



GREEN COVE JR. HIGH SCHOOL COUGAR BAND

1220 Bonaventure Ave, Green Cove Spgs, FL 32043

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Class Website: GCJMusic.Weebly.com

BAND HANDBOOK

MRS. LARSEN- DIRECTOR

INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the Green Cove Jr. High Band Program! This handbook is designed to inform you about the operations, responsibilities and expenses of being a band member or band parent. Read this booklet carefully and if you have any questions concerning the information presented in it, please feel free to call the band room for an explanation. This handbook is designed to serve you as a guide for students and parents, but may not answer every question that arises. We hope, however, that it will answer most of your questions concerning the Green Cove Springs Jr. High Band program. Again, Welcome to the “Cougar Band Program” and I look forward to the upcoming year working together to make music.

Sincerely,

Tina Larsen

Director of Bands

UNIFORMS

Our uniform is very simple. Each student will be given a band T-shirt prior to the first concert (Cost is part of the band fee). We will wear these for most of our functions with dark wash jeans (NO HOLES) and closed toed shoes. This is so we can recognize each other as well as it looking much more professional. The functions we will not wear our jeans will be the Spring Band assessment in March (Symphonic Band) and our spring concert in May. For this, the Symphonic Band will need to purchase the following:

EVERYONE: Black dress pants and black shoes with black socks (Contact me if you need to check a concert uniform out from the band). Our formal concert attire will be in all black with the Band polo.

LADIES: If you are wearing a black dress or skirt, it has to be floor length with either black socks or stockings.

Playing well is not the only important thing. We want to look the part as well.

INSTRUMENTS

I want to take this opportunity to encourage parents and students whenever possible to purchase their own instruments. Parents, we know that they are expensive, but personally owned instruments are usually of better quality and better kept than school-owned instruments. If your child does not own his own instrument, I would be glad to help you find information on purchasing one. Students become more interested, committed to and enjoy band more when they own their own instrument. I do not expect you to purchase larger instruments such as tubas and percussion, but I do encourage you to look into the possibility of buying or perhaps fixing up an old family instrument for your child.

In those circumstances where purchasing an instrument is not possible, we have a certain number of instruments available for use. There are however certain rules and guidelines that must be followed when using a school-owned instrument.

1. Each student must sign out the instrument and fill out the proper paperwork to be initialed by the parent and student.
2. There will be a small rental fee of \$75 for the entire year. This will be used for maintenance and repairs throughout the year.
3. Anyone using a school instrument will need to purchase his or her own mouthpiece.
4. All students are required to purchase their own instrument accessories such as reeds, valve oil, rags, sticks, bags, mutes, etc... Take care of your instruments with these items and major damage will be less likely.
5. Students will have weekly instrument inspections for grades. These are designed to help students remember to take care of their instruments regularly, not to serve as a punishment, unless the student is abusing or neglecting their instrument.
6. Students using a school instrument are required to take care of it. Multiple violations could require the instrument to be taken away from the student as well as suspension from performing.

TIPS FOR BAND

Tip #1-VISIT OUR BAND WEBSITE! www.GCJmusic.weebly.com

Tip #2-Everyone must have the following at EVERY class and at EVERY rehearsal: their instrument (including reeds, mouthpieces, spit rags, sticks, and mallets), Accent on Achievement book for their instrument, Band folder, and a pencil.

Tip #3-Students need to practice their instrument every day for at least 20 minutes.

Tip #4- If there's a scheduled rehearsal, you need to ATTEND. Find a way to get there so you don't fall behind. We are a TEAM and we are only as strong as our weakest player.

Tip#5- If your instrument needs reeds, you are required to have 3 working reeds in your case at all times. If you play a brass instrument, you MUST have a spit rag.

RULES AND REGULATIONS

1. Students are to do as they are told by our chaperones during any band function. These adults volunteer their time and efforts to help the Cougar band. I expect you to show the respect and gratitude they deserve. Students who do not adhere to the chaperones are subject to suspension from performances and will write a letter of apology to the chaperon, which must be approved by the director. Failure to write a letter of apology can result in further consequences.
2. Students are responsible to comply with all the rules and regulations of Green Cove Springs Jr. High when attending a band function. You are responsible for your own actions and must, therefore, know the rules and regulations of the band. A little common sense and self-restraint at times will enable all of us to have a fun, yet productive year.
3. No student will be allowed to participate in any after school activities or trips if their grade point average drops below a 2.0. That is not a school policy, it is a state mandate that we must follow.
4. *******There will be no gum/food in the band room.** We need to keep our home away from home clean and neat.

