We would really appreciate any help that you can give to the STEAM Band program! You can send any of these items to school, or contact Mrs. Boden to make arrangements.

- *Concert uniform items, new or used – also money to buy concert shirts for those who cannot
- *Instruments that are in working order
- *Funding to purchase concert music – we have a tiny music library at Steam