

g r a n t b a n d
Handbook
2015-2016



Band Office – (231) 834-1356
www.grantps.net/GrantBands
Facebook: [facebook.com/grantbands](https://www.facebook.com/grantbands)
Twitter: @grantbands

Each year there are numerous questions relating to policies, expectations and goals of the Grant Band Program. The purpose of this handbook is to inform you of these policies to avoid any misunderstandings or problems. The support of a fine band program is commitment shared by administrators, teachers, parents, and students. Working together will insure a rewarding music education. We encourage students and parents to read and discuss this handbook together.

ENSEMBLES

HIGH SCHOOL SYMPHONIC BAND

The Symphonic Band is the high school's concert band. It functions from the end of marching band season (mid November) through the rest of the school year. The Symphonic Band plays a varied repertoire of music and performs at festivals and concerts at least five times per year. Enrollment is open to all previous band members entering grades 9-12. Others may be able to join with the permission of the director.

HIGH SCHOOL MARCHING BAND

The Grant Marching Band begins rehearsals during the summer months and prepares a new show every year. The marching band performs at all home football games, in parades, and travels to festivals and competitions each fall. **Students must be a member of the Symphonic Band** to be in Marching Band (except color guard).

FALL COLOR GUARD

Color guard is an intra-curricular part of the marching band that performs flag routines, dance, and adds other visual effects to the marching band show. Enrollment is open to grades 8-12 by audition only, held in late April or May for the following school year. Color Guard members must enroll in the first trimester of band.

HIGH SCHOOL JAZZ BAND

Jazz Band is a class where students study and perform a wide variety of music encompassed by the jazz genre. This ensemble will consist of the typical jazz band instrumentation with only one person per part. This ensemble will be students who have previous jazz band experience or have auditioned into the ensemble. Students in this ensemble will be on their primary instruments. Other instruments will be at the discretion of the director.

PEP BAND

The Pep Band is an activity of the Symphonic Band, which plays at high school men's and women's basketball games. This volunteer organization will perform a between 5-10 performances in the winter. Rehearsals usually happen before the game and the band plays through halftime.

WINTER DRUM LINE

The Winter Drum Line is run by the drum staff with the assistance of the band director. The Line will take place after marching band season and will participate in the local MCGC circuit with some WGI competitions. There is a separate fee to participate in the Winter Drum Line. Please talk to the director for more information.

WINTER GUARD

The Winter Guard is run by the guard staff with the assistance of the band director. The guard will take place after marching band season and will participate in the local MCGC circuit. There is a separate fee to participate in the Winter Guard. Please talk to the director for more information.

ICE BAND

The annual Ice Band is a performing ensemble that performs a marching show on ice with the Grand Rapids Griffins, the local AHL hockey team. This band is a volunteer performing ensemble from Grant High School. There is a small fee to purchase the show shirt. The band will perform pop tunes and is a month long commitment. Typically the performance will be at the end of January.

8th GRADE BAND

The 8th grade band is open to all 8th grade students at Grant Middle School. The 8th grade band plays approximately 4-5 performances a school calendar year. This band will play Grade 1 ½ - 3 level music and will continue working on both major, minor and chromatic scales. Music theory will continue to be taught throughout the school year. The members will also participate in a parade at the end of the year. 7th grade students that feel that they are ready to play at this level must audition for a spot in the 8th grade band.

7th GRADE BAND

The 7th grade band is open to all 7th grade students at Grant Middle School. The 7th grade band plays approximately 4-5 performances a school calendar year. This band will play Grade ½ - 2 level music and will continue working on both major, minor and chromatic scales. Music theory will be taught throughout the school year.

6th GRADE BEGINNING BAND

The 6th grade band is the first band class to be available for students at Grant Middle School. Fittings for this class will occur the previous school year and also in August before school starts. Instruments available for study are: Flute, Clarinet, Saxophone, Trumpet, Trombone & Percussion. The band will have 2-3 performances per school year.

