

# 2020-21 CHEROKEE 7<sup>th</sup> GRADE BAND

## Handbook/Calendar

AARON THOMAS and JIM ZINECKER - BAND DIRECTORS

**WELCOME** to the Cherokee 7th Grade Band! This information will give you an understanding of the goals and expectations for the coming year. **Please read carefully then sign and return the form at the end.** This is going to be a very interesting year! In addition to the exciting challenges of learning how to play an instrument and be part of a performing ensemble, we have the added challenge of doing it within Covid19 guidelines! This being said, all of the typical learning/concert timelines will become “fluid”!

Band is a full-year elective course for 6th, 7th, and 8th grade students and is the same as core courses in that it has major instructional goals and objectives. Students earn a grade in band just as you do in core classes. The band grade is part of your overall grade point average. But unlike your other classes, this is a performance group and in order for this group to be successful it will depend on *TEAMWORK*. Our Band can only be great if each student is willing to work, learn, improve and participate. **EVERYONE IS IMPORTANT!**

### **SIGNING THE FORM AT THE END OF THIS SYLLABUS IS REAFFIRMING A COMMITMENT!**

1. *being a member of the band for the entire year (this is not a quarterly or semester class)*
2. *giving your best effort to improve as a musician and as a young person*
3. *maintaining a positive attitude toward band and school throughout the year*
4. *a commitment to attend all scheduled performances*

### **BAND GRADING**

Your band grade is based on Daily participation/rehearsal skills, playing tests, written quizzes, performances, and pass-offs. Grades will be determined by using the following system **every quarter**.

**Participation/Rehearsal Skills** (30%) including band folder organization, class behavior, care and maintenance of instruments, punctuality to rehearsals and regular attendance to class.

**Assessment Grade** (30%) including playing tests, written quiz assignments, Band Ninja level pass-offs

**Performances** (30%) Concerts and contest performances are a showcase for everyone’s hard work. Performances ARE NOT OPTIONAL

**Practice** (10%) Practice Surveys will be filled out and turned in each week. (online 2020-21)

**Daily participation:** At the beginning of each quarter each student is given 100 points for class participation. Students lose 5 points for not having folder/equipment, 10 points for not having instrument.

**Objectives (Band Ninja Level Pass-Offs):** 7<sup>th</sup> Grade students will be utilizing the Cherokee Band Ninja system. This is a progressive level system with a list of musical lines, rhythm exercises and scales that must be passed off to complete each level. Your quarterly grades will greatly depend on your progress through the Band Ninja pass-offs.

**Performances: Performances are not optional activities.** During 2020-21 performance dates are subject to change. Please make sure that you mark concerts and competitions on your calendar and pay attention to announcements throughout the year to avoid any conflicts. Missing a concert (unexcused) will result in the lowering of at least two letter grades. If you have any serious conflicts please contact Mr. Thomas/Mr. Zinecker as soon as possible so that something can be worked out. **A successful performance depends on the participation of every single person. Alternate assignments will only be provided for serious sickness or family emergencies. Directors reserve the right to determine excused/unexcused status.**

## EXPECTATIONS OF BEHAVIOR

Discipline is a quality that must come from within the individual. Because of this fact, each student is responsible for his or her own actions as a member of the Cherokee Band. Any student who shows an inability to work effectively in class (with the teacher or other students) will experience the consequences that fall under the School and School Board policies.

