



OAK GROVE BANDS

Middle School Handbook 7th & 8th Grade 2023-2024

Director of Bands – Paul Rouse
Middle School Director, Brass – James Crocker
Assistant Director, Woodwinds – Kelcey Becnel
Assistant Director, Brass – Daniel Johnson
Assistant Director, Percussion – DJ Louviere

July 24th, 2023

Dear Oak Grove Band Family,

Welcome back! We are so excited that you and your student(s) are with us this year, and we are looking forward to a year full of excitement and musical excellence!

This Handbook has very important information that will help us start the year off right and will apply for the duration of the school year. Every student and parent of the Oak Grove Band Program is responsible for reading this hand book and knowing the information found within. It is also available virtually. You can find this handbook on our website at www.oakgrovebands.org and your student's band Google Classroom.

Additionally, on your child's Google Classroom there will be a Google Form to fill out that will register your email for our band database, CHARMS. **This must be submitted online no later than Friday, August 4th, 2023.** Please take the time to complete this with your (the parent/guardian's) email.

Thank you so much for your attention to all of this very important information. We suggest keeping it on file with you in a safe place for future reference. Please feel free to contact any of the directors throughout the year if you have any questions or concerns. We do ask that you direct your emails to the band director that is over your child's specific instrument class.

**Because we are split between two campuses, email is the best form of communication. Emails are checked multiple times a day and will be responded to by the next school day.*

Mr. Rouse (Director of Bands) paul.rouse@lamarcountyschools.org
Mrs. Becnel (Woodwinds, 6th Grade Band) kelcey.becnel@lamarcountyschools.org
Mr. Crocker (Brass, 8th Grade Band) – james.crocker@lamarcountyschools.org
Mr. Johnson (Brass, 7th Grade Band) – daniel.johnson@lamarcountyschools.org
Mr. Louviere (Percussion) – david.louviere@lamarcountyschools.org

HERE'S TO A CHALLENGING AND PRODUCTIVE YEAR WITH THE OAK GROVE BANDS!!

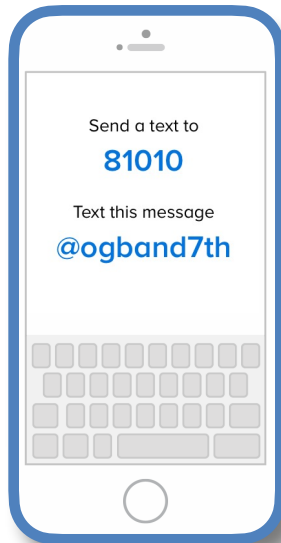
Musically yours,

The OG Band Staff

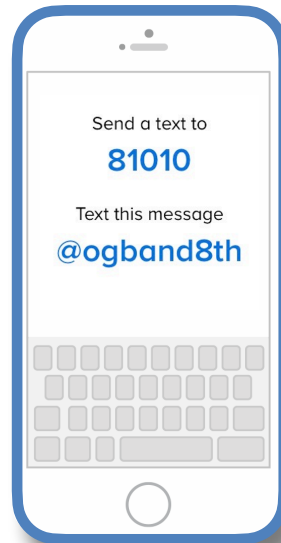
REMIND 101 CHANNELS

Below are the Remind 101 Codes for each grade. This is how we will send large-group communications and important information out to parents. With communication being such an important component of our program, every family must be signed up for their appropriate Remind 101 Channel.

7th Grade Band



8th Grade Band



GOOGLE CLASSROOM

Below are the Google Classroom codes for each band class. Please use the codes to sign up for your class that you are in. All information and assignments will be posted in these Google Classrooms. It is crucial that every student is signed up so the band can function properly inside and outside of the classroom.

