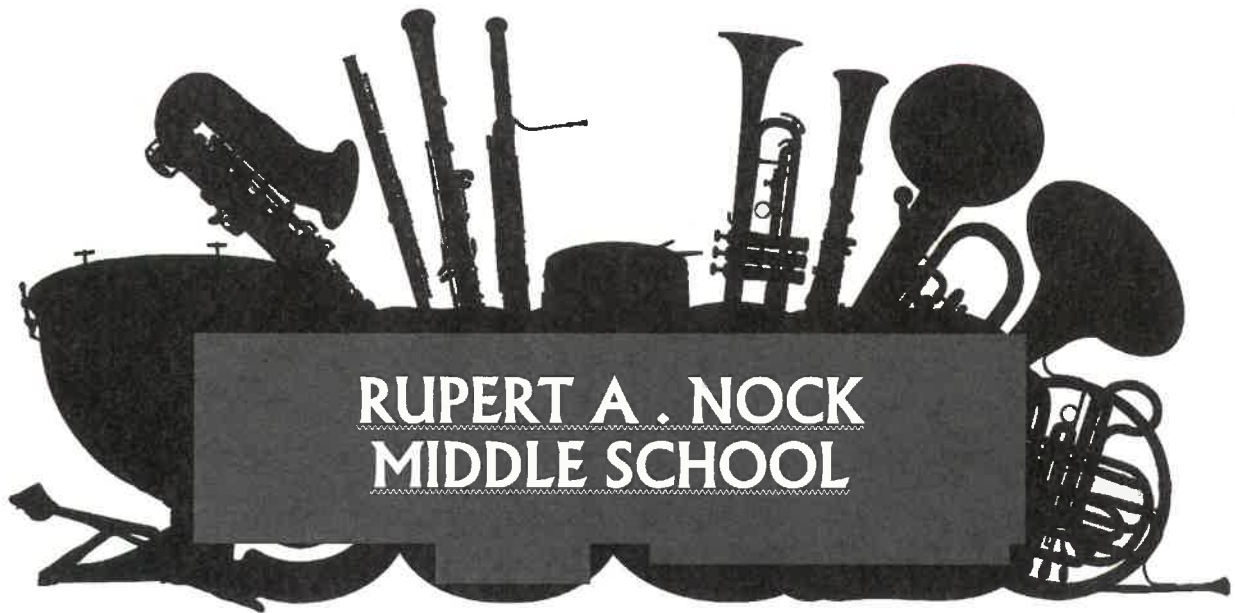


CONCERT BAND

HANDBOOK

2018 - 2019



**RUPERT A. NOCK
MIDDLE SCHOOL**

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978-465-4447 x2366

Concert Band website: rockthenock.weebly.com

Welcome to (or back to) the Nock Middle School Concert Band! If you follow the guidelines laid out in these pages your reward will be an endless feeling of pride, sense of accomplishment, participation in an inclusive community, and loads of FUN!!

BAND MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Nock Middle School Bands is to team with parents, students, and administration to provide an atmosphere where students can be successful in learning and performing on musical instruments, both individually and in a large ensemble.

We believe strongly that music is a part of a student's comprehensive education and strive to develop independent and confident artists who can strengthen their community with their talent and character.

Here's to a fantastic and enriching year!

To Make a Successful

**Together
Everyone
Achieves
More**

Everyone Must Do Their

**Prepared
Attitude
Respect
Try Again**

BASIC EXPECTATIONS ~

1. BE ON TIME FOR REHEARSAL
2. BE PREPARED FOR REHEARSAL
3. PUT FORTH YOUR BEST EFFORT
4. SUPPORT AND RESPECT THE EFFORTS OF YOUR PEERS

~ REQUIRED SKILLS IN THE ENSEMBLE ~

Organization & Accountability

To make the most of this opportunity, students must be prepared for all rehearsals, lessons and performances. Once **sheet music** is distributed students are expected to have it at all rehearsals. Please contact the director immediately if any music is lost as it must be replaced. Students may also be asked to purchase **method** books for sectional lessons. With so much to remember when building a performance, a **pencil** is essential at all rehearsals and students are expected to have one on hand. Finally, performing in a musical ensemble is most possible with a functional **instrument** on hand. Unless out for repair or an instrumental loan has been formally organized, students should not rely on the department to provide an instrument. Exceptions to this are percussionists and pianists.

