

# Jinks Middle School Band Handbook 2025-2026



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## **Band Classes**

**Hornet Band** - All Jinks Band students

**Beginning Band** - All first year Band students

**Advanced Band** - All Band students who have successfully completed Beginning Band

**Emerald Band** - All Advanced Band students are automatically members of Emerald Band. Advanced Band students who do not meet any one of the following requirements will not perform or travel with the Emerald Band.

- Students must learn their part of all assigned music.
- Students must demonstrate exceptional behavior in and out of the classroom. A pattern of ISS/OSS or a pattern of disruptive behavior in class or after school rehearsals will cause a student to be excluded from Emerald Band activities.
- Students must have a good attendance record. ANY UNEXCUSED ABSENCE from an after school rehearsal or performance can result in the student being excluded from Emerald Band activities. Students who have more than 10 classroom absences during the January-March time frame may be excluded from Emerald Band activities, at the discretion of the Band Director.

## **Parent Information**

Here are the best ways to stay informed about current and upcoming Band activities.

Parent Portal: <https://focus.bayschools.net/focus/>

**\*\*\*Please make sure all contact info is updated so that you don't miss important information and announcements.\*\*\***

Email: [walsij@bay.k12.fl.us](mailto:walsij@bay.k12.fl.us)

Website Go to <https://jinksmsband.com/> for a current calendar and other important information.

## **Grading Policy**

The 9-week grades will be determined as follows:

5% Daily Formative Grades

95% Summative Assessments, which include:

Playing or Written Assessments

After School Rehearsals

Performances

Daily Formative Grades (Total 10 points)

Pencil - 1 pt.

Music in 3-ring binder and/or band book (as appropriate)- 2 pts.

Instrument (reeds, etc.) - 2 pts.

Participation - 5 pts.

Written Assessments (Total points vary by assignment)

Rubrics vary, based on what is appropriate for the assignment.

Pass Offs (Total points vary by 9 weeks)

Students must demonstrate the ability to play the required assignments for each 9 weeks. These include scales, song selections, and other exercises.

After School Rehearsals (Total 10 points)

Pencil - 1 pt.

Music - 2 pts.

Instrument (reeds, etc.) - 2 pts.

Participation - 5 pts.

Performances (Total 30 points)

Proper uniform - 3 points

Required materials (instrument, music, reeds, etc.) - 5 points

On Time - 5 points

Participation -17 points

**Absences from After School Rehearsals or Performances**

All After School Rehearsals and Performances are scheduled well in advance and announced in multiple ways (paper, FOCUS emails and SMS, website calendar [www.jinksmsband.com/calendar](http://www.jinksmsband.com/calendar)). It is the student's responsibility to make sure his or her parents are informed of all upcoming events. **The only absences that will be excused are ones that A) are cleared with me at least 24 hours before the event or B) involve an actual illness with a doctor's note. Homework is not an acceptable reason for an Excused Absence. Students who check out sick during the school day are automatically excused. Students who are well enough to stay for the school day are well enough to stay for after school activities. Not having a ride home is not an excuse for missing an event. If asked in advance, I can help arrange a ride home.** Excused absences will be noted as "Exempt", and Unexcused Absences will be noted as "Missing".

Missing/Incomplete Assessments

The term "missing" will be used to indicate when an assessment is missing/incomplete and averages as a zero in the grade until replaced. At the end of a marking period, any student with "missing" indicated on summative assessment(s) will receive "I" as his/her grade for

that marking period. Any “I” remaining at the end of a term, semester and/or school year must be addressed via teacher and administrator consultation. BDS APP 2.2, 3

The only situation in which a zero may be used is when a student has completed an assessment and demonstrated no mastery of the standard(s) on that assessment. BDS APP 2.2, 4

