

Creekside Intermediate School

Band Handbook

2023-2024

Welcome to the 2023-2024 school year!
After you have read this handbook,
please complete the Google form on the last page.

Creekside Band Teachers

Mr. Andrew Damman
(734) 424-4160 ext. 5126
dammana@dexterschools.org

Ms. Grace Wolfe
(734) 424-4150 ext. 7120
wolfeg@dexterschools.org

Mrs. Rachel Wilson
(734) 424-4160 ext. 6221
wilsonr@dexterschools.org

Creekside Band Performance Dates

6th Grade All Music Concert (6th Grade)

Tuesday, December 5, 7:00 pm, High School CPA
Students report at 6:30 to the high school music rooms

Winter Music Assembly (5th Grade):

Thursday, December 14, time TBD, Creekside gym
Families are invited to join us for a demonstration of what our beginners have learned so far
Snow date if needed: December 21

Band Extravaganza Practice (both 5th and 6th grade):

Saturday, March 16, 2:00pm-4:30pm, Dexter High School Gym

Band Extravaganza Concert (both 5th and 6th grade):

Sunday, March 17, 3:00pm, Dexter High School Gym

Creekside Spring Concert (both 5th and 6th Grade):

Thursday, May 30, 7:00 pm, Center for Performing Arts (High School)
Students report at 6:30 to the high school music rooms.

Class Expectations

- Be prepared: for every class you will need: your instrument, your music (method book and sheet music), and a pencil. Your band teacher will keep track of your preparedness for grade credit. You will be given a band folder for your materials.
- Be on time. Be in your seat and prepare your instrument for class until the teacher begins class.
- Be respectful of materials, the classroom, and each other. Move around the room with care not to bump someone else's instrument. It is everyone's job to care for sheet music, chairs, stands, and school-owned instruments.
- Gum chewing, eating, and drinking are not allowed during class, rehearsal, or performances.

Class Schedules

- Band is a commitment of at least one semester. Students may not drop at any other time except the end of the first semester (January 26) or the end of the school year. Parents must notify their child's band teacher prior to the end of the semester.
- Band classes meet during FLEX time, which includes all music classes, exploratory classes, and academic support classes. 5th Grade students have band 2 days per week and 6th grade students have band 3 days per week.
- Students do not miss regular academics to participate in music.
- Students must bring their instrument to school on their scheduled band days. Any changes to the schedule are announced in class in advance. If in doubt, bring your instrument to school! Near the date of a performance the classes combine to rehearse as a "full band," and those dates will be announced in class.
- If a student is in both band and choir they attend their band class on its scheduled days and choir class on the other days.
- Students unable to play their instrument (i.e., injury or dental work) are still supposed to go to band class and are encouraged to bring their instrument and music to follow along and participate the best they can to keep up with lessons and weekly assignments. A note or email from a parent to the music teacher is helpful, and advance notice is always appreciated.

Grading

Grades are weighted in the following manner:

50% of class grade – Daily participation in class (participating, bringing materials to class)

25% of class grade – Mastery of music learned in class (playing checks and playing tests)

15% of class grade – Individual home practice minutes (students should aim for 90 minutes per week)

10% of class grade – Performances (concerts and assemblies)

Creekside grading scale:

95-100% = E (Exceeds expectations)

80-94% = M (Meeting expectations)

66-79% = P (Progressing)

65% = C (area of Concern)

Practicing

Regular, individual practice is essential to a student's progress on a musical instrument. During class, the teachers will instruct students what and how to practice, as well as weekly practice goals (exercises from the method book, sections in the sheet music, etc.).

Practicing is recorded on the inside cover of the method book. At the end of a practice session it is the student's responsibility to write down the number of minutes spent practicing. At the end of the week the student totals the number of minutes for the week, and takes it to a parent to initial in the record that the record is correct. As part of their grade, each student reports the number of minutes recorded and whether the minutes are signed by a parent.

Practicing reinforces instruction in band class and provides an opportunity to build strong performance habits. Shorter, daily practice of 15-20 minutes is more effective than two hours in one day. On very busy days, try to get in 5-10 minutes of practice; on less busy days make up the minutes for your "short" days.

Parents can greatly influence their child's progress and enjoyment of playing an instrument. Together decide on a place in the house to practice as well as appropriate times. Schedule regular weekly practice times and ask your child to play for you what they have learned in class.

If your child becomes frustrated with practicing please contact your child's band director for help. Sometimes students will "break through" and enjoy practicing when a particular problem is addressed.

Concert Performances

Band students are required to attend all of the band concerts during the school year. Students may not miss concerts for sporting events or practices. If your student has a conflict with the date of a performance, contact your student's band teacher ahead of time to let them know. If a student misses a concert due to illness or a death in the family, the student will be offered the opportunity to make up the concert grade. The concert dates are on the cover of this handbook.

The Creekside Bands wear a uniform for their concerts:

White tops: white blouses, white button-down shirts, white polos, etc.

Black bottoms: black dress pants or skirts, black socks, black dress shoes

No sneakers or athletic shoes please.

Instrument Repairs/Supplies

Marshall Music Company makes a weekly service stop at Creekside to pick up and return instrument repairs. Repair forms are available in the Repair Cabinet in the band room and your student's teacher can help fill them out. In the meantime, students may use a loaner instrument provided by Marshall Music until the repaired instrument returns. This is a service parents may take advantage of whether or not the instrument was purchased from Marshall Music. Please check in periodically with your student to make sure their instrument is in good working order and they have the supplies they need.

During the school day students will keep their personal instruments in their classrooms. These areas are NOT intended for overnight storage. The school cannot be responsible for privately owned instruments left at school. Each student should take their instrument home when they leave school for the day.

Band Email Updates

The Dexter schools use Blackboard or PowerSchool to send e-newsletters to students and families. When your student is added to our class roster, you will automatically be added to the email list for band class. Look for an email about once per month with concert reminders and other information about band class.

Private Lessons

Private lessons are a great way to ensure progress on an instrument. Lessons can help make your student a better player, make the band better, and increase everyone's musical enjoyment.

Lessons are taught at Dexter High School after school and in the early evenings by university music majors or music school graduates. These teachers are specialists on their instruments with strong backgrounds in performance and teaching. They will provide your child with one-on-one instruction that is different from the instruction in large band classes.

Fees for lessons start at \$21.00 per half-hour for undergraduate tutors. Tutors with degrees may charge up to \$27.00 per half-hour. Payments are made weekly at lessons to the private teacher. These prices compare favorably with prices in our area. We hope that the competitive pricing plus the convenience of lessons at DHS will allow more students to study.

Please complete and return the form below to your child's band director. The band directors will contact a private lesson teacher on your behalf to have them arrange a lesson time with you. You may also expedite the process by contacting one of our private lesson teachers yourself. Private lesson teacher contact information is found on the Dexter Bands website and by clicking on "Private Lesson Teachers."

Please give serious consideration to this valuable opportunity. This can increase your child's musical enjoyment and enhance the Dexter band program.

[Link to private lesson teachers](#)

Handbook Form – Completed by Parent/Guardian:

[Link to Handbook Form](#)