



Mr. Chris Bowen, Director of Bands
825 SW 28th St.
Okeechobee, FL 34974

August 13, 2018

Dear Parents and Students,

As we begin the 2018-2019 school year, I am looking forward to a very successful and enjoyable experience. We have a wonderful group of students and parents returning to the band program. We accomplished many outstanding goals last year and I am sure this year will be as good, if not better than the last.

I welcome all of the newcomers. In case you are not familiar with the band program, I can honestly tell you that it is one of the finest in our area. Just as our school tries to exceed expectations, we as musicians, work very hard and achieve a level of musicianship that far exceeds most middle schools. I have great expectations of our incoming band members. I know you will truly enjoy your time in band, as long as you give it your all!

For all parents, we will be continuing our OMS Band Parent Association this year. I am wanting to start officer volunteers and nominations at our first meeting. If you would like to become involved in your child's experience with the band, please plan on meeting with us on September 4, starting at 6 PM.

The following information is provided to help you be a successful participant in our band program. Please read the handbook carefully and complete the Google Forms shown on the home page of the band website. For those that need assistance, please feel free to ask.

I am also extremely excited to continue using CHARMS Office this year. There, parents will be able to sign up to volunteer and chaperone. Students can submit recordings and log in their practice times, etc.

Furthermore, become familiar with our Band Calendar, which is also on the CHARMS and home page of the website. If you have any questions regarding the band program, please feel free to send me an email at bowenc@okee.k12.fl.us.

Sincerely,

Chris Bowen
Director of Bands

Grading Policy

Band grades are determined by each student's achievement in five categories:

Classroom Participation	(20%)
Homework	(10%)
Performances/Exams	(40%)
Rehearsals/Quizzes	(30%)

Classroom Participation includes all aspects of daily band rehearsals, having all required materials and giving maximum effort at all times.

- Example of A work: Student brought instrument everyday this week, as well as his/her books and always marked their music with a pencil. Student had a great attitude each day!
- Example of B work: Student brought instrument everyday this week. Student forgot his/her music twice and did not regularly have a pencil ready to mark their music. Their attitude was pretty good.
- Example of C work: Student forgot their instrument at least once this week. Student did not have their music for most days. Student never had a pencil this week. Student does not seem committed to the lessons.
- Example of D work: Student brought their instrument 0-1 times this week. Student did not bring music at all to class. No pencil. Poor attitude from student
- Example of F work: Student failed to bring their instrument, music and pencil this week. He/She did not try to participate.

Playing Tests

All students will have tests based on the current music and/or scales we are working on in class. Students will have a week minimum to prepare for their next playing test. Most tests will be recorded and submitted from home (if possible).

Rehearsals and Performances

Band is performance based, so the rehearsals outside of class will be counted as a grade, along with the main concerts and other performances required by each ensemble. Rehearsals will be counted as quizzes and performances will be counted as tests.

Student Guidelines

- **Respect others and our school.**
- **Come to rehearsals and lessons prepared to learn.**
- **Take responsibility for your actions.**
- **Play only your assigned instrument, unless otherwise noted!**
- **All sections must be cleaned after every rehearsal.**
- **No gum, food, or drink allowed in the music areas!! (Bottled water is okay)**

Rehearsal Procedures

- Be ready once Mr. Bowen or any conductor is on the podium
- Rehearsal order will be on the board
- Do **not** bring cases to your seat (Valve oil, extra reeds or sticks should be with you)
- Always have at least **two** working pencils, a working instrument and needed accessories.
- Warm-up using method books or current music
- Stay in your seat, once we begin.
- Raise your hand for questions
- Always have your band binder and books neat and prepared with markings and measures numbered
- We will pack up our instruments as a class, when I dismiss you

Storage of Instruments/Music

-OSCEOLA MIDDLE SCHOOL IS ONLY RESPONSIBLE FOR **SCHOOL OWNED** INSTRUMENTS LEFT IN THE CUBBIES. I WOULD RECOMMEND TAKING YOUR INSTRUMENTS HOME EACH DAY IF FESIBLE.

