



**2016-2017**

**North Mac Consolidated  
School District #34  
Middle School Band  
Handbook**

# **North Mac Consolidated School District #34**

## **Middle School Band Handbook**

Keith A. Fatheree, Band Director

### ***Expectations***

Members of the North Mac Consolidated School District #34 Middle School Band are expected to maintain the highest levels of personal mores and musical performance. Our school's reputation will be of the highest integrity and it is expected that our school's band relate this integrity to all who view it and hear it!

### ***Band Rehearsal***

In order to achieve optimum performance outcomes, band rehearsal is to be conducted in a professional and orderly manner, both by the band director and the band members themselves. Talking by band members is to be kept at an absolute minimum. If a band member has questions he or she shall raise their hand and politely wait to be called on. Speaking out of turn and horseplay will not be tolerated and will result in disciplinary action by the band director.

Band rehearsal is not practice time. Practicing of individual band music must take place at home. Otherwise, the rehearsal time is wasted. Rehearsal is to be a period of perfecting the nuances of music. This includes achieving the dynamics, articulations and overall sound of the ensemble.

A typical rehearsal will be as follows:

- Bb Concert Scale (or other scale)
- Tuning
- Warm Up (a chorale or other etude(s) from Standard of Excellence)
- Music Selections and/or Marching Technique

Each school term the band director will teach new scales, etudes, percussion rudiments, music theory work sheets or rhythm sheets which the students will perform or complete for grades. The scales will come from the IESA music program. These provide the students with an understanding of music theory (or the elements of music).

### ***Disciplinary Actions***

The band director will not tolerate poor behavior. Poor behavior inhibits the learning environment, and frankly, annoys everyone! The band director will administer a detention to the band member exhibiting poor behavior. In circumstances above the norm the band director may, at his discretion, remand the band member to the principal for further discipline, as per the school hand book.

### ***Attendance***

Attendance at performances and extra practices is mandatory. Absences are only permissible as per the school hand book. Band is a performance based course. Performances are the joy of a musician, be it performing in a parade, on a football field, in the gymnasium bleachers or in a concert setting. They are the culmination of hard work and perseverance.

### ***Grading***

Band is a **performance based class**. In addition to music performances, such as concerts, parades, etc., there will be paper and pencil grades, as well as daily grades. **Daily grades are dependent upon having necessary instruments, accessories and music in the classroom during class time.**

### ***Instrument Maintenance***

It is expected that each band member maintain their instrument, be it personally owned or school owned, to the best of their ability. This includes cleaning and providing repair as needed. Instruments are expensive and produced with hand craftsmanship. Instruments must

be regularly cleaned and maintained to function as they were originally intended. An instrument that is well maintained is a pleasure to play. Instruments that are not kept in proper playing condition are a frustration to the musician. Proper instrument maintenance is key to the success of the musician.

A music store representative regularly calls on our school. This representative will, at your convenience, take instruments to their music store for repair. If you prefer, you may choose to take your instrument to the music store of your choice.

Woodwind instruments must be periodically maintained by knowledgeable repairmen to have their keys aligned and pads changed and fitted as necessary. If this is not done, the band member will not be able to perform as expected.

Woodwind instruments must be swabbed after every practice and performance to remove accumulated moisture. Reeds, if applicable, must be replaced at the first sign of wear. At no time should woodwind instruments be placed in water. Reeds and swabs may be attained from the school or music stores at the prevalent cost.

Brass players must periodically clean their instruments to remove sludge. Brass instruments may be submersed in lukewarm water with a small amount of detergent (such as Dawn) added. The insides may be swabbed with brushes specifically devised for this purpose, removing any debris, and then flushed with lukewarm water and thoroughly dried. Brushes may be attained from the band director or from music stores.

Brass instrument valves and slides must be lubricated often to provide the utmost maneuverability and ease of performance. Valve oil, slide grease and brushes may be attained from the school or music stores at the prevalent cost.

Percussion instruments should be carefully cleaned of debris. Drum heads must be changed and/or tuned periodically to provide optimum performance. Drum sticks should be kept in pristine playing order. Drum heads must be purchased from music stores, they will not be available for purchase from the school. The band director will specify which drum heads and drum sticks.

## ***Step-Up Instruments***

At some point a musician needs to step-up to a higher quality instrument. Beginner instruments are fine instruments. However, as a musician becomes musically mature, he cannot achieve the level of musicianship he would like with an instrument not capable of his ability. Step-up, or intermediate level, instruments offer the finesse needed to satisfy a musician's abilities. These instruments provide the handmade intricacies that allow a musician's expertise to shine. Professional level instruments provide an even higher level of craftsmanship.

## ***Band Equipment***

Band equipment is incredibly expensive! The band receives funding by the school district. What the district does not supply, fund raising or personal investment provides. All equipment will be treated with the utmost respect or disciplinary action will be initiated by the band director. All equipment shall be regarded as precious.

## ***Solo and Ensemble Contest***

Each year the IESA (Illinois Elementary School Association) holds state-wide vocal and instrumental solo and ensemble contests. Students perform a solo and/or ensemble and are adjudicated individually. Judges critique the soloist/ensemble and rate the individual contestant(s) while providing written criticism. Contestants are rated as follows:

- I. Excellent
- II. Good
- III. Fair

Band members may receive from the band director contest solo music. Music is provided based upon the member's ability level. Students may also choose to receive ensemble music as well.

If students choose to receive ensemble music they must make arrangements to work with the others in their ensemble on their own time. The band director will make arrangements to work with the ensemble after school in the band room. Practices will be on a first come first served basis.

The band director will make the determination one week prior to the date of the contest as to whether the student will perform at contest or not. Those students who do not meet the band director's expectation of performance readiness will not be allowed to attend contest. This determination will be solely based upon the band director's opinion.

Accompanists will be provided by the school district at no charge to the band member. However, a band member may choose to provide their own accompanist, at their own expense.

### ***Organizational Contest***

The band director will, *at his discretion*, determine if the band will attend IESA Organizational Contest. Contest normally occurs during the month of March each year, at a site determined by the IESA. If the band attends the contest, the band members will wear a uniform prescribed by the band director. Proper advance notice will be given the band members and their parents. The costs incurred by attendance of the band at the contest will be underwritten by the school district. The band will be provided transportation by the school district.

Bands are adjudicated pursuant to their ability. Bands are rated as follows:

- I.     Excellent
- II.    Good
- III.   Fair

### ***Uniforms***

The band members will be attired for performances in the uniform prescribed by the band director. This includes our black band shirt, black socks and black shoes, khaki pants. For the homecoming parade khaki shorts are acceptable. A band member not performing in any performance, because of non-conformance to uniform standards, will result in the band member's grade being reduced. The parents of band members are required to make efforts to outfit the band member as needed.

## ***Concerts***

There will be two main concerts per school year, a winter concert and a spring concert. Band members are required to attend and attendance affects their grades. Concerts are worth 100 points.

Dates for concerts will be provided at a later date.

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Please sign, date and return the form on the following page to Mr. Fatheree by **Wednesday, August 24, 2016**. Thank you and welcome to the North Mac Middle School Band!

I agree to abide by the rules and regulations set forth for the North  
Mac Middle School Band as stated in the band handbook.

Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_