7th Grade Google Classroom Codes

Woodwinds- qkh3dxu
Brass- ybxjdr
Percussion- s3x65k3

8th Grade Google Classroom Codes

Woodwinds- avab3an
Brass- qpt7gc2
Percussion- wkplocm

GRADING POLICY

Students in band should expect to have assignments and grades! We don't get an "A" for just showing up in the Oak Grove Band Program. Students are expected to prepare their assignments (that means regular & frequent practice time) and complete those assignments on time. We recommend that students average ***five individual, at-home practice sessions*** a week of ***at least 20 minutes each***.

Major Tests, Minor Assignments, & Nine Weeks Tests

Students will also be given frequent daily or weekly assignments that will count as minor or major grades depending on the assignment. These will be communicated regularly by your child's specific director. Some certain assignments will be designated as "Pass-Off" exercises. These require the student to demonstrate MASTERY of a certain concept or skill-set before that exercise is considered "Passed-Off."

Nine Weeks Tests will evaluate the skills and concepts learned and developed within that "term." These tests are important for the directors to assess each students progress as well as their needs! There may be no exemptions from these tests.

Performances

All Students must attend all performances that are marked on the calendar as "Required Events." Each Performance is considered a major test grade, like a group project. Additionally, absences and tardies from required after-school events could also negatively affect a student's eligibility for membership in the band program. ***See the OGMS Band Calendar included in this handbook for specific dates and times.*** More details will be sent home prior to each event.

Daily Participation & Materials

Class requirements in band include students' full participation in all class activities, which also requires that they have all required materials (see below). Full participation also implies being fully prepared for class before the director begins each day's lesson, undivided attention to the director when they are speaking, and each student's best effort in executing what is asked of them.

SUPPLIES NEEDED FOR BAND

In order to ensure the best chances of success in band class, all students are required to have the following everyday:

- A quality instrument in playing condition.
 - ALWAYS bring broken instruments to your child's band director before going to the repair shop!
- The provided band binder and sheet protectors with all materials
- Pencil
- Name-tag on your instrument case
- There are additional materials that may be required based on your child's instrument (i.e: reeds, valve oil, BERPs, etc). Those necessary items will be specified by your child's director.

Students meeting the simple expectations outlined above for practice, preparedness, and behavior are virtually guaranteed to experience some level of success, while students failing to meet these expectations can expect to experience struggle in the class as well as a reflection in their class grade. Parents, we implore you to help us encourage your students to follow these guidelines to the absolute best of their ability!

PERFORMANCE ATTIRE*

Formal Events & Performances (Concerts, Honor Bands, etc.)

Student attire for formal events and performances is what we call "concert black." This simply means all **solid black from neck to toe**: Solid Black Dress Pants with belt (no Denim); Long-sleeved, Buttoned, and Collared Shirt (tucked in); Solid Black Shoes; Crew length (or longer) Solid Black Socks. Hair must be a natural color for performances, and approved hairstyles for events are at the discretion of the director. All piercing and jewelry should be simple, light, and modest in nature so as not to pose a distraction.

For Ladies who would want to wear a dress, the requirements are: Long Black Dress (to the foot; non negotiable); Tall Black Socks (knee length) or Black leggings (no skin showing); Closed-toed shoes (non negotiable); Shoulders covered

"Informal" Events & Performances (Football Games, OG Band Night, etc.)

For less formal events, we will wear the current year band shirt that all students get, khaki shorts, and athletic shoes (slides and flip flops are not acceptable).

Students without proper attire can be sent home from the performance, which will reflect in their grade accordingly

CLEAR BAG POLICY (new this year)

In the interest of public safety, Lamar County School District is implementing new procedures regulating the size and type of bag that may be carried into all school activities. Guests may carry the following style and size bag, package, or container into the venue:

- Bags that are clear plastic, vinyl, or PVC and do not exceed 12" x 6" x 12"
- One-gallon clear plastic freezer bag (Ziploc or similar).
- Small clutch bags, not exceeding 6.5" x 4.5" with or without a handle or strap can be taken into the venue with one of the clear plastic bags.