PARENTS: HOW CAN YOU HELP?

1. Pay for Band fees on Revtrak
2. Chaperone for events. We could ALWAYS use help.
3. Make sure the instrument is in working condition and is with your student every day of school/rehearsal.
4. Purchase everything the student needs from the supply list.
5. Once we have started playing in class, make sure they are practicing EVERYDAY!!! They need to get use to practicing every day to build endurance! Ask them to perform for you and keep up with how much they practice.

BAND FEES

Band fees are the amount that each student is responsible for contributing to the program.

This fee pays for band shirts, music, supplies, state and district musician fees, & other miscellaneous items that every band is responsible for in order to successfully run a program.

You can pay the entire amount by the first due date: or you can pay in smaller payments each month.

Beginning/Intermediate (\$60 total)

Due Date	Amount
9/18	\$30
10/16	\$30

Symphonic Band (\$150 total, includes part of the band trip)

Due Date	Amount
9/18	\$50
10/16	\$50
11/13	\$50

***** Please talk to me if there are issues paying the band fee!!!

MAKING THE "GRADE" IN BAND

First, let me say that the student truly controls their grade in band class. The amount of practicing at home and desire to be the best young musician they can possibly be...will intimately decide their grade.

Unlike their other core subjects, Band grades are not 99.9% 'subjectively' calculated. Meaning: the individual musician is graded on:

1. Correctly displaying the functional techniques on their instrument
2. Accuracy of notes and rhythms
3. Proper breathing and tone techniques
4. Mastery of the music they are performing for their director.

Evaluations/ Tests in band are a little more complex than a '10 question test worth 10 points each'...

I am not only listening for the song/musical exercise to be performed perfectly, but I am also looking for ALL the other details listed above.

*Mrs. Larsen must be informed at least two weeks in advance by a parent if a child is going to miss a concert. In the event of an illness, a doctor's note must be provided. Students will have to demonstrate knowledge of their concert music by playing for the director upon their return. In some cases make-up assignments may include a two page, double spaced report. The musical topic will be at the discretion of the teacher and must be handed in within two class periods of the concert. The appropriate make-up assignment will be selected by the teacher. A zero will be given if a student misses a concert and only pre-approved absences will have the opportunity for an alternate assignment.

Standard School Grading Scale: A= 90-100 B= 80-89 C=70-79 D=60-69 F=0-59	Florida Bandmasters Association Grading Scale: A=Superior B=Excellent C=Good D=Fair F=Poor
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Band Directors across the state strive for "Superior" rated bands at their schools.

My standards are high! I evaluate each student based on the state band standards and then try to give them a fair numerical grade based on the standard school grading scale. I expect all band students, no matter the level, to be making A's in their band class.

Special assignments:

1. The Symphonic band represents the school in the community and is held to high standards. All Symphonic band students are required to perform in All County auditions on November___ and the score will be averaged with a performance grade as a test grade. In a special case, decided by the director, the student may participate in Solo and Ensemble instead. But any student can perform in both.
2. The GCJ Symphonic band will also have chair placements twice a school year to ensure they are practicing and preparing their music for concerts and events. These chair placements will be held in late September and January. Chair placements will consist of scales required for the All County audition and a prepared piece for each instrument selected by the director.

Here are tips on how to make the "A" in band:

1. **Practice every day. If you do not know how, please come chat with me and I will help you write a practice routine.**
2. **Come to band class everyday with your instrument and supplies.**
3. **Be at all the performances: whether you are performing or not.**
4. **Come before school and ask me for help.**
5. **Take private lessons from a professional musician if it is convenient for you.**
6. **Listen to the other musicians in class---you might be able to learn from their performance or help them if they are struggling.**
7. **Dedicate yourself to being the best musician you can possibly be. Learning a band instrument and how to read music is not easy. It does take work and commitment.**

*****Parents please call or email me if you have questions or concerns regarding the band program.

SIGNATURE PAGE

****This is a grade! Please sign and return to Mrs. Larsen for your first grade of the school year.**

We have read and understand the Green Cove Springs Jr. High Band Handbook. We understand that even though we may not agree with everything in the handbook, that these are the rules and regulations of the GCJ Band Program.

Parent Name _____

Student Name _____

Parent Signature _____

Student Signature _____

Date _____