

2011 - Band Handbook - 2012

Welcome to Twin Falls Band!

To Parents:

Thank you for supporting and encouraging your student's interest in band at Twin Falls! Music is a demanding art! It takes hard work, focus, discipline, patience, and team work to pursue successfully and get the results we all love to listen to. Your student will need your support and encouragement throughout the year(s) as they grow on their instrument and face new challenges. The skills your student will learn will prepare them for excelling in many subject areas, as well as for great performances, and will hopefully lead to a life-long love and appreciation for music. TFMS is building a legacy of having great musical groups with motivated, professional, disciplined, and enjoyable students. I am thrilled you and your student are on board!

You also have a unique chance to get involved in the program by joining the Twin Falls Music Boosters. This organization is the behind the scenes work force and support group that makes many of the amazing opportunities for music students at TFMS possible. I have been deeply impressed and touched by the commitment, skill, talent, and work ethic of parents in this community supporting their music students. Much of what we do in TFMS music would not be possible without the incredible support of the boosters!

The TFMS Music Boosters kick-off event will be on Tuesday, September 20th at 7:00pm in the band room. Please come see how you can get *directly* involved in your student's music education!

www.tfmsmusicboosters.org

To Students:

Welcome to Twin Falls Band! If you are new, I am excited to meet you and begin working together to make awesome music in a positive team environment! If you have been in band before at Twin Falls – you know the story – buckle your seatbelt, sit up straight (on the edge of your chair of course), and hang on!

In Band we will constantly be learning how to effectively work together to create something beautiful, powerful, moving and thrilling that no one individual can possibly create on their own. Music is fun, yet challenging. It will require everything you have to offer, and you will accomplish things you never thought you could. Your Mission – should you choose to accept it – is to embark on this adventure and commit to giving your 100% effort at all times. I love working with you every day through both fun and difficult class time. I am looking forward to another outstanding year of music making. Practice Hard!!!

Sincerely,

Mr. Wenman

wenmanm@svsd410.org

Office Phone:

425.831.4178

<http://sharepoint.snoqualmie.k12.wa.us/tfms/wenmanm>

Instruments and Instrument care

Your responsibility:

Bring a properly maintained instrument that works well to class every day.

- * Notify Mr. Wenman if for any reason you will not have an instrument in class.
- * Take care of ALL maintenance and work so that your instrument functions properly in class and at all performances.

How I will help you:

- * If for whatever reason your instrument is not functioning, I will be happy to look at your instrument before or after class and see if I can help.

Attached you will find a list of high quality instrument repair shops, please choose from this list when getting an instrument fixed.

Required Materials

Everyone needs to have the following in class every day:

- Band folder including:
 - Sheet music
 - Any materials given to you in class
 - Method Book
 - 6th Grade: Essential Elements 2000 Book 1
 - 7th Grade: Essential Elements 2000 Book 2
 - 8th Grade: I Recommend (provided)

- Instrument
- Pencil

Each Student must also have:

- Music stand at home
- Name tag permanently on case or luggage tag
- Metronome

Concert Attire

Dressing professionally is a part of every formal performance at Twin Falls. Each band takes pride in sounding & *looking* great on stage! What you will wear for all performances:

Men:

- Black dress shoes – NO sports shoes or sandals
- Black dress socks
- Black dress pants – slacks, ironed.
- White button down long sleeve dress shirt with collar for tie or bow tie. No ruffled tux shirts.

Women

- Black dress shoes – dress sandals okay, no sports shoes
- Black socks or leggings (if wearing open toed shoes, toes must have socks or leggings)
- White button down long sleeve dress shirt - no designs, no spaghetti straps
- Long Black skirt or dress pants – skirts/dresses to the ankles, no jeans.

Students who arrive to performances in non concert attire will not be allowed to perform and will receive a zero for a performance grade. If you have any issues acquiring concert attire, please talk to me personally.

Grading & Expectations

40% Preparation & Participation

- Performances - attendance at all performances is MANDATORY
- Be in class on time with the required materials (instrument, music, pencil)
- Points earned are based on your daily participation in class and adherence to classroom expectations.

Disruptive behavior will not be tolerated and we will work together to solve problems that might arise. If what you are doing is not contributing positively to the atmosphere of the classroom, I will ask you to leave.