Care for Classroom Materials

We are very privileged to have a large music program; made up of many students and countless school materials (music stands, instruments, percussion, etc.) It is our responsibility to see that this equipment continues to allow us to develop our skills and build our program. Students are asked to help make sure equipment is cared for, stored properly, and the rehearsal space room is always left ready for the next group.

Contribution to the Progress of the Ensemble

We are a team. There is no "I" in Band. We are only as strong as our efforts and dedication allow us to be. There is no insignificant part and everyone must pull their weight. Come to rehearsal focused, practiced, and ready to show off your talents and hard work. Give constructive and respectful input, ask questions, give suggestions, we are a team.

~ CONCERT BAND WEBSITE ~

rockthenock.weebly.com

To heighten the community aspect of Concert Band and make ensemble information more accessible, The Music Department has developed a website containing:

- This syllabus
- An informational breakdown of performances for each ensemble
- A schedule of what will be covered in upcoming band and sectional rehearsals
- Recordings of concert pieces (full ensemble and by instrument)
- Sectional lesson materials
- Links to music education enrichment videos, activities, articles, etc.
- Yearly performance schedule (community events, concerts, etc.)
- Printable practice charts

~ SECTIONAL LESSONS ~

Each instrumental group in the Concert Bands will receive a lesson time once every other 4-Day rotation (roughly 3 times per month). These meetings are a chance for students to rehearse and progress in a more concentrated environment. Lessons will focus on technical aspects of instrumental performance and a more catered rehearsal of ensemble pieces. It is also a chance to learn and perform music outside of the full ensemble repertoire. Students are encouraged to bring their ideas and suggestions for music to these rehearsals.

As with ensemble rehearsals, students are expected to be present and prepared for sectional lesson time. As these lessons are a formal class, attendance and preparation are graded and included in students' cumulative semester grade. A schedule of sectional times is provided to all classroom teachers, Instructional Assistants, is posted outside the band room and available on our band website.

~ STUDENT PERFORMANCE RECORDINGS ~

Periodically students will be asked to submit recordings of their playing (from home practice). This is an effort for the Director to assess progress, challenges, and structure rehearsals around the needs of the ensemble. These assignments will be given at the Director's discretion and due by the following sectional lesson meeting. Grading will be on a "complete/incomplete" basis.

To assist students in submitting their progress on instruments and ensemble work, we have utilized two applications allowing them to either call and record or email an audio file of their playing. Detailed system instructions are located in appendix section of this handbook. These systems are easy, quick, and free! They will provide the Band Director an opportunity to hear students play assignments individually and provide feedback.

~ INSTRUMENT RENTAL, REPAIR, AND MAINTENANCE ~

Parents are welcome to work with any company or trained professional. The Nock works exclusively with Music & Arts, Inc. for our instrument rental, repair, and maintenance needs. A representative visits the school weekly to pick up and drop off instruments. If any of these services are needed please contact the Director immediately. In cases of repair or maintenance, parents will be called or emailed by the Director or Music & Arts with a quote before services are rendered. Most often the Music Dept. can loan an instrument while the original is out.

Save yourself time, money, and stress, unless you are a trained professional

PLEASE DO NOT ATTEMPT ANY HOME REPAIRS!!

~ STUDENT ASSESSMENT ~

As performance ensembles seldom make use of standard quizzes, tests, or written assignments students are assessed on effort displayed, musicianship, and contribution to the continued progress of the ensemble.

All grades, progress, comments, and averages are updated weekly on the district's *Aspen X2* site. Please refer as often as you wish to this site to monitor student's progress throughout the grading period.

Attention/Effort/Conduct (25%)

Becoming a strong and confident musician involves more than just playing. One must understand the material they are learning in order to process and master it. We will immerse ourselves in the music to make the most of this ensemble and grow as artists and performers. Students will be guided through the theory and history of compositions and be asked for observations when reading or listening to a piece. While a student may not always have an answer to contribute, they are asked to maintain respectful focus on the lesson or discussion and hopefully be inspired to ask a question or provide input when able.

Preparation for Rehearsal (20%)

Music is a hands on sport which requires consistent preparedness. Students are expected to have their instrument, a pencil, music, method books, and lesson/ensemble material at every rehearsal. We can only achieve our goals and reach our potential if every member does their part.

Detentions will be assigned for students who are consistently unprepared for rehearsal. This could be for as little as a pencil or as much as truancy from class. Please refer to the lesson and rehearsal schedule to ensure preparedness. Do not hesitate to contact the Director at any time with questions.

