

**Anthony Wayne Junior High
7th and 8th Grade Band Handbook**

2015-2016



Adam Ladd and Roy Young
Band Directors

Welcome!

This handbook is designed to answer many of the questions you or your parents may have concerning the band program at AWJH. We are very excited about the upcoming year. Please take time to read this handbook carefully. Then, sign the final signature page indicating that both the student and parent have read, understand, and agree to the policies outlined. **Keep this handbook for reference for the remainder of the school year as it contains all of our performance dates.**

If you are a returning 8th Grade member.....WELCOME BACK!

If you are a new 7th grade member or new to our program...WELCOME TO AWJH!

Thank You,

Mr. Adam Ladd

Mr. Roy Young

Handbook Contents

1. Goals & Expectations
2. Graded Items and Policies
3. Performances
4. Required Equipment
5. Practice
6. Uniforms
7. Individual Opportunities
8. Director Contact Information
9. Signature/Contact Information Page
10. OPTIONAL: Chaperone Sign-Up
11. Private Lesson Sign-Up

1. GOALS AND EXPECTATIONS

As a program we will strive to grow as musicians and citizens of our community. To do this we will discuss tone, technique, rhythmic accuracy, key and time signatures, musicality and critical listening, as well as context and history of the pieces we are studying. All of these combined will help the members of the band to move toward the ultimate goal of independent musicianship.

To achieve this, the following guidelines are expected to be followed each class period:

1. *Be on time* for all classes, rehearsals, and performances. Class begins when the director steps up to the front stand.
2. *Be prepared* with working instrument, reeds, music, and a pencil.
3. *No gum, food, or drink* allowed in the band room.
4. *Play your instrument only when instructed to do so.*
5. *You may warm-up on your own, but loud playing or blasting will not be tolerated.*
6. *All instruments should be stored in the assigned locker or designated space. Music should not be left on the music stand or chair after rehearsal.*
7. *Be quiet when the director is speaking. Show the same courtesy to guests and peers who are addressing the ensemble.*
8. *Keep all cell phones or electronic devices turned off and put away during rehearsals.*
9. *NEVER HANDLE ANOTHER PERSON'S INSTRUMENT.*
 - a. *ONLY PERCUSSIONISTS ARE ALLOWED TO HANDLE THE PERCUSSION EQUIPMENT.* Instruments are delicate, expensive, and often not owned, but rented.

2. GRADED ITEMS AND POLICIES

Anthony Wayne Junior High Grading Scale

A=100-92% B=91-82% C=81-72% D= 71-62% F= below 61%

Daily Participation

Students get points for the following: a working instrument (including reeds), music and pencil, attentive behavior. Students may lose points for disrupting class or coming without the above items.

Performance Attendance

An unexcused absence from a performance may result in the lowering of the grade. Inappropriate behavior and improper dress may also result in the loss of points or a lowered grade.

Playing Tests and SmartMusic Assignments

Playing tests will be administered several times throughout the year. Students will know in advance what they will be graded on and how best to prepare.

The AW Band program is going to be using SmartMusic software for some of our in class playing assessments. SmartMusic is an amazing computer program that makes learning to play an instrument easier and more fun. Band students in grades 7-12 will be registering for free SmartMusic accounts using

their AW school email addresses. Mr. Ladd / Mr. Young will then create assignments based on the music we are currently working on in rehearsal each day. Students will complete these assignments by playing along with the SmartMusic software individually. SmartMusic provides students and teachers with immediate feedback on how well each student is playing/progressing on their instrument. Parents will then be able to view scores from these assessments in PowerSchool.

Students will NOT be required to purchase a SmartMusic subscription in order to complete assignments. Computers and iPads will be made available in practice rooms during regular rehearsal time for students to practice and complete the assignment. Students or parents who are interested in having access to SmartMusic software on a home computer may choose to purchase a home subscription (but again, this is NOT required).

