

# Welcome to the McGraw Junior High Band!

Dear Parents/Guardians:

Welcome to the 2021 – 2022 school year! I am thrilled to be your student's Instrumental Music Teacher this year! Below you will find details regarding our small group lessons, rehearsal etiquette and concert dates.

## Google Classroom

Every student in Jr. High Band will need to be part of our Google Classroom. The class code is: **3ds4szq**

*It is extremely important that everyone sign up for our Google Classroom. In the event that we are no longer able to meet in person and have to go to remote learning, this will be the platform that we use. The Google Classroom "stream" will be used for announcements, links, updated lesson schedules and information. Assignments, should we go remote again, will appear under the "classwork" tab.*

## Small Group Lessons

Students should be on time to every lesson with their instrument, lesson book/assignment and a pencil. Students should report to their scheduled class and inform their classroom teacher before coming to lessons. **Students should report to my office (room 40) when it is time for their scheduled lesson.** Small group lessons will begin on Monday, September 20, 2021. Students should be sure to check the lesson schedule carefully as their lesson day may change from week to week. The lesson schedule will be posted in the stream of our Google Classroom, on the auditorium door and outside of my office.

In the event your child misses a lesson due to an absence from school he or she should see me the following day to see what was missed during the lesson and set up a time to make it up. In the event your child has a test during their scheduled lesson and is unable to come to their lesson they should see me **before** the missed lesson to schedule another time to make it up. **Students will be expected to attend a minimum of 6 scheduled lessons each ten week marking period, but keep in mind that students will grow from these weekly lessons and are encouraged to attend all of them.**

Each lesson, students will receive a Lesson Assignment/Grading Form. This form will have your child's assignment for that given week. Each lesson will be graded out of 50 points. Students will be graded on Pitch Accuracy, Rhythmic Accuracy, Technique, Articulation and Tone. They may be assigned Scales/Rudiments/Warm-ups, a lesson or solo and band music depending on the unit we are working on. Each week your child will receive verbal and written feedback to help direct them for their upcoming week.

## Masks

Students will be required to follow McGraw's policy when it comes to wearing masks. This means that students will need to wear masks at all times. Once students are seated and we are ready to begin rehearsing, I will inform students to remove their masks so they are able to play their instruments. This will only be when students are 6 feet apart. Percussionists should plan on wearing their masks at all times.

## **Rehearsals**

Jr. High Band will meet during period 1 on A days in the High School Auditorium.

Required Materials: Students are expected to have their music, folders, instruments, instrument accessories, and a pencil for each rehearsal.

Musical Preparation: Students are expected to practice their music at home and prepare any selections in their music assigned in the previous rehearsal. Our success as a group depends on each student's ability to perform their music to a high level.

Rehearsal Etiquette Points: It is imperative that we maximize our rehearsal time by being on task from the moment our warm-up starts to the moment students are dismissed. Points will be deducted for inattentiveness, disruption or misbehavior. Students are expected to remove any gum and leave any food/drink in their backpacks. Students will receive two points for rehearsal etiquette each rehearsal if these rules are followed.

## **Equipment**

This year the band program was incredibly fortunate to receive new chairs, new stands, new timpani drums and other several brand new items. This type of equipment gets replaced once every 30 years, if we are lucky. Since our administrators and our Board of Education were kind enough to purchase new equipment for us, it is expected that ALL equipment be treated with respect. Please be aware that if I find a student defacing or treating any equipment poorly, that student will be responsible for any damages.

## **Concerts**

- \* Winter Concert - Wednesday, December 15, 2021 ~ 6:30PM (6:00PM warm-up time)  
(Winter Concert Snow Date- Thursday, December 16, 2021- 6:30PM)
- \* Spring Concert – Thursday, May 19, 2022 ~ 6:30PM (6:00PM warm-up time)

### **All Jr. High Band students are expected to be at these two concerts**

\* Students will also be required to participate in our new performance fundraiser entitled *Sweets & Songs* that will take place on Wednesday, October 27, 2021 at 6:30pm. More information will be forthcoming on this event.

## **Recommended Concert Attire**

The goal of our concert attire is to present a formal and professional ensemble appearance. No individual in the ensemble should stick out. Please choose dress clothes that reflect this goal.

**Option 1:** Blouse **with sleeves**, black pants or **full-length** skirt, black stockings or socks, black dress shoes.

**Option 2:** Full-length dress, black stockings or socks, black dress shoes

**Option 3:** Dress shirt, black pants, tie, **black socks**, black **dress** shoes.

## Assignments and Grading Policy

### Grading Categories

Rehearsal Preparedness and Etiquette	30%
Written/Listening Assignments	30%
Lessons	40%

Please return the bottom portion of this page by Friday, September 17, 2021 as it will act as a band contract. If you have any questions please feel free to email me at: [lpalmer@mcgrawschools.org](mailto:lpalmer@mcgrawschools.org)

I look forward to working with all of you this year! It is going to be a wonderful year of music making!

Sincerely,

Lindsay A. Palmer  
Middle/High School Band Director  
McGraw Central School

---

### Please return the bottom portion of this page by Friday, September 17, 2021

I have read and understand the above information about small group lessons, rehearsal etiquette, concert dates/attire and grading outlined above for the 2021-2022 school year.

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Instrument: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

Parent Email Address (for reminders/important info.): \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Phone Numbers: \_\_\_\_\_

Have you signed up for the Jr. High Band Google Classroom? (circle one)      Yes!      Absolutely!

(You're not allowed to turn this in until you do!)