

CLARE MIDDLE SCHOOL BANDS



Exemplifying Pioneer Pride

Purpose

- Pursue excellence as musicians, students, and citizens
 - Engage students individually and collectively in creative, artistic, musical expression
 - Promote and place value on the importance of music in our cultural, intellectual, and social lives
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Eligibility

Students who have completed beginning band are eligible to enroll in middle school band.

If a student possesses significant interest and has a student sponsor, they may join without beginning band experience. Students who join without beginning band experience must realize they will need to work harder than their classmates to be successful.

Expectations

The classroom guidelines for the band classroom are simple and are distilled down to four "BE P" statements:

- Be Polite
- Be Prompt
- Be Prepared
- Be Productive

Students who do not have materials for class (instrument and/or music) or have disruptive behavior before or during class will be referred to ILC for the duration of the class period.

Grading Policy

Participation:	20%	Written Work	25%
Performance Skills	25%	Performances (Concerts, Festival, Graduation, etc)	30%

Written assignments are due on Mondays; students have until Friday to submit for full credit. 10% grade reduction after five (5) submission period is assessed after to submission window. No assignments will be accepted from previous quarters.

Calendar

Students, parents and families can find a comprehensive calendar of events for the entire Clare Bands program at: cpsbands.weebly.com. Our performance/informance dates are listed here:

- Wednesday, October 26 - 7PM
- Sunday, December 11 - 2PM
- Sunday, February 19 - 2PM
- Wednesday, March 8 - Time TBD
- Sunday, May 21 - 1PM (Band 8 only)
- Wednesday, May 24 - 7PM

Absences from performances must be given no less than two weeks notice on a Clare Bands Absence form found online or in the band room. A completed form does not automatically excuse the absence. For more details, please see the Band Student Handbook on the website.

Uniform

Concert attire: Clare Bands polo, black dress pants, black shoes, black socks.

Concert polo shirts will be purchased through the Clare Band Boosters at a reduced price. **Students are expected to provide their own black dress pants, black socks and black shoes. No denim, leggings or athletic wear is allowed for concert attire.**

Communication

Monthly emails will be sent to email parent addresses highlighting activities, assignments, performances and other important events in the Clare Bands. Having a reliable parent e-mail address will be an important link between classroom and home.

REMIND is not a social media platform; it is designed to be a safe communication link between parent, teachers and students. Instructions are available on the band website: **7th Grade Band Remind Code: @105band7; 8th Grade Band Remind Code: @105band8**

WEBSITE: <http://cpsbands.weebly.com/>

EMAIL: jlowe@clare.k12.mi.us - or - cpsbands@gmail.com

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CHANGES IN PRACTICE

It is no surprise that time spent on your instrument, in any way, is valuable. However, as John Lennon once said, life is what happens when you're busy making other plans. Here is a introduction and review of some important guidelines moving forward for Clare Bands this year:

Performance Recordings

Every two or three weeks, students will have opportunities to record performance assignments - usually a short rhythmic etude and a memorized scale. Rubrics will be posted through Google Classroom and are on the band website: cpsbands.weebly.com. Due dates will be listed and posted on Google Classroom and in SkyWard.

Value Added Practice

We will engage in a process to enhance and understand the concept of practice. This may include brief written assignments in class as we follow materials developed by master teachers to improve our practice habits.

At-home practice is highly encouraged, an optionally-graded activity except during Practice Wars. The idea being that there will be times that practice is graded for everyone; there will times where practice will be optional. Outside of Practice Wars, practice minutes can only help your grade. Not practicing outside of Practice Wars will not be detrimental to your grade.

Practice will help the Performance Skills portion of your grade. Again, while Practice Wars occurs, everyone will be expected to practice at home for a grade.

Practopus

Band students become familiar with Practopus, an online system to log minutes practiced at home with parental verification. Students will receive a tutorial video on setting up their account, or can have last year's account reset by Mr Lowe. Using Practopus is easy, fun, and rewarding on many levels:

- Students use the timer to log practice minutes at home.
 - Students earn "clams" through Practopus to spend in the Practopus store to purchase awards (candy, gum, House points, etc.)
 - Practicing more than 30 minutes in a week will receive 10 "bonus" points on your grade.
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Practice Wars

Usually the three to four weeks prior to a concert is the most obvious and best time to invest in practice time at home. This is when Practice Wars will occur. While Practice Wars occurs, everyone will be expected to practice at home for a grade.

In addition to a graded assignment, students can earn House Points in our annual Band House competition (akin to Harry Potter's Hogwarts Houses). Highest Average per house in each class, highest average per student in each class, largest increase in minutes, most newcomers to practicing will all receive house points at some time during the school year.