THE GRANT BAND

SIX GOLDEN RULES

1. Stop when the conductor / instructor cuts you off.
2. Do not talk when a conductor or instructor talks.
3. **Respect yourself and others at ALL times.**
4. No food or gum during class.
5. NO PDA (Public Displays of Affection) during class, in uniform or on band trips.
6. Keep band room and storage area clean.

REHEARSAL GUIDELINES

1. Each student is expected to be on time, if not early, to all rehearsal / performance functions.
2. The student is expected to have both their instrument and music ready for all rehearsals and performances.
3. Students should have a pencil ready to make rehearsal suggestions (NO PENS).
4. Students should behave considerably to whomever is on the podium, whether it be the director or a guest of the band.
5. Students should treat school owned instruments like their own. Any loss or damage of the instrument will be the student's liability and be assessed accordingly.
6. There are three places your instrument should be (school or privately owned)
 - a. In your hands
 - b. Lined up in a section
 - c. In your storage area (locker or shelf)

PERFORMANCE & UNIFORM (CONCERT) GUIDLEINES

1. Make sure all your uniform parts are clean and fitted properly. Improper care will NOT be tolerated.
2. All hair must be up for all performances (females). This is more professional.
3. All students are to report to the band room one before a scheduled concert or at the time specified by the director.
4. When in uniform: No PDA, No eating, No smoking, No swearing, No running.
5. Everyone should be professional while in a performance setting. Unprofessional behavior could be cause for dismissal from the band program.

FINANCES

The Grant Band program is supported by the Grant Music Boosters and Grant Public Schools. As a non-profit organization, we must pay our bills in a professional and timely manner. It is important to pay your fees by the due dates listed in the updates that are sent home. If you have difficulty meeting the payment schedule please contact the booster president or band director. It is VERY important to have communication between the parents and band boosters regarding payment.

MUSIC

The school provides concert, jazz and marching band music; solo & ensemble material is the responsibility of the student. We do maintain a file of solo & ensemble music for reference. Method books used in middle school must also be purchased by the student. It is assumed that all students will respect and maintain the condition of the music they receive for band. Folders will be provided and should be used by the students. We encourage you to mark your music in PENCIL ONLY. The student will be charged if the music comes back damaged.

AUDITIONS

Auditions for band chair positions will be held during the first few weeks of school starting for 7th and 8th grade. Additional chair placement auditions may be held throughout the year at the discretion of the director. The procedure will be as follows:

1. Students will be asked to perform a prepared etude, sight-read and play announced scales.
2. All auditions will be performed in private on a video camera in a practice room.
3. Auditions will be judged on tone, technique, intonation, articulation, accuracy, fluency and musical style.

PRIVATE LESSONS

We have students that take private lessons on their instrument both during the school year and during the summer months. ***Private lessons are highly encouraged*** as they can help the student understand advanced rhythms, develop more technique and enhance musical growth and enjoyment. Ask a director for assistance getting started.

MUSIC BOOSTER MEETINGS

Music booster meetings are usually held the third Thursday of each month in the high school band room at 6 pm. Please consult the Google calendar on the website to be sure. All parents are encouraged to attend and support the future of the Grant Band Program.

ATTENDANCE

A calendar of this year's known events is listed on the website. It is your responsibility to make sure that the student does not schedule other events that conflict with the student's band responsibilities. An updated calendar can also always be found on our website at www.grantbands.org.

Concerts, festivals, marching band performances and added rehearsals **are required**. These are equivalent to major tests in band. Any conflicts with these performances or rehearsals **must be** reported to Band Director **before the event or rehearsal via a parent note, email or phone call**. Please have the **courtesy** and **common sense** to communicate with the director.

