

# Oak Valley Middle School Bands

## The Pride of Oak Valley

Welcome to the Oak Valley Middle School Band Program. We are happy to have you as a member of the Oak Valley band family! I am looking forward to a great year of music making and hope that you are ready for an exciting year.

Please take some time to review this handbook carefully. You will find information regarding practice, performance, uniforms and schedules for the Oak Valley bands for this year. Hopefully, this handbook will answer many questions that you might have. In the event that you have a question regarding these materials, please contact me.

Attached, you'll find a confirmation sheet. This page states that you have read the handbook together with your child and agree to follow the guidelines set for our organization. Please take the time to fill out this sheet after you have reviewed the materials. Make sure that both you and your child have signed the confirmation slip and return it to Mr. Hogaboom by **Thursday, September 5<sup>th</sup>**.

On the calendar you will notice two events that are at LHS and MHS. The intent here is for the students to choose the event at the school they are going to, only one of the pair is required. Attending both is fine, both programs are great places to be and I hope to see all my students continue to excel at the next level.

On March 5<sup>th</sup> is our March Musical Madness event. This is always a big deal, but even more so this year! We are pleased to be hosting renowned composer *Brian Balmages*. He'll be spending 3 days in district working with all our middle school and high school bands. You won't want to miss it!

One of the first questions I get from the kids is about our Spring Trip, they are usually very excited! I'm still putting together the details for our trip this year; trip info will come home as soon as it's final.

I look forward to getting to know each and every student and their parents this year. The Oak Valley Middle School Band program is a great place to be, and I'm glad we will be able to work together to make this the best year ever.

Musically yours,

Don Hogaboom, Director  
Oak Valley Bands  
684-8101 x6320  
Don.Hogaboom@hvs.org

P.S. I frequently send out email updates through the school's Skyward Family Access system. Please take a minute to check the system and make sure you have an updated email address. Most of what you want to know about class happenings and performance details will come home on paper and via email.

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### Performances

The school and community have a deep interest in the bands at Oak Valley Middle School: our band program is a reflection of the school and community. By working together, we can create a quality program which we can all be proud of.

Our list of performances appears at the end of the handbook. Please note that all required performances are listed in **bold** print. Please put all of the performances for your respective bands on the family calendar to avoid all possible conflicts. Your attendance at all performances is required in order for us to have an outstanding performance!

If a student is absent from school on the day of a performance, please use your best judgment, along with that of your family physician to do what is best for your student. If a student misses a performance due to illness or a death in the family, please let me know as soon as possible.

*Sports practices and non-school games will NOT be excused. We have far fewer concerts than teams have games, and we don't have ANY bench-warmers. When you don't show, it hurts the rest of us.*

Conflicts, such as family events (i.e. a wedding) cannot be avoided at times. If you know that there is a conflict with one of the performance dates, please provide **written notice at least 21 days in advance**. It is critical that this communication is done in a timely fashion to make adjustments with your student's performing group. Students then have their choice of one of the following options to make up the missed performance.

1. Attend a live band concert of a middle school, high school, college band or symphony orchestra. You will need to bring the program from that concert in and write a one-page review of the concert. I will go over what aspects to cover in your review when you give me notice of your absence.
2. Students may write a three page double spaced report on a music topic that we mutually agree upon. Topics may include, but are not limited to biography of a classical composer or musician, the history of their instrument, or the history of the band movement in America. Students will need to use at least three sources for this paper.
- 3.

This report is due one week after the date of the missed performance. Combined with the three-week notice given prior to the concert, students have an entire month (four weeks) to complete this project. Failure to give notice, or to turn in the review or report on time will result in the loss of credit for that performance. This is when communication is so critical. Please review the performance dates carefully!

**This policy will be strictly enforced! Every student is critical to our success!**

## Classroom Guidelines

The rules for our rehearsals during the school day are based on these four simple principles:

- Be Prompt** – Students need to be in the band room at the conclusion of the five minute passing time. Students need to be in their seats with instruments, music, etc. within two minutes of the conclusion of the hall passing time.
- Be Prepared** – Every student needs to have their instrument, music, and pencil on a daily basis.
- Participate** --Students need to follow directions the first time they are given. Student need to be focused on the rehearsal at all times. Talking should be reserved for comments from the director, and questions from students.
- Show Respect** – Students need to be respectful of equipment, music, and *each other* at all times. We are a team and each member is critical to our success!

## Uniforms

Our uniform consists of the Oak Valley Band Shirt, black pants, black socks, and black shoes.

The Oak Valley Band Shirts will be ordered in the fall, and will cost approximately \$25.00 each. If the sizing works out for you, this shirt could easily last for all three years of middle school. Some shirts make the rounds through the neighborhood or families, re-use is great! Samples are available to check sizing. Ordering information will be sent home at a later date.

