

Granby Junior High Band Course Expectations Sheet 2008-2009

Mr. Greg A. Williams, director

<http://gwilliams.classdrive.net>

Room 114 – The Music Room 1:15 – 2:00 pm

Our Junior High School instrumental program continues with a renewed curricular focus for band on individuals' skill and knowledge acquisition through our exploration of solo and ensemble repertoire and technical skills.

This is an incredibly exciting, and very unique, year for this group, as we will be giving a lecture/demonstration/concert at the 35th National Conference of the Organization of American Kodály Educators in Washington, D.C. on Friday, March 13, 2009. As a result of this invitation, we have arranged a five day bus trip to the conference and tour of the area March 11-15, 2009 - Congratulations! This trip will include all 7th-9th grade band students and many special events are planned throughout the fall.

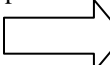
Unlike the East Meadow instrumental music program, there are currently no small group lessons in the Jr/Sr High School programs. I encourage all students to have individual private lessons as well as practice regularly, in addition to band rehearsals, to maintain and enhance their musical skills. This is especially true for students who intend to audition for the Music Festivals throughout the year. I am willing to assist any student in locating a private music instructor in the area. I post after-school help sign-up sheets on the band door weekly for students to request one-on-one help or to stay to practice on their own.

For students who may occasionally need to leave their instrument in school over night in the music area, please note that even though the music room will normally be locked, the hallway storage area is not and the school does not take responsibility for personal property.

As we begin a new year, it is important that we have clear expectations! Yes, I expect you to be successful, and the tradition of the program exudes nothing but success! With these high expectations come many policies and procedures that help us become effective members of the ensemble. I am here to help you, so I am not going to allow you to do anything that would interfere with the success of the group. So that we can have a successful working relationship, the following rules, expectations, and procedures are set forth:

PERFORMANCE DRESS CODE

The band will continue with the previous uniform dress code for performances. Any member that does not follow this concert/uniform expectation may not participate in the given performance, at the discretion of the director.

 **Concert, Parade, and Band Day Dress:** Band Shirt (tucked in - plan accordingly), full-length Black Slacks, solid Black Shoes, and Black Socks or Hose (except for band day when students may wear jeans/sneakers).

Please plan now for these needs – especially for the required band shirt. Students who do not have one at all, or that fits, must order a shirt through Mr. Williams this fall. Shirts cost \$13 and checks are payable to **GMPA** (the Granby Music Parents' Association).

Please order and pay for this shirt when you return this form.

RULES

Tardiness for Band Rule: Do not be tardy to band rehearsal. Roll will be taken for band five minutes after the start of class. Students not seated and ready to begin, with their instrument, will be marked tardy to class.

Gum Chewing Rule: Do not chew gum at any band function that involves playing your instrument, i.e. a rehearsal, performance, games, or in the music room at any time. I will have **ZERO TOLLERANCE** for gum in the music room!

Music Rule: Each student will be assessed a replacement fee for missing or torn music, as determined by the music publishers. See the director for any problems concerning music.

EXPECTATIONS

Appropriate Listening. When Someone Else Is Talking: It is expected that when the director or student leader is talking, that you address that person with your EYES and give them your full attention. We believe that you should have enough self-respect that you would honor this request.

Inappropriate Talking: When the director or student leader is talking, you should not be talking. If another student talks to you at an inappropriate time, don't respond. They'll get the message!

Playing Position: All students will demonstrate appropriate playing posture and instrument hand positions when playing at all times, rehearsals or performances.

Quarterly Playing Exams: All students will submit this exam prior to the last day of each marking period. No late submissions will be accepted without prior approval of the instructor. **This is the student's and family's responsibility to manage.** The assignment is given approximately 1-2 weeks prior to the end of every quarter – although the method book portion of it can be done in advance.

PROCEDURES

Procedures are how we do things. They are not rules and do not have consequences. This is the way we do it.

