



THE FRANKFORT PANTHER BAND MANUAL AND SYLLABUS

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GOALS: The serious study of music is an integral part of the academic and humanistic studies in the school curriculum because it involves thinking, feeling, and doing. Music also represents cultural achievement in a fine art and therefore gives students the inspiration to strive toward worthwhile activities as well as the total development of their human potential. The goal of our band classes is to engage our students in a variety of activities while always striving for artistic excellence in musical performance. More specifically, our learning objectives include: exploring instrumental literature which develops tone and technical facility; developing an awareness of music as a medium of human expression; develop an aural understanding of the basic elements of music and their interrelationships; develop an ability to perform in a manner that reflects an authentic and expressive interpretation of the music.

GRADING: Grades for 5th grade band, 6th grade band, Junior High Band, and Senior High Band members will be consistent with the uniform grading system of the Frankfort-Elberta Area Schools. Grades will be based on the following three areas: **(1)** Attendance, participation, and preparedness at all band events; **(2)** Behavior/attitude and preparedness during class; **(3)** Tests, which include playing tests, and written quizzes (tests and quizzes are equally weighted towards the overall grade).

Attendance at all band performances is required according to the following guidelines per grade level:

- 5th Grade Band (one required performance): the Spring Concert.
- 6th Grade Band (two required performances): the Christmas Concert and Spring Concert.
- Junior High Band (four to seven required performances): possibly selected home football games (games TBD), Christmas Concert, possibly Jr. High Band Festival (including State Festival, if applicable), Spring Concert, Graduation, July 4 parade.
- Senior High Band (six to nine required performances): selected home football games (TBD), Christmas Concert, possibly Sr. High Band Festival (including State Festival, if applicable), Spring Concert, Graduation, July 4 parade.

It is the responsibility of the student and his/her parents to arrange family vacations and other travel so as not to conflict with the required performances listed above. Further, it is student's responsibility to provide their employer (or other non-school related group for which the student might have obligations) with their performance schedule. **ADVANCE PLANNING AND TIMELY NOTIFICATION WILL AVOID ALMOST ALL SCHEDULING PROBLEMS.** Naturally, sickness or family emergencies are considered excused absences. As a courtesy, please call Mr. Wilson as soon as the sickness/emergency makes it impossible for the student to perform with the band. In the case of *excused* absences, the student will be provided an alternate performance opportunity in order to satisfy the performance requirements of the class (the student will individually perform for Mr. Wilson the same material they would have presented with the band, including sight-reading in the case of missed festivals; this will be done outside of class time and parents are encouraged to attend individual make-up performances).

Although the school staff works closely together to avoid scheduling two events on the same date, a student may discover that he/she has a commitment to two different school groups at the same time. Should a student discover this has happened, the *school* will be responsible for sorting out the problem (parents/students, please do not take it upon yourselves to decide the issue). The student should notify the band director and other school staff member as soon as a schedule concern is discovered. Generally, a performance/game will take precedence over a rehearsal/practice.

There are a wide variety of extra opportunities that will qualify as extra credit in band. Please see the page of "Extra Opportunities" that follows.

SCHOOL OWNED EQUIPMENT: All school owned property issued to students must be cared for properly. Students are expected to return those items in good condition when requested by the school. Students/parents may be asked to pay for excessive wear, damage, and replacement, if necessary.

DRESS CODE (UNIFORMS): Senior high band students will be issued uniforms for both marching and concert performances, with black shoes/socks to be supplied by the student. Junior high students will be issued a shirt and sweater for all performances, with khaki pants to be supplied by the student. 5th and 6th grade band students will wear "Sunday best" to concert performances (every attempt should be made to avoid blue jeans and tennis shoes; NO T-shirts, sweats, spandex, etc.). Visual appearance is an important part of an effective performance presentation. Demonstrate PRIDE in being a Frankfort Panther by looking your best at all times when wearing a Frankfort band uniform (that is, fully buttoned, no shirt tails out, hanging ties, missing cummerbunds, etc. Excessive and/or repeated demonstrations of improper wearing of the Frankfort band uniform may result in loss of performance credit towards the student's grade.

LOCKS/LOCKERS (Jr. High/Sr. High only): 7th through 12th grade students who wish to use a band locker are offered a padlock. It is the student's responsibility to accept and use the lock. Students who fail to turn in an issued padlock will be charged \$5.00.

