
Germantown Middle School

7th and 8th grade Bands



2024-2025 BAND HANDBOOK

Please complete and return the following forms in the back of this Handbook:

All applicable forms are due by August 16th

- ✓ *Complete and return the following forms:*
 - *GMS Band Handbook Signature Form*
 - *Drug testing form*
 - *Return the bottom portion of the Band Fee letter with payment*
- ✓ *Sign up for your child's Remind101 class – see last page*
- ✓ *Complete Google Form for BoosterHub information (info in packet)*

Welcome!

Welcome to the Germantown Middle School Band! It is with great enthusiasm and excitement that we introduce our band program to you in a more detailed manner. GMS band program has established a wonderful tradition of *excellence in action* and we are glad you have chosen to be a part of it.

Your child's participation in our band program is beneficial in many ways. Band students are engaged daily in a highly creative performing art that stimulates growth in areas of the human brain that no other discipline can. This growth effortlessly transfers into your student's academic life. In addition, our band students will develop traits such as teamwork, responsibility, dedication, self-discipline, social skills, confidence, leadership and dependability. Membership in our band program will give all a sense of accomplishment, pride, and respect as the students develop musical and personal skills that will enrich their lives.

The purpose of this handbook is to outline the guidelines and expectations for making this year a success for all involved, and to serve as a guide and resource for students and parents. Both students and their parents should take the time to thoroughly read this handbook. Upon completion, the signature page that was distributed to your student during class should be signed and returned to school, indicating your understanding of these guidelines and expectations.

Contact Information

The directors encourage positive communication and are willing to discuss any aspect of a student's progress in band with his/her parents.

Jim Peacock, Middle School Band Coordinator

jpeacock@madison-schools.com

Carrie Swindoll, Assistant Director

cswindoll@madison-schools.com

CONFERENCE PERIODS

The directors' main conference period is 8th Block.

Please understand that our communication to you – the parents – is a very high priority for us. We want to take care of concerns and make every situation the best for each student. Please contact us for clarification on any concerns before they become major issues.

Due to Zero Blocks, rehearsals, and student help sessions, it is difficult to reach us before or after school. If we are working with students, please understand that they are our highest priority and deserve our complete attention.

E-mail Policy

We will be sending home many updates and communications via e-mail throughout the year. Due to the nature of e-mail, all major concerns will need to be addressed through conferences or phone communication. This is to avoid any misunderstandings or unclear intentions through e-mail communication. Parents are encouraged to use e-mail to get more information or clarification regarding events, or to schedule a parent conference.

Student Communication

Students are also encouraged to communicate with the directors before concerns become issues. They should do this in person at an appropriate time, one on one. Again, clarification and solid communication will keep everything running smoothly throughout the entire year.

Throughout the year, we will be sending quite a bit of information home in the form of letters. Please make every effort to read this information carefully, check calendars often and keep us informed of any conflicts. The sooner we know of a situation, the more options we have in solving problems.

Please visit our website at <http://gmsmavs.com/domain/785> important information for students and parents.

Goals and Objectives

- Organizational skills and practice techniques
- Mental and physical discipline
- Citizenship through group endeavors
- Value judgments
- Music theory
- Proper instrumental technique
- Creative self-expression
- Aural skills
- Teamwork/social skills
- Performance skills
- Music appreciation

Conduct Expectations

Band members will observe all procedures set forth by MCS, in addition to the following, as they pertain to the instrumental music setting:

- Any behavior which is not representative of good citizenship, as perceived by the band staff, may result in the student's dismissal from the activity at hand as well as the band program. This also applies to the actions of student leaders in both public and private events.
- All students are expected to conduct themselves in accordance with the Madison County Discipline Policy. Individual behavior during a band function is a reflection of the group.
- Students will follow directors' instructions.
- Students will be in their assigned rehearsal area with all necessary equipment at the beginning of rehearsal time.
- Students will keep their hands and feet to themselves.
- **All cell phones, tablets, laptops, etc. are to be kept in backpacks during rehearsal or class. There are no exceptions. Failure to do so will result in a minor form and a phone call home.**
- Students will not use or play on equipment they do not own without permission from a director.
- Students will not touch, handle, borrow, or use anyone else's instrument, uniform, or personal belongings.
- Students should request permission to speak by raising their hand and waiting to be acknowledged. All rehearsals are expected to be extremely quiet so that time will be utilized as wisely and efficiently as possible.
- When allowed in the band hall, either before or after school, students will not disturb any rehearsal in progress.
- Students will respect the property of others, and return their equipment to its proper storage place when not in use. Students should keep their equipment in the designated storage area, and keep said storage area clean and neat in appearance. Students who have difficulty with this may lose the privilege of having a storage area in the band hall.
- Students will not deface or mark on music stands, chairs, walls, etc.
- Students will not write on the dry-erase boards without permission from a director.
- Students will utilize their assigned storage slot for instrument cases during rehearsals. Cases should not be brought into rehearsals unless requested by a director

Financial Obligations

There is a mandatory fee of \$50 which will include the cost of the t-shirt, binder, contest fees, music, and basic operating costs. See the last page for additional details. Check, cash, money order, cashier's check, and BoosterHub Payments are the payment options. Please see the Band Fee attachment for more details regarding paying on BoosterHub.

