

# C.S. Porter Middle School Band Handbook

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## Welcome to the awesome C.S. Porter Bands!

We believe that music education is vastly important to all children. Band students learn the skills needed to perform an instrument, learn about life through music (knowledge) and their feelings/ideas/concepts about it (affect). Our goal is to help the student become self-directed, self-assessing, life-long learners. AND to find out how much joy there is in music!

Please read and re-read the following crucial information about Porter Band. **When you are finished, please complete and turn in the Student/Parent Agreement (on the last page).**

I am extremely thrilled to work with you and make some rad music and memories this year. Let's get to work!

– Mr. Jesse Dochnahl, band teacher

***Mission** - To facilitate a lifelong desire for personal and shared discovery, and to awaken the supreme joy in performing with a deeper understanding.*

**C.S. Porter Middle School**



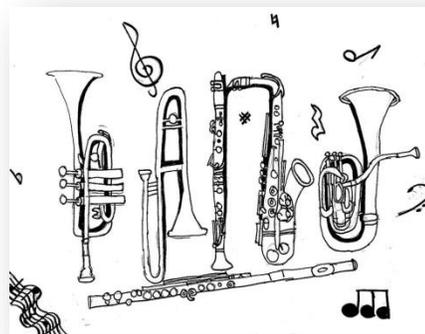
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## What will I need in band?

1. Your ears, eyes, brain, and heart.
2. The Band Handbook (you are currently reading it)
3. Your **band instrument** in good playing condition.
  - a. School Owned Instrument rental night is Wed., August 26, 6pm @ Jefferson School.
4. **Clarinet and Saxophone:** make sure you have at least 6 good reeds to start the year. Consider purchasing Vandoren, Rico Select, or Légère Signature (synthetic) reeds (better quality and sound). You should be using Number 2 ½ - 3 reeds by now, depending on how they feel.
5. **Brass players** must have valve oil and slide grease (for trombone).
6. **Percussionists** should make sure they have all of the necessary mallets and sticks needed for this year. Ask Mr. D for the Percussion Usage Policy or consult the band website. Make sure your sticks/mallets and clearly labeled with your name and keep them in a stick bag locked in your locker.
7. **Pencils** – keep one in your band folder
8. **Required Books** – available at both E.S.P. & Morgenroth Music
  - **6th Grade** – Essential Elements 2000 Book I & Book II, New Generations Blue Solo Book
  - **7th Grade** – Essential Elements 2000 Book II, Foundations for Superior Performance (blue book), New Generations Blue Solo Book
  - **8th Grade** – Foundations for Superior Performance, Bach & Before for Band, New Generations Blue Solo Book



**Label all items** PLEASE! I cannot emphasize this enough. A nametag on the case is required, and please put names on books and all other materials. Thank you.

## How do I Care for my Instrument?

**Here are some guidelines and reminders:** Be respectful, responsible, and safe around everyone's instrument. Clean your instrument and/or mouthpiece after every practice. The better you maintain your instrument (mold prevention), the less likely any repairs will be needed. If repairs are needed, please contact a professional repairman immediately, or contact Mr. Dochnahl with any questions.

Matt Wilson, Music Medics  
406.552.0241  
333. SW Higgins Ave  
Missoula, MT 59803  
Hours: Tues-Fri, 9:30am-6pm  
Saturday, 10am-2pm

Morgenroth Music Center  
800.462.0013  
1105 W Sussex  
Missoula, MT 59801  
Hours: Mon-Fri, 9:30am-6pm  
Saturday, 9:30am-5:30pm

## How are students graded?

Students will be assessed using the National Music Education Standards, printed below. A student's grades are based on the quality and amount of work put towards achieving the band's Four Goals. I will work as hard as I can to help your child achieve success in learning through band.

### Students earn points in these grading categories:

Class Participation (daily assessment of ensemble skills and contributions) – 25%

Band Performances & Concerts – 25%

Play Challenges – 20%

Evaluations/In-Class Assignments – 20%

Musicianship Points – 10%

#### Our Band Goals

- ✓ to perform at the best of our ability
- ✓ to expand the knowledge and appreciation of all music
- ✓ to promote music participation in our community
- ✓ to promote positive and supportive relationships among all band members

#### Our Music Standards

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.