Excused absences from performances and rehearsals will be granted as follows:

1. Death or emergency in the immediate family – Parents contact a director by phone or in writing as soon as possible **BEFORE** student will be absent, unless the situation makes it impossible.
2. Student illness – Parents contact director by phone or e-mail **BEFORE** student will be absent.
3. Participation in a Grant Middle School sporting event game (not a practice) – It is the **student's AND PARENTS** responsibility to communicate with a director with each conflict. **DO NOT** assume the director know your schedule. Often times it is possible to work out these conflicts so the student can still participate in both events.
4. Students with jobs will be expected to be at ALL rehearsals, inform your employer accordingly. Work conflicts are unexcused.
5. Other reasons for absence will be handled on an individual basis at the discretion of the director.

Please note:

*All absences from performances and scheduled rehearsals, excused or unexcused, will result in no credit for that rehearsal or performance. **Unexcused absences may not be made up.** Excused absences **may be made up** through extra credit, just as you would make up a missed test in another class. Examples of acceptable make up work are attending concerts, research a composer or piece of music and write a short paper, do a listening project, etc. See Director for more ideas and approval **before** you embark on a project.*

Tardies – students are expected to be in the classroom in the process of getting out their instruments, setting up, and warming up when class begins. If you arrive late to class, your rehearsal participation points for the day will be lowered. Three tardies in a 9-week period equals one absence and will result in an after-school detention

PRACTICE

Practice in band is like homework in other classes. Home or school practice is very important for maintaining a high level of playing excellence. ALL students can use the practice rooms before, during, and after school. It is recommended that students practice at least 60-90 minutes a week. **Practice sheets are due every Monday unless instructed otherwise.**

AWARDS

There are several awards that are given out from the Grant Band. The following is a list of what awards, the criteria to earn an award from the Grant Band program:

1. **Freshman band certificate:** successful completion of one (1) full year of band at Grant High School.
2. **Sophomore band certificate:** successful completion of two (2) full years of band at Grant High School.
3. **Grant Band Letter:** successful completion of three (3) full years of band at Grant High School.
4. **Grant Band plaque:** successful completion of four (4) full years of band at Grant High School.
5. **Senior Drum Major Award:** Senior in the GHS Band, successful completion of the Drum Major position of the Grant Marching Band
6. **Marching Band Directors Award:** chosen by the director, open to any marching band member, goes above and beyond the call of a student in the marching band, volunteers for extra activities with the marching band, hard worker, leads by example.
7. **Outstanding Senior Award:** Senior in the GHS Band, voted by the students, senior who has show success both in the classroom and out in relation to band, goes above and beyond what is asked of them
8. **Instrumental Music Department Award:** Senior in the GHS Band, chosen by director, displayed the highest level of commitment to the band over the past four years in the GHS Band program.
9. **John Phillip Sousa Award:** Senior in the GHS Band, chosen by director, displayed highest level of musicianship to the band over the past four years in the GHS Band program.
10. **Louis Armstrong Jazz Award:** Senior in the GHS Band, chosen by director, displayed highest level of musicianship in jazz band over the past four years in the GHS jazz band program.
11. **8th Grade Directors Award:** Awarded to an 8th grade student that has been actively involved with the middle school bands over their three years.

Grant Bands Grading Policy

New this year will be three main evaluations of the band students. The students will be evaluated on performances, music theory and individual playing tests. Other forms of grading will include self-evaluations, practice sheets and quizzes throughout the year.

Each student will be evaluated at the beginning of the year and given a Level 1, 2, 3 or 4 based on the rubric that you will see below. It is the hope of the director that each = student will show growth in their playing ability based on grade level.

Students will also be evaluated on their music theory knowledge and retention. Music Theory Monday's are going to take place in the MS with the HS having theory starting late fall.

