

Horizon Middle School Band Handbook

Welcome to the Horizon Middle School Band Program! The **Horizon Middle School Band Handbook** has been prepared to outline expectations and procedures for the 2007-2008 school year. **Students and parents are to read and discuss the information carefully, and keep this information for future reference.**

Please take note of the calendar of performance dates for the 2007-2008 school year. You are expected to attend all performances. Any conflicts should be brought to the director's attention immediately! The following form is located toward the back of this handbook, and must be completed and returned to the director **by Friday, August 24:**

- **Student Contract/Parent Agreement Form**

Finally, I would like to thank parents for supporting your child's music education through encouraging him/her to participate in band at Horizon Middle School. I hope that each student will find this to be an enriching and meaningful experience.

Musically Yours,

Ben E. Hanika,
Director of Bands

Horizon Middle School Bands Calendar 2007-2008

PLEASE MARK YOUR FAMILY CALENDARS NOW TO AVOID CONFLICTS

DATE	EVENT/GROUP	TIME
Mon-Fri, 7/23-7/27	6 th Grade Band Camp @ Horizon Middle School	By Sections
Mon-Fri, 7/23-7/27	8 th Grade Drumline Camp @ Horizon Middle School	3:30-4:30 PM
Mon-Wed 8/6-8/8	7 th Grade Band Camp @ Sunrise Middle School	11:30AM- 12:30 PM
Mon-Wed 8/6-8/8	8 th Grade Marching Band Camp @ Sunrise Middle School	8:00 AM- 11:30 PM
Date TBA	Halftime Performance for KHS Football Game (8 th Grade only)	Evening
Saturday, Sept. 29	UNK Band Day Parade (8 th Grade only)	Morning
Thurs, 11/8	Veteran's Day Program @ @ Horizon MS (7 th Grade only)	TBA
Thurs 12/13	Horizon MS Bands Holiday Concert @ Horizon MS Gym	7:30 PM
Saturday, January 12	8 th Grade All State Band @ UNK Fine Arts Recital Hall	All Day
End January/Early February	Horizon MS Music Dept. Fundraiser	TBA
Sat 2/9	Kearney MS Honor Band @ Sunrise Middle School	All Day
Tues 3/11	Horizon MS Bands Concert @ Horizon MS Gym	7:30 PM
Sat 4/12	NSBA Concert Band Festival	TBA
Tues 5/13	Horizon MS Bands Spring Finale Concert @ Horizon MS Gym	7:30 PM

Horizon Middle School Band Program

Course Descriptions

The band program at Horizon Middle School is designed to provide students a comprehensive music education as they participate in performance groups. The program consists of the following ensembles: 6th Grade Band, 7th Grade Band, 8th Grade Band, and Jazz Band. Involvement in these ensembles will enrich the development of fundamental musical skills, increase musical knowledge through higher level thinking, enhance the aesthetic values in music, and develop social skills (teamwork and self-discipline, and responsibility). The Horizon Bands will perform various musical styles and genres throughout the year.

6th Grade Concert Band

Students begin learning to play band instruments in 6th grade at Kearney Public Schools. The 6th Grade Band meets every other day, and performs three concerts during the year. Class periods are varied between full band rehearsal, and small group lessons consisting of homogeneous instruments (i.e. percussion, brass, etc.). Basic instrumental music fundamentals are introduced and developed throughout the year, including: correct instrument assembly and playing position, correct embouchure/stick grip, tone production, technique, sight-reading, and care and maintenance of the instrument.

7th Grade Concert Band

Students in the 7th Grade Band work on further developing the instrumental music fundamentals learned in 6th grade, and expanding their musical knowledge and musicianship. The 7th Grade Band meets every other day, as rehearsal time is shared between full band rehearsal and small group lessons consisting of homogeneous instruments. The 7th Grade Band performs four concerts during the year, which includes a Veteran's Day program in November.

8th Grade Band (Marching Band and Concert Band)

The 8th Grade Band meets every day of the week. During the fall quarter, the 8th Grade Band will function primarily as a Marching Band. Basic marching fundamentals are emphasized. The Horizon 8th Grade Marching Band combines with the Sunrise 8th Grade Marching Band to perform at the UNK Band Day Parade. The combined Kearney 8th Grade Marching Band also performs at halftime for a select Kearney High School home football game each fall.