Fundraising

On August 15th and 16th, we are starting our Fundraiser with Burnham Enterprises. The purpose is to raise money to purchase additional instruments for the GMS Band program. More information will be sent home the second week of school. There may be additional fundraisers throughout the year to raise money for band trips and for the indoor color guard fee.

The GMS Bands

Advanced Band — selection into this group is by audition, director recommendation, and demonstration of academic proficiency. Preparation for the high school band program as the primary goal. ***All Members in this ensemble will participate in the ASBDA Middle School All-State Band process***, ECMBDA Clinic, preparations for special possible honor concerts, and MHSAA State Evaluation. Members of this group will have one “Zero Block” assigned hearing time outside of the school day each week. Additional rehearsals will be scheduled as needed; usually in the spring. The Advanced Band will give numerous performances both on and off campus.

Gold, 7th & 8th Grade Bands — selection into any of these groups is by audition. These groups, at varying levels, will participate in Concert and Sight-reading Contests and the ECMBDA Clinic. Their role is primarily a performing group with preparation for membership in Advanced Band and later the high school band program. The objective is to concentrate on the basic playing fundamentals to further the child’s development as a player. Students will perform at concerts and contests this year.

Care of Facilities

- No gum, food or drinks are allowed in the band hall except when authorized by the directors.
- All cell phones, tablets, laptops, etc. are to be kept in backpacks during rehearsal or class.
- All trash is to be deposited in the wastebaskets provided.
- Acts of vandalism or the willful misuse of school property will be dealt with severely and appropriately. Every band member is responsible to help the directors monitor the facility and control vandalism, which includes but is not limited to writing or carving on walls, destroying music, or breaking school property.
- Absolutely no student is allowed in the workroom without permission.
- Practice and ensemble rooms are designed for practicing, not social gatherings.
- Please knock-on office doors: and, if you are invited in, you may enter. Otherwise, offices are off limits to students. Students may not use directors’ phones without permission.
- The telephone in the band hall may not be used by non-band members. This phone is not to be used for personal calls, but may be used to call parents for rides, etc.
- Students must ask permission to use the phone and all calls will be limited to two minutes.
- Non-Band members are not allowed in the band hall, ***EVER!*** They must ask permission for entry.

Attendance

To have and maintain a high-quality band program, each member’s attendance is essential. While the GMS band follows all school and district policies and procedures, the following additional guidelines outline the attendance procedures and policies for the GMS band. These attendance guidelines also apply to activities held outside of the school day.

Excused Absence

Absences during the school day will be excused according to district policy. Absences from activities held outside the school day will be excused at the discretion of the directors. Appointments, tutorials etc. are not excuses for absence. Absences due to personal illness requiring medical attention, death in the family, or other extenuating circumstances (approved by director) may be considered for excused status. Proof of absence (e.g. Doctor’s note, absence slip) will be required from students who miss performances. Excessive illness may be required to provide a doctor’s note releasing them from participation. Absences should be discussed with a director to determine they will be excused.

Unexcused Absence

Students with an unexcused absence from any required band activity will receive a zero in the grade book. **Rehearsals, concerts, contests, and competitions cannot be made up.** Students with an unexcused absence to a Zero Block may be required to schedule a make-up time with their band director within one week.

Concerts/Performances

Concerts and performances are an integral component of the band curriculum. Students should consult their schedules for dates and times. Each of the concert ensembles will perform at various times throughout the school year and are **mandatory**. Periodically, the schedule may change and updates will be communicated. Concerts are considered to have three parts: warm up, performance, and listening. For the student, the concert begins at the warm up. Punctuality is essential. A concert concludes after the last group has performed and directors give permission for students to be dismissed. A general report time will be given for all students. If a performance causes a student to miss another class, the student is responsible to make up all missed work.

