



## **TAPP MIDDLE SCHOOL BAND HANDBOOK 2023-2024**

**\*\*This is YOUR electronic COPY. Please return the green contract page that was sent home with your student. The signed contract should be returned no later than Monday, August 7<sup>th</sup>!!!\*\***

Christi Celone, Director of Bands  
Dr. John Conner, Associate Director of Bands

Dear Band Parent/Guardian and Student,

We would like to take this opportunity to welcome back all of our 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students AND give a huge welcome to our newest members in the 6<sup>th</sup> grade! We are very excited about the school year ahead as we continue to help students reach their musical potential as well as their individual ability to succeed in everything they do!

Learning to play a musical instrument helps students in all of their other classes! The College Board determined that students who study instrumental music score an average of 110 points higher on the SAT. Learning to play a band instrument also develops a number of "Life Skills" like teamwork, patience, diligence, concentration, self-discipline, self-worth, and working towards a common goal.

The purpose of this handbook is to explain the responsibilities of band members and to answer questions students and parents may have about the band program. All students are held responsible for the contents of this handbook. Please read through and discuss together!

### **Questions? Contact us!**

**Christi Celone**

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**Dr. John Conner**

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**Website**

[www.tappband.org](http://www.tappband.org)

# WELCOME FROM YOUR DIRECTORS!

Parents and Students,

My name is Christi Celone and I am one of the band directors here at Tapp! I am about to start my 29<sup>th</sup> year of teaching and my 5<sup>th</sup> year at Tapp! Prior to coming to Tapp, I lived and taught in Texas! I have three daughters, ages 21, 17 and 7 and I am married to a crazy marathon runner (who also works in finance).

I am excited to be at the start of another year here at Tapp and with our new director Dr. Conner! We have seen growth in our students and our program and look forward to continuing to grow the culture and talent in both!

We have great kids and great parents in our band program, and we look forward to getting to know our new members and their families! We have many things planned for the year for all the groups, including some fun social activities.

Parents, we appreciate your support because we can't do this without you! We appreciate your time and your encouragement to your student. We love what we do, and we are so glad to have each of your students in the band with us!

Looking forward to a great year! Always reach out with any questions or concerns!

Sincerely,  
Christi Celone

Hi Tapp Band Parents!

My name is Dr. John Conner and I am the Assistant Band Director here at Tapp Middle School. I am elated to have the honor of working with your kids! I am entering my 17<sup>th</sup> year of teaching middle school band.

I am a native of Atlanta, Georgia. I attended Frederick Douglass High School, Morehouse College, and The University of Georgia. (Go DAWGS!!)

When I'm not enhancing the musical minds of our young ones, I like to work out, bowl, play chess, go to the movies, and listen to (and perform) live music!

Parents, I am grateful for the opportunity to teach your kids and we are thankful for your dedication to your children's band future! With all of us working together as a team, the sky's the limit to your child's success!!

Musically Yours,

Dr. John Conner

## **Curriculum and Grading:** **7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade bands**

### **Summative:..... 20%**

(Performances and formal assessments)

- Students will have required concerts throughout the year. See calendar. Students may also have written or other playing assessments assigned to be performed during class or online through Practice First or CTLS.
- All missed assessments must be made up. Concerts are not able to be made up, but students will be given an alternate assignment for a make up grade.

### **Formatives/Mastery Check:..... 45%**

(Mastery check recordings or playing tests and other written class assignments)

- 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students will turn in a weekly recording (or complete in class).
- Students may have writing assignments consisting of short paragraphs, theory, rhythm or melodic notation.

