

**CHESTNUT MIDDLE  
SCHOOL  
TALENTED AND GIFTED**

**Chestnut  
Band**

**BAND HANDBOOK**

**2017-2018**

Dear Parents/Guardians and Students,

Welcome! My name is Angela Bowker and I am the Band Director of the Chestnut TAG Bands.

It is exciting that you will be joining me this year. Whether it is your first time learning an instrument or you're a returning member, we'll have a lot of fun creating music, learning about music, and sharing our music with the community, family, and friends.

Inside you will find some information on the different bands, concert attire, grading policy, etc.

At the end of the handbook, you'll find a paper that needs to be returned stating that you read and understand the policies. Please detach and return that paper to me. Hold onto the handbook for reference during the school year.

I will be available for after school help on Mondays. Students will be able to take the late bus home that day if they choose to stay. If you have any questions, please feel free to email me at [bowkera@springfieldpublicschools.com](mailto:bowkera@springfieldpublicschools.com).

I look forward to having a great year working with the students. Hope to see you at our concerts and performances!

Best,

Angela Bowker

Band Director



## **Philosophy**

The philosophy of the Chestnut TAG Band Program is to create well-rounded individuals through playing music. Band should be a fun learning experience where the students grow as individuals and learn to be responsible people. Every student is given the right to succeed and it is my role as the teacher to give the students this opportunity through the band program and to help them with anything they need help with. It is my role as a music educator to introduce students to music, helping them to understand and appreciate the joy that it brings to people all over the world. It is an international language that speaks to all in one way or another. The students are expected to put their best effort forth in class and to never give up on anything they are doing. The students and I need to always be respectful of each other.

## **Band Descriptions**

### **Beginner Band**

Beginner Band is offered to students in all grades. Beginner Band will focus on learning about what music consists of and how it all relates to learning an instrument. Students will learn how to read different rhythms, learn how to read music in both the treble and bass clef staves, and learn the fundamental techniques of the instrument that they play. Students and Ms. Bowker will decide upon which instrument will be best fitting for each student. This instrument will be assigned to the student for the duration of the 2017-2018 school year. Students will also learn about different musical genres, along with famous composers and how they influenced the music we listen to today. Beginner Band meets every day for 55 minutes during the school day. The Beginner Band will perform at the Winter Concert in December and at the Spring Concert in May. In addition to these, they will also play at other various events throughout the school year. More information will be sent home when these are decided upon, including specific dates and times. It is highly recommended and encouraged that students take private music lessons to enhance their skills and abilities.

## **Advanced Band-7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Bands**

The Advanced Bands are offered to students in the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade. Advanced Band will continue to focus on developing skills and techniques on their instrument, along with playing more advanced literature from all different genres. Students will continue to learn about different musical genres, along with famous composers and how they influenced the music we listen to today. Students will be assigned an instrument for the duration of the 2017-2018 school year. Advanced Band meets every day for 55 minutes during the school day. The Advanced Bands will perform at the Winter Concert in December and at the Spring Concert in May. In addition to these, they will also play at other various events throughout the school year. More information will be sent home when these are decided upon, including specific dates and times. It is highly recommended and encouraged that students take private music lessons to enhance their skills and abilities.

### **PLEASE NOTE:**

**For students in both the beginner and advanced bands, it is required that you purchase a mouthpiece of your own for your instrument. If you already have a mouthpiece of your own, you are all set. If you need to buy a mouthpiece, the cost is \$20. This is accepted in the form of cash only. I will send out more information when the time is necessary to purchase mouthpieces. This ensures that your student is the only one playing on that mouthpiece and that they won't be sharing it with anyone or having to clean it at the beginning and end of class each day. If this may be of concern or not possible, please contact Ms. Bowker at [bowkera@springfieldpublicschools.com](mailto:bowkera@springfieldpublicschools.com)**

# Grading Policy

Grading Percentages:

- Performances-40%
- Quizzes/Individual or group playing-20%
- Classwork/Classroom Readiness-20%
- Homework-20%

## Performances

Students are expected to be at all performances. This is a mandatory part of the class. Some performances will be during school hours, while others will be after school. Students will need to make arrangements to be there. If they are not present at a performance, they will be given a zero for the grade. If the student cannot attend a performance, I need a note from the parents or guardians as to why the student could not be present. Exceptions include sudden illness or death in the family.