Performances of the ensembles will include but are not limited to the following in 7/8th Grade:

- Meet the Mavs/8th Grade Football Games (Advanced Band only)
- Christmas & Spring Concert (All Bands)
- Band festivals & Spring Trip Festivals(All Bands)
- MHSAA contest (Advanced Band only)
- ASBDA Middle School All State Band Tryouts/ECMBDA Band Auditions are a requirement for all Advanced Band students. For students in the 8th/7th Grade bands, these events are STRONGLY encouraged.
- Ensemble contest or performances
- Other events as scheduled

Daily Supplies

Each student should plan to bring the following items to rehearsals and/or performances. Other items may be added at the discretion of the directors.

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• All issued music• Pencil/Highlighters• Instrument (with case name tag)• All supplies relative to their instrument	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Band binder (with labeled dividers)• Korg TM-50 met tuner (provided by band)• Korg Microphone Pickup (provided by band)• Other equipment as needed
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For supplies specific to your instrument, refer to <http://www.gsmavs.com/domain/785>

Grading Guidelines

GMS band programs have instructional objectives that relate to the mandated Mississippi Fine Arts framework for grade level subjects or courses. These objectives are aligned to address the academic skills needed for successful performance in the next grade or next course in a sequence of courses. Assignments, tests, projects, classroom activities, and other instructional activities are designed so that the student's performance indicates the level of mastery of the instructional objectives. Student's mastery level of these objectives is a major factor in determining the grade for a subject or course.

Students will be expected to meet the responsibilities for each band class as determined by the director. Since band is an academic music class with some extra-curricular activities attached, the band student's grade will reflect achievement in both curricular and extracurricular areas.

General Grading Guidelines – 7th/8th

Students will be graded on the following scale:

- Weekly/Participation 34%
 - Responsibility: instrument and music supplies
 - Rehearsal: present, on task and focused during rehearsals
 - Distance Learning Objectives: certain Canvas based assignments: quizzes, discussions
- Performance 66%
 - Tests: Playing, written, and counting (both in class and Canvas submissions)
 - Extension of Class: Zero Block, After school rehearsals, Concerts, Festivals.

The following list is provided to give students and parents examples of items that may be subject to grading. **Additional assignments may be given at the discretion of the director.**

- The student will receive a grade for each performance during a grading period.
- The student will receive a grade for each before or after school full rehearsal.
- The student will be on task and focused during rehearsals.
- The student will have instrument, music, pencil, and supplies in rehearsals.
- The student will **be prepared** to play his/her part successfully.
- The student will mark music and take notes as needed.
- The student will be **expected to improve** individual music skills.
- The student's individual **skill development** will be evaluated through recorded music tests, individual playing tests, scale tests, and/or written tests.
- The student will be **evaluated on improvement** of ensemble skills during daily rehearsals.
- The student will be **expected to improve** his/her performance fundamentals.
- The student will be **evaluated for improvement** of his/her music fundamentals through daily observation during the "basics" part of each rehearsal and during sectionals.
- The student will be expected to demonstrate correct posture, hand position, embouchure, air production, and articulation as monitored during rehearsals.

Requirements for Advancement

Throughout the year, each student will be tested on several important musical concepts (scales and rhythms). These concepts are well within each student's grasp to master. Upon completion of these items within a specified timeframe, the student will be allowed to advance to the next year's class. Likewise, failure to complete the assignments at a mastery level in the specified timeframe will prevent the student from advancing to the next year's band. The material must be performed in class, in front of a director, and passed with a demonstration of mastery of the material, per the rubric.

District-Owned Instruments

MCS provides a limited number of instruments for student use. These instruments include the bassoon, oboe, tenor saxophone, baritone saxophone, horn, euphonium, tuba, and general percussion equipment. This equipment is generally purchased by the school district for student use because of its expense. ***Thus, all district-owned equipment must be handled with care.*** Students failing to take proper care of their district-owned instruments may lose the privilege of using such instruments.

The following is a list of general procedures for district-owned instruments:

- Each instrument will be issued in good playing condition. Students are expected to maintain their issued instruments accordingly. ***Any repairs or maintenance required due to a student's actions or neglect will be at the expense of the student who has signed for that instrument.***
- The band member is financially responsible for all equipment/materials checked out to them.
- All equipment and materials must be kept in their proper storage location when not in use.
- District-owned instruments are not to be treated as "free" instruments. Basic supplies must still be purchased and repairs must still be made. Please treat these instruments as if they were your own. Most district-owned instruments exceed \$2,500 in value.

Instrument Storage and Identification

Instrument shelves are to be used for instrumental storage ONLY!! Each student is assigned a specific area, which is to be kept clean. Instruments are to be put in their cases, and the cases kept closed and latched while in the storage area. *All instrument cases are required to have a name tag.*

It is suggested that all personal instruments have the proper insurance coverage. Personal instruments ARE NOT insured by Germantown Middle School or Madison County School District.

