*Carver Middle School*

*Band Handbook*

*2015-2016*



*Carver Middle School*

*1095 Good Hope Road*

*Monroe, Georgia 30655*

*(770)207-3333*

*Jessica Simmons*

*Director of Bands*

*Jessica.simmons@walton.k12.ga.us*



Dear Parents and Students,

 Welcome to the Carver Middle School Band Program! As the new director, I am thrilled to have the opportunity to serve your students and our community through music! I am anticipating an exciting year full of musically educating and personally enriching experiences. The purpose of the band program is to give students a solid foundation in the basics of music, and to provide the opportunity to enhance this knowledge through performance. Carver Bands stand for:

**INTEGRITY** Doing the right thing all the time

**UNITY** Lasting friendships that drive common goals

**EXCELLENCE** Exceeding expectations in all endeavors

 Success will be the product of **dedicated teamwork –** band member, director, school administration, and parents cooperating for the advancement of the total band program.

 Classes will be structured using our *Georgia Performance Standards* as our focus:

1. Singing alone, and with others, a varied repertoire of music
2. Performing on instruments, alone and with others, a varied repertoire of music
3. Improvising melodies, variations, and accompaniments
4. Composing and arranging music within specified guidelines
5. Reading and notating music
6. Listening to, analyzing, and describing music
7. Evaluating music and music performances
8. Understanding relationships between music, the other arts, and disciplines outside the arts
9. Understanding music in relation to history and culture

**Please take time to go through this information with your student.** Keep the handbook for future reference. The final page needs to be signed by a parent/guardian and the student, and returned by **Monday, August 10th, 2015.** This page is a contract, and all parties must understand and uphold the contract in order for us to have a successful band program.

If you have any questions concerning any of the contents of this handbook, please feel free email me at jessica.simmons@walton.k12.ga.us. Thank you for going through this information! I am looking forward to a GREAT year!

Sincerely,

Jessica Simmons

**Strongly Suggested Instrument Care and Accessory Items:**

**Flutes**

- Cleaning rod

- Polishing cloth

- Handkerchief

**Oboes**

 - Three working reeds at all times: - Hand-made is preferred.

 - Plastic Reed Case – (holds 3 or 4 reeds)

 - Cork Grease, Cleaning Swab & - Cleaning Cloth

 - 1 empty 35 mm film case

**Clarinets and Bass Clarinets**

 -Three working reeds at all times:

Rico Reeds, 2 ½ strength **(6th grade beginners ONLY)**

-Vandoren Reeds, 2 ½ or 3 strength

-Rovner Ligature

-Vandoren B45 (both) or Vandoren 5RV Lyre (clarinet) mouthpieces

-Plastic reed holder (holds 4 reeds)

- Cork grease and

 - Vandoren mouth piece pads

**Saxophones**

- Three working reeds at all times:

Rico Reeds, 2 ½ strength (**6th grade beginners ONLY)**

- Vandoren Reeds, 2 ½ or 3 strength

- Selmer C\* mouthpiece (CStar mouthpiece)

- Rovner Ligature

- Plastic reed holder (holds 4 reeds)

- Cork grease

- Vandoren mouthpiece Patches

**Trumpets**

- Bach 7C mouthpiece **(6th grade beginners ONLY)**

- Bach 5C or 3C mouthpiece (7th graders/8th graders)

- Valve oil/Slide crème

**French Horns**

- King H2 or Conn H2 mouthpiece

- Rotary oil

- Slide crème

**Trombones**

- Bach 12C mouthpiece (6th grade beginners ONLY)

- Bach 6 ½ AL mouthpiece

- Slide-O-Mix (for slide lubrication)

- Small (trial-sized) spray bottle for water

**Baritones/Euphoniums**

- Bach 12C mouthpiece (6th grade beginners only)