## **After School Rehearsals and Performances**

- All members are expected to attend every engagement in which the band participates. If you are unable to attend a performance, you must inform the Director in advance.
- Sickness or death in the immediate family are usually the only legitimate excuses for missing a performance.
- No band member is permitted to leave the organization in advance of group dismissal at any time unless excused by the Director prior to the performance.
- Regulations regarding rehearsals are also in effect during all public performances.
- For out-of-town engagements, the band travels as a unit unless they have been otherwise directed. Each band member is personally responsible for all his/her own equipment, whether school or personally owned.
- Band members must report to the designated place at the time started, in order to prepare for performance.
- Information regarding each performance will be posted in advance in the band room, on paper, and posted on the website at [www.jinksmsband.com](http://www.jinksmsband.com). It is the responsibility of individual members to be informed of all notices and scheduled events.

### **Board Policy 19-3, C**

The following statement will be included in each band’s handbook and be signed by parents and student:

I fully understand that participation in band/auxiliary requires a commitment to practice, attend rehearsals, attend and participate in performances and follow the rules and regulations of the band. I understand that my commitment to be a team player is vital to the success of the band. When I miss a rehearsal or performance, I not only hurt my opportunity to improve but also limit the success of the entire band.

I understand that School Board policy 8.302 states the primary authority and responsibility for assessment and reporting of student achievement of standards is the band director. The band director shall report all assessments of student achievement in a timely manner at the direction of the principal or Superintendent. Such assessment shall be based upon factors, including but not limited to: participation in performing group rehearsals and performances that occur

during or after school hours. I understand that my classroom extends beyond the regular school hours when participating in rehearsals and performances. My class grade depends on my attendance at all rehearsals and performances. Therefore, I realize the importance of attending rehearsals and performances and understand that my lack of attendance at a rehearsal or performance could adversely affect my grade in the band and may even result in my dismissal from the band.

### **STATEMENT OF KNOWLEDGE**

I understand that my classroom extends beyond the regular school hours when participating in rehearsals and performances as established by School Board Policy 19-3, C. My class grade depends on my participation at all rehearsals and performances. Therefore, I realize the importance of attending rehearsals and performances and understand that my lack of attendance at a rehearsal or performance could adversely affect my grade in band and may even result in my dismissal from the band.

We have received, read, and agree to comply with the rules and regulations presented in the 2025-2026 Jinks Middle School Band Handbook, grading syllabus, all uniform/daily information, and with all other requirements. We also agree for replacement or repair of lost or damaged equipment and/or school board property assigned for the school year. We understand that the student is responsible for conveying all information to the parent. We understand that failure to comply may result in grade lowering, disciplinary action or dismissal from the band program.

### **Materials**

- Instrument (and reeds, valve oil as necessary)
- Habits of a Successful Beginner Band Musician for your instrument (Beginning Band only)
- Habits of a Successful Middle School Musician for your instrument (Advanced Band only)
- 1" 3 ring Binder
- Page Protectors (clear plastic - set of 10)
- Pencil

## **Financial Concerns**

Although there are costs involved in being in Jinks Band, I do my best to keep these costs to a minimum. All required items are required for a reason, and fundraising opportunities are offered for the purchase of the required uniform t-shirts, polos, and shoes. PLEASE DO NOT LET MONEY KEEP YOUR CHILD OUT OF BAND. Do take advantage of fundraising activities as they come along, and if you need additional help, please contact me at [walsij@bay.k12.fl.us](mailto:walsij@bay.k12.fl.us).

## **Uniforms**

**\*\*Please note that fundraising opportunities will be provided for those who would like help with purchasing uniform items.\*\***

### **Advanced and Emerald Band Uniforms:**

- Casual Uniform
  - Band t-shirt (new purchase this year) ~\$15
  - jeans/shorts, comfortable walking shoes
- Dress Uniform
  - Band Polo shirt (same as last year) ~\$25\*\*
  - Black Band shoes (same as last year) ~\$45\*\*
  - Black pants, TALL black socks, black belt (if pants have belt loops)
  - Polo Shirt tucked in

\*\*If you still have your Band Shoes or Band Polo from last year (in good condition), you will not need to purchase these again.