Performances are the biggest part of the student's grade. Concerts / Performances are no different than a test in a core class. It is expected that all students attend concerts / performances. (See attendance policy)

Criteria	Level 1 Fair	Level 2 Good	Level 3 Excellent	Level 4 Superior
Pitch Accuracy	Student is inconsistent in playing or singing correct pitches with accurate intonation.	Student generally plays or sings correct pitches with accurate intonation.	Student play or sing correct pitches with accurate intonation.	Students consistently plays or sings notes in the center of the pitch with precision and ease.
Key/Mode Accuracy	Student is inconsistent in playing or singing correct pitches within key/mode.	Student generally plays or sings correct pitches within indicated key/mode.	Student plays or sings correct pitches within indicated key/mode.	Student consistently plays or sings notes within indicated key/mode with precision and ease.
Rhythmical Accuracy	Student is inconsistent in playing or singing correct rhythms in a steady pulse.	Student generally plays or sings correct rhythms in a steady pulse.	Student plays or sings correct rhythms in a steady pulse.	Student consistently plays or sings correct rhythms in steady pulse with precision and ease.
Meter Accuracy	Student is inconsistent in playing or singing within indicated meter or with a steady pulse.	Student generally plays or sings within indicated meter a steady pulse.	Student plays or sings within indicated meter with some nuisance and steady pulse.	Student consistently plays or sings within indicated meter with precision and ease.
Phrasing	Student is beginning to play or sing phrases correctly.	Student generally plays or sings phrase correctly.	Student plays or sings phrases correctly.	Student consistently and sensitively plays or sings phrase correctly.
Dynamics	Student is beginning to play or sing the appropriate dynamic levels.	Student generally plays or sings the appropriate dynamic levels.	Student consistently plays of sings the appropriate dynamic levels.	Student plays or sings with obvious and consistent dynamic levels with a sensitive interpretation of the style of music being played or sung.
Articulation (Diction)	Student is beginning to play or sing the appropriate articulation.	Student generally plays or sings the appropriate articulation.	Student consistently plays or sings the appropriate articulation.	Student plays or sings with obvious and consistent articulation that is sensitive interpretation of the style of music being played or sung.
Expression	Student is beginning to play or sing expressively within the selection.	Student inconsistently plays or sings expressively as appropriate to the score.	Student generally plays of sings expressively as appropriate to the selection.	Student plays or sings expressively by adding distinct depth and emotional range appropriate to the selection.

Interpretation of Intent	Student is beginning to become aware of the musical elements in conveying the composer's intent.	Student is generally aware of the musical elements in conveying the composer's intent.	Student is aware of the musical elements in conveying the composer's intent.	Student is sensitive to the musical elements in conveying the composer's intent.
Collaboration	Student is beginning to contribute towards collaborative musical decision-making of performance attributes.	Student inconsistently contributes towards collaborative musical decision-making of performance attributes.	Student typically contributes towards collaborative musical decision-making of performance attributes.	Student consistently contributes towards collaborative musical decision-making of performance attributes.
Tone/Breath Support	Student is beginning to develop appropriate breath support and needs cues from the teacher.	Student generally uses appropriate breath support to produce a clear tone.	Student uses appropriate breath support to produce a clear tone.	Student always uses appropriate breath support to produce a clear tone throughout the entire selection showing an advanced sense of musicality and confidence.
Pronunciation	Student beginning to sing with tall vowels and clear consonants.	Student occasionally sings with tall vowels and clear consonants.	Student sings with tall vowels and clear consonants for every word to be understood.	Student consistently sings with tall vowels and clear consonants with exceptional clarity.
Posture	Student is beginning to sit or stand with the needed posture to appropriately play the instrument or sing with minimum tension.	Student generally sits or stands with the needed posture to appropriately play the instrument or sing with minimum tension.	Student sits or stands with the needed posture to appropriately play the instrument or sing with minimum tension.	Student consistently sits or stands with the needed posture to appropriately play the instrument or sing with minimum tension.
Instrument Position	Student is beginning to hold the instrument appropriately	Student generally holds the instrument appropriately to minimize tension.	Student holds the instrument appropriately to minimize tension.	Student consistently holds the instrument appropriately to minimize tension and optimize appropriate time and ease of playing.
Tonguing	Student is beginning to articulate rhythms with tonguing.	Student generally articulates rhythms with appropriate tonguing.	Student articulates rhythms with appropriate tonguing.	Student consistently and precisely articulates rhythms with appropriate tonguing technique.
Fingering	Student is beginning to finger with appropriate digits and positioning.	Student generally fingers with appropriate digits and positioning.	Student fingers with appropriate digits and positioning to maximize the instrument and ease of playing.	Student consistently fingers with appropriate digits and positioning to maximize the instrument and ease of playing.