Band students will take home their instruments and band binders every evening. Students are expected to practice regularly outside of band class and private lessons.

Students are not allowed to leave their instrument unattended at any time. There will be consequences for any student whose instrument is brought to us by another student, teacher, etc. -- whether it is found on or off school property.

Zero Block Rehearsals

All Advanced Band woodwind and brass students will have at least one weekly section rehearsal with Mr. Peacock. Students are expected to be punctual (7:30am) and prepared. Absence from section rehearsals must be in accordance with the attendance policy. Students are required to attend. Section rehearsals are an extension of the classroom and are graded accordingly. Section rehearsal schedules is posted on the band website or by contacting the student's director.

It is imperative that each sectional begin on time (7:30am) with everyone in attendance. Students who miss a sectional will not receive credit for participation. Please be aware of your child's sectional day/time and make every effort to assure that he/she is on time and ready to learn! Please do not schedule dentist, doctor, or any other appointments during your child's sectional because it will cause him/her to fall behind the group.

An excused absence can be made up by individual practice in the band hall for **one** additional Zero Block time.

An unexcused absence can be made up by individual practice in the band hall for **two** additional Zero Block times.

Students who miss a Zero Block (excused or unexcused) have one week after they return to school to make up the missed sectional. After a week, the absence will be considered unexcused and a grade of zero will be recorded.

Zero Block starts promptly at 7:30am and students will be dismissed prior to the 8:15am bell.

*****7:00-7:29am Student drop off is the bus lane. Parents must follow proper traffic flow! *****

*****If dropping off after 7:30am, you MUST drop off in the 7th and 8th grade car rider line*****

Advanced Band Zero Block Schedule:

Monday – Trombone, Baritone

Tuesday – Flute, Oboe, Clarinet

Wednesday – Alto Sax, French Horn

Thursday – Tuba, Bass Clarinet, Bassoon, Bari Sax, Tenor Sax

Friday – Trumpet

Private Lesson Program

The Germantown Band Private Lesson Program offers private instruction from the finest graduate and professional musicians in the Jackson Metro area. The program is supported by the individual parents who cover the cost of the program. The cost for each lesson is determined by the instructors.

- ALL students are highly encouraged to take individualized private instruction.
- Teachers are screened and interviewed by the Germantown Band Program
- Lessons will be given weekly during the band classes, before, and after school.
- If there is a need for before/after school lessons, every effort will be made to schedule private lessons at times that do not conflict with Zero Block or other activities.
- Detailed information on the private lesson program and its benefits are at the end of this packet.
- Private Lessons are AWESOME!

Uniform Guidelines

Gold, 7th and 8th Band Members:

Formal Uniform: (Advanced Band members have different uniform guidelines, see attachment)



You may not wear:
*Black jeans, leggings,
athletic shoes, flip
flops, slides, white
socks*

Informal uniform: Current Band T-shirt with blue jeans/khaki pants and/or shorts and shoes.

Concerts/Performances

Concerts and performances are frequent with all bands. Students should consult their schedules for dates and times. Periodically, the schedule will change and updates will be sent home and posted on the GMS Band website.

- Concerts are considered to have three parts: warm-up, performance, and listening.
- The concert begins for the student at the warm-up. ***Punctuality is essential.*** A concert concludes when the last group performs and directors have given permission for students to be dismissed. A general report time will be given for all students.
- All concerts are a group effort, thus, **ATTENDANCE IS REQUIRED!!!**
- All concerts are an extension of the classroom and will be graded accordingly.
- Students should be punctual and prepared for each performance/concert.
- In the event a performance causes a student to miss another class, the student is responsible to make up all missed work!
- The appropriate dress for all concerts will be a dress uniform (see Uniform Guidelines).

Performance Locations

Throughout the year, band concerts will be held in the Germantown Middle School Gym. However, if space is available, concerts may be held at the Germantown High School Auditorium. Specific locations for each concert will be listed either on the calendar or on information sent home prior to each performance.

Concert Behavior Expectations

Band students will exhibit proper concert behavior during all performances, in either their own band or as an audience member. Students will be graded on their behavior. Concert etiquette is an integral part of music education.

