

Nixa Jr. High Bands Policy Statement 2009-2010

Method Books

Each student will be responsible for acquiring one of the following band methods for their instrument:

BAND 7: *Standard of Excellence Book 2* (Blue) by Bruce Pearson
Neil A. Kjos Music Company

BAND 8: *Foundations for Superior Performance* by Williams/King.
Neil A. Kjos Music Company.

PERCUSSION: Does NOT need a book

Method books may be purchased at one of these area music stores:

Palen Music Center
1560 E. Raynell Plaza
Springfield, MO
(417) 882-7000

Springfield Music Company
3100 S. Fremont Ave.
Springfield, MO
(417) 881-1373

Hoover Music Co., Inc.
440 S. Jefferson Ave.
Springfield, MO
(417) 862-3573

Communication

In an effort to more effectively communicate with parents and students, we will be encouraging everyone to use the Jr. High section of the Nixa bands website: www.nixabands.org. From the website you will be able to print out your weekly band journal forms as well as view or print out other important band related information.

I. Objectives

The Nixa Jr. High band program consists of two bands, a 7th grade band and an 8th grade band. The objectives of the band program are as follows:

- A. To develop musicianship and musical technique through expressive experiences with various styles of music.
- B. To develop an appreciation for the arts.
- C. To develop responsibility as a band, school, and community leader.
- D. To represent the school as an instrumental music ensemble at music and community events.
- E. To develop individual and group concentration and discipline.

The band program emphasizes self-discipline, responsibility, communication, and commitment. It is believed that these are the life skills every student can take from the band experience and apply toward real world situations. The directors will work very hard to instill these values into every student so that we can establish a program that is based strongly upon dedication to the group, and not just individual grades or experiences.

II. Attendance

- A. Rehearsals: Attendance at all scheduled rehearsals is required unless excused by the directors.
- B. Performances: Attendance at all scheduled performances is required unless excused by the directors. These will include all parades and concerts.
- C. Excused absences:
 - *Personal illness
 - *Death in the family
 - *Other **school** functions (please give notice of the conflict as soon as possible so the directors and other activity sponsor(s) can try to work out a reasonable solution.)
 - *Other conflicts will be considered on an individual basis.

III. Grading Scale

The grading scale is divided up into four categories, *Band Journals, Scales, Participation, Performance & Extra Effort*. Each category is weighted to represent 25% of the grade. Grading within each category is as follows:

- A. **Band Journals**: In an attempt to support reading and writing across the curriculum, all students will have a weekly writing assignment. Band journals will be turned in at the first rehearsal of each week. Students should have 5 daily entries on their journal forms each week. Journals are worth a total of 25 points per week, receiving 5 points for each daily entry. Journals will be given full credit if turned by the due date.

All students are expected to complete a minimum of 7 band journals per quarter. The directors reserve the right to ask anyone not meeting this requirement to drop band

H.O.T. (Homework On Time) sheets will be given to any student not turning in their practice journal. Students will be expected to make up this journal and get it turned in **1 week prior** to the end of the quarter or semester. If the student returns the H.O.T. sheet and journal(s) by the deadline, they will be given half credit.

Should a student be absent from class on the day practice journals are due, it is the responsibility of the student to remember to turn the assignment in on the day they return.

Band journals are homework. Just because a student may have activities the night that they are to practice, the assignment is still due. Parents are encouraged to be a positive part of this process. If you don't hear your child practicing, they're probably not practicing. Have your child play the assignment for you before signing off on their practice journal. A parent signature is required for credit on the assignment.

- B. **Scales**: Every quarter we will focus on 3 scales to be learned by every student. Each scale assignment must be completed by the given due date. The completion dates for each scale are posted in the band room with one assessment due about every three weeks. To receive full credit for each scale, students must show full proficiency. All scale assessments must be completed from memory.

PLEASE NOTE In addition to scale assessments, other playing tests may be assigned throughout the year. These tests will be given based on the needs of the students as the year progresses.

- C. **Participation**: Participation credit will be given daily to all students and be tabulated weekly. Students may earn up to 15 points daily – 5 points for being on time, 5 points for being ready to play and 5 points for being on task. Students wishing to receive full credit for participation must adhere to the following guidelines:

BE ON TIME: When the bell rings, students will have one minute to be their seat ready to begin their bell work. If a student is not seated and ready to begin bell work one minute after the bell they are not on time and will be marked tardy in the school's attendance system.

BE ON TASK & READY TO PLAY: To be ready to play, a student must have their instrument, music and pencil with them throughout the rehearsal and demonstrate proper rehearsal etiquette.

- D. **Performances**: Performances are one of the main assessment tools used for this class. Attendance at all scheduled performances is required unless excused by the directors. Students are expected to dress in appropriate concert dress attire. (No jeans, no tennis shoes). There may be times when additional concerts or performances are scheduled. When this occurs, parents and students will be notified as soon as possible. Students that do not attend a scheduled performance will not receive credit for that performance. Each performance is worth 100 points.

Band is a performance-oriented activity and a performance situation cannot be recreated.

*If a student misses a performance because of an **excused** absence, he/she will be allowed to write a paper to make up the points missed.

E. **EXTRA EFFORT**

Students can receive extra effort credit for nearly anything that is music related and completed outside of scheduled rehearsal times. Examples of extra effort credit include, but are not limited to: attending/performing in a music concert and writing a performance review, auditioning for an honor group, participating in a small, ensemble, writing a research paper on an approved music related topic. All extra effort opportunities must be pre-approved by the directors. Please check the calendar to see what events might qualify for extra effort credit.

To receive credit, all performance reviews must be submitted no later than one week after the performance.

IV. Trips

- A. Students are expected to abide by all conduct rules as set forth by the school district and the teacher. Disregard of these rules will be dealt with severely. You represent your school, parents and community. Negative behavior will not be tolerated.

V. Equipment

- A. Students using school equipment must follow the contract guidelines that they entered into with the school district on the instrument/equipment agreement form. There is a yearly \$40 usage fee which will provide the student an available school instrument in working condition. It should be noted that the student is responsible for repairs to the instrument during the school year.
- B. Personal instruments may not be left at the school overnight. **They are not insured by the school district.**
- C. Students are charged with the responsibility of keeping the room clean and in order. **There is to be no food, gum or drinks in the room**, in accordance with the Nixa Junior High school rules.

If you would like to contact the directors, the most reliable form of communication is e-mail as they are between buildings throughout the day. Contact information is as follows:

Kristopher Morehead, Assistant Band Director
krismorehead@nixaschools.net
JH Office(417) 875-5473

Kim Martin, Assistant Band Director
kimmartin@nixaschools.net
JH Office(417) 875-5473

Craig Finger, Director of Bands
craigfinger@nixaschools.net
HS Office (417) 724-3550

Parent/Student Consent and Understanding Form

We have read the Nixa Band policy statement as well as the calendar. We understand the policies and guidelines set forth and agree to them. We will abide by any action taken by the directors and the school in accordance with these policies.

Student Signature

Date

Parent Signature

Date

As part of your first written homework assignment for band, please return this signed form by *Monday, August 24, 2009*. This form will be kept on file.