More information about SmartMusic can be found by visiting <http://www.smartmusic.com/>.

Written assignments

Students may also be required to complete written music theory assignments. (note reading, counting etc.)

Extra credit

Attendance of pre-approved concerts and performances and a written report critiquing the experience, performers, conducting, and music played can be handed in for extra credit. The directors will inform you of upcoming events and incentives for attendance. This will be given to students at the director's discretion.

3. PERFORMANCES

Purpose of performances:

- They act as a benchmark of our progress allowing us to set new goals.
- They provide entertainment to the audience.
- They expand the musical knowledge of both *performer* and *audience*.
- They teach everyone involved proper concert etiquette.
- A successful performance = A great team effort.

For these reasons performance attendance and reflections will be a heavy portion of your band grade. If missed without a valid or prior approved excuse, these grades cannot be made up.

The following circumstances will be excused: sickness or injury, death, and family weddings. With the exception of emergency situations, the directors should be notified via email or written note well in advance if such a conflict occurs.

Other conflicts that are not listed above will be considered by the directors on a case by case basis only after written note or email notification of the conflict has been given.

Please check the schedule below and let Mr. Ladd or Mr. Young know of any conflicts immediately. Keep these dates on your calendar to avoid scheduling conflicts.

SCHEDULE OF PERFORMANCES:

Date	Event	Report Time	Place
September 18th	JH Football Night / Lock-In	7:00pm	H.S.
November TBA	JH Veterans Assembly	During School	J.H.
December 10th	Holiday Concert	6:30pm	H.S.
March 21st	Junior High Concert	6:30pm	H.S.
May 6th	JH Large Group Contest	TBA	T.B.A.
May 21st	AW Bands Chicken BBQ	3:00pm-7:00pm	H.S.

***Students are expected to stay through the entire performance to their show support for other performing ensembles at Anthony Wayne.

4. REQUIRED EQUIPMENT

A properly working instrument is crucial to the success of a musician. Just like a race car driver couldn't win a race driving an old beat up car, no matter how good of a driver they are or how much they practice, a musician without working equipment cannot make reasonable improvements.

Woodwind Players:

4 good reeds (excluding flutes)
Cork Grease
Cleaning Swab
Pencil

Brass Players:

Valve oil or trombone slide cream
Tuning slide grease
Pencil

Percussion Players:

Pencil
(Sticks and mallets are provided)

Failure to bring proper equipment to class daily will affect the student's band grade.

Materials listed above may be order from Rettigmusic.com or 1-800-52-MUSIC, Rettig can deliver these items directly to the school.

School Owned Instruments

The Anthony Wayne Instrumental Music Department supplies necessary school owned instruments for a rental fee of \$25.00 per school year. Normal maintenance and repair will be free of charge; however, the student will be responsible for unusual damage. The student and his/her parents will sign a rental agreement form.

5. PRACTICE

All band students are required to practice regularly as part of their participation in band. Students will be encouraged to take their instruments home. We understand that every student cannot practice every day due to homework, family, personal commitments and other important situations. However, practice should take place at least 3 times each week for a 30 minute minimum. Students will be given exercises that they should play through every time they practice along with any band repertoire or playing test material they have been assigned.

Practice Tips

Choose a quiet place to practice.* *Warm up properly.*

Take short breaks while practicing.* *Practice music you **can't** play **to learn**.* *Practice music you **can** play for **your enjoyment**.* *Play for your family and friends.*

Practice your music in small sections – not all at once.* *Listen to recordings of others as well as yourself.*

6. UNIFORMS

For all performances, unless otherwise noted, we will be wearing a royal blue polo shirt (available through the Band Boosters for \$20) khaki pants and nice dress shoes. No jeans, shorts or other undesignated clothing will be permitted and will result in a lowering of the student's grade or possible removal from the performance. Polo shirts will be available for purchase shortly after the beginning of the school year through the AW Band Boosters.