-ONLY **INSTRUMENTS** WILL BE STORED IN THE INSTRUMENT STORAGE ROOM, NOT BOOKS OR OTHER PERSONAL ITEMS!

-KEEP STORAGE ROOM CLEAN OR YOU WILL LOSE THE PRIVILEGE TO B ABLE TO USE IT!

-IF YOU FIND MUSIC THAT IS NOT YOURS, PLEASE TURN IT INTO THE BLACK BIN. IF YOU FORGOT YOUR MUSIC, YOU CAN FIND IT IN THE WHITE BIN!

Performing Ensembles

- **Beginning Band** consists of beginning players from the 6th grade.
- **Concert Band** consists of intermediate players mainly from 7th and 8th grade. Students must have mastered the beginning level on their instrument to be in concert band.
- **Symphonic Band** consists of advanced players from the 7th and 8th grade.
- **Percussion Ensemble:** 7th-8th grade students who are percussionists will be in this ensemble, which will perform at Solo and Ensemble in February
- **Jazz Band:** Jazz Band is open to band students of traditional jazz instruments by audition. The focus of Jazz Band is repertoire, performance, and improvisation. It will meet afterschool once per week.

Performance Attire

Parades and Pep Bands:

All Students Need: Blue OMS Band T-Shirt for parades Football Games and Pep Band. Students will wear jeans and closed toed shoes while in this performance attire. **Shirts must be tucked in with a belt.**

Beginning Band:

All: Blue OMS Band Polo Shirt and black dress pants or black long skirt. Black dress shoes and socks. A black belt must be worn and shirt must be tucked in.

Concert and Symphonic Bands:

Girls: Formal dress, black blouse and black pants, black dress shoes

Boys: Black dress shirt, black dress pants with a black belt, black dress shoes and black dress socks

**We will have a sizing night August 21st after school*

Jazz Band/Percussion Ensemble:

Wear the same as concert and symphonic band at school concerts or Solo and Ensemble.

Performances

(Dates also on Band Calendar)

8th Grade Night- September 28th at 5:00 PM (OHS Band Room/Field)

This will be the time for all 8th grade students to get a chance to play with the OHS Band in the stands for a home game! Students will be able to watch their future school band on the field for their halftime performance as well. 8th Grade Students will get a chance to perform on the field with the OHS Band as well.

Labor Day Parade- September 1, 9:00AM (Freshman Campus and pick up Country Cooler)

All 8th grade students will participate in the Labor Day parade with OHS Band. (More information to follow)

Disney Trip -October 17 at 6 PM (Orlando)

All 7th and 8th grade students are invited to take part in a performance at Disney Springs! Trip details will be shared via Remind Messages.

Beginning Band Showcase- November 15 at 6:00 PM (OMS)

This will be a required performance for all beginning band students in the OMS Gym.

Christmas in the Park Celebration- December 8 (Park)

The Christmas parade will be mandatory for the jazz band only. We will be performing in the park during the afternoon. (More information to follow)

Winter Concert- December 11th (OHS)

The Winter Concert will be at 7PM for all 7th and 8th grade students. This will take place at OHS in their lecture hall. This is a required performance for all 7th and 8th grade students. This performance will count for the maximum points allowed for the 1st semester. ***If there is a conflict with this date, please let Mr. Bowen know as soon as possible***

IRSC 4-County Honors Band- January 17-19, 2018

Every year between 4 and 6 7th & 8th grade students will be nominated to participate in the IRSC 4-County Honor Band. Once the nominations and acceptance letters are given, I will have more information. **Transportation is provided for part of this event.**

Solo and Ensemble Festival- Feb. 1-2 (St. Lucie West Centennial)

S&E Festival is a 2-daylong event. **All 8th grade students are encouraged to participate.** If solos make you nervous, take part in an ensemble. Music should be selected sometime in November. This event is a great way to express individualism and creativity! More information to come soon! **Transportation is provided for this event, only if enough students take part.**

Music Performance Assessment (MPA)- Feb. 28- March 2 (Treasure Coast HS or Sebastian River HS)

Our District Music Performance Assessment will be held at **Treasure Coast High School.** This is for Symphonic Band Only. Please keep all three dates open! **Transportation is provided for this event.**

Middle School Solo and Ensemble- April 26-27 (WE ARE HOSTING THIS EVENT AT OMS!)

