

# FLETCHER MIDDLE SCHOOL

## **BAND HANDBOOK** **2009-2010**

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[www.schoolnotes.com/32250/jwpeters.html](http://www.schoolnotes.com/32250/jwpeters.html)

# Fletcher Middle School Band Handbook 2009-2010

## Wes Peters, Director

### Goals

There are four major goals of the Fletcher Middle School Band Program.

- A. **MUSICIANSHIP** – one's ability to express oneself in musical ideas.
- B. **SELF-DICIPLINE** – one's ability to control oneself and be able to work as a positive and productive member of the group.
- C. **STUDENT RESPONSIBILITY** – acceptance of being informed and keeping parents informed.
- D. **STUDENT EFFORT** – to do one's best as an individual and as a group member.

### Class Descriptions

**Beginning Band**- offered to 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> grade students. Students will be assisted in selecting their instruments from the following: Flute, Clarinet, Alto Saxophone, Tenor Saxophone, Trumpet, French Horn, Trombone, Baritone, Tuba, and Percussion.

**Symphonic Band**- offered to students with director approval.

### Classroom Expectations

**Rules (All Duval County Public School Policies Remain in Place at all Times)**

1. All Food, Drink, Gum, and Candy are forbidden in the band area.
2. Horse playing, Running, and Fighting are not allowed in the band area.
3. Raise your hand for permission to speak and to leave your seat.
4. Only play on your instrument or the instrument that is assigned to you.
5. Keep the band, locker room, and hallways clean.
6. Be in class on time with all materials ready at 3 minutes past the tardy bell.
7. Listen and follow all instructions the 1<sup>st</sup> time they are given.
8. Show respect to all adults and to each other.

**Discipline Policy: This policy will vary depending on the type of infraction.**

First Offense: Warning

Second Offense: Check Mark- Loss of Daily Points

Third Offense: Student calls parent, loss of daily points, and 30 minute band detention. (Band detention must be served within 1 week of being issued or the student moves to the next discipline.)

Fourth Offense: Discipline Referral to House Administrators Office

**Moderate Offenses: e.g.- PDA's, Cell Phone use, cheating, etc.**

Referral sent to office- student stays in class.

**Disruptive and Severe Offenses: e.g.- fighting, vandalism, theft, and/ or possession of weapons or banned substances will be immediately reported to the House Administrator's office for appropriate action.**

**The Discipline Policy will restart each week.**



## **Grades**

Your student's grade will be based upon the following items:

**Daily Preparation (20%)**- To effectively participate each student must have all required supplies including instrument, binder with notebook paper and sheet protectors, pencil, band books, music, and all necessary supplies for their instrument when class starts. If your student's instrument goes into the shop try to get a loaner. If none are available they should still bring their mouthpiece (ligature and reed, sticks, etc...), music, and a pencil along with a note saying their instrument is in the shop. Our time is too short to waste, be sure that your student is prepared with the necessary tools to succeed. A total of 10 points can be earned each day. Five points will be earned for bringing your instrument. Instrument means that you have a mouthpiece, ligature, reed, neck strap, sticks, etc. 3 points will be given for having music, but you must have your instrument too. 2 points will be given for bringing a pencil, but you must have your instrument. Students will have an alternate written assignment to complete if they are missing items that will not allow them to participate fully with the rest of the class so that they may still earn up to 6 points. All the points will be averaged to make up o 20% of your grade.

**Daily Participation (25%)**- Each student will start each nine weeks with 100 points in the Daily Participation Category and will be allowed a maximum of 125 points.

Points will be deducted as follows:

1. Use of profanity= -5
2. Poor attitude/ lack of effort= -5
3. Getting out of seat without permission= -3
4. Handling equipment that is not assigned/ does not belong to you= -5
5. Leaving music, binder, instrument, equipment out of place= -5
6. Excessive talking during class/ rehearsal= -5
7. Eating, drinking, having gum or candy in the band room without permission= -5
8. Leaving academic books/ supplies in band locker/ cubby= -5
9. Disrespect of other students/ teachers/ chaperones/ guests= -5
10. Throwing things in the band room= -5
11. Not in seat ready to play at 3 minutes past the bell= -3
12. Entering the band room in a noisy/ uncivilized manner= -3

