FESTUS

INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL

2021-2022

*6TH GRADE BAND HANDBOOK*

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August 19, 2020

Dear Band Students and Parents:

Thank you for sharing an interest in and support of the Festus Band Program. We are particularly glad you have chosen to be a part of the fine tradition of excellence in Festus bands. As students, you have made a commitment of time and dedication. As parents, your support to this commitment is important to the success of the band program. As teachers, we are committed to providing your student with the knowledge and skill to succeed continuing through high school and beyond. With a positive attitude and regular practice, I know you will find that your efforts in band will be rewarding.

As parents, you have also made a commitment to your child’s participation in the band program. With support and encouragement, you can be a vital part of your child’s success in band. Here are some suggestions of how you can better help your child in the band program.

1. Show an interest in the music study of your child.
2. Arrange a regular time for your child to practice, and find a quiet place for practicing to occur without interruptions.
3. Help your child practice as much as possible by counting, studying music texts, etc.
4. Help your child keep a daily record of practicing
5. Help your child maintain his/her instrument properly by providing a safe place for keeping at home, keeping the instrument in good repair, and keeping current on needed instrument supplies.
6. Teach your child to be prepared and on time for rehearsals and performances.
7. Even though private study is not required, it is strongly recommended as an extension of the classroom.
8. Make faithful attendance at all important activities.
9. Encourage your child to play for others when the opportunity arises, in the home, at school, church, and in the community.
10. Discuss with the music teachers anything that will help them understand your child.
11. Visit rehearsals and lessons occasionally.
12. See that your child stays current on all requirements for band class and help them remember to take their instrument to and from school each day.

Thanks again for your support of the Festus Band Program!

Sincerely,

Devin Lorenz Stephanie Sekelsky

# REQUIRED PERFORMANCES AND EVENTS

## Wed Sep 1 5 – 7 pm Band instrument rental night Intermediate Gym

**TBD Feb TBD 7 pm 6th grade band at PTO program Intermediate Gym**

# Thu Apr 28 7 pm 6th Band at Art & Music Festival High School PAC

If additional performances are scheduled during the school year, information will be sent out in advance to notify parents of these performances.

It is important that students and parents make arrangements to participate in these performances. Performing for parents is the best way to show off what the students learn in band! Appearance is an important part of performing. Please plan ahead so that students are able to wear nice clothes for the performance (in other words, *no jeans or tennis shoes*).

Please notify the band directors well in advance of a schedule conflict.

### EXPECTATIONS FOR BAND REHEARSALS

1. No gum or candy is allowed.
2. Students are to be in band every day with their instrument, band book (and any sheet music), class notebook, and a pencil.
3. If you cannot participate in band due to a medical/dental reason or instrument being repaired, you must have a note from home stating the reason and when you will be able to participate.
4. TAKE INSTRUMENTS HOME AND PRACTICE DAILY. The only way to improve is through regular practice and consistent practice.
5. Do not handle or play an instrument that does not belong to you. This invites possible damage and transmission of germs.
6. Take good care of your instrument and all materials. A damaged or poorly-cared-for instrument hinders your development.
7. Be respectful of directors and other members of the class.
8. Tardiness will not be tolerated. Arrive promptly and get ready for class to begin.
9. Have your instrument clearly marked with your name, address, and phone number.
10. Always maintain proper posture and playing position.
11. Make appropriate plans to participate in all scheduled performances!

### GRADING AND EVALUATION

Grading and evaluation in band is intended to be a positive means for maintaining student progress. The following items will be assessed and recorded each quarter: performance attendance if one is held, playing positions and posture, intonation (wind players only), rhythm, tone production, embouchure (wind players only), technique, rudiments (percussion students only), and practice. These will be assessed through daily participation, scheduled playing tests, rhythm assignments, and worksheets.

Inappropriate behavior will not be tolerated and will only hinder the child’s development as well as the participation of other students. Conduct will be handled in the room and with the office, and reported to the parents.

Do not hesitate to call if you have a concern about your student’s grade in band.

# PRACTICE CARDS

**(will not begin until 2nd quarter)**

Regular practice is essential for success in music. It is important to establish a practice routine, and that it take place in a quiet area free from any distractions. Practice logs are helpful tools for evaluation of band progress. The following are policies that will promote acceptable levels of achievement:

1. Record practice time in minutes each day.
2. Practice time will be graded weekly and figured as part of the band grade each quarter.
3. If a child takes a 30 minute private lesson on the band instrument, 60 minutes practice time may be recorded for that day.
4. The student may count up to 60 minutes per week of piano practice if the child is taking piano lessons in addition to band.

Late entries – the maximum accepted will be 2 weeks back. They are due every Sunday in the app.

The following grading scale will be used in determining practice grades:

100 minutes + A

90-99 minutes B

80-89 minutes C

70-79 minutes D

0-69 minutes F

Do not hesitate to contact a director if you have any questions concerning your child’s progress in band.

INSTRUMENT CARE

The Festus R-6 School District is not responsible for stolen or damaged instruments that are owned, rented, or borrowed by students. Although the school has instrument storage available, no storage space is 100% secure. Instrument storage rooms are not always secure, and the school cannot be responsible for anything left in them, either during the school day or overnight. Instrumental students are expected to take their instruments home every night to practice. Parents are advised to make sure their homeowners or renters policies cover musical instruments, most do. Students must take proper care of instruments including not leaving them in classrooms, buses, hallways, etc., during the school day, weekends, or vacations. Under no circumstances will private instruments be housed at school during the summer.