## Play Challenges

In order to perform to the best of our ability, play tests will be used to assess and cultivate student progress. Challenges must be completed with Mr. D before or after school, during recess, or submitted electronically (audio or video recordings). It is up to the student to complete the required challenges by the end of each quarter. The testing schedule, progress chart, and rubric will be posted in the classroom and/or our website. Check out the website for practice tools.



## **Musicianship Points**

Students must earn 100 Musicianship Points (MPs) each quarter. Students practice responsibility by tracking their own progress—remember to keep score using a score sheet! MPs are submitted at the end of every quarter and calculated for a grade.

Our goal is to cultivate comprehensive musicianship in every student: skills, knowledge and affect. As an assessment to everyday class experiences, *Musicianship Points* encourage students to actively explore the various elements of music by emphasizing different projects and assignments. If you think of a new project idea, please submit it to Mr. Dochnahl.

- ✓ **Practice Sheet:** 10 points per weekly practice sheet. Must have 60 min or more per week. Time in your private lessons can be included as practice time.
- ✓ **Listening Assignment:** 10 points for each recording/album checked out and listened to in full. Please see *Listening Sheet* for details.\*
- ✓ **Conducting:** 10 points for conducting a warm up/breathing exercise/chorale. (1 per quarter)
- ✓ **Live Concerts:** 20 points for attending a live performance. Can be rock, hip hop, classical; it's all good. No point limit. Please attach ticket stub or program. There are LOTS of opportunities for live music in Missoula, many of which are free!
- ✓ **Concert Critique:** 20 points for writing a critique (reflection) of a live concert. See *Concert Critique Guidelines* page for details.\*
- ✓ **Extra Performances:** 25 points for performing outside of school. Rock band, church, quartet, recital, the possibilities are endless. Please verify with a program, recording, parent/audience member note.
- ✓ **Learn a Song by Ear:** 10 points for learning a popular or obscure melody by ear, without using sheet music. Please demonstrate for Mr. D.
- ✓ **Composition Project:** 40 points for completing single composition. See *Composition Project Guidelines\** for details.

**\*Assignment sheets and rubrics are located in the classroom and in PDF format on the band website:** <https://sites.google.com/site/csportermiddleschoolbands/>

## **Band Concert Guidelines**

Concerts are an extension of the band class and the learning that takes place every day. Music was created to be shared and not performed in isolation (or in the band room only). For this reason, we need to perform for an audience in order to share the wealth of learning that has taken place. This sharing helps the students to bring closure to the learning process and also propels them towards the next step. Student participation in concerts is vital to the success of all the students involved. Please make every effort to have your child be a part of these experiences. Sporting events/practices and other extracurricular activities are not acceptable reasons to miss a performance. If you have a reason to miss any performance, please contact Mr. Dochnahl as soon as possible prior to the concert date.

- All band students wear black socks, black shoes, black pants, & CS Porter Band Shirt
  - Each student will be issued a band shirt. Please ensure that the shirts are properly cared for. Students who lose or damage their shirt will pay a replacement charge (\$25) before being issued a replacement shirt.
- Students are to arrive 30 minutes before the concert starts for warm-up & tuning: 7pm start = 6:30 arrival
- **Failure to attend a concert results in a zero for that grade**—unexcused absences are not tolerated. *All absences* require a make-up assignment for partial credit.
- Concert Etiquette: Students and Parents/Guardians will remain for the entire concert. Audiences will be quiet and respectful during performance. Share your appreciation for the students' hard work with enthusiastic listening and applause!
- Following every performance students are required to stack their chair and rack their stand before leaving. Put all instruments away safely and properly. All percussionists are required to move ALL equipment back to the appropriate spot in the band room before leaving. Thank you!