Points will be added as follows:

**(Students must submit a written request to Mr. Peters to have points added on!)**

1. Attending FMS Summer Band camp= +10
2. Attending a summer music camp (UNF, FSU, UF, FCCMS, etc.)= +15
3. Private Lessons (maximum of 4 per quarter)= +5
4. Audition for All-State Band= +15
5. Making/ Participating in All-State Band= +20
6. Audition for the Jacksonville Youth Symphony Orchestra= +10
7. Making/ Participating in JSYO= +15
8. Audition for All-District Band= +10
9. Make/ Participate in All-District Band= +15

## Grading Continued

10. *FBA District Solo and Ensemble Participation*= +10
11. *Superior Rating (per event) at FBA Solo and Ensemble*= +15
12. *Superior Rating at FMS Solo and Ensemble*= +5
13. *Attending a musical performance/ concert (not FMS)*= +5
14. *Instrumental performance in public (church, etc.)* = +5
15. *Attending FBA Marching Band Competition*= +5
16. *Purchasing/ Downloading recordings of performers on your instrument*= +5
17. *Outstanding effort as noted by Mr. Peters*= +varies
18. *Outstanding improvement as noted by Mr. Peters*= +varies
19. *Miscellaneous (as approved by Mr. Peters)*= +varies
  - ♫ *Submitting a report on a music topic*
  - ♫ *Copying music (outside of being an officer)*
  - ♫ *Filing music*
  - ♫ *Cleaning the band room*
  - ♫ *Volunteering with Beginning Band Rehearsals*
  - ♫ *General Service to the Band*

Performance Grade (30%)- This grade includes all class work, homework, projects, performances, concerts, rehearsals, and sectionals. Class work, homework, and projects will have varying point totals. Sectionals are worth 50 points, rehearsals worth 75 points, and concerts worth 100 points. Some performances such as District Music Performance Assessment will be worth up to 200 points. Points may be lowered, or not given at all, if a student is unable to perform due to incorrect uniform. A lack of planning on your part does not constitute an emergency on my part.

The Director reserves the right to pull someone from a performance and give them an alternate assignment to make up the grade. This can be done for behavior issues or because the student is unprepared due to lack of attendance at rehearsals. Generally, a student will be pulled from a performance if they have 2 or more unexcused absences from sectionals or rehearsals prior to the performance. Since the student was pulled from the performance, that performance is an excused absence and an alternate assignment can be given to earn the full value of points. Students that are pulled from performances are expected to still attend the performance in full uniform to show support to their fellow students and to assist the director as needed!

Band is a performance-based class and therefore all of the performances, rehearsals, and sectionals are a part of the student's grade. If a student has to miss one of these activities, it must be communicated with Mr. Peters at least one week in advance.

Please see the **Absences** Section for further explanation of the FMS Band excused and unexcused absence policy.



## **Grading Continued**

Practice Reports and Journals - (This is included in the Performance Grade) Practicing is an essential part of learning an instrument and therefore an essential part of being in band. Each student is expected to spend 2 hours per week practicing on his or her instrument. This is an average of less than 20 minutes per day. Practice Reports will be due every week on Wednesday and must be signed by the students' parent verifying that the practice has been completed. In addition to the parent signature, the parent must also initial by each individual practice objective for the week. Practice Reports are worth 100 points if the student practices for the required 2 hours and works on each objective. Students may earn up to 10 extra credit points for practice that exceeds the minimum 2 hours per week.

Playing Tests and Quizzes (15%)- Playing tests and quizzes are as much a part of band as are tests and quizzes are for other subject areas. Because band is a performance-based class, playing tests and quizzes are necessary to evaluate and assess whether or not the student has mastered the material covered in class. These will be given on an as needed basis, however students should plan to have at least 3 playing quizzes per quarter and 1 playing test per quarter. Quizzes will be worth 50 points and tests will be worth 100 points.

Written Tests and Quizzes (10%)- These types of assessments will be based on the daily class work and homework assignments that are given each week along with vocabulary and musical terms that are covered in the method books. These will only be given as the director sees that they are needed. Students can expect at least 1 written test per quarter. Quizzes are worth 50 points and tests are worth 100 points.