## CLASS RULES

1. Food, Drinks, Gum, and Candy are not to be brought into the Band Room, water only. (Only exception is if students are allowed to eat lunch in the band room. Do not leave a mess).
2. All students are to be in the Band Room, actively getting set up for class/rehearsal in order to not receive a tardy. (You will be given 2 minutes to get set up and in seat.)
3. Always have your band folder with music books, sheet music, and a pencil on your stand.
4. Students are to remain quiet (not talking during class time unless instructed otherwise).
5. Show respect to other classmates and teacher at all times.
6. Plagiarism and cheating is strictly prohibited

## CLASS PROCEDURES

1. You will have 2 minutes to get equipment ready and be in your seat, ready to begin.
2. No large cases at the seats please (that includes trumpets and saxes).
3. Leaving the classroom for any reason requires scanning the QR code (posted on the band room door)
4. Never leave your instrument locker unlocked (if locks are being used)
5. Bring necessary items such as oil and reeds to your seat.
6. Use your own folder and music daily.
7. Do not move the chairs, move the music stand.
8. Cases must go back in the cages during class, not left on the floor.
9. Do not touch or play instruments that do not belong to you.
10. Students are not allowed to make sounds/warm up individually or “noodle” on instruments unless directed to do so.

## **Covid19 Procedures**

1. Students will enter the room and sit in assigned seats for social distancing
2. Students will be masked at all times.
3. Musician masks (if provided) provided will used while playing (masks w/slits for mouthpiece)
4. Water keys will be emptied in a trash can or on paper towels (then disposed of).
5. Students will use personal, wire music stands
6. No sharing of instruments will be allowed
7. Instruments must go home on Tuesday (Group A) and Friday (Group B) Virtual participation from home is expected

## COMMUNICATION

Communication is critical for our band program. With this in mind we are using:

- “REMIND” for all of our band communications. To join send a text to “81010” and text the message “@cherokee7t”. You will then be joined for Band notifications!
- Follow us on FACEBOOK at: Cherokee Middle School Band Springfield Mo
- Cherokee Band Website: [www.cherokeebands.org](http://www.cherokeebands.org) (which includes 2020/21 calendar)
- Canvas is the district wide educational platform (also included 2020/21 calendar)

### CONCERT ATTIRE

7th grade Band students will be required to wear the band uniform to all concerts and competitions unless indicated otherwise. The uniform will consist of the Cherokee Music Dept. t-shirt, black dress pants, black dress shoes (no athletic shoes), and black socks. Students involved with Cherokee Winds will need to purchase a band “polo” style shirt through that organization.

### BAND EXPENSES

There will be some supplies that will need to be purchased throughout the school year, such as band t-shirts and a new band book. This does not include the cost of lunch after the SPS Festival performance in March or “Cherokee Winds” expenses. Do not send any money now. Shirts are typically purchased before group pictures are taken.

**If you need financial help with these costs, please let your director know.**

PURPOSE	EXPENSE	DUE DATE
Band Book “Habits of a Successful Middle School Musician”	\$10.00	TBA
Band T-Shirt (for casual performances and trips)	\$7.00	TBA
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$17.00</b>	TBA

### BAND HONORS/AWARDS

In order to receive the “**Cherokee Music Department Distinguished Service Award**” at the end of the year, students must distinguish themselves through performance and contribute to the band above and beyond the normal classroom expectations. To earn a Service Award medal you must make an “A” each quarter in band, have a good attitude, proper class behavior, and accumulate at least 100pts.

- Mentor 6th grade band students. Mentoring log sheets must be filled out. - 20pts
- Be selected as a member of the Springfield All-City Band. You must attend the rehearsal and performance. - 30pts
- Take private lessons on your band instrument from a qualified instructor for an entire year. (Must bring a note from your private teacher by May.) 40pts
- Perform at the SPS Solo & Ensemble Festival in April and earn at least a “II” rating. (Only counts as one regardless of how many solos/events you participate in.) - 30pts
- Be a “Band Aid” (worker) and help directors with music library/office/class organization and cleaning. (Ask directors about this.) - 20pts
- Basketball Pep Band (must participate in at least 2 games) - 15pts
- Be a Member of Jazz Band - 30pts
- Be a Member of Cherokee Winds (must attend rehearsals and concerts) - 50pts
- Attend Band Camp (previous summer) - 15pts (not applicable this 2020-21)
- Achieve Ninja Black Belt - 35pts

### PRIVATE LESSONS

ALL BAND STUDENTS, no matter what the playing ability is, are encouraged to take Private Lessons on their individual instrument. Students and Parents should contact Mr. Thomas before obtaining a Private Teacher.

