

HOLLY RIDGE MIDDLE SCHOOL

INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC HANDBOOK

2026 – 2027

950 Holly Springs Road
Holly Springs, NC 27540
School main office phone: 919-577-1335
Band Room office phone: 919-577-1335 ext. 23169
Band Website: www.hrmsband.com

Dear Students and Parents,

Welcome to Holly Ridge Middle School and the 2026-2027 school year! I hope you had a wonderful break and are excited to start playing together again or embark on a new journey learning an instrument. Holly Ridge's Instrumental Program is amazing, and I'm excited that you are going to be a part of it!

Parents, your child's progress is very important to me. Encouragement and communication are essential to your child's success as an instrumentalist. Please feel free to contact me at school (Band Office: 919-577-1375 ext. 23169), send a note, or email me at mgrimes@wcpss.net to discuss any of your concerns or questions. **Email is the best way to reach me and receive a quick response.** I will use Talking Points for reminders.

In this handbook are procedures, guidelines, concert information and dates, grading system, and materials required. **This needs to be looked at very carefully so that you are aware of the expectations for participation in Band.**

Page 3 of this Handbook is the "Quick Glance For Parents" list of things that parents need to know for the school year in band. Parents NEED to read that list as a bare minimum to know what to expect. Parents, I encourage you to read into the details of every aspect and expectation of my program, but I know that you may not have the time. That is why I ask you at least read the "Quick Glance"

Please stop by the band room so that we can get to know one another. Thank you for your interest, support, and dedication to the Holly Ridge Middle School Band Program! I look forward to working with you and your student.

Your Friendly Neighborhood Band Director,

Michael Grimes

Quick Glance For Parents

- My email is the best way to reach me. I will respond within 48 hours, usually less than 24 hours. My email is mgrimes@wcpss.net
- Your child needs their instrument and music **EVERY** day unless I state otherwise through Talking Points.
- Please make sure you have access to Talking Points. This messaging service is how I will send small reminders to both parents and students. Otherwise, I will keep you updated via email.
- The Band website is <https://www.hrmsband.com> and most information regarding the program can be found on that site.
- I need your help getting students to practice their instrument at home. Even if it is just 5-10 minutes. Ask them to play for you what we have been playing in class. It will help their musical growth immensely.
- A student is allowed to retake a playing test as many times as they want to improve their grade up until 1 week after the initial playing test was given.
 - **It is the student's responsibility to make up missed tests or retake tests. It is not the director's nor the parents' responsibility to do so.**
- Concerts are **mandatory** for students as it is what we work towards over the course of the entire semester. If there is a conflict just let me know ASAP and I'm sure we can work something out.
- Concert Attire for students is:
 - **Option 1** – White Button-Down Shirt, Black Pants, Black Socks, Black Shoes, Black Bowtie OR Black Tie
 - **Option 2** – White Top with Black Pants/Black Skirt OR Black Dress, Black Shoes

I would recommend not waiting until the last minute to get these items. Your child will not need them until November, but better to get them sooner rather than later.

- Important dates are located on pages 5 & 6 of this Handbook and are on the Band website as well.
- If you need repairs on your child's instrument, need supplies for the instrument, or need to modify your rental agreement you will need to take the instrument to Music & Arts. The nearest store is in the Crossroads Shopping Center in Cary. The address for the store is:
 - 426 Crossroads Blvd. Cary, NC 27518
- Any additional questions please refer to <https://www.hrmsband.com> first and if your questions cannot be answered please send me an email.