Playing Quiz / Test (25%)

There will be about 3 performance assessments throughout the semester. These assessments will be held during sectional lessons on a one-on-one basis with the Director. Students will be asked to play sections from their concert music and/or lesson material. A grading rubric for these assessments can be found in the appendix section of this handbook.

Practice Charts (30%)

In reality, meeting for one hour every four days is not a lot of rehearsal time. For this reason, we must use that precious time to do just that...rehearse. We cannot learn parts during rehearsal as it takes time away from the more challenging task of putting the parts together to create the whole.

Students are to be working on their music at home, during private lessons, and in sectional lesson time. The director is always available (and very willing) to meet for before/after school help.

On the practice charts, there is a space for students to make detailed notes of progress made, challenges encountered, or questions that arose during daily practice time. To ensure success, always check that charts are fully completed before handing them in.

Practice charts are due during sectional lessons. If a student is absent, please arrange a time to submit their practice chart to the director. Charts handed in 1 day after lesson times will receive half credit and will not be accepted after that. A printable file of practice charts is available on our band website

Practice Chart Grading

Students are expected to practice 5 times per week for a minimum of 15 minutes per day to earn an A.

Charts will be kept on file in the Music Department office and tallied at the end of the semester to formulate that portion of the student's semester grade.

The Practice chart grading is based on the number of times practiced per week (for at least 15 minutes), and will break down as follows:

More than 5-7 times per week: A+	
4 times per week: A	3 times per week: B
2 times per week: C	1 time per week: D
Less than 1 time per week: F	

Concerts / Performances

ATTENDANCE AT THE WINTER AND SPRING CONCERTS AND GRADUATION IS MANDATORY

As the dates have been given (later in the handbook) far in advance students are to make arrangements to ensure attendance.

Absences from these Concerts fall into two categories:

Unexcused Absence

Less than 2 week notice or no notice. **Points lost due to an unexcused absence cannot be made up.**

This loss in points will result in a significant reduction in a student's grade. As it is crucial to the community of the program that we support each other students are required to remain for the duration of the concert. Please plan ahead to stay for the entire concert unless otherwise organized with the Director 2 weeks or more in advance.

Excused Absence

Illness, death in the family, or emergency situation. In those cases, please contact the Director prior to the concert. In the event of an excused absence, points will be made up through a "make-up" assignment that will be handed out in class. **It is the student's responsibility to see the Director for make-up work.** Work must be turned in one week after the assignment is given.

Extra Credit Opportunities

As it is understood that ensemble participation carries strong expectations students who attend or perform in any sort of musical program outside of school (recitals, musical theater, private lessons, church, camps, District, etc.) may submit a program and a 1-paragraph reflection of the performance. For each approved entry 2 points will be added to their semester grade. Only performances held during that grading semester may be applied and the same production may not be applied multiple times.

~ DEPARTMENT PERFORMANCE OPPORTUNITIES ~

In an effort to consistently highlight the accomplishments of our students and share our talents with the community we have developed an ambitious performance schedule for the year. As there are many opportunities to perform and students are encouraged to sign for as many as they wish, be aware that once you sign up for an event you are expected to perform. Always double check dates and times to avoid “double booking” or overwhelming yourself.

Veteran's Day Assembly: Friday November 9th: 7:30 am
Open to 8th Grade Concert Band

Holiday Invitation Nights: Friday December 7th or 14th 6:30 pm - 7:15 pm
Open to 7th and 8th grade students, sign up to perform as an ensemble in downtown Newburyport.

Winter Concert (required): Wednesday January 16th at 6:00 in the Nock Auditorium.
Boys: Black pants, solid white button up top, black (dark) shoes, tie optional.
Girls: Black dress/skirt/pants, solid white top, black (dark) closed toe shoes.
Please avoid jeans, sneakers, heels, and sandals
Arrive by 5:30 to warm up and tune as an ensemble.

Canobie Lake Park Field Trip: Friday May 17th time TBD
7th and 8th grade bands combine to perform then go to Canobie Lake Park in Salem, NH.
Registration and payment information will be passed out in band.

Memorial Day Assembly: Friday May 24th 7:30 am
Open to 8th Grade Concert Bands

Newburyport District Performing Arts Festival: Saturday June 8th 10:00 am - 4:00 pm
Our second annual festival featuring performances by Kindergarten through 12th grade dance, theater, choral, and instrument groups. Held on the Waterfront lawn behind Sea Level Restaurant in downtown Newburyport. This performance will also serve as Concert Bands' Spring Concert

8th Grade Graduation (required): Last Day of School 8:30 am - 10:30 am
7th grade band performs processional and recessional music
8th grade performs a featured selection during the Graduation program

Possible additional performances include:

In-School Assemblies, Newburyport Education Foundation (NEF) Events

Veterans Day / Memorial Day Assembly

~INSTRUMENT / REPAIR / SUPPLIES~

MUSIC & ARTS

300 Andover St. Peabody (978-532-3380) musicarts.com

Sells Band Method Books, Sheet music, Tuners, Reeds, Oil, Instruments, all you would need!