This event is a major event for our school and band, as we are hosting for the first time ever. This will be for all middle school students that did not participate in the Feb. Solo and Ensemble. This is a great opportunity for ALL grade levels to play a solo or small ensemble with like instruments. Many more details to follow!

Spring Concert(s)- May 2 (OHS)

The Spring Concert(s) will be **May 2nd at 6PM for all beginning band students and 7PM for all 7th and 8th grade students.** Both will take place at OHS in their lecture hall. This is a required performance for all students. This performance will count for the maximum points allowed for the 1st semester. ***If there is a conflict with these dates, please let Mr. Bowen know as soon as possible***

All Other Dates are on the Band Calendar on Charms and our website!

Materials Needed

Every Student Must Have:

- An instrument in good working condition
- Black Band Binder with sheet protectors for music (1" preferred)
- Pencil pouch in the band binder
- Accessories necessary for your instruments. I.e. valve oil, slide cream, reeds, cleaning kits, sticks, mallets, etc.

**Here are recommended brands and models of Reeds, Mouthpiece, Sticks, Mallets, etc.*

Woodwind: Reeds

Oboe- Lescher

Bassoon- Lescher

Clarinets and Sax- Vandoren or Rico Royal (strength 3 and up) Rovner Ligatures

Brass: Mouthpieces

Trumpets- 3C or 5C

Horns- Laskey 75G

Trombones/Euphonium- 6 ½ AL

Tuba- 24AW or Helleberg

Percussion: Sticks and Mallets Required for all 7th and 8th Grade Students!

Sticks- General SD1 or similar

Mallets (1 pair each)- Medium Yarn, Medium Rubber, Hard Plastic, General Timpani.

Practice Pad

Mallet/Stick Bag

Recommended Instrument Brands (if purchasing):

Flute- Geimenhardt, Yamaha

Oboe- Selmer, Yamaha

Bassoon- Fox, Selmer

Clarinets- Yamaha, Buffet

Saxophone- Yamaha, Jupiter, Selmer

Trumpet- Bach, Yamaha, King

Horn- Holton, Yamaha, Conn

Euphonium- Yamaha, King, Jupiter

Trombone- King, Yamaha

Tuba- Yamaha, Eastman

Percussion- Yamaha, Pearl/Adams, Mapex, Ludwig

Instrument Rental

School Rental

We currently have 180 band members and counting and have no new instruments coming in. **It is recommended that students rent-to-own from Okeechobee Music!** If families are unable to rent from Okeechobee Music, we will have something for your student to play. The school rental fee for the whole school year to cover rental and repair is \$60, depending on the size or cost of the instrument. Rental agreement forms will be available starting the first week of school.

Tuba players may all rent from the school, but will have to schedule when to take home for practice

Okeechobee Music

Okeechobee Music is our local store for all band and music needs. On **Tuesday, August 28th, from approximately 5-7 pm**, a representative will be available to all students renting to own an instrument. **This is the most recommended source for your student to start owning his or her own instrument. Monthly rent-to-own fees apply differently to each instrument.** Mr. Bowen will have more information regarding this the first few weeks of school.

Online Shopping

This form of shopping for instruments is becoming more popular.

Beware of eBay/Amazon Instruments. I recommend a few sites only for online instrument shopping.

DO NOT BUY “FUN” COLORED INSTRUMENTS, PLEASE!!!

For all wind players try: www.wwbw.com or www.washingtonmusic.com.

For percussionists try: www.steveweissmusic.com or www.percussionsource.com.

If you are not sure of brands, please review the Materials Needed section of this handbook for more details.

With all of this said, sometimes you can find real quality instruments if you know where to look and what to look for.

PLEASE ASK MR. BOWEN BEFORE PURCHASING ANY INSTRUMENTS ONLINE!

PLEASE COMPLETE THE AGREEMENT FORM ON THE BAND WEBSITE- OMS BAND.WEEBLY.COM