Holly Ridge Instrumental Music Expectations

Classroom Procedures:

- 1) No Phones or Chromebooks are needed in Band.
- 2) Have your instrument, music, and a pencil at all rehearsals.
- 3) Go to the bathroom **BEFORE** you arrive at Band or **BEFORE** class starts.
- 4) Have your instrument assembled and ready to play **4 minutes** after the bell
- 5) No food or drink (including gum!) is permitted in the Band room besides water, unless medically permitted.
- 6) No playing your instrument in another student's face. There is a difference between practicing and being obnoxious. You know the difference.
- 7) No playing your instrument while Mr. Grimes is talking.
- 8) Respect the property of others
 - a. **NEVER** use another's instrument/reeds, open their case, or move it in the storage room
 - b. Respect the room equipment (**don't lean or write on music stands!**).
 - c. Never touch the school's percussion equipment without permission from the director. **If you are not a percussionist, then you should never touch the equipment or be in the back of the band room.**
- 9) Percussion equipment must be covered (timpani and mallets) and all accessories put in their proper place before leaving class
- 10) Have fun! Band should be an enjoyable experience. I will do everything I can to make that happen, but I need your help and effort to make it so!

Grading

20% Daily class work
10% Homework
15% Quizzes
25% Playing Tests
30% Concerts/Performances

Daily Class Work

Students should bring instruments, music/method book, accessories and a pencil to class **every** day. Every 2 weeks there will be a grade for daily class work. If a student does not bring their music or instrument to class, it is -5 points. If they do not bring either, then it is -10 points. At the end of the 2-week period a grade will be put into PowerSchool. As long as you bring both items and try your best then you'll get a 100 for Daily Class Work.

If a student has an illness that prevents them from playing, the only way to be excused from playing is through a note from a parent/guardian. In addition, students must have a note if their instrument is in the repair shop. **If you're too sick to play, then you're too sick to be at school!**

*****Practice and Homework Expectations**

Students are expected to practice 10-15 minutes a day, 3-4 days a week outside of school. Students are encouraged to practice more if they need/want to.

Tests

Playing and written tests will be given to review material from class work. **A student is allowed to retake a playing test as many times as they want to improve their grade up until 1 week after the initial playing test was given.** If a student is absent the day of the playing test they are required to come in the morning or at the start of class during the 1-week period to make it up otherwise they will be given a 0. Preparedness and improvement will be the criteria for all playing tests.

It is the student's responsibility to make up missed tests or retake tests. It is not the director's nor the parents' responsibility to do so.

Concerts

Student attendance at all concerts is mandatory. This is a performance based elective and concerts are an essential part of the curriculum. Transportation problems should be discussed with the director. Emergencies will be handled at the director's discretion. Students are expected to wear concert attire for all performances. The concert grade is based on behavior and overall performance.

If your child is not committing themselves to learning the music and performing then the director reserves the right to remove them from performing in the concert up until the day of the concert and an alternative assignment will be given to them.

Concert attire

Option 1 – White Button-Down Shirt, Black Pants, Black Socks, Black Shoes, Black Bowtie OR Black Tie

Option 2 – White Top with Black Pants/Black Skirt OR Black Dress, Black Shoes

Important Dates (MARK YOUR CALANDAR!)

*August 27th – 6th Grade Virtual Instrument Rental Night (6th Grade)

*September 25th – Middle Creek High School Middle School Band Night (8th Grade)

- *October 2nd – Fuquay Varina High School Middle School Band Night (8th Grade)
- *October 9th – Holly Springs High School Middle School Band Night (8th Grade)
- *October 9th – Felton Grove High School Middle School Band Night (8th Grade)
- *October 23rd – Willow Springs High School Middle School Band Night (8th Grade)
- *October 27th – All County Band Auditions @ Carnage Middle (7th & 8th grade)
- *November 9th – 6th Grade Fall Band Concert (6th grade)
- *November 10th – 7th Grade Fall Band Concert (7th grade)
- *November 12th – 8th Grade Fall Band Concert (8th grade)
- *November 19th – 20th – All County Band Clinic @ Ligon Middle (7th & 8th grade)
- *December 12th – Holly Springs Christmas Parade (7th & 8th grade)
- *December 16th – Holiday Band Concert (6th, 7th, & 8th grade)
- *TBD (January) – All District Band Auditions @ TBD (7th & 8th Grade)
- *TBD – All District Band Clinic @ TBD (7th & 8th grade)
- *March 4th – Movie Night Band Concert (7th & 8th Grade)
- *May 18th – 6th Grade Spring Band Concert (6th grade)
- *May 19th – 7th Grade Spring Band Concert (7th grade)
- *May 20th – 8th Grade Spring Band Concert (8th grade)

Events may be added or modified as the year progresses.