Entering the classroom.....	Go directly to: instrument / music / stand / seat / warm up
Beginning class.....	Director stands at the podium & the class is silent
Class dismissal.....	Mr. Williams dismisses, not the bell
Exiting the classroom	Put away music / stand / instrument as instructed and clean personal area
Asking a question & Responding to questions	Raise your hand
Instrument storage	Keep them neat and orderly in the space assigned (including percussion)
Turning in Recordings	Put in the assignment box at start of class or send electronically
Turning in paperwork	Put in the assignment box at start of class or send electronically
Fire Drill	Go to the assigned area and remain as a class
Announcements	Check board; will be done at the beginning/end of class also visit websites frequently
Getting Help	Ask Mr. Williams and he will set up after-school help sessions
Practicing	Regular, Structured, DAILY practice
Storing Music	Put music in the designated folders and storage area after class

MATERIALS

Here are the materials that are needed everyday:

- * Instrument (including mouthpiece) OR sticks/mallets for percussionists
- * Standard of Excellence Book 1 for all students
- * Standard of Excellence Book 2 and/or Book 3 for those who have moved into them
- * Sharpened Pencils (no pens) (This can stay in your child's case so they have one here)
- * Music folder (I will give each student one)
- * Notebook paper everyday (This can be loose in their band folder.)

GRADING

Grades are assigned for the band class and performances, which are co-curricular.

20% is based on class participation and personal responsibility: This includes after-school activities that are scheduled in advance, students having their instruments and music every day, a pencil at every rehearsal, and show maximum effort to earn the best grade.

80% is based on Quarterly Playing Exams, Assignments, and Self Assessments: It is the student's responsibility to turn in all assignments, prepare for auditions, and make all scheduled events. Playing assignments for the school year will be short and must be submitted via audiocassette, compact disc or electronically – SmartMusic is highly recommended for this purpose.

Please prepare, in advance, to purchase an inexpensive audio recording device.

The Final Exam Grade is determined by how the student met the attendance, dress code, and personal responsibility expectations for the required performances. Alternative projects will be given to students who must miss a performance with a legitimate excuse and with advance notice to the director.

PERFORMANCES/ACTIVITIES

The Granby Music Calendar is available online with a *tentative* list of all of this year's music activities for the instrumental and vocal ensembles grades 4-12. Please note that some events are not yet scheduled and some may need to be changed. However, I hope that this helps improve planning for the year.

The junior high band will participate in the **UMass Band Day** (Saturday October 25), **two concerts** this year (December 3, June 3), a trip to Washington, D.C. (March 11-15), and will march in the **Granby Memorial Day Parade** (Monday, May 25). These are all required performances for students and notices will be posted on the website once performance dates are scheduled.

UMass Band Day is Saturday, October 25th this year. Look for info on Mr. Williams' Website! There is no cost for the student to participate. The Granby Music Parents Association is providing for the registration fee and busing. They will also offer an optional meal at the event for a small fee.

Music festival information for band, orchestra, jazz ensemble, and chorus can be found on the website. In order to audition, students must perform their audition materials for Mr. Williams at least once, demonstrating readiness. Do not procrastinate setting up this time with Mr. Williams. These times with Mr. Williams are not meant to be private lessons. Students are encouraged to seek private lessons in order to prepare fully for their audition as well as to gain additional music skills.

Extra-curricular music activities are being planned for **pep band**, **jazz band**, **GAP pit** orchestra, and **chorus** (which will meet Mondays after school with Mrs. Williams this year). Please listen and watch for more information.

Granby Jr-Sr High Music Program

Please return this to Mr. Williams on **Friday, September 5, 2008.**

Name as you want it listed on programs: _____

Student Email: _____

Parents'/Guardians' Name(s): _____

Family Email(s): _____

Would you like to receive emails from the Granby Music Parents' Association? **YES / NO**

If you take regular private lessons, with whom and where: _____

Do you plan to audition for Western Mass Ensembles? **YES/NO**

If yes, circle which ensemble(s)?

JUNIOR LEVEL (6-9): BAND ORCHESTRA JAZZ CHOIR

Do you need a Granby High Band Shirt? **YES / NO**

If yes, please send in a \$13 check made out to GMPA and circle what size: **XS S M L XL XXL**

We have read, understand, and will comply with all the **2008-2009 Granby Band** rules, expectations, and procedures. I believe that we are all responsible for making rehearsals and performances run smoothly and to be responsible for checking the website for updated information. I am willing to do my part!

Print Student Name

Student Signature

Parent Signature

Date