Prohibited bags include but are not limited to:

- Purses larger than a clutch bag
- Briefcases
- Backpacks
- Luggage of any kind
- Computer bags
- Binocular cases
- Fanny packs, cinch bags
- Camera bags
- Diaper bags
- Large Traditional Seat Cushions

BAND HALL RULES

1. No open food or drink in the band hall, not even water (unless under the direct permission of a band director)
2. Handle/touch only your own equipment
3. Respect the Band Hall & the Rehearsal Process
 - Follow all procedures and rules to the best of your knowledge and ability

Director Responses to Inappropriate Behaviors May Include:

- Verbal correction
- One-on-one counseling
- Phone Conference with parents
- Long Form to Administration/Parental Conference with Administration
- Removal from the Band Program

*****Continued patterns of misbehavior (in and outside of class), and absences/tardies from required after-school activities can result in a student's removal from the band program at the director's discretion.*****

BAND FEE

Due August 4th, 2023

There is a \$35.00 band fee, which will cover the cost of a band shirt, as well as material for instruction and day-to-day operations. **CHECKS ARE NOT ACCEPTED PER SCHOOL POLICY!** Payments must be made by cash or money order **ONLY!** When bringing ANY payments to class, place in a sealed envelope with the following written on the front: STUDENT NAME, GRADE, INSTRUMENT, and “WHAT IT’S FOR” (in this case, “BAND FEE”).

DRUG TESTING FORM

Due Friday, August 4th, 2023

Every student participating in an interscholastic activity is required to fill out and submit an LCSD Drug Testing Form, which is included in this handbook (the last page). Parents and students are to fill out this form and submit it to their band director on or before Friday, August 4th, 2023.

(PLEASE make every effort to turn in the fee and drug testing form at the same time)

STUDENT INFORMATION FORM*

Due Friday, August 4th, 2023

- Go to your child’s Google Classroom OR use the link or QR code provided below.
- Find the assignment labeled “Student Information Form (23-24)”.
- Fill out the form top to bottom with all correct information.
- Submit once every field is filled out.
- This information allows us to input everything into our band database, CHARMS.
- You will receive emails and updates from the band directors.

*Completion of the “Student Information” Google Form indicates that parents and students are accepting the rules and regulations of the organization from the 2023-2024 OGMS Band Handbook. This includes the yearly Middle School Band Fee associated with the class. This will act as an electronic signature by the legal guardian for the Oak Grove Band student.

OGMS BANDS STUDENT INFORMATION FORM LINK:

<https://forms.gle/SmBU7Jjkd1sVsKG3A>



**Thank you for all that you do as parents.
This is going to be a fantastic year!!**

2023-2024 CALENDAR OF EVENTS*

Required Events are in Bold

Thurs., Aug. 3rd (7th Gr. @ 6:00, 8th Gr. @ 7:00)	Band Parent Meeting (@OGMS Band Hall)
Friday, Aug. 4th	Forms & Fees Due (Student Information Google Form, \$35 Band Fee, Remind 101 Sign-Up, & Drug Testing Form)
Wednesday, Aug. 9th	First ATL Payment Due \$85 per participant (student or chaperone)
Wednesday, Sept. 6th	Second ATL Payment Due \$85 per participant (student or chaperone)
Tues., Sept. 12th @ 6:00	OGMS Football Game vs. Hattiesburg (@OGHS Stadium) <i>*8th Grade Only*</i>
Friday, Sept. 22nd	Oak Grove Bands Night (@OGHS Football Stadium)
Monday, Oct. 16th	OGMS Band Fundraiser Kickoff w/Burnham Enterprises (during school hours)
Wednesday, Nov. 8th	Third ATL Payment Due \$85 per participant (student or chaperone)
Friday, Nov. 10th	Veterans' Day Program (during school hours) <i>*8th Grade Only*</i>
Monday, Nov. 27th	SEMBDA Audition Forms and Fees Due
Monday, Dec. 4th	Oak Grove Bands Winter Concert (@OGHS Auditorium)
December 6th-9th	State Band Clinic (Natchez, MS) <i>*Only 8th Grade Students eligible through Director Nominations*</i>
Wednesday, Jan. 10th	Fourth ATL Payment Due \$85 per participant (student or chaperone)
Thursday, Jan. 11th (tentative)	SEMBDA Auditions (@Jones College)
January 26th & 27th (Friday & Saturday)	SEMBDA Clinic (@Jones College)
Friday, Jan. 27th	ASBDA All-State Band Registration & Fees Due
Wednesday, Feb. 7th	Final ATL Payment Due \$85 per participant (student or chaperone)
Thursday, Feb. 15th	Lamar County School District Pre-Festival Concert (@OGHS PAC)
Thursday, Feb. 21st	ASBDA All-State Band Audition Recordings Due
April 12th & 13th (Friday & Saturday)	Southern Star Festival in Atlanta, GA
Thursday, May 2nd	Oak Grove Bands Spring Concert (@OGHS Auditorium)
May TBD	OG Percussion Ensemble Concert (@OGHS Auditorium)