- Bach 6 ½ AL mouthpiece

- Valve oil

- Slide crème

**Tubas**

 - Bach 18 or Bach 24AW or Conn Helleberg 7B mouthpiece

- Valve oil

- Slide crème



**All Percussionists** will be required to have their band books as well as their own sticks and mallets. I have included a detailed equipment list that each percussionist should have. Each list is sorted by grade level. It is ideal and recommended for percussionists to build a collection of sticks and mallets as they begin to perform on more diverse percussion instruments at the middle school level. Try one of the online vendors listed below if you have no luck at the stores. The items in bold are highly recommended. (steveweissmusic.com, lonestarpercussion.com and columbuspercussion.com)

***6th Grade***

1. **The Innovative Education Pack (contains sticks and mallets)**
2. **Bell Set Kit (includes bells and practice pad) for at home practice**
3. **Habits of a Successful Musician – Scott Rush**

***7th Grade***

***All of the 6th Grade list plus****:*

1. **Innovative IP240 Marimba Mallets/turquoise color – around $30.00**
2. ***Standard of Excellence Book 2***

***8th Grade***

 ***All of the 6th and 7th Grade lists. Fresh Approach* books (snare and mallets)**

1.Bells/Xylo sticks: Innovative Percussion James Ross 902 (red)

2. Snare sticks: Innovative Percussion LD or Innovative Percussion 1

3. Timpani sticks: Innovative Percussion GT-3 (medium)

(another GREAT item….pitch pipe (red master key) for tuning timpani)

**Switching Instruments:**

**Some students will be asked to change instruments so that our band can have balanced instrumentation. This is the perfect opportunity for selected students to learn to play a new instrument. Typically, switches will remain within instrument families (ex. Clarinet-bassoon, trumpet-baritone). Of course, there are some exceptions to this rule. Our band is in need of multiple students to play the following instruments: tuba, euphonium (baritone), French horn, bass clarinet, bassoon, and oboe. Please note: students may NOT switch to percussion instruments (unless the band is in DIRE need of more percussion players). Ms. Simmons must approve all instrument changes. Instrument changes are based on ensemble need, as well as the availability of school owned instruments.**





**Concert Attire:**

**Formal: “Concert Black”**

**Boys** – Black long sleeved or golf shirts, black slacks (with a black belt), long **black** socks, and formal black shoes.

**Girls** – ¾ sleeve or long sleeved black blouse, black slacks, or black skirt (length MUST go past the knees!), black socks, or black hose, and formal black shoes.

\*No opened-toed shoes, UGG boots, riding boots, or work boots can be worn. If you have any questions on your concert attire, please bring it in to class and Ms. Simmons will let you know if it appropriate.

This attire must be worn at all concerts unless told differently.

**Informal Attire: (Polo cost is $15.00)**

For both boys and girls: Carver Band Polo and khakis. Any type of closed-toe shoe is acceptable.

\*\* (If your child does not currently have the polo, we will take orders at the beginning of the year.)

## Student Responsibilities:

It is a privilege to be a part of a band program. There are certain guidelines that we must follow in order to have successful rehearsals that produce an OUTSTANDING band.

**We expect the following from our students daily:**

1. RESPECT YOUR DIRECTORS AND YOUR FELLOW CLASSMATES.
2. BE PREPARED AND HAVE **ALL** MATERIALS FOR CLASS EVERYDAY: INSTRUMENT, MUSIC FOLDER, AND PENCIL.
3. RAISE HAND AND BE RECOGNIZED BEFORE SPEAKING AND LEAVING YOUR SEAT.
4. GUM, CANDY, FOOD AND DRINKS ARE NOT ALLOWED.
5. PLAYING YOUR INSTRUMENT BEFORE CLASS WILL NOT BE TOLERATED.
6. HANDLING OR PLAYING OTHER STUDENTS’ INSTRUMENTS IS STRICTLY PROHIBITED.
7. HAVE PERMISSION TO ENTER BAND OFFICE.
8. **FOLLOW ALL DIRECTIONS**.

**\*Consequences:**

**Carver Middle School follows the strike system for discipline issues. Please refer to your student handbook for more details on the strike system.**

**\*\*Severe infractions of any rule will result in an immediate office referral**.

### Grading Policy- Please refer to the Band Syllabus.

Email blasts will be sent out weekly regarding rehearsals and major assignments. Parents, please make sure we have an accurate email address for you on file so we can get information to you quickly!