### **Daily Participation(Weekly Learning Engagement):..... 35%**

(Rehearsal technique, having all supplies to participate daily)

- Students must have their binders, instrument and all necessary supplies each day. This is a weekly grade, students start with 100 and points are deducted for the following:  
**Missing instrument:** 20 points  
**Missing binder:** 10 points  
**Missing mouthpiece:** 10 points

## **Curriculum and Grading:** **6th grade band**

### **Daily Participation(Weekly Learning Engagement):.....35%**

(Rehearsal technique, having all supplies to participate daily)

- Students must have their binders, instrument and all necessary supplies each day. This is a weekly grade, students start with 100 and points are deducted for the following:  
**Missing instrument:** 20 points  
**Missing binder:** 10 points  
**Missing mouthpiece:** 10 points

### **Formatives/Mastery Check:.....45%**

(Written class assignments)

- Students may have writing assignments consisting of short paragraphs, theory, rhythm or melodic notation.
- Once students are on their instruments, they will have a weekly mastery check to perform in class. Later in the year, they will have the option to do those online as well.

**Summative:.....20%**

(Concerts and other formal evaluations)

- Students will have two required concerts during the year. In semesters without concerts, they will have other formal assessments performed during class or on Practice First or CTLS.

### **Bandroom Etiquette**

1. Students are expected to arrive in a quiet and orderly manner
2. Students are expected to assemble their instruments promptly and get set up for class.
3. Students are expected to handle their instruments and all band property carefully and with respect.
4. **Each student will ONLY hold or play his/her OWN instrument.**
5. Unnecessary talking or playing is not permitted.
6. Students are expected to treat everyone with respect (Teachers, Substitute Teachers, School Staff, Administrators, and **Peers**).
7. Food and gum are not allowed in the band room.
8. Students are responsible for the proper storage of their own instrument (band room or locker).
9. Students will receive a band pass once a school year to be used for the drop-off and retrieval of their instrument. The misuse of the pass will result in the denial of all band pass privileges.
10. **Only band students are allowed to enter the band room**

### **Additional Info**

#### **Band Fee**

6<sup>th</sup> Grade (*and New 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Students participating*) in band will have a one-time activity fee of \$50.00. Returning student fee will be \$20.00. This fee is in place to cover band shirts for each student, binder, supplies and to help with the cost of music and transportation. For the beginners, the beginner book and basic supplies (valve oil/slide-o-mix, one box of reeds) are also included. If this fee would be a strain, please reach out to Mrs. Celone or Dr. Conner.

#### **Supplies**

All Tapp Band students will receive a binder at the beginning of the year. This binder will be used ONLY for band. It will contain a pencil pouch and pencils as well as all the handouts they will need for the start of our year. They will keep all band music in this binder. It can be stored in their locker each morning and picked up each afternoon along with their instrument.

Students in 6<sup>th</sup> grade will receive their band book from us. The cost is included in their band fees. The book title is “Standards of Excellence” Book 1. Once instruments are assigned, students will receive basic cleaning supplies as part of their band fee as well. Reed instruments will receive one box of reeds, brass instruments will receive valve oil or slide-o-mix.

Students in 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade should still have their “Do It!” book. These classes will also be using a SHARED set of class books. Students MAY purchase their own books if they would like, so they can write in them and keep them in their binder or have a copy to keep at home. If you are interested in purchasing these books, the information will be sent out in an email.

Students playing a reed instrument will need to purchase their own reeds if at all possible (following the first box included for beginners). Reeds MAY be purchased at a discount from the school. We will be sending a list home of the costs and procedure at a later date. This is simply to help out parents. We get a discount from the music store and it saves you from having to go out to the music store to get them or pay for shipping. It also will ensure your student receives the correct reeds (brand and strength) for them to be successful. If the cost of reeds will be a problem, please reach out to your student’s director.