## **What are our Goals?**

### **1. To perform at the best of our combined abilities.**

- ❖ Be prepared for rehearsals: have instrument in good playing condition, have our music, have a sharpened pencil, practice the music, and concentrate during rehearsals.
- ❖ Perform at all events listed on the C.S Porter Middle School Band Performance Schedule
- ❖ Attend lessons and sectionals, either through private means or through the MCPS music department. I strongly recommend taking private lessons to enhance individual progress, success, and joy. Let me know how I can help.

#### **Evaluation of Goal No. 1**

1. Practice, practice! See *Musicianship Points* below for requirements.
2. Playing challenges designed to develop and assess progress as a performer.
3. Attendance and active participation at rehearsals and concerts. Band rehearsals and concerts are extensions of the academic classroom; therefore, students are required to attend all scheduled events.
4. Observation and assessment of rehearsals and performances

## **2. To expand our knowledge of music history, music theory, musical form, and to gain an appreciation for “arts” music.**

- ❖ Learn music history, theory, form, and interdisciplinary concepts connected to all the music we perform
- ❖ Develop charts, media, and other sensory aids
- ❖ Listen to, watch, and evaluate professional recordings of music & performance art

### **Evaluation of Goal No. 2**

1. Written assignments, *Musicianship Points*, and class discussions.
2. Attendance of outside concerts every quarter.
3. Students will keep a personal band-folder which will include items gathered throughout the year: sheet music, written notes from class discussions, practice journal, concert critiques, self-evaluations, theory assignments, *Musicianship Points* documents, and a record of the student’s involvement in music activities.

**These will be turned in at the end of each quarter for evaluation.**

## **3. To promote music participation in our community.**

- ❖ Chamber ensemble participation (percussion ensemble, brass choir, woodwind quintet, jazz combos, etc.)
- ❖ Playing in churches, community events, recitals, etc.
- ❖ Playing in festivals, clinics, honors groups, summer camps, etc.
- ❖ Advertise community music activities in band room and school. Be active!
- ❖ Participate in Porter’s Select Jazz & Percussion Ensembles

### **Evaluation of Goal No. 3**

1. Students document participation on quarterly Self-Evaluations and *Musicianship Points* Score Sheet.

## **4. To promote a positive and supportive relationship among all band members.**

- ❖ Be Safe, Respectful, and Responsible
- ❖ Post articles, blogs, and letters on student success in room, website, and Facebook
- ❖ Recognize achievements of students and teachers in class
- ❖ Participate in Porter team activities, such as fundraisers, Mission to Commission & One Book/One Community.

### **Evaluation of Goal No. 4**

1. Observation of students’ and teacher’s respectful, sincere, and positive spirit!

**CS Porter Select Jazz Ensemble**

All CS Porter music students have the opportunity to participate in the CS Porter Select Jazz Ensemble. Rehearsals take place every Tuesday and Thursday at 7:30 am. First day TBA.

*What will the students learn?*

Students will explore our greatest original American art form through the study of jazz improvisation, music theory, aural training, jazz style development, American history, and multicultural influences to jazz.

*How will the student learn in this course?*

The ensemble will rehearse and perform varied and quality jazz ensemble literature, extensively listen to an array of jazz recordings, and use improvisation as a hands-on study of jazz theory, aural development, and expressive creativity. The ensemble will learn in concert, festival, and gig settings and from guest artists and clinicians.

*Why is this course important?*

The U.S. House of Representatives in 1987 categorized Jazz as “a rare and valuable national American treasure to which we should devote our attention, support and resources.” This course can provide a foundation for the preservation of America’s first “popular” music, as well as a functional tool for well rounded, multicultural education and community outreach through performances. Jazz education can enhance students’ musicianship, creativity, and self-discipline. Jazz is also an effective avenue to a growing realm of 21<sup>st</sup> Century arts and media professions.

**CS Porter Select Percussion Ensemble**

All CS Porter percussionists have the opportunity to audition for the CS Porter Percussion Ensemble. Rehearsal times to be determined. Auditions will take place in late September.



