

Glacial Drumlin Bands



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Monona Grove Music Department Website: www.mononagrove.org/music

Dear Parent(s) and Guardian(s),

We are happy to welcome your child to Seventh Grade Band this year! Classes will be team-taught by the three Monona Grove band teachers; Mrs. Stone, Mr. Kasperek, and Mrs. Collins.

You may be surprised to learn that one of the most important factors in a student's success in music is their parent's support. Studies have shown that the largest factor in a student's success was their parent's expectation that they would play their instrument for more than one year. Your support of your child's musical career is essential! We will do our part by helping them learn and master the skills they will need to develop to be successful musicians, to work collaboratively with others as productive class members, and become life-long learners. You can support your child's musical growth by doing the following:

- Choose a place for your child to practice their instrument.
- It should have a music stand and chair.
- Encourage your child to play their instrument at home. Short practice sessions of 15-30 minutes are a good way to start.
- Occasionally ask your child to play for you.

Knowledge and Skills Grade – This will include a variety of assessments:

- At least one playing test per quarter. Students should practice these selections until they are confident in their ability to play them well.
- Concerts are a required part of the K&S grade.
- Music theory or vocabulary tests/quizzes and concert reflections are examples of written assessments that students will complete to show growth in musical knowledge.
- Students will be graded on the progress that they make on their instrument during small-group instruction which we call "GIGs".
- Students will learn and must demonstrate good Rehearsal Etiquette during band class.

Effort Grade – This will include students' daily participation in class and "GIGs". Students are expected to bring their music, instrument, and a pencil to class every day. They are expected to have a positive attitude and participate to the best of their ability.

Practice is an important component for improvement on any skill, including learning an instrument. Students will receive short "band homework" assignments throughout the quarter. They will need to practice and perform these "homework" selections for an adult at home once they can play them proficiently. This will take some students longer than others, but there is no expectation for students practicing a prescribed amount of minutes.

We will again be ordering red Glacial Drumlin Band polo shirts to wear at concerts. If a student chooses not to order a GDS Band shirt, they may wear a plain red shirt with black pants/skirt for concerts.

Below is a list of performance dates for members of the 7th-Grade Band.
Please review the dates and place them on your family calendar:

Glacial Drumlin 7th-Grade Band Concert Dates 2018-2019

Thursday, November 15 – 7:00 p.m. – Glacial Drumlin School Gymnasium
(This concert will be shared with the GDS 8th Grade Band)

Monday, February 25 – 7:00 p.m. – Glacial Drumlin School Gymnasium
(This concert will be shared with the GDS 6th Grade Band)

Wednesday, May 22 – 7:00 p.m. – Glacial Drumlin School Gymnasium
(This concert will be shared with the GDS 8th Grade Band)

Concert Attendance Policy

**Attendance at all scheduled band concerts is mandatory,
and a major portion of the Knowledge & Skills grade.**

Participation in public appearances is a requirement of all music performance classes in the Monona Grove School District. Public performance is part of the curriculum of these organizations, as outlined in the Wisconsin State Music Standards:

MP2.P22.m: *Perform collaboratively as a part of an ensemble, demonstrating well developed ensemble skills.*

MP3.R.12.m: *Demonstrate proper concert/audience etiquette for a variety of musical settings.*

The district music staff is further committed to the value of public performance as a tool for measuring each student's cumulative knowledge and growth. Thus, **attendance at public performances is required.**

Exceptions to this requirement are made only if a student has extenuating personal circumstances or an emergency situation. Examples of acceptable reasons for missing a performance are the death of a relative/friend or an unexpected and serious illness. Examples of unacceptable reasons for missing a performance are: athletic events, work, and birthdays, parties, dance, music classes or couldn't get a ride.

Conflicts known in advance must be communicated immediately but no later than two weeks prior to the concert. One missing student can have an enormous impact on the rest of the performing group. To work as an ensemble for an extended length of time in preparation for a performance is very rewarding. If you miss, you not only miss out on the joy and excitement of the performance and applause, but you also let down the other members of the band.

Also, if possible, try to avoid scheduling doctor and dentist appointments on the day of our concerts. Those are our "dress rehearsal" days and our one time to practice together before the concert.

If a student misses a concert for any reason, please make sure to contact the student's music teacher as soon as reasonably possible regarding the absence.

To access the MGSD Music Department web page for concert information, GIG information, and more you can go to the following link:

www.mononagrove.org/music

Students can also access important information about their band class through **Google Classroom**. We will post handouts, assignments, GIG schedules, and announcements there.

If you have any questions about this letter or any aspect of the 7th-grade band program, please feel free to contact us at school by email or phone.

Thank you,

Janice Stone

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Jeff Kasperek

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Please sign and detach the form below and return it to your band teacher.

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I have received the list of the 7th-grade Band Concert dates for the 2018-2019 school year and have added them to our family calendar. My child will attend these concerts.

If my child has a conflict (other than an emergency situation) I will notify the director immediately, but no later than *two weeks* prior to the performance.

If my child misses a concert for any reason I will notify his/ her band teacher as soon as reasonably possible.

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Please indicate, by checking this box, that we have permission to print your child's name in GDS Band Concert programs.

Print Student Name

Parent Signature

Date



Due Date:

Friday, Sept. 14, 2018