## Uniform Information

**All Tapp Band students** will need a band t-shirt. These shirts will be worn by 6<sup>th</sup> grade for their concerts and by 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders for less formal performances. T-shirt order forms will be sent home via email and with students during the first few weeks of school. Hoodies are available as an optional purchase. **The cost of the t-shirt is included in the band fee.**

Students in 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade Symphonic Bands (advanced bands) will need to purchase CONCERT BLACK attire prior to their Winter Concert in December. Concert black attire is:

- Black, long sleeve shirt
- Black, full length pants
- Black socks or stockings
- Black dress shoes
- Black belt (if required for pants)

## Performance Attendance

Concerts are an integral part of the band program. Student concerts are performance evaluations of the music and concepts that were studied during the grading period. They are the culminating activity where weeks of band rehearsals and student home practice are demonstrated publicly. The National Standards for the Arts state that student performances are an essential part of music education. Student Performances are also required as part of Georgia's Performance Standards. Therefore, students are expected to attend all concerts as a portion of their grade. A list of concert dates is included in this handbook to assist families with scheduling. Concert dates and related details will also be communicated through class announcements, letters to parents, CTLS, the band website and emails.

**\*\*In the event of absence of a concert, students will be asked to perform their concert music for a director in lieu of their concert attendance grade. In the event of absence due to emergency or illness, a written note from a parent or a doctor must be provided to be excused.\*\***

## **Daily Practice**

Daily practice is the most important ingredient for success in playing a musical instrument. The way in which a student practices usually determines how successful he/she will be on that instrument. Those practice habits are formed early. As parents, please take an active role in your child's music study. Your support, encouragement, and structure at home will be important in helping your child find success. Even parents with no musical background can be of great help to a child studying music by monitoring practice sessions. Here is a list of important considerations for home practice.

- Encourage practice as a priority, not something to do after all else is done
- Schedule a consistent, daily time to practice
- Be sure to practice using a wire stand rather than playing music on a bed or desk. This allows for proper posture and playing position. Good habits only!!
- Provide a quiet place for practice
- Remain nearby whenever possible and monitor the routine (see below)
- PRAISE your child's efforts and achievements

### **Sample Practice Routine**

Warm-up (5 minutes): mouthpiece playing, long tones

Technique (10 minutes): scales or technique assignments from class

Band Music (10 minutes): selections programmed for the concert

Fun (5 minutes): any other music the student enjoys playing

## Instrument Care

The maintenance and care of the musical instrument is the responsibility of each student. Daily instrument maintenance should be taken care of at home. If a student's instrument is being repaired, a signed note is needed from a parent/guardian. **All woodwind students are expected to have a minimum of 3 playable reeds with them at all times. All brass students are expected to have valve/slide oil with them daily.** Every effort will be taken by a director to take care of small repairs, but please be advised that time restraints and repair skills are extremely limited.

## School-owned Instruments

A student using a school-owned instrument must fill out an instrument loan contract with a parent signature before an instrument can be issued. Thousands of dollars have been invested in school-owned instruments, and students performing on a school-owned instrument will receive an instrument in proper working condition. Students are expected to treat and maintain the instrument with care throughout the year. **Students who do not take care of school-owned instruments will lose the privilege of using one!**

## Payment Procedures

With all of the exciting opportunities available to Tapp Middle School Band Students, there will be many times throughout the year that your child must bring payment to school. Due to Cobb County policy, only school bookkeepers are allowed to handle money turned in by students, whether in the form of cash or money order. **Teachers are not allowed to handle the money in any way.** For this reason, payment that your child brings to school should be handled in the following way:

1. Money orders should be made out to Tapp Middle School. Cash must be the exact change since the bookkeeper cannot provide change. **ABSOLUTELY NO CHECKS WILL BE TAKEN. (This is a Tapp school-wide policy)**
2. Payment of any sort must be inserted into a pre-printed Cobb County payment envelope.
3. You or your child must fill out the front of the envelope completely and legibly.
4. The sealed envelope should be deposited into one of the black lock boxes distributed throughout the school.

## Fundraising

Fundraising is an important and vital opportunity for our band program to thrive and to ultimately give the best possible experience for your child. We will have our first fundraising opportunity kicking off in late August and other ones scheduled throughout the year. Thank you in advance for your support!