BAND CLASS RULES AND PROCEDURES: There will be many important procedures that students will learn as the year progresses and they are too numerous to list in this brief manual. However, there are two important rules that all band students are expected to follow: **(1)** Make the prettiest sound possible on your instrument at all times; **(2)** Do not talk, make noise, or create distractions while Mr. Wilson is teaching. Rule number one is demonstration that the student is making their very best effort; rule number two allows Mr. Wilson the opportunity to make his very best effort as a teacher. If everyone is making their best effort, the results will be outstanding!

INSTRUMENT ACCESSORIES: Small items such as reeds, valve oil, etc., may be purchased directly from Mr. Wilson. These items are bought with band funds and sold at cost as a service to the students and parents. Prices for these items are posted on the band office door (please have the correct money; credit is generally not extended).

INSTRUMENT REPAIRS: Marshall Music Co. sends a representative to the jr. high/sr. high each week (specific day will be announced). If your instrument is in need of repair, fill out a repair form, tape it to your case, and leave it in the band office at the end of class on the announced day. It will be out for one week; however, if we call them in advance, a “loaner” instrument may be available, so try and plan ahead.

Related to instrument repair is an issue that has arisen in recent years across the U.S. The band instrument market has become flooded with cheap (and cheaply made) instruments, most of them marketed either over the Internet or by mass merchant, “big box” retail stores. Because these instruments are made from inferior grades of material and poorly constructed, many music stores will refuse to repair them, while others require either prepayment and/or a signature of waiver. This is because these cheap instruments make even the simplest of repairs virtually impossible. For example, adjusting a bent key can’t be done because it will snap in half due to inferior metal; soldering a broken brace results in burning through the cheap surrounding material. If you aren’t sure about a brand or would like suggestions on quality instruments, please contact Mr. Wilson. This is most important with school-aged musicians because repairs are inevitable, even with the most careful students. Such repairs can be only be successfully made if the instrument is of good quality to start with. As with most things today, it is a “buyer beware” market...especially with musical instruments, if the deal seems too good to be true, it likely is!

GENERAL SUGGESTIONS FOR THE BEST POSSIBLE EXPERIENCE IN BAND:

- Frankfort Panther band students should conduct themselves with an air of respect and courtesy towards all involved. This includes rehearsals, bus behavior, audience behavior, AND MOST ESPECIALLY in performance situations.
- Be on time, at the right place, with the right equipment (instrument, music, pencil, oil, mute, reeds, etc.), prepared to do the very best job you can do.
- Communicate with your parents! Pass along information promptly, both written and verbal.
- Use good, common sense. Stop and think before you do something questionable. Ask yourself if you’d do the questionable act if your parents were standing beside you!
- Review the band calendar page that follows CONSTANTLY to avoid conflicts.

- **PRACTICE AT HOME!** For those that truly want to be good on their instrument, there is no substitute for quality time spent on fundamentals of tone, technique, and musicianship **OUTSIDE** of class time. Major league baseball players take batting practice before almost every game, some even more often. If the best ballplayers in the world practice every day, doesn't it stand to reason that student musicians should, too?

EXTRA OPPORTUNITIES: As previously mentioned in the section on “grading,” there are many opportunities for students to challenge themselves beyond the classroom experience, improve their individual musicianship, and compete for recognition and honors at the district and state levels. In addition, these activities also qualify for extra credit in band class. It is the student's responsibility to notify Mr. Wilson before the end of the marking period if he/she has made arrangements for participation in any of the activities below in order to ensure that extra credit is granted. Also, events listed below that are sponsored by the Michigan School Band and Orchestra Association (MSBOA) require registration in advance and have registration deadlines that are not negotiable... be sure to listen for deadlines and details as they are announced in class.

- **Private Lessons** are the very best way to improve as a musician. There is no substitute for weekly sessions of individualized instruction by an instrument specialist. Private lesson instructors serve as an ideal model and mentor to assist in your child's improvement in the areas of tone, technique and general musicianship. The helpful hints or minor adjustments suggested by the instructor can greatly improve your child's playing ability. Private instrument lessons are a small investment that can pay big dividends in ensuring your child's success in band. If you are interested, please contact Mr. Wilson for information regarding a specialist on your student's instrument.
- **Solo/Ensemble Festival** is an opportunity for students at both the junior high and senior high levels to prepare either a solo or a small group (i.e., duet, trio, etc.) and perform for a MSBOA judge for a rating. The high school festival is in February and the junior high festival is in April (qualifying high school students may also be invited to be evaluated at the state level in March). All events both from junior high and high school students must be at least 2 minutes long. An original, published copy of the music (no photocopies) with measures numbered must be provided to the judge. High school soloists that qualify for the state festival must also prepare the “proficiency scales.” See Mr. Wilson for this list. Be sure to watch for the entry deadline. **HINT:** musicians who choose their solos early (no later than October) and start preparing them at that time have much better experiences at the festivals later in the year.
- **District Honors Band** is comprised of the very best students from over 30 schools in our MSBOA district, which ranges from Benzie County to “the bridge” and east to Gaylord. Students selected for this honor will spend a weekend working with a guest conductor, usually from a college or university, learning new literature/techniques and presenting a concert. High school students must audition to be considered for this honor. The audition consists of a prepared etude, sight reading, and scales (see Mr. Wilson for exact details). Even if you aren't selected, the time spent in preparation will guarantee an improvement in your level of playing. Junior high students must be nominated by their director. A committee from the MSBOA district will select the members based on recommendations and instrumentation. Mr. Wilson will ask students and parents if they wish to be nominated. Before agreeing, it is the students/parents