### **Beginning Band Uniforms:**

- Casual Uniform
  - Band t-shirt ~\$15
  - jeans/shorts, comfortable walking shoes
- Dress Uniform
  - Band t-shirt ~\$15
  - Black pants, TALL black socks, black belt (if pants have belt loops), black shoes
  - T-shirt tucked in

### Behavior

Grades are not determined by behavior. Participation is expected and inappropriate behavior will not be tolerated.

### Reassessments

Multiple opportunities for reassessment will be available for playing or written assessments. Arrangements must be made in advance. BDS 1.4, 3 Reassessments can be available for After School Rehearsals upon request. Due to the nature of the event, Reassessments can not be offered for performances.

## **Chaperone Guidelines**

The support and assistance of parent chaperones is necessary to the success of band activities. Selected parents of band students will act as chaperones at band functions. Chaperones are expected to support the philosophy of the program as stated by the director. Chaperones will ride on buses and stay with the band during the entire activity. Anyone who volunteers to be a chaperone accepts certain responsibilities and will be expected to carry out assigned duties. The Band Director will coordinate recruitment of chaperones for overnight trips. Punctuality is necessary. Chaperones are prohibited from consuming alcoholic beverages immediately before or during band activities or trips. Smoking is not allowed. The Director will make rules and guidelines with the safety and welfare of the band members in mind.

## **Fundraising**

The Jinks Band participates in several annual fundraisers to raise the money needed to meet the annual budget for the band program. Each band member is expected to do his or her share of fundraising. Budgeted items include instruments, instrument repair, music, clinicians, band copier, Florida Bandmasters Association registration fees, student awards, etc.

## **Band Lockers**

Band lockers are for the storage of your instrument and music notebook/folder and method books during the school day. You may not leave books for other classes, lunch, etc. in them. You are responsible for your locker for the entire school year.

## **School Instruments**

A limited number of school-owned instruments and specific marching brass and percussion instruments are available for student use. All school-owned instruments must be

checked out through Mrs. Walsingham by filling out an Instrument Rental/Liability Form. Once issued, the instrument becomes the responsibility of the student for proper care, maintenance, and protection from damage or theft. The student will be responsible for and charged for any damages or loss incurred to the instrument during the rental period. This includes drumheads, rims, etc. Due to the “shared” nature of percussion instruments, all percussionists will share collectively in the responsibility for damage or loss of percussion instruments/equipment.

## **Basic Band Room Rules**

- Students must abide by the Bay District Schools Code of Student Conduct, Jinks Middle School Student Rules, and the JMS Band Handbook.
- Any instrument or equipment not belonging to or specifically assigned to you is strictly off limits.
- During the regular school day, the band facility is to be used for regular classes, rehearsals, sectionals, and prearranged help sessions only. The room is off limits during lunch (unless you are notified otherwise).
- No gum is allowed in the band room, at any performance or rehearsal.
- For security reasons, the band room is off limits to non-band students.
- Before school, the band room is open as a waiting area for band students only. Students are encouraged to use this time to practice and/or pass off music.

## **Rehearsal Guidelines**

- After school rehearsals and regular class rehearsals have the same guidelines, this includes the Jinks Cell Phone Policy.
- Have all materials (instrument, pencil, music, reeds, etc.) ready to go before rehearsal starts.
- Any other adults (clinicians, other band directors, administrators) should be treated with at least as much respect as the band director. Many times these people have donated their time to help the band improve and should be treated as such.
- All rehearsals will start and end on time. Be ready to go when rehearsal begins, and do not start to pack up until you are dismissed at the end.
- No gum or food is allowed at any rehearsal. Water in a closed top container is the only drink allowed in rehearsal.
- Marching Rehearsals – Comfortable shoes (sneakers) should be worn. Students are encouraged to “dress out” for marching rehearsals. Clothing should be comfortable for physical movement and school appropriate.