GUITAR CENTER

120 Andover St. Danvers (978-777-1950) guitarcenter.com

Sells Band Method Books, Sheet music, Tuners, Strings, etc.

EXETER MUSIC

135 Water St. Exeter, NH (978-772-5440) exetermusicllc.com

Sells Band Method Books, Sheet music, Tuners, Reeds, Oil, Instruments, all you would need!

HIMMEL MUSIK

Amesbury, MA (978-857-5840) himmelmusik.com

Reeds, valve oil, slide grease, any Brass and Woodwind repairs

~PRIVATE LESSONS~

Enrollment in private lessons is encouraged as it gives students time to move at your own pace and work in an individual setting with an instrumental specialist. Students who study privately will receive extra credit upon submitting a private lesson verification form (in appendix) by the beginning of each semester. While you are welcome to study with any professional you know, here is a list of area schools.

WEST NEWBURY SCHOOL OF MUSIC

4 Maple St. West Newbury

978-363-1579 wnsom.com

Piano, Woodwinds, Brass, Guitar, Drums

THE MUSICAL SUITE

50 Water St. Newburyport

978-462-8225 themusicalsuite.com

Piano, Woodwinds, Brass, Guitar, Drums

MUSIC AND ARTS

300 Andover St. Peabody

978-532-3380 musicarts.com

Piano, Woodwinds, Brass, Percussion, Guitar

DUNCAN SCHUMACHER MUSIC STUDIOS

105 Post Rd. North Hampton, NH

617-970-1177 dsmusicstudios.com

Clarinet, Saxophone, Composition, Jazz Improv

EJ OULETTE WHOLE MUSIC

300 High St Newburyport

978-462-9020 wholemusic.com

Clarinet, Saxophone, Brass, Drums, Piano

MUSICAL ARTS ACDMY OF MUSIC & DANCE

30 Linden St Exeter

7 Lafayette Rd. North Hampton

603-778-4862 musicalarts.com

Clarinet, Saxophone, Brass, Drums, Piano

ZACH FIELD DRUM STUDIO

50 Water St. Newburyport

978-462-8225 themusicalsuite.com

Everything percussion

PORTSMOUTH MUSIC & ARTS CENTER

973 Islington St. Portsmouth, NH

603-431-4278 pmaonline.org

Piano, Woodwinds, Brass, Guitar, Drums, Jazz

SEACOAST ACADEMY OF MUSIC

105 Post Rd. North Hampton, NH

603-964-3660 seacoastacademyofmusic.org

Piano, Woodwinds, Brass, Guitar, Drums

EXETER MUSIC LLC

135 Water St. Exeter NH

603-772-5440 exetermusicllc.com

Piano, Vocal, Woodwinds, Brass, Guitar, Drums

~APPENDICES~

A. PRACTICE CHART

~due at sectional rehearsals ~

B. PLAYING TEST GRADING RUBRIC

~there will Winter and Spring semester playing exams~

C. STUDENT RECORDING SUBMISSIONS

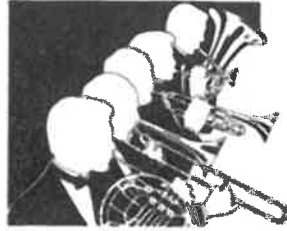
~recording assignments will be periodically given in Flex lessons~

D. PRIVATE LESSON VERIFICATION FORM

~turn in at any time during semester for extra credit~

D. HAND BOOK RECEIPT FORM

~due by next class~



Student practice record

Practice = Progress

Consistent and dedicated practice is necessary to fully enjoy the musical experience. In addition to developing a greater love for playing, you will increase your skills and confidence and strengthen your contribution to the ensemble.