The following rules will be followed at all times:

- Talking is not permitted on stage or in the audience. It is disrespectful to the performers on stage and audience members.
- Do not distract the performing band in any way.
- Do not leave your seat for any reason during a performance. You will be given ample time to use the restroom and drinking fountain before a concert begins. If you must leave, do so as quietly and inconspicuously as possible (make sure the doors do not slam shut). Leave between songs only.
- No food or drink is allowed on stage, backstage, or in the seating area. This includes water bottles and gum.
- Cell phones must be turned off (not on vibrate or silent) and put away. Any student using a cell phone during a performance may have consequences.
- Move between the seating area and stage in quiet, single-file lines. Sit in your assigned seat/row. Do not talk as you enter or exit.
- Support your fellow band members with appropriate applause. Yelling, whistling, shouting names, etc. is not acceptable.
- Set a good example for the audience and other students. Other people may not know how to behave in a concert setting.
- We hope all parents and guests will stay for the concert when bringing a student to a concert. If a student needs to be picked up, please do so in a timely manner. Any student not picked up on time may not be allowed to participate in future GMS activities.
- Students are expected to stay for the entire concert.

Travel Guidelines

The band will frequently travel on either school buses or commercial buses. Students are expected to conduct themselves at the highest level on any trip.

Students who have been subject to school-level discipline in the course of the school year may be deemed ineligible to participate in extracurricular field trips, at the discretion of the director and/or campus administration.

Students must travel to events and return from events on the bus. Any student wishing to arrive or leave with his/her parent must notify a director in writing with parent signature, prior to the event. Permission will be granted or denied based on the circumstances of the occasion.

Students must have all necessary forms (Medical Release) completed and on file with the band office to travel on any trip with the band.

For the safety of all involved, while on the bus students will:

- Remain seated at all times.
- Sit properly in a forward position and not block the aisle.
- Keep the bus clear of food, drinks, and debris.
- Keep all body parts inside the bus.
- When allowed, use only approved type/headset radios (no speakers).
- Remain silent and attentive when addressed by an adult on the bus.
- Refrain from loud, boisterous talking, singing, screaming, whistling, inappropriate jokes, etc.
- No public displays of affection of any kind.

Chaperones Adult chaperones are a great asset to the band program. Students will treat them as an extension of the band staff. Proper respect will be shown to all adults at all times. If your parent is interested in serving as a chaperone, please notify the band directors.

Band Hall Hours

The band hall normally opens for zero block rehearsals at 7:00 am, and closes at 4:00 pm, except on Fridays or the day before a holiday – in which case the band hall will close at 3:45 pm. The band hall may be open for private lessons, as needed by the private lesson teachers.

Zero Block will be held from 7:30 – 8:15 am before school, and from 3:30 – 5:00 pm for after school rehearsals. Sectional times may be adjusted when and if needed, depending on upcoming contests.

When no sectionals/rehearsals are scheduled, the band hall will open at 7:30am, and close at 3:45pm

***CHANGE in procedure: If it is not your day for Advanced Band Zero Block, you may not be dropped off by the band hall prior to 7:30am. After 7:30am, you may only be in the band hall to drop off your instrument and turn in forms and/or money to a director. Administration has asked that there be no unnecessary loitering in the band hall.

If you have a sibling who is in Advanced Band, you may accompany them if it is their day for Zero Block. Thank you for your attention to this change in procedure.

Parent Drop Off and Pick Up

Parents must make arrangements for transportation of their children to and from Zero Block, rehearsals, and to and from the band hall during trips and special events. Lack of transportation will not be an accepted excuse for missing a band function. To ensure the safety of their children, parents are encouraged to have a plan for drop-off and pick-up of students in a timely manner for all band events.

For the safety of all involved, students must go home after the band hall closes. Parents, please be aware that the main office will be closed before sectionals or rehearsals end. Family transportation and car pools are ways to help your child get home safely and in a timely manner.

*****For your safety and the safety of others, all cars must follow established traffic flow when dropping off and picking up your student for Zero Block and After School Rehearsals. *****

Commitment to Band

In order to be a member of a performing group, each person must decide if he/she wants to make the commitment of time and dedication. For all school activities, the faculty and administration work together to make sure that students have the opportunity to participate in multiple activities. However, non-school activities, appointments, and other conflicts must not interfere with a student's commitment to band, to the other band members, or to the rehearsal and performance schedule given to you at the beginning of each semester.

BoosterHub

Please review the BoosterHub information on the last page of this handbook. BoosterHub is a student database, and it is how we will keep you informed of upcoming calendar events, information, and band fee payments. All student's first major test grade is to complete the BoosterHub Google Form.

Volunteers Needed

Throughout the school year, GMS Bands need parent volunteers to make our events run smoothly. Events ranging from help with the concession stand at home football games to chaperoning trips in the spring. Read through the description of each event and fill out the volunteer info in BoosterHub no later than August 16th, 2024.