## Quizzes

Students will be given a few quizzes during the year, reflecting what we have learned in class. They will cover topics on rhythms, notes, composers, and different types of music. At points, students will be asked to play one on one for the teacher, so that she can assess the progress of the student. There will also be points where students will be asked to play together with their section on a part. These will all count as quiz grades. Students will know in advance when these will happen.

## Classwork/Classroom Readiness

Students will be asked to complete exercises on rhythms and notes in class. Students will also be graded on how prepared they are for the day. This includes having their instrument, music, and pencil ready at every class, along with being respectful to the teacher and to the other students. Students will show that they are ready to learn and play music by following classroom policies. All school rules and policies apply while in the band room for band classes. Classwork and classroom readiness will be graded with a  $\checkmark+$  (check plus) being an A, a  $\checkmark$  (check) being a C, and a  $\checkmark-$  (check minus) being a D.

## **Homework**

Students will be given worksheets to complete as part of learning and reviewing the different aspects of what makes up music, while also learning about composers and other genres of music. It is expected that homework be turned in the following day. Late assignments will be accepted but full credit will not be given. It is better to turn in an assignment late, than not at all. Homework will be graded with a  $\checkmark+$  (check plus) being an A, a  $\checkmark$  (check) being a C, and a  $\checkmark-$  (check minus) being a D.

## **Concert Attire**

This is what the students will wear to after school performances. If there are any questions regarding the requirements for concert attire, please contact me.

### **Male:**

Black pants-NO SWEATPANTS

Black socks

Black shoes

White button down shirt or white collared shirt-NO T-SHIRTS

Optional-black tie and black belt.

### **Female:**

Black pants or black skirt-NO SWEATPANTS

Black socks

Black shoes or black sandals

White shirt-NO T-SHIRTS

### **OR**

Solid black dress

Black shoes or black sandals

**ALL SKIRTS AND DRESSES MUST BE KNEE LENGTH OR LONGER!!  
NO EXCEPTIONS!**

It is expected that students arrive 45 minutes prior to the starting time of the concert. Students should be dressed and prepared to play in the concert. All valves should be oiled, slides greased, and extra reeds are accessible. Any issues with getting there on time should be discussed with the director. We want to put on an excellent performance showing the audience how hard we have worked on our music. A famous quote reflecting being on time is “To be early is to be on time. To be on time is to be late.”

## **Band Clothing Apparel**

We will be making Band specific shirts, polos, and sweatshirts! More details coming soon!

## **Home Practice**

Students are allowed to take their instruments home from school to practice during the week. This is highly encouraged seeing that the students will be playing more, in addition to just their time during band class. This allows the student to work on parts they may not know as well and helps them strengthen their stamina with playing. Students will sign out their instrument for the night stating that they took it home and it is expected that the instrument will return to school the next day. If the instrument isn't returned the next day, it will result in a **lunch detention** that same day.

## **Gerry's Music Shop**

Gerry's Music Shop is located in South Hadley, MA, and is the nearby music store that specializes in all types of musical needs. If you wanted to rent or purchase your own instrument, buy your own reeds, valve oil, and cork grease, or buy solo music to play on your own, this is the place to go. They are located at 80 Lamb Street, South Hadley, MA 01075 or you can call them at 413-534-7402. All repairs that need to be done on a school instrument will be done through Ms. Bowker. Please do not try to repair the instrument yourself!!

# Band Handbook Agreement Form

PLEASE SIGN AND RETURN BY \_\_\_\_\_

My student \_\_\_\_\_ and I have read and  
(Student's Name)

understand the Band Handbook. If I have any questions at any point or I'm unsure about something, I understand that I will contact Ms. Bowker at [bowkera@springfieldpublicschools.com](mailto:bowkera@springfieldpublicschools.com) to clarify anything.

Student's Name (Print) \_\_\_\_\_

Student's Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Name (Print) \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_