The 8th Grade Concert Band will enrich students' musicianship as they develop proficiency in advanced musical fundamentals, including: balance, blend, intonation, musical expression, tone production, and technique. The 8th Grade Concert Band performs throughout the year, including a festival and a tour to Kearney Elementary Schools in the spring.

Jazz Band

The Jazz Band explores the art of jazz, and its various forms and styles. Membership is determined by student interest and the director's permission. Members of the Jazz Band will focus on mastering various jazz fundamentals, including improvisation skills, technique, blues progressions, comparing and contrasting styles, and theory concepts. Jazz Band meets during the Explore period throughout the school year, and performs three concerts during the year year.

Additional Performance Opportunities

Small Ensembles

Students are encouraged to extend their music ensemble experiences by forming and participating in small group ensembles during the school year. These would include, but not be limited to: small woodwind, brass, and percussion ensembles. This is an outstanding way for students to further develop their musicianship, and work cooperatively in a small setting. Small ensembles will have the opportunity to perform for several events within the community.

NSBA 8th Grade All-State Band

The Nebraska State Bandmasters Association 8th Grade All-State Honor Band auditions are held in October. If selected, the 8th Grade All-State Honor Band will meet and perform at the University of Nebraska-Kearney on Saturday, January 12, 2008. Participation in this group is one of the greatest honors a musician can attain. Be fully prepared to represent Horizon Middle School. Director assistance will be available for those wishing to audition.

Kearney Middle School Honor Band

The Kearney Middle School Honor Band will be held on Saturday, February 9, 2008 at Sunrise Middle School. This ensemble consists of outstanding 7th and 8th Grade Band students from schools in the Kearney area. Student participation is determined by audition and/or director recommendation.

Daily Rules and Expectations

The mission of each band at Horizon Middle School is to perform at our highest level of musical excellence, and have positive learning experiences every day. To achieve this, we must work hard, maintain high expectations, and most of all, work together as a team. Together we can achieve what none of us can do alone. The following rules and expectations serve as a guideline for successful rehearsals and performances.

1. No student shall have the right to do anything that prevents the director(s) from teaching, or other students from learning.
2. Show up on time and prepared: early is on time, on time is late; therefore late is unacceptable!
3. Respect yourselves, your peers, your instructors, and your classroom.
4. Food, beverages, and gum are NOT allowed in the band room (water is OK).

All discipline problems will be addressed on an individual basis and will follow the Horizon Middle School Discipline Plan.

Additional Student Responsibilities

- Set up the room (i.e. chairs & stands) the way it should be for your class. Percussionists are responsible for setting up and putting away their equipment.
- Have your instrument out and warm up before class begins. Please put your music in the order based on the agenda written on the board.
- PREPARE your individual part BEFORE rehearsal (notes, rhythms, etc.) by practicing at home. Rehearsal time is NOT a time for individuals practice parts.
- Bring ALL materials to each rehearsal: music/folder, PENCIL, reeds, valve oil, cork grease, slide cream, sticks, etc.
- Demonstrate proper POSTURE and correct embouchures/stick grip at all times.
- Please take care of your equipment. If your instrument is not working and needs to go to the shop, please bring a note from home. Be prepared to follow along in your music and take rehearsal notes.
- Take excellent care of the music checked out to you. You will pay for replacing damaged music.
- Do NOT bring homework from other classes. You do not practice your instrument in other classes, so do not bring work from other classes to band.
- Keep your hands off of equipment not owned by you or checked out to you.
- At the end of each rehearsal, the chairs and stands must be stacked and put away.



Grading Procedures

Students in the Horizon Middle School Bands will be graded based on the amount of progress and learning that has occurred within each quarter of the year. The following is a breakdown of the areas in which students will be evaluated.

1. Daily Attendance, Attitude, and Participation

30% of Grade

- Rehearsals will begin promptly after the bell rings. Be on time and prepared (practice to have your music prepared), and have all equipment.
- Have a great attitude by working as a team, listening respectfully, being a positive leader, demonstrating proper posture, and challenging yourself.
- If you are absent, you miss out on valuable learning and helping the group get better. **It is your responsibility to check with the director before or after each absence to make up missed rehearsal time. Failure to comply will result in loss of points.**
- Excessive tardiness may result in detention or other consequences.

2. Performance Attendance and Participation

20% of Grade

- Performances are the final product of classroom rehearsals, as students demonstrate growth and learning. **A musical performance is the equivalent of an exam in other classes.**
- Attendance at performances is **mandatory**. Any conflicts must be discussed with the director prior to the concert. A phone call or a note to the director should accompany illness, family emergency, etc. Excused absences will be allowed at the discretion of the director.