1. **Football Games** – GMS Football home games, we need your help running the concession stand.
2. **Fall Fundraiser** – Parents are needed to help sort fundraiser items and assist in item checkout.
3. **Trips** – Each grade level goes on at least one trip a year. Chaperones are needed to insure safety.

State Marching Championships – we are not hosting in 2024

~~Volunteers Needed! This is a great opportunity for the Germantown Band Program. We are hosting the 3A, & 4A of the State Marching Band Championships Saturday, October 29, 2022. This is a huge undertaking for the program, and we need all the available help we can get to make sure this event runs smoothly!~~

~~We will need help with the concession stands, assisting with the guest bands, parking, etc. We will need at least 100 parents. Fill out the volunteer form in CHARMS to help with State Championships.~~

GHS Band Middle School Helpers

7th & 8th Grade Band Students! Every year the GHS high school band enlists the services of select band students to help with the Halftime Show. Mr. Harvison will have an application and complete list of duties and dates for you.

Germantown Middle School Band Supply List

All supplies must be acquired by August 18th.

___ 1. Band Fee

There will be a mandatory fee of \$50 which will include the cost of the t-shirt, binder, and basic operating costs. See the last page for additional details.

___ 2. Lyre (Advanced Band and 8th grade only - covered by band fee)

A lyre is a little wire stand that grips or hooks on an instrument (except flute, oboe, tuba, bari sax and percussion). We will use them at the home 8th grade football games as well as 7th/8th High School Band night and students will continue to need them during their high school marching career. The biggest problem with lyres is how they fit onto their instrument. We recommend that each student take his or her own instrument to the store to make that sure it fits. This is especially true for trombone and baritone. A lyre averages \$5.00 to \$10.00.

___ 3. Flip Folder - these are provided by the band

A flip folder clips onto the lyre and holds the music. Students insert their music into clear sleeves of the folder so they can read their music. The cost of a flip folder usually averages \$5.00.

___ 4. Metronome & Tuner - these are provided by the band

The two main ingredients in music are pitch (notes) and rhythm. Every band uses a metronome and tuner in class every day. It is only fitting that students practice with one at home as well. The easiest way to tell whether a musician sounds good (or bad) is whether they are in tune (or not). Like the metronome, all bands use tuners each day and it is only proper that students practice with one at home. The Korg TM-40 is a combination tuner and metronome and is approximately \$30.00.

___ 5. Wire Music Stand (recommended, not required)

A wire music stand allows students to practice at home with good posture as they do at school. A wire music stand averages \$20.00.

Flute ___ Silk Swab Model GEM-FL ___ Tuning Rod (Yamaha Plastic)	Trumpet ___ Bach 3C Mouthpiece ___ Schilke Slide Grease ___ Al Cass Valve Oil ___ Mouthpiece Brush & Cleaning Snake
Oboe/Bassoon ___ Fox Reed Case (6 reeds) ___ Silk Swab Model GEM-BN ___ Cork Grease ___ 4 Reeds (at all times)	French Horn ___ Schilke 31B Mouthpiece ___ Schilke Slide Grease ___ Roche Thomas Rotary Oil ___ Mouthpiece Brush
Clarinet ___ Vandoren 5RV Lyre or Yamaha 5C mouthpiece ___ Silk Swab ___ 4 Vandoren Reeds Size 3 or Rico Reeds Size 3 ___ Vito Reed Guard ___ Cork Grease	Trombone ___ Bach 12 C Mouthpiece ___ Slide-O-Mix Kit ___ Schilke Slide Grease ___ Small Spray Bottle ___ Mouthpiece Brush & Cleaning Snake
Saxophone ___ Selmer C* or Yamaha 5C mouthpiece ___ Rovner Mark III Alto Sax Lig. or equiv. ___ Silk Swab ___ 4 Vandoren Reeds Size 3 or Rico Reeds Size 3 ___ Vito Reed Guard ___ BG Mouthpiece Patch or equivalent	Euphonium/Tuba ___ Bach 12C Mouthpiece/ (Euphonium) ___ Conn Helleburg Mouthpiece (Tuba) ___ Schilke Slide Grease ___ Al Cass Oil/Roche Rotary ___ Mouthpiece Brush

Private Lesson Benefits (Lessons are AWESOME!)

1. Private lesson teachers model a professional sound on their instrument.

How do babies learn to talk? By listening to people talk. How do instrumentalists learn to play with a characteristic sound? By hearing a characteristic sound.

2. Students can perform by themselves weekly and get concentrated feedback. *In band, it is rare for students to perform by themselves and if they do, feedback is usually limited to 10-15 seconds. Performing weekly for a teacher helps them become a more confident and independent player. They also have more time to give feedback, try again and continue to work on a problem until it improves because it is an individual setting.*

3. Students can focus on supplemental exercises written specifically for their instrument.

These fundamentals are crucial for later development and more advanced playing ability.