## Lockers

We are fortunate to have lockers in which to store many of our instruments, whether individually owned or school-owned. Some students will use cubbies in the instrument storage room in place of lockers. Every student will be assigned a locker storage space to store materials for band throughout the year. **Students with lockers are encouraged to bring LOCKS (percussion is required). Locks must either be combination locks (so we can have the combo) or key locks with an extra key for the directors.** This is a new policy to cut down on things being “borrowed” by other students.

Band lockers should only be used for the materials necessary for band class: instruments, method books, binders, mouthpieces, etc. Textbooks/materials for other classes, gym clothes, and food/drink of any kind may not be stored in band lockers.

## Before/After School Band

The band room will be open at 8:20am each morning. Students must be in the cafeteria before that time, to be picked up by a director. Students will only be able to stay until 8:45, at which point they must go to homeroom. **Students CANNOT come practice when they drop off their instrument as directors have morning duties at 8:45.** The band hall is open every day except Friday for after school band. Students can come when bus riders are dismissed and can stay until 5PM.

This time can be used for:

- Pass-offs
- Extra help (auditions, honor band, all-state, etc.)
- Small-group coaching (Solo/Ensemble, Chamber Music, etc).
- Individual practice time (especially for percussion and tubas)

## Syllabus

## Tapp Middle School

### 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Band

#### Standards:

- MSBB.CR.1 Improvise, compose, and arrange music within specified guidelines.
- MSBB.PR.1 Sing alone or with others.
- MSBB.PR.2 Perform on instruments through a varied repertoire of music, alone and with others.
- MSBB.PR.3 Read and identify elements of notated music.
- MSBB.RE.1 Listen to, analyze, and describe music.
- MSBB.RE.2 Respond to music and music performances of themselves and others.
- MSBB.CN.1 Understand relationships between music, other arts, other disciplines, varied contexts, and daily life.

- **Rules, Expectations, and Procedures**

- Materials
- Rehearsal Procedures
- Handbook Information

- **Teaching Rhythm Logically**

- Different tempos
- **Clapping & Counting - Simple Rhythms in 4/4**
- Note & Rest Values: Whole, Half & Quarter. Eighth, Sixteenth

- **Aural Skills - Solfege**

- Call and Response, matching pitch, internalizing pitch

- **Instrument Introductions - Woodwind, Brass, Percussion**

- **Breathing in Band**

- In through the mouth, no tension
- Simple counts with visual of paper, finger, etc

- **Note Literacy**

- Reading Notes on a Staff
- Fingerings (instrument Specific)
- Introduction of Ledger Lines and extended range
- Good Posture
- Instrument Assembly for their Instrument, Instrument Technique, Embouchure, Tone

- **Basic Instrument Maintenance**

- **Learning to Perform Simple Songs/Pieces/Scales**

- **Performance Skills**

- Tone Quality
- Ensemble Balance
- Dynamics

- Basic Articulation - tonguing
- Basic Rhythm Reading of simple rhythms
- 4 major scales

## Tapp Middle School

### 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Band

#### Standards:

- MSIB.CR.1 Improvise, compose, and arrange music within specified guidelines.
- MSBB.PR.1 Sing alone or with others.
- MSBB.PR.2 Perform on instruments through a varied repertoire of music, alone and with others.
- MSBB.PR.3 Read and identify elements of notated music.
- MSBB.RE.1 Listen to, analyze, and describe music.
- MSIB.RE.2 Respond to music and music performances.
- MSBB.CN.1 Understand relationships between music, other arts, other disciplines, varied contexts, and daily life.

