

**Unatego
8th Grade
Band
Handbook
2010-11**

REHEARSALS

- If you are in school you are expected to attend each rehearsal.
- Arrive on time, get your instrument out, and be seated as quickly and quietly as possible. You will be given several minutes extra to get out your instrument and music. Three tardies will result in a referral.
- You must bring your instrument (including reeds), music, and a pencil to every rehearsal.
- There will be no food, drink, candy, or gum permitted in the band room.

CONCERTS

- Attendance at all concerts is **mandatory**. If there are extenuating circumstances you may be excused by the director. If you miss a concert without the approval of the director 30 points may be deducted from your band grade. Parades are considered to be concerts and will be graded as such.
- Transportation for concerts is not provided. It is your responsibility to find a ride to the concert.
- Concert dress is as follows:
 - **Ladies**-dress, skirt or nice pants and blouse
 - **Gentlemen**-nice pants and shirts, jackets and ties are appreciated but optional
 - **Everyone** should wear nice shoes not sneakers, blue jeans, sweat pants or shorts are not acceptable concert attire.

The concert dates for this year are as follows:

8th Grade Winter Concert-December 13, 2010 (snow date Dec. 14)

8th Grade Spring Concert-May 23, 2011

Other important 7th grade band events:

Fundraiser Kickoff-September 21, 2010

Holiday Ensemble-December 6, 2010

Jr. High All-County Band Festival-February 3 & 5, 2011

NYSSMA Solo Night-May 17, 2011

NYSSMA Solo Festival, Norwich-May 13 & 14, 2011

Jr-Sr Band Trip-June 18, 2011

Mark your calendar now with these dates!

GRADING

- Your quarter grade will be divided into three parts: Lessons, Rehearsals, and Concerts.
- Lesson grade will consist of marks earned at lessons and deductions for missed lessons.
- Concert grade will consist of the grade earned during concerts.
- Rehearsal grade will consist of several different parts including attitude, effort, participation, written tests (if any given), playing checks of band music and scales (during lessons and rehearsals), and overall preparation. When calculating the quarter grade the band grade will be weighted more than the other two portions.

LESSONS & PRACTICE

- Attendance at lessons is required.
- Lessons are given on a rotating lesson schedule. You are dismissed from classes to attend lessons. If you attend the scheduled lessons you will only miss a particular class once every 5 weeks, sometimes less. Alternative lesson times are also available although it is best to come at the scheduled lesson time if at all possible.
- Lesson schedules are posted on the bulletin board near the band room.
- You will be expected to practice individually an average of 1/2 hour per day for at least five days per week to be prepared for rehearsals and lessons. This practice may take place at school or at home. If each student builds his/her own playing skills everyone will benefit.

BONUS CREDIT/RESPONSIBILITY SHARING

For those students who complete the required assignments, there is the opportunity to earn bonus credit (up to 10 points per quarter). This may include but is not limited to the following:

- NYSSMA-5
- All-County-5
- Solo Concert Performance-5
- Band Officer-5
- Section Leader-3
- Article Summary-1 per article
- Band Assistant: TBD as the need arises-5
- Out of school performance (must be accompanied by a note)-5
- Concert Attendance (must be accompanied by concert program)-1 per concert

SUPPLIES & REPAIRS

Since we buy our supplies in bulk band students pay just \$10 for the purchase of all band supplies that they will need for the entire year. These supplies can include reeds, valve oil, cleaning rods & clothes, swabs, drum sticks, & mallets. This money also covers the cost of replacing any lost music as well as the use of any school instrument (including drums) and minor repairs that Mrs. Nages can do at school. In the past students have paid for these items as the need arose at the cost of anywhere between \$1.50 for a clarinet reed or up to \$25 for a pair of timpani mallets. This arrangement is better economically for the students and makes it easier for parents. Money will be due by **Friday, September 17th**. Checks should be made payable to "Unatego Central School". If you have questions or if you would like to make other arrangements please contact Mrs. Nages

MUSIC AND EQUIPMENT STORAGE, CARE, AND MAINTENANCE

- Instruments must be kept in a locker when not in use.
- It is recommended that students put a lock on their band locker. Students may sign out a lock for the year or provide their own if they wish.
- All percussion instruments, sticks, and mallets must be properly stored at the end of each rehearsal.
- All music should be kept in the appropriate file or in your locker when not in use.
- You will be given a handout that outlines basic care and maintenance information for your specific instrument. Please be sure to read that information and become familiar with your instrument's recommended maintenance schedule. Proper care will increase the life of your instrument as well as the performance.
- We will be watching instrument maintenance videos to better learn how to care for the instrument.

VIDEOS

Periodically during the school year we will be watching videos during band. According to Board of Education policy if a video is unrated the student must have permission to view the video. Below is a list of the videos that may be shown this year.

- Composer Videos
- History of Music Videos
- Instrument Maintenance Videos
- Elements of Music Videos
- Stomp
- Blue Man Group

COMMUNICATION

It is important that parents, students, and teachers communicate effectively. If there are ever any problems that I should be aware of please contact Mrs. Nages immediately. The quickest way is by email cnages@unatego.stier.org You can also call the music office 988-5039 or send a note with the student. In an effort to keep you informed about what is going on in band Mrs. Nages will send out emails and newsletters. Mrs. Nages regularly updates the music website www.unatego.org/cnages.asp You can also get to this by clicking "Web Links" from the main Unatego web page and selecting the music webpage at the bottom.

UNATEGO MUSIC AND ARTS COUNCIL (UMAC)

- One of the main purposes of UMAC is to promote, foster, and encourage achievement and excellence in and the advancement of the performing arts in Unatego Schools. This organization does this through various activities such as providing meals at the All-County Festival, water for the marching band at parades, Board of Education Advocacy, yearly scholarships, Angel Program for summer lessons, and Enrichment Funding for Arts activities.
- Meetings of UMAC are generally held the first Monday of each month during the school year. Membership in UMAC is open to parents of and students in Unatego Arts programs and all other interested individuals.

How Can You Help?

- Serve as an Officer
- Volunteer to help with our activities
- Serve as our Publicist
- Make a Donation

For more information about UMAC contact any of the officers or call the high school at 988-5098.

If you have any questions at all concerning this handbook please let me know before you sign the agreement on the last page.

I am very excited about this year; I think that it is going to be great!

WELCOME BACK!!!

Please complete and return this page to Mrs. Nages by Friday, September 20, 2010.

8th GRADE BAND STUDENT INFORMATION SHEET

Student Name _____

Birthday _____

Student Email _____

Parent/Guardian Name _____

Mailing Address _____

Parent/Guardian Email _____

Phone _____

Instrument _____

Brand _____ Serial Number _____

Instrument is a: (check one)

- Rental
- My own
- School Owned Instrument (If you are using a school instrument and have not already signed a lending agreement please do so as soon as possible.)

I, _____, and my parent/guardian, _____, understand, have discussed, and agree to the expectations for 8th Grade band. Furthermore, I give my child permission to watch any of the videos listed in the band handbook.

(Student signature)

(Parent/Guardian signature)

Please complete both sides

Please complete and return this page to Mrs. Nages by Friday, September 20, 2010.

UMAC Membership Form

Parent Name _____

Mailing Address _____

Email _____

Phone _____

I would be interested in helping by (please check all that apply):

- serving as an officer or publicist
- helping with the marching band
- making a donation
- other _____

Please complete both sides