## **Mission to Commission 2**

The 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Band will embark on another mission – to form a collaborative partnership between CS Porter Middle School Band, Sheboygan Falls Middle School Band (in Wisconsin), and world-class composer Andrew Seager Cole. MtC2 is an opportunity for yearlong creativity, communication, and collaboration for our two middle school bands as students begin writing their own music. It is also an effort for our students to work directly with a pro writer like Andrew. We will communicate with Andrew and Sheboygan Falls throughout the process and then welcome Andrew to Missoula in May. It will be another exciting year!

### **Step 1 (Start of School Year): The Melody!**

We will contact the partner school through social media to meet each other and share ideas.  
We will study the music we are performing to learn more about compositional devices.  
We will compose an original melody for our individual instrument.  
We will vote on the top ten melodies from our school and submit them to Andrew Seager Cole.  
Andrew will select winning melodies from each school and use them to write a new piece for us!

### **Step 2 (Oct-Nov 1): Making Contact**

We will learn more about the composer and partner school through various interactions and presentations.

### **Step 3: (2nd Quarter) Composition**

We will develop and expand our original melody for our instrument.  
We will create chamber music (group) compositions based on our melodies.  
We will share the chamber ensembles with the partner school through video/audio performance.

### **Step 4: (3rd & 4th Quarters) Preparation**

We will receive the new music and begin preparing for the premiere.  
We will communicate with the composer and partner school about our progress.  
We will prepare introductions and projects for the concert.

### **Step 5: (4th Quarter) World Premiere Performances**

We will welcome Mr. Andrew Seager Cole to Missoula. We will rehearse and learn from Andrew and then present our Co-World Premiere performances on May 16 (SF) and May 24 (CSP)!

*"Who knows, I might use YOUR idea!"*  
-Composer Andrew Seager Cole



## **C.S. PORTER BAND PERFORMANCE SCHEDULE 2015-2016**

Performances are in the Cougar Gym unless noted otherwise.

	<u>6th Grade</u>	<u>7th Grade</u>	<u>8th Grade</u>
September		Red Wave Rehearsals Thursday 9/10, 3-4pm Wed 9/16, 4-5pm Tues 9/22, 4-5pm Thurs. 9/24, 3-4pm  UM Homecoming Parade: Saturday 9/26, 9:45am (Red Wave)	Red Wave Rehearsals Thursday 9/10, 3-4pm Wed 9/16, 4-5pm Tues 9/22, 4-5pm Thurs. 9/24, 3-4pm  UM Homecoming Parade: Saturday 9/26, 9:45am (Red Wave)
October	Tues., October 27, 7pm: 6th Band, Choir, Orchestra (BOC) Concert	Wed., October 28, 7pm: 7th Band, Choir, Orchestra (BOC) Concert	Thurs., October 29, 7pm: 8th Band, Choir, Orchestra (BOC) Concert
November	Porter Music Department Chocolate Fundraiser: Oct. 19-Nov. 5	Porter Music Department Chocolate Fundraiser: Oct. 19-Nov. 5	Porter Music Department Chocolate Fundraiser: Oct. 19-Nov. 5  Thursday., November 19, 7pm: Fly Up Concert with Big Sky
December	Tues., Dec 15, 7pm: 6 <sup>th</sup> Grade Band Concert (BOC)	Thurs., Dec 17, 7pm: 7 <sup>th</sup> /8 <sup>th</sup> Band Concert with Orchestra	Thurs., Dec 17, 7pm: 7 <sup>th</sup> /8 <sup>th</sup> Band Concert with Orchestra
January			
February	Red Wave Band Rehearsals: Thurs., Feb 4, 3-4:30pm Thurs., Feb 11, 3-4:30pm Thurs., Feb 18, 3-4:30pm Thurs., Feb 25, 3-4:30pm  Thurs., Feb 25, 6:30pm: Red Wave Halftime Show @ Adams Center	Tuesday, Feb 23, 7pm: 7 <sup>th</sup> Grade Band Festival @ Jefferson School	Tuesday, Feb 16, 7pm: 8 <sup>th</sup> Band/Orch Concert  Feb 22-23: UM Concert Band Festival (daytime)
March	March 14-17: Solo & Ensemble Days (during regular class)	March 14-17: Solo & Ensemble Days (during regular class)	March 14-17: Solo & Ensemble Days (during regular class)
April	March 30, Spring Showcase, 5:30pm	March 30, Spring Showcase, 5:30pm	March 30, Spring Showcase, 5:30pm
May	Tues. May 24, 7pm: 6/7/8 Final Band Concert	Tues. May 24, 7pm: 6/7/8 Final Band Concert	Thurs., May 20, all day: 8th Grade Music Day Tues. May 24, 7pm: 6/7/8 Final Band Concert