See band website - [www.cherokeebands.org](http://www.cherokeebands.org) - for a list of suggested teachers.

### FUNDRAISER

Due to the continued financial needs of our Band Program **we are requesting that Band students participate in our annual fund-raiser.** Our fundraiser will be a non-product donation drive that will also involve incentives for the students, including a party - “MUSIC MAYHEM” - as well as cash prizes. This fundraiser/event will occur during the second quarter.

## RECOMMENDED INSTRUMENT LIST

Below is a list of recommended **intermediate/advanced** instruments. In most cases, the beginner instruments are adequate for the junior high bands; however better quality instruments produce better tone, tuning and playability, with practice. While there are several brands and models of advanced instruments, those listed are recommended as being top quality. Parents are encouraged to seek the help or advice of the director before purchasing one of these instruments. Local music stores provide excellent “step up” programs so that you can trade in the “beginner” instrument rented in 6<sup>th</sup> Grade for an “intermediate” model instrument when the student is in the 7<sup>th</sup> Grade. This provides an easy and affordable way to move up to a much better quality instrument. The following is just a recommended guide and does not include other very good models. Talk to your director for further information, especially for other specialty instruments not listed.

**Flute** – Yamaha & Gemeinhardt

**Clarinet** – Buffet E-11 (Yamaha and Selmer also have very good options)

**Alto Saxophone** – Yamaha 475 or Selmer LTD 52 Artist

**Trumpet** – Bach Stradivarius Model 37 (or Yamaha intermediate models)

**Trombone** – Bach Stradivarius series, or Conn Christian Lindbergh Model

**Percussion** – Innovative Percussion FP-2 stick bag

## EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES

Certain supplies are necessary to play an instrument correctly and effectively each day. Please make sure that these items are always at hand when needed.

### WOODWINDS:

1. soft, lint-free cloth
2. cork grease (clarinets and saxophones)
3. at least 4 good recommended brand reeds at all times.  
(Sold in Band Room office before school/class)
4. cloth swab (clarinets and flutes)
5. reed guard
6. metronome/tuner (Tonal Energy App)
7. folding music stand (home AND school use this year 2020-21)
8. 1” ring notebook with dividers (provided)

### BRASS:

1. valve oil (for trumpets/horns)
2. slide grease (all brass instruments)
3. Slide-O-Mix (trombones only)
4. Straight mute for brass instruments (when necessary)
5. flexible cleaning snake
6. mouthpiece brush
7. metronome & tuner (Tonal Energy App)
8. folding music stand (home use)
9. 1” ring notebook with dividers (provided)

### PERCUSSION:

1. Stick bag w/drum sticks, med rubber mallets, med yarn mallets, timpani mallets (Innovative percussion FP-22)
2. drum key
3. Practice pad
4. Snare Drum
5. Practice bell kit
3. Metronome (Tonal Energy App)

*If you have any question concerning this handbook or if you have any other questions over the course of the year do not hesitate to call your director. E-mail Mr. Thomas at [azthomas@spsmail.org](mailto:azthomas@spsmail.org) phone #523-7244 or Mr. Zinecker at [jzinecker@spsmail.org](mailto:jzinecker@spsmail.org) phone# 523-7242*

## **CHEROKEE 7<sup>th</sup> GRADE BAND Handbook Sign off sheet**

***Please detach this page signed, and return to  
Mr. Thomas/Zinecker by Fri, Sept 4***

***We have read and understand the information pertaining to the Cherokee Band Handbook for the 2020-2021 school year.***

***Print Student Name*** \_\_\_\_\_

***Student Signature*** \_\_\_\_\_

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

\_\_\_\_\_ **Check here if you have signed up for the “REMIND” 7th grade band notifications. (see the Communication section)**

**If you have any special concerns, questions or specific needs, use the space below.**

---

---

---

-----