3. Written and Playing Tests

25% of Grade

- Written tests will cover any of the following: musical concepts and terms, knowledge of musical styles and composers, and music theory.
- Performance tests will occur during class time and will cover any of the following: scales, technique exercises, and assigned exercises from the music that we are playing.
- For 8th Grade Marching Band, playing tests will cover music memorization.
- **All major tests will be assigned several days in advance.**

4. Weekly Practice Journals and Written Material

25% of Grade

- Students are expected to practice a **minimum of 90 minutes per week** (*75 minutes per week for 8th grade band students*) and complete a practice journal.
- **Practice journals** will be collected on the **last odd day of each week**.
- Practice journals must be signed by a parent/guardian for students to receive full credit.
- **Written material** will cover a variety of concepts, including: musical concepts and terms, knowledge of composers and music literature, and music theory.

Grading Scale:	A=93-100	F=69 and below
	B=86-92	I=Incomplete
	C=78-85	NC=No Credit
	D=70-77	

Instruments and Equipment

Each student is expected to provide his or her own instrument and keep it in excellent condition. School owned instruments will be provided to students to keep a well-balanced instrumentation, and are available on a limited basis. The rental fee for a school instrument is \$40.00 per semester or \$75.00 for the entire school year. Students using school instruments must complete an agreement form, have it signed by parents, and return it to the director with payment or a completed fee waiver application. Students will be financially responsible for any damage that occurs while the instrument is in their possession.

REQUIRED EQUIPMENT AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Woodwinds

1. 3-5 good reeds in your case at all times: Van Doren, Mitchell-Laurie, and La Voz are recommended brands. Keep reeds on the reed guards to keep them in good condition. Good condition means no chips or cracks!
2. Clean your mouthpiece daily—do NOT leave the reed on it after you have played!
3. Keep a swab in your case and swab your instrument daily. Take your instrument apart properly and leave it in the case. Do not leave the case out.
4. 8th Grade Marching Band only: A musical lyre that fits your instrument and a flip folder.

Brass

1. Valve oil, slide oil/cream, or rotary oil for your instrument—oil valves daily!
2. Clean your mouthpiece daily using warm water and a mouthpiece brush.
3. The instrument should be washed monthly, using a cleaning snake. Do NOT perform this task without instructions from the director.
4. 8th Grade Marching Band only: A musical lyre that fits your instrument and a flip folder.

Percussion

1. Each student should have two pairs of Vic Firth 5A snare drum sticks, a pair of bell mallets, and a stick bag to keep them in.
2. The school will provide additional mallets, sticks, etc. for Concert Band. **There is a \$10.00 school equipment fee that applies to all percussionists.**
3. All percussionists are responsible for keeping school-owned equipment in excellent condition. Students will be held financially responsible for damaging any equipment!

REQUIRED BOOKS (ALL)

6th Grade Band: *Standard of Excellence* book 1 (red cover) for your instrument

7th Grade Band: *Standard of Excellence* book 2 (blue cover) for your instrument

8th Grade Band: *Standard of Excellence* book 3 (green cover) for your instrument

REQUIRE FOR EVERYONE: A ½” three-ring binder with a pencil to store your book, a pencil, concert music issued by the director.

Concert Dress

Members of the Horizon Middle School Bands need to dress nicely for performances, and demonstrate proper concert etiquette. Student performers are not only required to participate in their portion of a concert; they are expected to remain in the audience until the completion of the concert. The following are concert dress and concert etiquette expectations for the Horizon Middle School Bands.

6th and 7th Grade Bands

Concert black is the required concert dress for 6th and 7th Grade Bands. The boys should wear a white shirt with a collar and black slacks (a tie would be nice, but is not required). Girls should wear black slacks (or Capri pants) with a white dress shirt. For all, black dress shoes with dark socks are appropriate footwear. Athletic shoes and jeans are not appropriate. Absolutely NO flip flops or sandals!

8th Grade Band and Jazz Band

Concert black is the required concert dress for 8th Grade Band and Jazz Band. The boys should wear a white shirt with a collar and black slacks (a tie would be nice, but is not required). Girls should wear black slacks (or Capri pants) with a white dress shirt. For all, black dress shoes with dark socks are appropriate footwear. Athletic shoes and jeans are not appropriate. Absolutely NO flip flops or sandals!