## **Absences**

Absences from sectionals, rehearsals, and performances are either excused or unexcused. Generally absences will be excused if Mr. Peters is given at least one week of notice about the absence. The following absences will be excused after the fact: sickness, death in the family, or family emergency. All other absences will be considered unexcused without proper notice. Excused absences from sectionals and rehearsals require no alternate assignment. Unexcused absences from these activities do require an alternate assignment. Excused absences from performances will require an alternate assignment to be able to make-up up to the full point value. Unexcused absences from performances can be made-up with an alternate assignment for 75% credit. In all cases, it is the responsibility of the student to obtain the assignment and to turn it in on time. Absences for doctor's, dentist, orthodontist, etc. should be planned ahead of time and should try to avoid conflict with rehearsals, concerts, etc. If you know of a conflict, please call so that we may make arrangements and possibly avoid the conflict altogether. Students that participate in other school activities should have their parent contact me so that we can make arrangements with the sponsor or coach of that activity to where both sides will receive equal time. Any questions about this policy, please call Mr. Peters.



## **Band Uniforms**

All students are expected to be dressed in full uniform for all performances unless otherwise indicated by the director.

**Beginning Band**- Boys and girls will wear FMS band polo shirts, black pants, black socks, and black dress shoes (absolutely NO athletic shoes or flip flops/ sandals). Shirts must be tucked in. (Girls must wear closed toe dress shoes.)

**Symphonic Band**- Boys will wear black tuxedo pants, white tuxedo shirts, black socks, and black dress shoes. The band will provide blue vests and blue bow ties. Girls will wear black dresses and black closed toe dress shoes. The band will provide blue ribbons for their hair to be pulled back. **(Girls must purchase their dresses from the band.) (Shoes must be closed toe and cannot be athletic shoes or sandals)**

**Football/ Pep Band**- Boys and girls in Symphonic Band will wear FMS polo band shirts, blue jeans, socks, and tennis shoes. Beginners will also participate in Football Band at select games and will have the same uniform.

**Points may be lowered, or not given at all, if a student is unable to perform due to incorrect uniform. A lack of planning on your part does not constitute an emergency on my part.**

## **Lockers**

Each band student will be issued a locker and a lock within the band room at a non-refundable cost of \$3.00. Students are not to bring their own locks to use on band lockers. Do not share your locker or combination with anyone. Lockers are to be locked at all times and are for the use of band instrument and supply storage only. Students with purses or valuables should store these items in their band lockers to help prevent unnecessary access. Students are not to store any other classroom supplies or books in their band lockers. Students will be charged \$5 for locks that are lost or stolen.

## **Field Trips**

Throughout the year there may be opportunities to extend the classroom experience by taking part in field trips. When on a field trip, the student is expected to show the same behavior that is expected at school. Remember that when on a field trip you are an acting representative of Fletcher Middle School and the Fletcher Middle School Band and you are expected to act accordingly.

## **End of Year Activities**

More information will be available as the activities are scheduled.

In order to participate I believe in the philosophy of those that work now can play later and those that do not work now will eliminate themselves from participation. Other requirements are as follows:

- No referrals from the band director and no more than 3 total.
- You must demonstrate good behavior throughout the year
- You must have at least a 2.0 GPA



## **Band Booster Association Fundraisers**

We will have many opportunities to raise funds to support the band. Details of these activities will be discussed at a later time. The purpose of fundraisers is to help offset the cost it takes to run a successful program and the burden on families. For many of the fund raisers the band partakes in and your child participates in, he or she will receive 100% of the profit to go into his or her band account to help pay his/ her Fair Share Fee, supplies, and trip costs.