4. Method books written just for their instrument are far superior to band music for developing well-rounded players. *Method books, because of their methodical nature, do a much more complete job of covering full range, key signatures, rhythms, duets, alternate fingerings and styles than the curriculum in band class allows.*

5. Region/district band auditions can be approached on an individual level. *Teachers can meet a child where they are to begin the region band music and help them develop an individual game plan to prepare them for the audition. This helps students learn how to set goals - long term and weekly goals.*

6. Instructors give students a chance to play a unique solo that they love at solo contest.

Lesson teachers, experts on solos for their instruments, are able to offer students a number of solos that are ideal for their development level. They can also choose solos that work on goals for that student such as focusing on objectives such as extending range, improving articulation, or extreme key signatures

7. Private lesson teachers provide a role model for students that can be a strong motivation for students to continue in band and excel on an individual level.

While students move through different classes, grade levels and schools, it is possible they would have the same lesson teacher for 7 or more years. Lesson teachers often have a long term plan for each student's development. Private teachers can guide a student all the way from the first sounds in beginner band through a professional level solo as a senior in high school and they know how to get them from one point to the next.

If you are interested in Private Lessons, please see your band director!

GMS Band Handbook Signature Page

Please read and sign below as indicated:

Students,

I have read the Germantown Middle School Band Handbook and understand the requirements for being a band member. I realize it takes full cooperation and dedication (100% from me) to help our band meet its potential. I also realize that my failure to follow policies and directions could result in disciplinary action, which could lead to placement in another band or dismissal from the band program. I have received a copy of the GMS band calendar for the current school year and am aware that a copy also exists on the GMS website.

As a member of the GMS Band, I acknowledge the following as responsibilities I must fulfill if I wish to remain a member. I will:

- Adhere to the Madison County Schools Discipline Policy
- Be punctual and prepared for rehearsals and Zero Block (Advanced Band) sectionals.
- Demonstrate my best on playing assignments and turning online tests in on time.
- **YOU HAVE BEEN INFORMED OF ALL CONCERTS/PERFORMANCES.**

***Performances cannot be made up and have no alternate assignments. Missed concerts will result in two "0s" in the grade book. Other activities, vacations, and "other time commitments" are not excuses for missed concerts. ***

• Follow the Concert uniform guidelines and purchase the required concert attire as expected.

- Treat my peers and teachers with respect and maintain appropriate conduct.
- Maintain my grades for eligibility and self-achievement by turning my assignments in on time.
- Have a high standard for improvement in class and on my own.
- Read and understand the Benefits of Private Lessons

Student Signature

Date

Parents,

I have read the Germantown Middle School Band Handbook and am willing to support it and my child.

Parent Signature

Date

Phone #

GMS Advanced Band Formal Attire

Formal attire worn in performances **MUST** contain **ONLY** the items shown below.

BOYS

Shirt, Vest, and Tie



Shirt must be a white button down **only**. Vests and ties must be purchased through the band. *Tie will be a regular tie, not a bow tie.

Black Belt/ Pants



Must be black **only**.

Black Socks/Shoes



Must be black **only**.

GIRLS

Dress



Must be purchased through the band.

Shoes



Solid black flats **only** (no heels or other colors).

UNACCEPTABLE:



GMS Advanced Band Formal Uniform Agreement & Payment

This year the GMS Advanced Band will have a formal performance uniform, which will be used for the Christmas performance, state evaluation, and spring trip/concerts (*not Veterans' Day performance*).

The Advanced Band uniform requirements that must be purchased this year are as follows:

- ✓ **Boys: Black Vest and Zipper Tie - \$30.00 (purchased from GMS Band)**
- ✓ *Additional uniform items that must be purchased by parents separately:*
 - White button-down long-sleeved shirt with collar
 - Solid black dress pants (jeans are unacceptable) **with** a black belt
 - Solid black tall socks (no skin should show when students sit down)
 - Solid black dress shoes (black tennis shoes or sneakers are unacceptable)
- ✓ **Girls: Black Dress - \$80.00 (purchased from GMS Band)**
- ✓ *Additional uniform items that must be purchased by parents separately:*
 - Solid black flats (heels are not acceptable)

If your student needs help purchasing any part of our required uniform, please communicate let us know ***no later than Friday, September 8th*** so that we can assist in a timely manner.

jpeacock@madison-schools.com

cswindoll@madison-schools.com

Please return this portion to school by Friday, September 8th with payment. Checks can be made payable to GMS Band. **Boys \$30.00, Girls \$80.00**

I have read and understand the attached formal uniform information:

Student Name (print) _____

Parent Signature _____

BoosterHub Sign-Up

Parents, please follow the QR Code to a Google Form to sign up for BoosterHub. You will be able to pay band fees, keep track of your student's account, shop band merchandise, and receive email communications throughout the year.