7. INDIVIDUAL OPPORTUNITIES

Activities offered for individual band members to distinguish themselves and improve their musical skills this year:

Private Instruction

Private lessons are one of the keys to an outstanding band program. These lessons are available to all band students interested in improving their playing through one-on-one instruction with a teacher on that instrument. As students improve individually, their contribution to the band increases, and the band as a whole improves. Fees begin at \$16.00 per half hour and may vary depending on the qualifications of the teacher. If you are interested in starting your son or daughter in the program, please return the "Private Lesson Sign-Up" form on the last page of this handbook to Mr. Ladd **as soon as possible**. He will contact you regarding the day and time of the lesson.

Junior High Jazz Band

This group is open to all band students at the junior high, any instrument! The meeting time will be announced before rehearsals will start for the 2015/2016 school year. Rehearsals usually begin sometime in October. The jazz band will perform at the holiday concert, winter concert and chicken barbecue this year.

Solo and Ensemble Contest

This is also highly encouraged but not required. This event gives students the opportunity to receive constructive comments and performance experience. Students can prepare solos or small ensemble works with friends. Those who participate will receive special recognition and incentives. More information about participating will be distributed later in the school year.

Date: TBA Saturday, March 19th, 2016 or Saturday, April 16th, 2016

OMEA JH Honors Band

7th and 8th grade band students will have the opportunity to submit an audition tape for the 2016 OMEA Junior High Honors Band. This event gives participants the chance to meet and perform with other talented junior high musicians from schools across Northwest Ohio. Students who are accepted into the honor band will attend several rehearsals and perform a concert on Sunday, February 14th, 2016. Participation is highly encouraged!

8. DIRECTOR CONTACT INFORMATION

Any questions or concerns relating to the band program or anything in this handbook should be addressed to the band directors. They can be reached by phone during school hours. If you get voicemail please leave a name and number and your call will be returned as soon as possible.

Email is also an excellent way of getting in touch. Please provide it on the next page as we will be sending out regular newsletters about upcoming performances and other reminders.

You may also check for updates at AnthonyWayneBand.org

Adam Ladd
aladd@anthonywayneschools.org
Junior High Main Office: 877-5342

Roy Young
ryoung@anthonywayneschools.org
High School Office: 877-4901

9. SIGNATURE/CONTACT INFORMATION PAGE

Detach, sign, and return this entire form to Mr. Ladd or Mr. Young by **Friday, August 28th**
This is a portion of each band student's grade (10 points).

Student's Name: _____
(print)

Grade: _____

Parent Name(s): _____
(print)

Home Phone: _____

Work Phone: _____

Cell Phone: _____

Parent Email Address: _____

Preferred Contact: Email Cell Home Phone Work Phone
(circle one)

Address: _____

I have read the Anthony Wayne Junior High band handbook. I understand the policies, rules, and guidelines contained in it. I understand that all performances are mandatory and an unexcused absence will result in a lowering of the student's grade. If I have any further questions I will contact a band director for clarification.

student signature

date

parent signature

date

10. OPTIONAL: CHAPERONE VOLUNTEER SIGN-UP

Throughout the course of the year the JH bands may take trips requiring parent volunteers to help chaperone. We will especially need parents available for day-time events.

Possible Events (more maybe added.)

September

JH Football Night

JH Lock In

May 2015

JH Large Group Contest

JH Band Awards

If you are interested in being a chaperone please fill out and return this page.

Name: _____

Phone Number: _____

Time of day available: during school after school all day

(please separate these forms when turning them in to Mr. Ladd)

11. OPTIONAL: PRIVATE LESSON SIGN-UP

I am interested in enrolling my son/daughter in the private lesson program.

Student's name _____

Instrument _____ Grade Level _____

Parent name _____

Home phone _____ Cell _____ E-mail _____

Mr. Ladd will contact you regarding the day/time of the lesson. Thank you!