GRANT MUSIC DEPARTMENT 2015-2016 SCHEDULE

Be sure to also check out our up-to-the-minute online Google calendar at our website:

www.grantbands.org

Date	Event	Group	Time	Location
SEPTEMBER				
11	Home Football	MB	5 pm	GHS
25	Home Football -- Homecoming	MB	5 pm	GHS
OCTOBER				
9	Home Football	MB	5 pm	GHS
10	Grant Invitational	MB	TBD	Grant, MI
17	Belding Invitational	MB	TBD	Belding, MI
22	MS Band Concert / Jazz Band	7 / 8 / JB	6 pm	GFAC
23	Home Football – Senior Night	MB	5 pm	GHS
31	Reeths-Puffer @ Rockford HS	MB	9 am	Rockford HS
NOVEMBER				
7	MCBA State Championship	MB	Flight IV starts at 7:30 PM	Ford Field
DECEMBER				
4	Christmas Collage – Ticketed Event - \$\$	All HS	7 pm	GFAC
15	MS Band / Choir Concert	6 th -8 th	6 pm	GFAC
JANUARY				
29	Griffins Ice Band	HS Band / 8 th	4 pm	Grand Rapids, MI
FEBRUARY				
18	Winter Band Concert	All bands	6 pm	GFAC
19	M-37 Jazz Festival	TBD	TBD	GFAC
MARCH				
13	Band Festival / Clinic	7 – 8 - HS	TBD	TBD
31	Band / Choir Recital	Select	6 pm	GFAC
APRIL				
MAY				
5	Band Concert	All MS / HS	6 pm / 7 pm	GFAC
26	Graduation	HS Band	7 pm	GMS Gymnasium

STUDENT INFORMATION & PARENTAL CONSENT FORM FOR ALL BAND ACTIVITES 2015-16

THIS FORM IS TO BE FILLED OUT COMPLETELY AND RETURNED TO BAND DIRECTOR
NO LATER THAN **FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 2016.**

PLEASE PRINT LEGIBLY!

If no change – please write NO CHANGE – but please still include your e-mail address!

Student ID Number	<input type="text"/>	*****REQUIRED*****
Name (first, MI, last)	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Address	<input type="text"/>	
City, St Zip	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Home Phone	<input type="text"/>	Student's Cell <input type="text"/>
Student's E-mail	<input type="text"/>	
Grade	<input type="text"/>	Gender <input type="text"/>
Birthdate	<input type="text"/>	
Mother or _____	First <input type="text"/>	Last <input type="text"/>
Phone	(w) <input type="text"/>	(h) <input type="text"/>
Address (if different from student)	<input type="text"/>	
City, St Zip	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
E-mail	<input type="text"/>	
Occupation/Skills	<input type="text"/>	
Father or _____	First <input type="text"/>	Last <input type="text"/>
Phone	(w) <input type="text"/>	(h) <input type="text"/>
Address (if different from student)	<input type="text"/>	
City, St Zip	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
E-mail	<input type="text"/>	
Occupation/Skills	<input type="text"/>	

Student Acknowledgment

I hereby acknowledge that:

1. I have read the band handbook and any additional rules, which have been given out and agree to adhere to them.
2. I understand that I will be held responsible for equipment that is checked out to me.
3. I recognize that it is a privilege to participate in any band activity and will strive to earn respect for my school, my community and myself.
4. I recognize the responsibility of attending performances and rehearsals, which pertain to the band activity in which I am participating.

Student Signature: _____ Date: _____

Parent Acknowledgement

I hereby acknowledge that:

I have reviewed the band handbook and any additional rules and understand the procedures governing my child's behavior as a member of the Grant Bands and will see that my child is at all required rehearsals and performances.

Parent's Signature: _____ Date: _____