## Band Rehearsal Rubric

**C.S. Porter Middle School**



Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Folder Number \_\_\_\_\_

	<b>Exceptional 4</b>	<b>Adequate 3/2</b>	<b>Fix It! 1</b>
<b>Posture</b>	Sits tall in chair away from the back of the chair with feet flat on the floor; good instrument position always.	Sits tall in chair most of the time; feet flat on the floor most of the time; usually holds instrument properly.	Leans back or crosses legs while playing. Needs to sit tall in chair with both feet flat on floor holding instrument properly.
<b>Instrument and Supplies</b>	Brings instrument to all rehearsals; instrument is always in good repair (takes care of repair problems outside of rehearsal when possible); has necessary supplies and a pencil.	Forgot instrument once; asks about instrument maintenance during rehearsal; does not always have necessary supplies; forgot pencil on occasion.	Needs to remember instrument, supplies, and pencil. Needs to ask about maintenance/reed problems outside of rehearsal.
<b>Music</b>	Brings all music to every rehearsal; always puts music and folder away properly; marks music when directed.	Generally brings music to rehearsal; generally put music and folder away; usually marks music when directed.	Needs to put folder and music away. Needs to mark music when asked.
<b>Response to Director</b>	Listen and responds to director; is ready to play; stops playing and puts instrument down immediately when directed.	Generally brings music to rehearsal; generally put music and folder away; usually marks music when directed.	Needs to stop playing when directed to do so. Needs to have instrument in playing position and ready with the conductor.
<b>Courtesy</b>	Always listens and follows verbal instructions; treats others with respect; says positive things to and about others.	Generally listens, talks to neighbor occasionally about non-class related things; generally says positive things to and about others.	Needs to listen to verbal instructions and not disturb others. Needs to treat others with respect and kindness.
<b>Attitude</b>	Has a positive attitude; is willing to take risks and try new things; performs all music to the best of ability— regardless of likes or dislikes.	Generally has a positive attitude; will try new things most of the time; usually performs to the best of ability—regardless of likes/dislikes.	Needs to have a better attitude. Needs to try new things. Needs to play to the best of their ability— even if it is not their favorite.
<b>Timeliness</b>	Student is on time to class; gets instrument and music ready by the time the director steps on the podium. Student remains seated until excused, and remains in the room until the bell rings.	Student is on time to class; most of time has their instrument and music ready when the director steps on the podium. Sometimes puts items away before excused or leave the room before the bell rings.	Student needs to be on time to class and ready when the conductor steps on the podium. Student needs to remain seated until excused and remain in the room until the bell rings.

## **C.S. Porter Middle School Bands Student/Parent Agreement & Contact Sheet**

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Please fill out the following portion and return it with your student if you have not already done so. Communication throughout the year depends heavily on the information you provide. Your support and open communication is immensely appreciated.

*We, both student and parent, have read and understand the goals, strategies, and evaluations stated in the Band Handbook. We will make arrangements for the students to attend all Band performances and obligations. Only with the approval from the teacher, in the case of school or family emergency or illness, can a student be excused from a Band obligation. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Mr. Dochnahl.*

Student Name \_\_\_\_\_ Student Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Name \_\_\_\_\_ Parent Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Preferred Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Email \_\_\_\_\_

(Used for updates/band newsletter only - Please print clearly)