Black pants, shoes and socks will be provided by the student. Please, black means completely black, no stripes or decoration. *Jeans, yoga pants or tights are not acceptable.* One of the reasons we wear a uniform is to demonstrate that the group works together as whole. No one sticks out as being more or less important than the others; our uniform should reflect the same philosophy.

## Equipment

Most students play on their own instrument which they are currently renting or which they already own. Please be aware that the cabinets at school are provided as a place for students to store their instruments during the day. Students are personally responsible for their own instrument at all times including when they are in the band room, or at a performance. The Huron Valley Schools cannot be held responsible at any time for any damage to your instrument including loss or theft. Many homeowner or renter insurance policies provide ways to insure a musical instrument as part of their policies. Please check with your insurance company to ensure that you are covered in any event!

The school provides many unusual and expensive instruments for student use. These instruments include tubas, baritones, bass clarinets, baritone saxophones, and the larger percussion instruments. Students using school owned equipment need to take proper care of instruments, which they are responsible for. Students who are not assigned to a school owned instrument should not be handling these instruments.

*Each student will need a black 3 ring binder with at least 10 sheet protectors to keep their music and other exercises in. These are available from Mr. Hogaboom for \$3.00, or you may pick them up on your own.*

## **Equipment, Cont.**

Students are expected to have the proper materials for their instrument at every rehearsal. Those expectations are listed here:

**Woodwinds:** Woodwind players should always have at least 3 reeds, no excuses! I suggest buying a box of Van Doren or Mitchell Luire reeds at a local music store so you always have plenty. Please rotate between at least two reeds so you always have a good one ready. Ask Mr. Hogaboom what size might be best for your ability level.

**Brass:** All brass players should have valve oil or slide oil. Valves and slides should be oiled every 2 or 3 days, but not during class. Brass players who use school instruments will need to purchase their own mouthpiece. I can help you get these.

**Percussion:** Percussion players use a large amount of very expensive instruments provided by the school every day. You must provide snare sticks, a good set of hard rubber mallets for xylophone, and Timpani mallets. I can help you to get any of these you need. DO NOT leave your sticks and mallets in the bandroom, as they tend to disappear. I suggest buying a stick bag and keeping them in your hall locker.

## **Code of Conduct**

The Oak Valley Bands perform at a variety of places and events. Please keep in mind that you represent Oak Valley Middle School and the Oak Valley community when you are at such a performance. Please keep in mind that the Huron Valley Schools Code of Conduct is in effect whenever you travel or appear with the Oak Valley Bands and that you are bound by it.

## **Grades**

The band classes at Oak Valley are part of the Huron Valley Schools curriculum and students are given grades for these classes. Grades are compiled from a variety of sources including daily participation in class, playing tests, written work, attendance at performances, and practice assignments.

## **Solo and Ensemble**

The Michigan School Band and Orchestra Association sponsors several festivals each year for middle school band students in the *seventh* and *eighth* grades. Students are eligible and encouraged to participate in Solo and Ensemble Festival which will be held in December. Details regarding Solo and Ensemble festival will be forthcoming closer to these events.

## **Parent Support**

We have a highly successful band program at Oak Valley, and that's in no small part due to the excellent support we receive from parents. It would not be possible for us to put on the performances and events we do with one director and over 200 kids. When notes are sent home asking for help, please do! Middle school should not be parent check-out time; your kids still need you!

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## Band Handbook Confirmation

I hereby acknowledge receipt of the 2019 – 2020 Oak Valley Middle School Bands band handbook and the calendar of events. I agree to abide by the policies contained within.

Student signature \_\_\_\_\_ Parent Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

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## Parent Help Survey

Please fill out the information below for the Oak Valley Band Boosters. This information will be used by the boosters to contact volunteers. This information is also used to contact parents for the purposes of uniform issue and collection, reminders of future events, mailing of newsletters, etc.

Student Name \_\_\_\_\_ Grade \_\_\_\_\_ Instrument \_\_\_\_\_  
Last, First

Parent(s) Name \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone \_\_\_\_\_  
Last, First

Please check events that you would be willing to help with.

\_\_\_\_\_ Winter Concert  
\_\_\_ Chaperoning students not performing (you won't miss your child's performance)  
\_\_\_ Raffle/Fundraiser table  
\_\_\_ Distribute Programs

\_\_\_\_\_ Spring Concert  
\_\_\_ Chaperoning students not performing (you won't miss your child's performance)  
\_\_\_ Raffle/Fundraiser table  
\_\_\_ Distribute Programs

\_\_\_\_\_ Windbreaker Distribution (7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade, during class)

\_\_\_\_\_ Transportation of the band trailer for Holiday Parade 11/30

*This form is due Thursday, September 5<sup>th</sup> for 20 points.*