

MAINE-ENDWELL MIDDLE SCHOOL
7th and 8th GRADE INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC HANDBOOK
MS. KOVACS, BAND DIRECTOR

PHILOSOPHY: The instrumental music program will provide a comprehensive education and a musical emotional outlet for all students. Through active participation in the instrumental music program, students will develop an intellectual understanding of all types of music, thereby, instilling an appreciative outlook toward culture, music and the beauty it expels. Students will acquire values, pride, confidence, and a sense of personal identity. Students will develop life skills of self-discipline, goal setting and perseverance necessary to achieve. Music education utilizes the ability to critically evaluate works, develop higher order cognitive skills of problem solving and creative thinking incorporated in interdisciplinary subjects.

GOALS: The goals of the seventh and eighth grade instrumental music program include but are not limited to the students working to achieve the National Standards for Music and the Common Core Curriculum, to develop an appreciation for all types of music, to work cooperatively in a group situation, while contributing individually, to demonstrate responsibility in adhering to scheduling, and to be responsible for the proper care of their instruments and music folders.

BAND REHEARSALS/LESSONS: Each student will participate in class rehearsals and lessons. (If additional rehearsals are necessary notification will be provided at least one week prior to the rehearsal.) Each student will be assigned to a lesson group. The group will attend one lesson during the 6-day cycle. The lessons will rotate class periods. **It is the responsibility of the student to notify the classroom teacher of the scheduled lesson prior to the lesson period.** Students are responsible for all homework, class work and any additional assignments from the class they are missing. Also, as necessary, students will need to make arrangements for assistance from the classroom teacher during an alternative time; such as study halls or the activity period. Students are responsible for notifying the music teacher if the lesson cannot be attended as scheduled due to a test, quiz, lab, or other project that requires their attendance in the classroom. It is the students responsibility to re-schedule the lesson during an agreed upon time; study hall, activity period, after school or during the same period on a different day. Missed lessons will be marked “M” in the grade book until a make-up lesson is completed. Make-up assignments will be addressed according to the actual work missed. Failure to complete missed work/lessons and/or assignments will directly affect the student’s grades. Being prepared for the lesson and band include the required lesson book, music folder, music, a pencil, and their instrument (with necessary reeds, valve oil...etc.). The student should also bring the school student agenda book in order to write in the next lesson and assignments.

BAND PERFORMANCES: Students performances are listed on the district-wide music calendar of events and the school website. Students will be notified of any additional performances at least one month prior to the event. All students are expected to arrive at least **thirty minutes prior** to the start of the performance and to be dressed in proper attire. Recommended concert dress for boys is a dress shirt, slacks, dress shoes and tie. Girls recommended attire is a dress or slacks or skirt with blouse and dress shoes. When selecting concert attire please consider how you will sit and perform comfortably. Performances may be evening concerts and/or special events during school hours. Annual performances include a winter and spring concert, *Music in Our Schools Month* Concert at the mall or with another school district, the *New York State School Music Association* Major Organization Festival and participation at the *Maine-Endwell Music Boosters Chicken Barbeque*. Permission slips will be provided for necessary events.

CODES OF CONDUCT: Respect all people, property and ideas. Behave responsibly. Follow directions at all times. Be prepared to learn. (Discipline will be according to the school student handbook)

INSTRUMENTS: Students are responsible for their own instruments. Instruments are required at every rehearsal, band class and lesson. All instruments should be taken home on weekends and during all vacations. Instruments should not interfere with other classes. Students will ensure the maintenance and cleanliness of their instruments. The school storage cubbies are available during the week. Students will respect all equipment and instruments that belong to other people. The band room and lesson room is utilized by all instrumentalists and needs to be maintained accordingly.

GRADING: The Band grade will be determined by assessments in Achievement (80%) and Process (20%). Achievement items assess student knowledge; written or performed. The Process items assess non-academic behaviors. The Final Average is determined by the Marking Period Averages (20% each) and the SLO Post Test (20%).

NEW YORK STATE SCHOOL MUSIC ASSOCIATION: NYSSMA holds a *Solo and Ensemble Festival* in which all instrumental students are encouraged to participate. There is a required fee for participation. *Students prepare scales, a solo or small ensemble, and sight-reading* to be judged by qualified music educators. This provides the opportunity for students to perform for a rating, compare their abilities to their peers, and to learn how to strive toward excellence on an individual level. Scores are also utilized for determining participation in **AREA ALL-STATE FESTIVALS** and **NYSBDA HONOR BANDS**. NYSSMA also has a *Major Organization Festival* in which school bands participate. The bands prepare selected literature from the NYSSMA Manual. The group performs for the adjudicators and receives ratings based on the performance. This is a wonderful opportunity for the ensemble to strive for musical growth as a group, working together by contributing their individual talents.

ALL-COUNTY BAND FESTIVALS: Student will be eligible to audition for the *Broome County Music Educators Association All-County Band Festival*. Based on the auditions, students are selected to participate in a rehearsal and concert with their peers in Broome County. Details will be provided as the date of audition approaches.

MAINE-ENDWELL MIDDLE SCHOOL JAZZ BAND: The Maine-Endwell Middle School Jazz Band is an extra-curricular ensemble which is available to students in grades 6-8. The Jazz Band rehearses after school hours. Students will audition for seating purposes. The group will work from the *Standard of Excellence Jazz Method Book 1* and rehearse various jazz styles. Performances include the winter and spring concerts, the PTA Ice Cream Social & Art Show, the *Night of Jazz Concert*, and other possible performance/clinic experiences.

MAINE-ENDWELL PEP BAND: Students in grades 7-12 are eligible for participation in the pep/parade band. This is an extra-curricular activity that performs at football games and community events. Some parade activities include the *Homecoming Parade and Halloween Parade*. Practices are often after-school with events on Fridays and/or Saturdays.

MAINE-ENDWELL MUSIC BOOSTERS: The Maine-Endwell Music Boosters is a non-profit organization that works to enrich the music programs in all four Maine-Endwell schools. All families and community members are encouraged to join. The membership fee is only \$2 per person. The M-E Boosters are eager to involve new members in many activities that support our students. You may contact the Boosters through the school website at www.me.stier.org.

2015-2016 Maine-Endwell Middle School

7th and 8th Grade Instrumental Music Contract

We have read and understand the procedures and expectations for membership in the instrumental music program. I, _____ accept the responsibility of membership.
(Student)

Student Signature

Parent Signature

Parent/Guardian: _____

Address: _____

Home Phone Number: _____

Parent Cell Phone Number: _____

Parent Email Address: _____

Work Phone Number: _____