30% Tests/Quizzes

20% Practice Journals (6th grade)/Sectionals (7th & 8th)/Assignments (all)

- Practice Journals (6th grade only) – In 6th grade we will build good practice habits by completing and turning in practice journals. These will be due *every Friday* and should be filled out *while you practice at home*. Journals with out parent signature will not be accepted, and late journals will be marked down accordingly.
- Online Journals – I will be switching to online practice journals after we have gotten used to the basic format. Students will need to have access to a computer with internet at home. Paper journals will still be an option if needed.

MINIMUM PRACTICE REQUIREMENT: 3 Days/Week for 30 Minutes

10% Professionalism

This portion of your grade will be determined by your over all behavior, attitude, performance, work ethic and musicianship. Students who work hard every day with a positive attitude and follow classroom guidelines will receive a full 10%.

Jazz Ensemble I & II

Jazz I

Meets before school at 6:30am and will have many chances to perform, travel, and even compete with other schools in the area. The prerequisite for Jazz Ensemble is to be in another concert ensemble (band or choir) and in grade 7 or 8 (6th graders as spots open)

Entrance by audition at beginning of year

Open to saxophones, trumpet, trombone, & rhythm section (piano, bass, vibes, guitar, drums).

Jazz II

Rehearsals are Tuesday and Thursday mornings at 6:30am. Open to all instruments and all grades.

Auditions start Tuesday September 6th at 6:30am for both groups!

EVERYONE in band is strongly encouraged and welcome to participate in Jazz!!!

Private Lessons

Every student is highly encouraged to and needs to **strongly** consider taking private lessons. Sometimes this means one lesson a week with a specific instructor. At a minimum, every student should try to have one lesson every trimester with a specialist on their instrument. *There is no better*

way to improve at your instrument than to take private lessons with a good teacher! Attached is a list of private instructors for each instrument.

Solo & Ensemble/Junior All-State

The Washington Music Educators Association hosts an East-Shore League Solo and Ensemble festival. This will take place March 10, 2012. 8th Grade Band Students are required to perform and I am encouraging all other students to participate in this event – especially if you are taking private lessons.

8th grade musicians will be auditioning for audition for Junior All-State. This is an Honor Band comprised of students who are accepted after submitting a recorded audition. The materials are online on my sharepoint website (see below) where you will find a link to the Junior All State website which has rules and dates. The performance is in Yakima during the Washington Music Educators Association Conference February 19/20. The audition deadline is mid-October.

Twin Falls Music Boosters!

Attention all parents: come to boosters meetings! 2011-2012 Boosters Kick-Off will be held in the band room on Tuesday September 20th at 7:00pm. This is your chance to get involved, help to grow and improve the program and have a huge impact on your students! TFMS Music Boosters Association is a non-profit organization of individual members that believe music education is important to the development and education of our children. Check out the TFMS Music Boosters website:

www.tfmsmusicboosters.org

Sharepoint Website

<http://sharepoint.snoqualmie.k12.wa.us/tfms/wenmanm/default.aspx>

Add it to your favorites! This website will be used for homework assignments, referred to in class, and updated regularly. On it you can find all of the above information and more including the calendar, web resources and links, recordings and announcements.



WELCOME TO
TFMS BAND!!!

Name _____

Grade _____

Band Handbook Quiz

**Answer the questions and return to Mr. Wenman by Wednesday September 7.
(This is an actual homework assignment worth points)**

1. Describe in detail the band uniform you are required to wear for concerts.

2. What is the date of the first band concert this fall?

3. Whose responsibility is it to make sure that you have a properly functioning instrument in class every day and at every performance?

4. What percentage of your grade are practice journals (if you are a 6th grader) or tests/quizzes if you are a 7th or 8th grader?

5. What is the minimum amount of time every student is required to practice every week?

6. Name two required materials that are specific to your instrument.

7. How often should you bring a pencil to class?

8. What happens if a student shows up to a concert with the wrong uniform on?

9. What is the web address to Mr. Wenman's Sharepoint site?

Student and Parent Agreement

I have read and understand all of the above information and the attached documents and agree to the expectations, guidelines, and structures laid out for Twin Falls Middle School Band.

Parent Name (please print)

Student Name (please print)

Grade

Parent Signature

Student Signature

Date

Date

Parents Contact information: (this is so I can easily access your best email and phone if needed this year)

E-mail

Phone

Please do not give my contact information to the TFMS Music Boosters so that they may contact me regarding opportunities to get involved with my student's music education.