responsibility to make sure that the student is available to attend on the day of the event.

- **All-State Band** is a relatively new MSBOA event which brings together the top instrumental musicians from across the state of Michigan (similar in format to the district honors band). Students selected for this honor will rehearse in Grand Rapids in January in preparation for a concert presented that same weekend. There is an All-State Senior High Band and an All-State Junior High Band. An audition is required for BOTH junior and senior high students in order to be considered. See Mr. Wilson for audition details. The audition is typically in early November which means the registration deadline will typically be in September.
- **Summer Camps and Workshops** are very worthwhile endeavors for students that truly enjoy playing their instrument and desire to be even better. There are a number of summer music programs available both in camp settings (Blue Lake Fine Arts Camp, etc.) and on college campuses (Western Michigan University, Central Michigan University, etc.). Because of their popularity, they tend to fill up fast. Plan ahead and get your name (January or February) in early if you are interested. The later you apply, the less chance you have to be accepted.

2006-2007 BAND CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Senior High Band Required Performances (times TBA)

September 15	Marching Band (game)	Frankfort
September 29	Marching Band (game)	Frankfort
October 13	Marching Band (game)	Frankfort
November ____	Christmas Sing-a-Long	Frankfort
December 14	Christmas Concert	Frankfort
February 23 or 24	District Festival Evaluation	Petoskey/Elk Rapids
May 4 or 5**	State Festival Evaluation	TBA
May 11	Penny Carnival	Frankfort
May 22	Spring Concert	Frankfort
June 3	Graduation	Frankfort
July 4	Parade	Frankfort

Senior High Band "Extra Opportunities" (times TBA)

November 4 or 5	MSBOA All-State Auditions	TBA
November 6	Dist. Honors Band Auditions	Charlevoix
December 2 & 3	Dist. Honors Band Event	Gaylord
January 26 & 27	MSBOA All-State Event	Grand Rapids
February 10	Dist. Solo/Ens. Festival	Kingsley
March 24**	State Solo/Ens. Festival	TBA

Junior High Band Required Performances (times TBA)

December 14	Christmas Concert	Frankfort
February 23 or 24	District Festival Evaluation	Petoskey/Elk Rapids
May 4 or 5**	State Festival Evaluation	TBA
May 11	Penny Carnival	Frankfort
May 23	Spring Concert	Frankfort
July 4	Parade (8 th graders)	Frankfort

Junior High Band "Extra Opportunities" (times TBA)

November 4 or 5	MSBOA All-State Auditions	TBA
March 7	Dist. Honors Band Event	Gaylord
January 26 & 27	MSBOA All-State Event	Grand Rapids
April 21	Dist. Solo/Ens. Festival	Mesick

Elementary Band Required Performances (times TBA)

December 14	Christmas Concert (6 th gr. only)	Frankfort
May 23	Spring Concert (5 th & 6 th gr.)	Frankfort

***if participants qualify*

Frankfort-Elberta Area Schools Band Program

I, *(student's name)* _____, hereby certify that I have received a copy of the **Frankfort Panther Band Manual and Syllabus** and that I am responsible for knowing and understanding it's contents. I also understand that this manual/syllabus is not all inclusive and that there may be additions or deletions to the provisions within and that I will be notified of those changes.

I hereby agree to hold myself personally responsible for any damage or loss which may come to any instrument, uniform, and/or accessories issued to me while in my care. I agree that no other person other than myself will be allowed to use such items, and that I will return these items to the school when requested by the director.

A parent or guardian's signature is required to certify that he/she has received the same copy of the manual/syllabus, understands the policies within, and it also serves as permission for his/her son/daughter to travel with the band to the required events as described in the Frankfort Panther Band Manual and Syllabus.

_____ *student's signature* _____ *parent's signature*

Date _____

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_____ *student's signature* _____ *parent's signature*

Date _____