#### • **Rules, Expectations, and Procedures**

- Materials
- Rehearsal Procedures
- Handbook Information

#### • **Teaching Rhythm Logically**

- Different tempos – farther varied in speed

#### • **Clapping & Counting AND Performing - Simple Rhythms in 4/4, 3/4, 2/4**

- Note & Rest Values: Whole, Half & Quarter, Eighth, Sixteenth, Dotted Rhythm
- Ties Values

#### • **Call and Response Skills**

- Playing Simple Patterns after hearing the pattern once or twice and being able to replicate

#### • **Breathing in Band**

- In through the mouth, no tension
- Simple counts with visual of paper, finger, etc

#### • **Note Literacy**

- Reading Notes on a Staff – more advanced
- Fingerings (instrument Specific) more extended and advanced range of instrument
- Extended range with better tone qualities on instrument

#### • **Advanced Instrument Maintenance**

#### • **Learning to Perform Intermediate Songs/Pieces/Scales**

#### • **Performance Skills**

- Tone Quality – continue to improve to maturity

- Ensemble Balance
- Intonation
- Blend
- Sonority
- Dynamics
- Articulations – staccato, legato, accent, marcato, slur
- Basic Rhythm Reading of simple rhythms to intermediate rhythms
- Sight Reading pieces of music and simple melodies
- 7 major scales

## Tapp Middle School

### 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Band

#### Standards:

- MSAB.CR.1 Improvise, compose, and arrange music within specified guidelines.
- MSAB.PR.1 Sing alone or with others.
- MSAB.PR.2 Perform on instruments through a varied repertoire of music, alone and with others.
- MSAB.PR.3 Read and identify elements of notated music.
- MSAB.RE.1 Listen to, analyze, and describe music.
- MSAB.RE.2 Respond to music and music performances.
- MSBB.CN.1 Understand relationships between music, other arts, other disciplines, varied contexts, and daily life.

#### • Rules, Expectations, and Procedures

- Materials
- Rehearsal Procedures
- Handbook Information

#### • Ritardandos, Accelerandos, Fermatas in the middle of the measure

- Different tempos – followed by conductor

#### • Performing - Simple Rhythms in 4/4, 3/4, 2/4, 6/8

- Note & Rest Values: Whole, Half & Quarter, Eighth, Sixteenth, Dotted Rhythm
- Performance at sight of these rhythms, understanding time signatures and error detection

#### • Call and Response Skills

- Playing Simple Patterns after hearing the pattern once or twice and being able to replicate, more advanced

#### • Breathing in Band

- In through the mouth, no tension
- Simple counts with visual of paper, finger, etc

- **Note Literacy**
- Reading Notes on a Staff – more advanced
- Fingerings (instrument Specific) more extended and advanced range of instrument
- Extended range with better tone qualities on instrument
- **Advanced Instrument Maintenance**
- **Learning to Perform Intermediate Songs/Pieces/Scales**
- **Performance Skills**
- Tone Quality – continue to improve to maturity
- Ensemble Balance
- Intonation
- Blend
- Sonority
- Dynamics
- Articulations – staccato, legato, accent, marcato, slur
- Basic Rhythm Reading of simple rhythms to intermediate rhythms
- Sight Reading pieces of music and complexed melodies
- Mixed Meter Sight Reading
- 12 major scales

<p>PRINT STUDENT NAME:</p> <p>_____</p>
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<p>Period:</p> <p>_____</p>
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**\*\*\*Please return no later than Monday, August 7<sup>th</sup>\*\*\***

**Please CHECK BOX in this checklist:**

- ☐ Student and parent have reviewed the band handbook together (sent home via email – please email [jacqueline.celone@cobbk12.org](mailto:jacqueline.celone@cobbk12.org) if you did NOT receive the handbook)
- ☐ Student and parent understand the grading and conduct policies and expectations
- ☐ Student and parent have printed or put in important dates in smart device or on calendar

By signing this page of the band handbook we acknowledge that we have read and understand its content and have completed the checklist above.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Period

Please scan QR to access Handbook!



<p><b><u>6<sup>th</sup> Grade Beginning Band Students:</u></b> Please have instruments and materials by <b>Monday, August 21<sup>st</sup>!</b></p>
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