**Absences/tardies from required after-school activities can result in a student's removal from the band program at the director's discretion. Stay tuned for announcements with updates and additional deadlines/events. You can find announcements in flyers & newsletters that are sent home with students, Google Classroom, and School Status Messages. DETAILED INFO WILL BE SENT HOME PRIOR TO EACH EVENT.*

PERMISSION TO TEST (Urine Samples) and AUTHORIZATION FOR RELEASE OF INFORMATION

TO: Lamar County School District Board of Education, Administrative Personnel, Athletic Director, Coaches, and Project Care Personnel

I hereby acknowledge that I have received a copy of the Lamar County School District *Drug Screening Policy* and the *Voluntary Drug Screening Policy*. I further acknowledge that I have read said policies, that they have been outlined to me, and that I fully understand the provisions of the program and agree to comply with the rules and regulations of the Lamar County Schools in this program.

I hereby consent to have a sample of my urine collected and tested for the presence of certain drugs and substances in accordance with the provisions of the Lamar County School District Drug Screening Program and at such other times as urinalysis testing is required.

I further authorize you to make confidential release to the district superintendent, assistant superintendent of operations, school principal, athletic director, coaches, my parent(s) or legal guardian(s), the head coach of any interscholastic sport in which I am a team member, the director of any extracurricular activity in which I participate, and the drug counseling program, all the information and records, including test results, you may have relating to the screening or testing of my urine samples in accordance with the provision of the Lamar County School District Drug Screening Program. To the extent set forth in this document, I waive any privilege I have in connection with such information.

I understand that any urine samples will be sent to a laboratory designated by the Lamar County School District for actual testing.

I specifically authorize the release and exchange of information by and between the School District and the Employee Assistance Program at Wesley and HealthWorks LLC, a service of Forrest General Hospital and Hattiesburg Clinic.

The Lamar County School District Board of Education and its officers, administrators, employees, and agents are hereby released from responsibility or liability for the release of such information and records as authorized by this form.

I UNDERSTAND THAT I WILL BE TESTED IN ORDER TO PARTICIPATE IN ATHLETICS ON A RANDOM BASIS AND BASED ON REASONABLE SUSPICION OF DRUG USE. STUDENTS IN THE VOLUNTARY PROGRAM ARE NOT SUBJECT TO TESTING BASED ON REASONABLE SUSPICION.

PRINT STUDENT NAME

STUDENT SIGNATURE

DATE

ACTIVITY / SPORT(S) PLAYED OR VOLUNTEER

SCHOOL

GRADE

We, the parent(s) or legal guardian(s) of the above student, join in the above statement for the above minor.

PRINT NAME OF PARENT(S) OR
LEGAL GUARDIAN(S)

SIGNATURE(S) OF PARENT(S) OR
LEGAL GUARDIAN(S)

DATE

PRINT NAME OF PARENT(S) OR
LEGAL GUARDIAN(S)

SIGNATURE(S) OF PARENT(S) OR
LEGAL GUARDIAN(S)