## **Fair Share Fee**

This year, we have adopted a Fair Share fee of \$120 for all band student households. The purpose of the fee is to help offset some of the cost associated with being apart of the FMS Band. The fee will be used to cover the costs associated with purchasing music (materials), cleaning uniforms (maintenance), repairing instruments (maintenance), travel costs, and many of the other necessary everyday items that we use as a band. **This fee will be due on Tuesday, Nov. 3<sup>rd</sup> and Tuesday, February 2<sup>nd</sup>.** Households that have multiple band students will receive a lower fee for each additional child in band. Contact me if you have questions or concerns. (This fee may be waived or reduced if there is a financial need or if the student participates in Free or Reduced Lunch)

## **Communication**

I feel it is extremely important for teachers, parents, and students to communicate on a regular basis. To help keep communication lines open, you can contact me anytime by emailing me at [petersj@duvalschools.org](mailto:petersj@duvalschools.org) or giving me a call at 902-247-5929 ext. 1404

### **Mr. Peters' Schoolnotes.com Website**

To find my site go to [www.schoolnotes.com/32250/jwpeters.html](http://www.schoolnotes.com/32250/jwpeters.html). Once you are there, you can click on the Notify Me link and input your email address and whenever I update my website, you will receive an email informing you of the update. Please check the site on a regular basis so that you and your child can stay as informed as possible.

**One of the things that I hope you will associate with the Fletcher Middle School Band is a positive learning experience. These policies are not meant to be all-inclusive in every instance, but should give the parent and student some guidelines to follow. If you have any questions about the handbook or you need to talk to me, please do not hesitate to give me a call.**



**FLETCHER MIDDLE SCHOOL BAND**



**APPENDIX A**  
**MEDICAL RELEASE FORM**

I, \_\_\_\_\_, being the parent or legal guardian of \_\_\_\_\_  
(Parent or Guardian) (Student)

Do hereby give my permission for him/her to travel with the Fletcher Middle School Band to all band functions for the 2009-2010 school year, hereby relieving Duval County liability for personal injuries and/or property damages resulting from or occurring during or in transit to and from Fletcher Middle School Band Activities.

Further I request that in the event of illness or accident in the course of such activities measures be instituted without delay, as judgment of chaperones and/or medical personnel dictates. Further, I hereby give my permission to have an adult sponsor of the Fletcher Middle School Band take my child to a medical facility for the necessary care in the event of an emergency or administer medical treatment. I understand that should this be necessary, I will be contacted by phone at the earliest possible time. I further understand that I am financially responsible for any bills incurred from said emergency treatment and/or doctor's fees and that the Fletcher Middle School Band will not be held responsible.

List any allergies that your son/daughter may have:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

List any medication that your son/daughter is taking:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Circle and/or list any nonprescription medication that may be given to your child by a chaperone: Ibuprofen (Advil) – Acetaminophen (Tylenol) – Aspirin – Dramamine – Immodium AD – Tums – Roloids – Benadryl – Sunscreen – Other \_\_\_\_\_

**EMERGENCY INFORMATION**

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Parent Names: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Work Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Family Doctor: \_\_\_\_\_ Doctor's Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Insurance Carrier: \_\_\_\_\_ Policy No.: \_\_\_\_\_

Other Person to notify in case of emergency: \_\_\_\_\_

To the best of my knowledge, the information above is accurate and complete.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature – (Parent or Guardian)

**APPENDIX B  
PHOTO RELEASE**

I hereby authorize the photographing/ filming/ videotaping/ audio recording of my child, \_\_\_\_\_ and/ or the release of his/ her name for publishing/ broadcast purposes by the Fletcher Middle School Band, and consent to the showing of these to any persons. I understand that the Duval County Public School Board is not a party to this photography/ filming/ videotaping/ recording production and I will hold the Duval County Public School Board and its employees harmless from any liability in the connection with this production.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/ Guardian Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

**BAND HANDBOOK READING ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

Dear Parents:

Please read this booklet very carefully, particularly in the areas dealing with student requirements concerning end of the year activities. Participation in the Band Program requires a firm commitment on the part of the parent as well as the student. Your child can only succeed in this program if there is a spirit of cooperation between the band director, student and parent. Please ensure that you understand the policies set forth in this handbook before you sign the agreement form.

Sincerely,

Wes Peters  
Band Director

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**2009-2010 BAND HANDBOOK ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

Please sign that you have read the Band Handbook and return this form to the Band Room on Friday, September 11th. Place the form in your "class box."  
Please PRINT CLEARLY the information requested below.

STUDENT NAME \_\_\_\_\_

PARENT SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_

BAND PERIOD \_\_\_\_\_