Germantown Middle School Advanced Band 2024-2025 Calendar of Events

AUGUST 5	<p><i>Zero Block starts for Advanced Band members (REQUIRED)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monday – trombone, baritone • Tuesday – flute, oboe, clarinet • Wednesday – alto sax, horn • Thursday – tuba, bass clarinet, bassoon, tenor/bari sax • Friday – trumpet
AUGUST 16 →	<p>Deadline to turn in the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$50 band fee • Drug test form • Handbook signature page • BoosterHub Google form <p><i>Formal uniform fee - \$80 for girls and \$30 for boys</i></p> <p><i>Annual fundraiser begins</i></p>
AUGUST 27	<p>Pep Rally during school & Adv Band Plays at GMS vs NWR, 6-7pm at GHS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Performance – Meet at GMS Band Hall at 5pm or stay after school
SEPTEMBER 3	All Fundraiser forms and money due!
SEPTEMBER 17	Advanced band plays at GMS home football game - 6pm to 7pm
SEPTEMBER 24	Pep rally during school & Adv. band plays at GMS football game 6pm to 7pm
OCTOBER 25	<i>Advanced Band & 8th grade to play at the GHS vs. MCHS football game (Away)</i>
NOVEMBER 6	Day of the Arts performances (GMS Jazz Band only)
NOVEMBER 11	Advanced Band Veteran's Day Performance
DECEMBER 10	Christmas Concert in the Gym or Auditorium. 7pm (8th grade reception to follow)
DEC 23 – JAN 3	<i>Christmas holidays</i>
JANUARY 6	<i>Return to school, Zero Block begins on regular schedule for Advanced Band</i>
JANUARY 7	<i>1st After School Rehearsal begins at 3:30pm – 5pm</i>
JANUARY 28/29	ADVANCED Band 5th Grade Recruiting concert at Mannsdale Upper and MCES

FEBRUARY 21 *ASBDA Mississippi Middle School All-State band auditions due*

MARCH, TBA **Possible recording session? MUSIC FOR ALL?**

MARCH 20 – 21 *Central Mississippi Concert Evaluation – Ridgeland HS.*

MARCH 22 *GMS Color Guard State Championship, location TBD*

MARCH 30-
APRIL 3 *MHSAA State Concert Evaluation; Pearl, MS, exact day & time TBD*

APRIL 17 **Advanced (possible), Gold, 7th & 8th Grade Band Gulfport Trip**

APRIL 24 *Spring Concert in the Gym or Auditorium, 7pm*

APRIL 28 *GMS Band Auditions begin for current 6th and 7th graders*

***As mentioned in the GMS Band Handbook the members of the **Advanced Band** will have **required after school rehearsals** from 3:30pm – until 5:00pm every Tuesday starting **January 7th - March 25th**. These are the dates to remember:

January 7th
January 14th
January 21st
January 28th

February 4th
February 11th
February 18th
February 25th

March 4th
March 18th
March 25th

Dear Parents,

GMS BAND FEES

We hope you had a great summer! We are looking forward to a great year in the GMS band.

Please return the bottom portion with your child’s band fees as soon as possible. Included in the fee are the method books, binders, local festival fees, music, and the official band t-shirt.

The fee is \$50.00 for the year.

Pay by check, cash, or money order. *If you wish to pay online, follow the QR code in the back of your child’s GMS Band Handbook or the one below and you will receive an invoice to pay the band fee online.**

How to pay band fee by invoice BoosterHub:

1. Follow the QR Code →
2. Fill out the Google Form
3. You will receive account information from BoosterHub.
4. You will receive a Band Fee invoice once your account is activated.



We are looking forward to working with your kids this year. If you have any questions, feel free to email one of the directors.

Thank you!

Jim Peacock
jpeacock@madison-schools.com
601.859.0376 ext. 1070

Carrie Swindoll
cswindoll@madison-schools.com
601.859.0376 ext. 1070

(DETACH AND RETURN WITH BAND FEE)

GMS BAND FEES \$50.00

Checks and Money Orders make payable to GMS Band Boosters

Check method of payment:

BoosterHub _____ Cash _____ Money Order _____ Check _____

Student Name: _____ Block: _____

Instrument: _____ T-Shirt Size **(adult sizes only)** _____

Parent’s Name: _____ Phone: _____