8th Grade Marching Band

Students in the 8th Grade Marching Band will wear their band shirt with nice jeans and athletic shoes for performances throughout the fall. NO SANDALS OR FLIP FLOPS! The band shirts will be purchased at Band Camp in August and delivered before the first performance.

Concert Etiquette

- We, as performers and audience members learn by listening to and observing the performing arts.
- Student performers and audience members show proper concert etiquette by being in attendance for the entire program.
- At the end of a piece, applause is both appropriate and appreciated. Cheering, catcalls, and/or whistling are not.
- It is not appropriate to exit or enter the auditorium while a piece is in progress. If this must happen, it should be done with minimal distraction.
- Please turn cellular phones and pagers off.
- Proper behavior at Fine Arts events shows respect for the performers on stage and allows them to give their best efforts. We can all benefit from supporting the fine arts.

Horizon MS Band Weekly Practice Journal

Name: _____ Date: _____

Instrument: _____ Grade: _____

Please record the amount of time that you practice each day in the table below, including the total minutes for the week.

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	TOTAL

Please answer the following questions in COMPLETE sentences. At the bottom, please have a student signature and a parent signature. BOTH the student and the parent need to sign in order to receive full credit!

1. What are two things that went well in your practicing this week?

2. What are two things that you can improve upon next week?

Parent Signature: _____

Student Signature: _____

Horizon Middle School Band Instrument & Equipment Check Out Form

Student's Name _____ Grade _____

Parent's Names _____ Phone _____

Address (include zip code) _____

Instrument Checked Out _____

Make _____ Model _____ Serial Number _____

Condition of Instrument: ___ Excellent ___ Good ___ Fair ___ Poor

Condition of Case: ___ Excellent ___ Good ___ Fair ___ Poor

Accessories Being Issued: _____

Rental Term: _____ 1 Semester (\$40.00) _____ Entire Year (\$75.00)
(Make Checks Payable to Horizon Middle School)

NOTE: Students are required to supply their own accessories. For brass instruments, students must supply (as applicable): valve oil, slide grease/oil, and slide cream. For woodwind instruments, students must supply (as applicable): reeds, neck strap, and swab.

Agreement

We, the parent(s)/guardian(s) and student hereby agree to be responsible for the above instrument for the entire term of use. We understand that we will be financially responsible for any damages that occur beyond normal wear and tear, as identified by the director or a certified instrument repair person. Although it may be necessary for Horizon Middle School students to share an instrument for class purposes, we agree that no other individuals will use this instrument and it will be returned to school when requested by the director. This equipment is the property of Kearney Public Schools, Kearney, Nebraska.

PARENT SIGNATURE _____ DATE _____

STUDENT SIGNATURE _____ DATE _____

THIS INSTRUMENT WAS CHECKED OUT BY _____

Student Contract/Parent Agreement Form

Horizon Middle School Band Program 2007-2008

1. I, and my son/daughter have read and understand the Band Handbook and all expectations/requirements for the 2007-2008 school year.
2. My son/daughter will attend all scheduled rehearsals and performances of the ensemble they are a member of with his/her instrument and all necessary equipment.
3. My son/daughter will conduct themselves in a manner according to the Horizon Middle School student expectations during all band functions: rehearsals, performances, traveling to/from performances, etc.
4. We will be financially responsible for any and all damage to a school owned equipment that is checked out to my son/daughter.
5. All students have the right to rehearse, perform, and travel with the Horizon Middle School Band groups in a safe and comfortable environment. My son/daughter will be courteous to all members of the ensemble, the directors, and parent volunteers. Profanity, sexually suggestive language or gestures, and physical threats will not be tolerated.
6. Any infractions of the above mentioned statements will lead to disciplinary actions in accordance to the Horizon Middle School Discipline Plan.

My son/daughter and I have read the Band Handbook and the above behavioral standards of the Horizon Middle School Band Program. I understand its contents and agree to conduct myself according to the above standards.

Please sign and return this for to Mr. Hanika by August 24, 2007

Parent Name

Student Name

Parent Signature

Student Signature

Date

If you own your own instrument, please identify the serial number for security purposes when the instrument is housed at school.

Instrument _____ Model _____ Serial Number _____
(Type and Brand)



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**HORIZON MIDDLE SCHOOL
BAND HANDBOOK
2007-2008**



**BEN E. HANIKA,
DIRECTOR OF BANDS**