

WEST CENTRAL VALLEY
MIDDLE SCHOOL
2008-2009

BAND HANDBOOK



MR. TOM GALLAGHER, DIRECTOR
TGALLAGHER@STUDEX.K12.IA.US
(515) 833-2331

INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC EXPECTATIONS

1. Attendance at all lessons and band rehearsal with instrument, music, and pencil.
2. Clarinet and saxophone players are expected to have 2-3 good reeds at all times. Please make sure they are #3 reeds. Students may purchase reed at Moore Music in Creston, Rieman's Music in Des Moines, or at the school office.
3. Instruments are to be kept in good working condition and stored correctly.
4. Home practice is necessary for success in all things especially music I recommend 2 1/2 hours a day as a good starting goal.
5. **Pencils** are just as important to the music rehearsal as are the instruments and the music. Mark in what the director says and make marks so that you learn from your mistakes.
6. **Performance attendance** – These are an essential part of our class. By missing a performance you cheat yourself of the opportunity to share months of practice and work, as well as letting down the band. Only family emergencies and verified illness will be an excuse for missing a performance. Please let the director or school know as soon as possible. Missed performances without prior notice will not be made up and your grade will suffer.

GRADING SCALE

100 = A+
94-99 = A
90-93 = A-
87-89 = B+
83- 86 = B
80-82 = B-
77-79 = C+
73-76 = C
70-72 = C-
67-69 = D+
63-66 = D
60-62 =D-
Below 60 = F

GRADING CRITERIA

- *Participation/Attitude* 25%
- *Lesson Attendance* 25%
- *Written Work* 25%
- *Playing Exams* 25%

LESSONS

All students participating in band in the middle school are *required* to attend lessons. Lessons will be given on a rotating schedule periods 2, 4, 6-8 and before and after school. So if a student has a lesson period 2 this week his lesson will be period 4 the next week, then period 6 through the rest of the cycle. Students unable to attend a lesson because of testing, important notes, or low classroom grade will stay in class and have the opportunity to schedule a make-up band lesson. Students are expected to attend six lessons per quarter.

OPPORTUNITIES IN MIDDLE SCHOOL BAND

At West Central Valley there are several instrumental music learning opportunities for students.

- **Concert Band** is the cornerstone of the instrumental music program.
- **Marching Band**
- **Jazz Ensemble**
- **Honor Bands** information will be distributed as it is received.

2008-2009 WCV MIDDLE SCHOOL BAND CALENDAR

Saturday, August 23	Dexter Fall Festival Parade (grades 7-8)
Friday, October 24	H.S. Football Pregame, Stuart (grades 7-8)
Thursday, December 11	Winter Concert, Redfield (grades 6-8)
Saturday, April 18 th	SCIBA Large Group Contest, DCGrimes (grades 7-8)
Thursday, May 21	Spring Concert, Redfield

Parents please encourage your child Praise and positive comments from you will make a tremendous difference in your child's attitude

"Music expresses that which cannot be said and on which it is impossible to be silent."

■ Victor Hugo

.....

I have read and understand the handbook and expectations for this class. I will do my best to meet expectations and will attend performances and daily rehearsals.

Student name: _____
(print)

Student signature _____ **Date** _____

Parent signature _____ **Date** _____

**Please sign and return before Friday, August 29, 2008*