***Practice is an essential part of a successful band program.* All band students should average AT LEAST 100 minutes a week of practice time. Daily practice (20-30 minutes a day) is encouraged verses cramming practice time into one day. Just as athletes need to work out their muscles on a daily basis, musicians have the same need with their diaphragm, facial and hand/arm muscles.**

1. **After School Rehearsals:**

Beginning this year, Carver Bands will hold after school rehearsals every Monday the students are required to be at school. At the start of the school year, the only students that will meet on Mondays will be our newest ensemble, The Marching Wildcats! Our Marching Wildcats will rehearse from 3-4:30. This year’s first rehearsal is **August 17th.** At the conclusion of the football season, the Carver Concert Band will rehearse every Monday school is in session from 3-4:30. Please refer to the calendar often for football, rehearsal, and concert schedules.

**V. Performances:**

Public performance is an important aspect of the student’s learning experience when participating in instrumental ensembles. Members of various band organizations who do not attend and participate in the organization’s performances are not receiving the full benefits of the total organization. In addition, the organization itself cannot perform at its highest level of quality when even one member is absent.

All students are expected to be present at all rehearsals and performances. Serious situations such as illness, a death in the family or some other sudden emergency; however, may make it impossible for a student to attend a particular rehearsal or performance.

**If a student must miss a rehearsal or performance, parents must notify the director prior to the rehearsal or performance.** Make-up work will be given to those students with excused and unexcused absences from missing a concert. Students who miss a performance must meet with Ms. Simmons and set up a day and time so they can play through all of their concert music

##### VI. Extra Opportunities:

##### Seventh and eighth grade students have the opportunity to participate in a number of activities throughout the year (these opportunities may become available to advanced level sixth graders):

 **All-State Band Audition/District Honor Band Audition:** December 5th / $25.00 due by September 8th, payable to NMS

 **University of Georgia Midfest Honor Band:**

December 10th-12th (Price to come)

 **Southern Star Music Festival:** *Optional* performance trip (Six Flags) open to **7th and 8th grade** band students, Saturday, May 7th. Package prices range from $85-$115 (more info to come!)

##### VII. Private Lessons

One of the best ways a student can advance their musical learning is to study privately. Lessons offer the opportunity for learning in a one-on-one situation. When possible, students are highly encouraged to do this. Private teachers can be found at most of the local music stores and also through the University of Georgia. Let us know if you need help in finding a private instructor.

##### VIII. Parental Involvement

***Involved parents are the key to successful students.***  Parents are an essential ingredient in a smoothly operating program. Carver Middle School parents are known for being extraordinarily helpful and always immensely appreciated. On the information form, please indicate any jobs that you would be interested in assisting. Some of the helpful roles include organization of bow tie set crates (uniforms), chaperoning field trips, and helping with equipment for concerts.

**VIIII. Band Website**

Stay “In Tune” with our calendar of events this year with the help of our Carver Middle school Band website. Please send us your band pictures throughout the year so we can add them to the website. Feel free to share the site with friends and family members! The site is **cmswildcatbands.weebly.com** Watch out for our upcoming Facebook Page!

**NOTE: All of *the information above is subject to change in order to accommodate the needs of the class. Classes will be notified when a change is made.***



**Carver Middle School Band Dates**

**(2015-2016)**

***\*Note: The above dates and times are subject to change. You will be notified of any changes.***

**Carver Middle School Band Dates**

**August 2015**

6th – Booster Meeting 6:30pm

10th – Football commitment forms due, handbook agreements due, 6th grade instrument testing

12th – 6th Grade instrument rental night

17th – Marching Wildcats Uniform Fittings and Drum Major Auditions/ Start of Cookie Dough Fundraiser!!!

24th – Marching Wildcats Rehearsal 3-4:30

31st – Marching Wildcats Rehearsal 3-4:30, End of Cookie Dough Fundraiser!

**September 2015**

3rd – Booster Meeting 6:30pm

7th – No school!