Students need to take care not to leave instruments unattended in precarious positions (on music stands, which can be easily bumped, on chairs sticking out into aisles, and standing or lying on the floor where someone could knock them over, step on them or kick them). Instrument cases must not be used as chairs, foot rests, or bowling balls, as these uses can impair their ability to protect the instrument inside from damage, dirt, or moisture. A musician playing a great instrument, which is kept in perfect working order, is in perfect condition. A musician playing a poor instrument, or a great instrument which he/she fails to keep in perfect working condition, does himself/herself and the listener a great disservice. Now let’s define perfect working condition:

INSTRUMENT CARE

***Brass Instruments:***

1. The inside of the instrument must be kept clean and free of germ cultures. Clean it at least twice a year.
2. All the tuning slides must be free and easily moved.
3. The trombone slide and the valves on all the valved instruments must be working freely and quickly.
4. The mouthpiece must be cleaned often for the best response.
5. All major dents should be removed. Dents in the lead pipe will cause intonation problems.
6. Water key corks must not leak air or water.
7. The outside of the instrument should be kept clean and shiny with a mild soap and water solution. (DO NOT USE BRASSO OR EQUIVALENT TO POLISH!!)

***Woodwind Instruments:***

1. The keys must be kept in adjustment. Keys too far from the instrument will cause tuning problems and technique problems.
2. Alternate fingering keys must be kept adjusted and responsive.
3. Worn pads must be replaced or they will cause tuning and tone problems
4. A special note about reeds:
   1. Buy your reeds by the box if possible
   2. Have at least four good reeds in a reed case and alternate them often. When one splits, break in a new reed immediately, that way you will always have four good ones ready for performance.
   3. 6th grade clarinets should begin on a #2 strength reed
   4. 7th grade clarinets should play on a #2 ½ strength reed
   5. 8th grade clarinets should play on a #3 strength reed
   6. Saxophone players should never use anything stronger than a #3 strength reed.
   7. NEVER use a chipped, split or worn out reed in our band.

***Percussion Instruments:***

1. Keep all equipment packed away properly and/or covered when not in use.
2. Worn, dented, or cut heads must be replaced for all instruments.
3. Use of the proper sticks is required for all instruments.
4. Never play with broken or split sticks.
5. Always return all instruments and mallets back to their place of storage.

A YEARLY TRIP TO THE INSTRUMENT REPAIR SHOP (DURING THE SUMMER) IS STRONGLY SUGGESTED TO KEEP INSTRUMENTS IN THEIR BEST PLAYING CONDITION. THIS KIND OF ROUTINE/PREVENTATIVE MAINTENANCE IS CRITICAL TO KEEPING THE INSTRUMENT IN PLAYING CONDITION.

**EQUIPMENT REQUIREMENTS**

## Band Method Book

All students are required to purchase a band book. Sixth grade students can get their book when they rent their instrument (they are also available at music stores that service band instruments). The 7th and 8th grade books will be ordered and be available through the school when they are needed.

**6th Grade: Tradition of Excellence, Book 1**

## Instrumental Needs:

## Flutes Brass

\_\_ tuning rod \_\_ slide cream (trombones)

\_\_ cleaning swab \_\_ valve oil (except trombones)

\_\_ polishing cloth \_\_ polishing cloth

\_\_ cleaning snake

**Oboes**  \_\_ mouthpiece brush

\_\_ cork grease

\_\_ water container **Percussion**

\_\_ two good reeds \_\_ 1 small stick bag from rental night

\_\_ cleaning swab \_\_ 1 pair concert snare sticks

\_\_ 1 pair rubber xylo mallets

**Clarinets & Saxophones** \_\_ 1 pair yarn mallets

\_\_ cork grease \_\_ more sticks and mallets will be added over years

\_\_ 4 good reeds\* at all times

\_\_ mouthpiece cap

\_\_ cleaning swabs

\_\_ neck strap (saxophones)

\_\_ cloth for cleaning mouthpiece **\*Suggested Reeds**

\_\_ reed guard VanDoren: 2 or 2 ½

LaVoz: Med. Or Med. Hard

## Bassoons Rico Royal: 2 or 2 ½

\_\_ cork grease

\_\_ water container **It is recommended that all students have a**

\_\_ cleaning swab **music stand (folding or wire) for home practice.**

\_\_ seat strap

\_\_ 2 good reeds

It is essential that all students have the proper equipment for their instrument. If there are any questions concerning these lists do not hesitate to contact your child’s director. If you ever need any of these items, we can get them delivered from our music stores on a weekly basis.

PLEASE SIGN & RETURN THIS PAGE TO YOUR BAND DIRECTOR BY THE END OF THE WEEK

A copy of this handbook can be found online at [www.festusbands.org](http://www.festusbands.org)

6TH GRADE BAND HANDBOOK APPROVAL FORM

Please take the time to read the contents of this handbook and sign this form indicating an understanding of all expectations. You also indicate knowledge of all the required performances and understand the commitment. If you have any questions concerning this handbook do not hesitate to contact Mr. Lorenz or Mrs. Sekelsky. This form should be signed and returned to the band directors during the first week of school.

I have read and understand the contents of this handbook.

Print Student Name

Student Signature Date

Parent/Guardian Signature Date

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REQUIRED EVENTS

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