

FPMS Band Handbook

Dear Students, Parents, and Guardians,

I am thrilled to welcome you to an exciting new year with the Fort Payne Middle School Band program! My name is Emily Roberts, and I am honored to serve as the Band Director. Music has always been a significant part of my life, and I am passionate about sharing the joy of music-making with young people. Whether you are a new member of our Beginner Band, continuing your musical journey in the 8th Grade Intermediate Band, or exploring new styles in Jazz Band, I am committed to helping you grow as musicians and individuals.

Our band program is more than just a class; it is a community where we learn, create, and perform together. Through hard work, dedication, and collaboration, we will achieve great things both on and off the stage. My goal is to foster a positive and inclusive environment where every student feels valued and inspired to reach their full potential.

This handbook outlines the policies, expectations, and resources that will guide us throughout the year. It is important that both students and parents read and understand the information provided. Clear communication and mutual respect are key to a successful band program, and I encourage you to reach out to me with any questions or concerns.

I am excited to embark on this musical journey with you and look forward to the many memorable experiences we will share. Let's make this a fantastic year full of growth, learning, and beautiful music!

Sincerely,

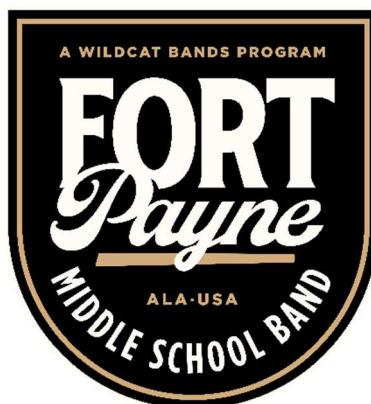
Emily Roberts

Band Director

Fort Payne Middle School

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Class Expectations for Behavior

We want to make the band the best it can be, and we use our class time wisely. These rules will be followed in band so everyone will benefit from our class:

1. ALWAYS raise your hand to ask permission to talk. You miss what is taught and so do the people around you if you are talking.
2. BRING your necessary materials to class daily. This includes your instrument, music, and pencil.
3. DO NOT PLAY YOUR INSTRUMENT WITHOUT PERMISSION during rehearsal; that is a distraction for you and those around you.
4. ALWAYS show respect for each member of our class, including the director. This also includes respecting another person's space by not touching their things or that person.
5. GUM, CANDY, FOOD, OR SODA ARE NOT PERMITTED IN THE BAND HALL!
6. FOLLOW ALL TEACHER INSTRUCTIONS AS WELL AS CLASSROOM, SCHOOL, AND DISTRICT RULES.

INSTRUMENT CARE

Each student will be assigned a place in the band room to keep his instrument during the school day. The band room is supervised at all times, and it is kept locked when no one is present. However, with public places where there are valuable items, there is a risk involved. Fort Payne Middle School, Fort Payne Band Directors, Fort Payne Middle School Faculty and Staff, and Fort Payne City Schools are not responsible for any lost or stolen items.

Supplies Needed for Band

Beginner Band	8th Grade Intermediate Band	8th Grade Jazz Band
<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Habits of a Successful Beginner Band Musician2. Instrument and Instrument Specific Supplies3. Pencil4. Black Binder and Page Protectors	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Foundations for Superior Performance2. Tradition of Excellence Book 13. Instrument and Instrument Specific Supplies4. Pencil5. Black Binder and Page Protectors6. Flip Folder & Lyre	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Instrument and Instrument Specific Supplies2. Pencil3. Black Binder and Page Protectors (Can use Intermediate Band Binder)

WOODWIND SUPPLIES

1. Habits of a Successful Beginner Band Musician (Beginner Band)
2. Tradition of Excellence – Book 1 (8th Grade Intermediate Band)
3. Foundations for Superior Performance (8th Grade Intermediate Band)
4. Cleaning Kit
5. Oboe-Reeds and Soaking Cup (Medium Soft Reeds unless otherwise specified)
6. Clarinet, Saxophone-Reeds (Vandoren Size 3 unless otherwise specified)
7. Neck Strap (Saxophones Only)

BRASS SUPPLIES

1. Habits of a Successful Beginner Band Musician (Beginner Band)
2. Tradition of Excellence – Book 1 (8th Grade Intermediate Band)
3. Foundations for Superior Performance (8th Grade Intermediate Band)
4. Cleaning Kit
5. Mouthpiece

PERCUSSION SUPPLIES

1. A Fresh Approach to Beginner Percussion Book 1
2. Foundations for Superior Performance (8th Grade Intermediate Band)
3. Snare Drum Sticks – Vic Firth SD 1
4. Practice Pad

SCHOOL OWNED INSTRUMENT CARE

School instruments are provided to those students playing double reed, low woodwind, French Horn, and low brass instruments on a per need basis. It is the responsibility of the student to maintain and care for school owned instruments as if it were their own. All procedures and supplies as prescribed above for maintenance and care are the same for school owned instruments. See a band director if you have questions regarding using school instruments

CONCERTS AND AFTER SCHOOL REHEARSALS

As musicians, the reason we practice is so we can perform. This is the time we realize all the hard work is worthwhile. A performance also requires every member put in his or her best effort to make the performance a success for everyone. Music is a team activity – see yourself as part of the team!!

Attendance at ALL concerts is REQUIRED AND MANDATORY! Each person and part is equally important to the success of our band program. There is only two valid reasons for missing a concert:

1. Illness
2. Extreme Family Emergency

In addition to concerts, after school rehearsals are necessary to put the band together since it is not possible during the school day. A reminder note will be sent home two weeks before the scheduled practice. This note will be your opportunity to inform me of any scheduled engagements so your child can be excused. Any student with an unexcused absence will receive a 0 for not attending.

In the unlikely event you miss a concert, a voice mail, phone call, or note from your parent will be expected to explain your absence from the concert performance. **YOUR ABSENCE HAS TO BE INFORMED TO THE BAND DIRECTOR PRIOR TO THE PERFORMANCE!!** If you become ill after school on the day of a concert, please call and leave a message! If a sudden family emergency occurs, please call and leave a message! These situations will be handled on an individual basis. Jobs, family trips, etc., do not justify absences. An unexcused absence from any public appearance is very serious and will be dealt with as an individual case. No person may remain in the performing band that is not faithful in attendance. If the student is absent, a written assignment equivalent to the concert will be given to make up the grade.

GRADING POLICY

Major Tests and Performances (60% of Overall Grade)

Daily Assignments, Participation, and Weekly Responsibility Grade (40% of Overall Grade)

Student and Parent Information

Please fill out the following form to provide important information for the band program!

Student Information

Full Name _____

Grade Level _____ Instrument _____

Parent/Guardian Information

Full Name _____ Relationship to Student _____

Primary Contact Number _____

Email Address _____

Contract for Band 2025 – 2026

Please sign and return this contract to Mrs. Roberts as soon as possible.

By signing below, the student and parent/guardian acknowledge that they have read and understood the policies and expectations outlined in this handbook.

Student Signature _____ **Date** _____

Parent/Guardian Signature _____ **Date** _____