8th – All-State Payment Due

9th – First CMS Football Game 4:30!

14th – Marching Wildcats Rehearsal 3-4:30

21st – Marching Wildcats Rehearsal 3-4:30

28th – Marching Wildcats Rehearsal 3-4:30

**October 2015**

1st – Booster Meeting 6:30pm

5th – Teacher Workday – No Marching Wildcats

7th – CMS Football Game 4:30

12th – Marching Wildcats Rehearsal

14th – CMS Final Football game

19th-23rd – Fall Break!

26th – Full Band Rehearsal Begins 2:30-5pm (Marching Wildcats 4-5)

**November 2015**

2nd – Full Band Rehearsal 2:30-5 (Marching Wildcats 4-5)

5th – Booster Meeting 6:30pm

9th – Full Band Rehearsal 2:30-5 (Marching Wildcats 4-5)

16th – Full Band Rehearsal 2:30-5 (Marching Wildcats 4-5)

23rd – 27th Thanksgiving Break!!

30th – Full Band Rehearsal 2:30-5 (Marching Wildcats 4-5)

**December 2015**

1st – Marching Wildcats Rehearsal 3-4pm

3rd – Monroe Christmas Parade TBD

5th – District Auditions for 7th and 8th Grade (Optional)

7th – Full Band Dress Rehearsal 3-4:30

8th – Christmas Concert CMS Auditorium 7pm

10th-12th UGA Midfest (Optional)

**January 2016**

7th – Booster Meeting 6:30pm

9th – All State Auditions Perry, GA (Optional)

11th – Concert Band Rehearsal 3-4:30pm

18th – No School

25th – Concert Band Rehearsal

**February 2016**

1st – Concert Band Rehearsal 3-4:30pm

4th Booster Meeting 6:30pm

8th – Concert Band Rehearsal 3-4:30pm

15th – 19th – Winter Break!

22nd – Concert Band Rehearsal 3-4:30pm

26th – Tentative Concert Camp 4-9PM

29th – Concert Band Rehearsal 3-4:30pm

**March 2016**

3rd – Booster Meeting 6:30pm

7th – Concert Band Rehearsal 3-4:30pm

14th – Teacher workday

21st – Concert Band Rehearsal 3-4:30pm

28th – Concert Band Rehearsal 3-4:30pm

**April 2016**

1st – Band Lock-In 10pm-7am

4th-8th – Spring Break!

11th – Concert Band Rehearsal 3-4:30pm

14th – Booster Meeting

18th – Concert Band Rehearsal

25th – Concert Band Rehearsal

**May 2016**

2nd – Concert Band Rehearsal 3-4:30

5th – Final booster meeting, vote for officers

7th Southern Star!

9th – Concert Band Rehearsal 3-4:30

16th – Dress Rehearsal Concert Band 3-4:30

17th – Spring Concert, Carver Auditorium 7PM

20th – Last Day of School!

**Carver Middle School Bands**

###### **2015-2016**

Student’s Name (first and last)\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Home Address (include city and zip code)\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parent(s)/Guardian(s) Name(s) **and** email(s):\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian cell phone #\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian cell phone #\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

With whom do you live? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**MANDATORY ATTENDANCE AGREEMENT**

**2014-2015**

My child and I understand that as a member of the Carver band program, he/she is required to attend all special rehearsals and performances. Since this is a performance class, attendance is mandatory except in circumstances of an **emergency.** Unexcused absences may result in a failing grade for that particular concert, which would seriously jeopardize the semester grade for band.

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(Student Signature) (Date)

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(Parent/Guardian Signature) (Date)

**VIII. Handbook Contract**

My signature indicates that I have read and understand the contents of the band handbook. I am aware of the class requirements, student responsibilities, and grading policies of the Carver Middle School Band Program. I understand that I must uphold the contents of this handbook in order for this program to be successful and outstanding. I am fully aware of my child’s before/after school rehearsals and performances throughout the year.

**(This information and contract needs to be signed and returned by Monday, August 10,**

**2015).**

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Parent/Guardian signature Student’s signature