Making practice a set part of your day will ensure a consistent routine

Practice as your schedule allows but an ideal amount is 15-20 minutes (*not including warmups*)

	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT	SUN
<u>DAY/ DATE</u>							
<u>WHAT WAS PRACTICED</u>							
<u>MINUTES PRACTICED</u>							
	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT	SUN
<u>DAY/ DATE</u>							
<u>WHAT WAS PRACTICED</u>							
<u>MINUTES PRACTICED</u>							

Practice tips:

Warmups: Longtones, scales, arpeggios, improvisation

Ensemble/Sectional Pieces: Rhythms, notes, articulations, dynamics, tempo

Take a section at a time stopping & correcting mistakes

Record: At least once a week, record your playing and listen while reading along; listen for rhythmic flow, intonation, and corrected notes

Review piece again: Trying not to stop or pause

_____ **Student Name**

_____ **Grade**

_____ **Parent Signature**

PLAYING TEST GRADING RUBRIC

Students will be asked to play various ranges of the chromatic scale, 2 scales and 2 songs from the Method Book

Playing Test – Middle School Band

Individual playing test on a teacher selected portion of music. The first four objectives are always tested; the last four are added as concert time approaches.

Objective	BASIC 1	DEVELOPING 2	PROFICIENT 3 4	EXEMPLARY 5	Score
Posture	Holds instrument improperly Rarely sits up straight; head down Legs/ankles crossed	Holds instrument properly Sits up some of the time; head down Legs/ankles crossed	Holds instrument properly Sits up most of the time; head up Feet flat on the floor most of the time	Holds instrument properly Sits up straight with head up Both feet flat on floor	
Tempo/ Steady Beat	Rarely maintains a steady beat Plays at own tempo	Maintains a steady beat some of the time Plays at own tempo	Maintains a steady beat through most of the excerpt at teacher given tempo	Maintains a steady beat through entire excerpt at teacher given tempo	
Rhythmic Accuracy	Gives few notes and rests proper value (more than 4 errors)	Gives some notes and rests proper value (3-4 errors)	Gives most notes and rests proper value (1-2 errors)	Gives all notes and rests proper value	
Pitch Accuracy	Plays few pitches correctly (more than 4 errors)	Plays some pitches correctly (3-4 errors)	Plays most pitches correctly (1-2 errors)	Plays all pitches correctly	
Intonation (Breath Support)	Breath support unsteady Few pitches in tune and even (more than 4 errors)	Breath support steady sometimes Some pitches in tune and even (3-4 errors)	Breath support mostly steady Most pitches in tune and even (1-2 errors)	Excellent breath support keeps pitches in tune and even	
Articulation	Rarely plays the articulations marked in the music (more than 4 errors)	Plays some of the notes with the articulations marked in the music (3-4 errors)	Plays most notes with the articulations marked in the music (1-2 errors)	Plays all notes with the articulations marked in the music	
Dynamics	Rarely plays the marked dynamics in the music (more than 4 errors)	Plays some (3-4 errors) of the marked dynamics in the music	Plays most (1-2 errors) of the marked dynamics in the music	Plays all of the marked dynamics in the music	
Phrasing	Rarely creates a flowing line of music Breathes often, breaking the line	Creates a flowing line of music some of the time Sometimes breathes in between phrases	Creates a flowing line of music most of the time Usually breathes in between phrases	Creates a flowing line of music Breathes in between phrases so as not to break the line	
					Total Score

PRACTICE RECORDING ASSIGNMENTS

Email an Audio Recording

If you choose not to use the Google Voicemail option, you may create and email an audio recording using apps. such as “Voice Memo” available on Smartphones, IPODs, and IPADS.

This option gives students control to submit their best take. These features are also available to any SmartMusic subscribers.

To send a recording

1. Open the recording application on your device and push record
2. State your full name, instrument, grade, and what you will be playing
3. Move 3-5 feet away from the phone/device's microphone
4. Record your playing on your instrument
5. Email your best take to bnickerson@newburyport.k12.ma.us

If you have any questions or difficulties, please contact the Band director.

Good Luck & Have Fun!

PRIVATE LESSON VERIFICATION FORM

This is to certify that _____ is taking private lessons on their band instrument from
(student's name)

_____. Lessons began on _____
(Private Lesson Instructor's Name) (month/year)

_____ Parent Signature Date

_____ Private Lesson Instructor Signature
Contact number / email

*****please return this portion to the director*****

HANDBOOK RECEIPT FORM

This is to confirm that I/we have read and full understand the guidelines of participation, performance schedule, and grading in the Nock Middle School Concert Band. Class progress and Grades are updated on the Aspen X2 site. Parents and students assume responsibility for checking academic standing/progress and contacting the Band Director with questions or concerns

(student name)

(parent signature)

RAN Staff Meeting Sign In
2018-2019

9/17/2018

	F
29	
30	