Necessary supplies (reeds, oil, method books, etc.) may be purchased at:

Music and Arts Center: 919-854-0024 Crossroads Plaza 426 Crossroads Blvd., Cary

The method books for each class are as follows:

Beginning Band: Essential Elements 2000: Book 1 (Yellow)

Intermediate Band: Essential Elements 2000: Book 2 (Red)

Advanced Band: Standard of Excellence: Book 3 (Green)

The following items are required for students to always have with their instruments for proper use and care of their instruments. Brands noted are only recommendations. (If a private teacher recommends something else, please follow their recommendations)

FLUTE	Cleaning rod, Cloth handkerchief
OBOE	Swab, extra reeds, soft cloth, reed case, cork grease
CLARINET	Cloth swab *Vandoren or Rico reeds (2 – 2.5), Reed case for 4 reeds, Cork grease, soft cloth

BASSOON	Swab, neck or seat strap, extra reeds, soft cloth, small water container to soak reeds, cork grease
SAXOPHONE	Swab, *Vandoren or Rico reeds (2 – 2.5), Reed case for 4 reeds, cork grease, soft cloth, comfortable neck strap

All reed players must have at least 3 playable reeds at all time.
Reed players will need to have a reed guard case which holds 4 reeds

Please note that it is cheaper (per reed) to buy them by the box rather than individually.

TRUMPET	Valve oil, Tuning slide grease, snake (flexible nylon covered wire with brushes on each end)
FRENCH HORN	Same as trumpet, but <u>ROTOR</u> valve oil
TROMBONE	Trombone slide cream & spray bottle, snake (flexible nylon covered wire with brushes on each end)
PERCUSSION	6 th Grade: Bell Kit 7 th & 8 th Grade: <u>Vic Firth EP2 Intermediate Educational Pack</u>

It is recommended to have a folder or binder for Band.

Music

In addition to the method books, each student will be issued sheet music and a music folder. Students need to keep track of this music and should write their name on the top of each piece of sheet music so that if it is misplaced it can be returned easily.

Instruments

Each student is expected to furnish his/her own instruments by renting or purchasing from one of the area music stores. The school has a few of the larger instruments (Bass Clarinet, Horn, Euphonium, Tuba), which will be assigned to individuals at the teachers' discretion. Students using a Holly Ridge owned instrument must fill out a check-out form and are responsible for the care of that instrument and any damages that incur. **Students must place an identification tag on the instrument.** Stray marks or any other identifying marks will not be accepted as identification.

I strongly encourage parents to keep the instrument brand and serial number on file at home.

Talking Points

Talking points is a messaging service for teachers and parents to communicate directly without the transferring of personal cellphone numbers. There is an App that can be downloaded, which I highly recommend, which will make using this messaging service extremely easy. I will be using Talking Points quite regularly throughout the year to give reminders and quick updates during school day hours. Most of my communication will be done by email with more detailed information.

Canvas

Canvas is an online platform for assignments used by all Holly Ridge Middle School teachers. I will not be using Canvas very often and will only use it to post reminders about playing tests, assignments for students quarantined, or other important documents. Otherwise, all other information can be found on the Band website.

Jazz Band

Jazz Band is an extra-curricular ensemble that performs Jazz music. Jazz Band meets on Thursday mornings from 7:15 am – 7:45 am. Jazz Band is an audition-based ensemble and auditions will be done during the 2nd and 3rd week of classes. The audition music can be found on the band website under the “Students” tab.

The overall goal I have for my students is that they have an extremely positive and inspiring experience learning about music and performing in band. I will do everything in my power to make this possible for my students, but I will need a strong communication between parents and myself to make this happen. I look forward to a wonderful year of Band here at Holly Ridge Middle! Let’s make it an incredible experience together!

Michael R. Grimes
Director of Bands
Holly Ridge Middle School