

**Mellon Middle School
Band Information
Grades 6-7-8**

Concerts:

Mellon band students perform two concerts per year, the first one in December and the second one in June.

This year, the concerts are on Thursday, December 19, 2019 and Thursday, June 4, 2020. The concerts begin at 7:30pm and are held in the Mellon Middle School Auditorium. The dress code for these concerts is dark pants or skirts and plain white shirts, boys are required to wear a necktie. **No jeans, shorts, tennis shoes, or flip flops are permitted. Skirts must be at least knee length.** Eighth grade band students perform at several other functions during the school year and are often requested for special events. I will notify parents accordingly when these events occur. **The concert performance is graded and students who miss the concert must play all of their concert music for me one on one to receive a grade. Please note that because a critical part of the concert, ensemble skills, will not be evaluated, a grade of 85% is the highest grade attainable.**

Grading:

Students are graded at least 3 times during a nine week period. They are graded individually, in sections and as a full ensemble. Students may have the opportunity to take a retest if they do not perform well on a playing test on most occasions, unless the material being tested is something that we have worked on extensively and the cause for the poor performance is lack of practice and preparation. **It is the responsibility of the student to request a re-test and schedule a time to take it.**

Each student receives a daily rehearsal technique grade of 5 points which encompasses the following elements: Student has their instrument and music for class. They assemble their instrument and are prepared to begin warm-up within 2-3minutes and they are actively engaged in rehearsal and not disruptive to the rehearsal process with excessive talking or extraneous playing. These points are accumulated and totaled at the end of the nine weeks. If there is a recurring issue I will contact parents personally.

Practice Time:

Students in 6th and 7th grade should be practicing a minimum of 100 minutes a week at home. While I see them 3 days a week for class, it is critical that they do additional practicing at home to reinforce the concepts that I am teaching during class.

Students in 8th grade need to practice at least an additional 60 minutes during the week or over the weekend. Because I see them daily, we work on a lot of class concepts during rehearsal, but it is necessary for them to take individual responsibility for different concepts that apply directly to their instrument. The only way this can be accomplished is through individual practice.

Contact Information:

Please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns that you may have about your child's progress. Also, if there is any assistance I can provide for you regarding questions about purchasing instruments, private instruction or outside groups that your child can participate in, don't hesitate to call me.

I can be reached via e-mail at: Lmarino@mtlsd.net or via phone at: 412-325-8221.

Extra-Curricular Opportunity:

Jazz Ensembles are held during the second semester. Sixth grade will have its' own band and 7th and 8th grade will perform together in the more advanced group. All wind and brass players are welcome, percussion and rhythm section players will be auditioned for ability to play independently and the ability to read jazz band literature. Each band meets once a week for 1 hour beginning in January. The 6th grade jazz band will rehearse on Mondays beginning January 13, 2020 and the 7th/8th grade ensemble will rehearse on Thursdays beginning January 16, 2020. Rehearsal runs from 3:00 – 4:00pm. **Attendance is mandatory unless a student is sick or there is a family emergency.** A note should be provided by the parents in such a case. The Jazz band concert will be held on Wednesday, April 29, 2020 at 7:30 in the Mellon Middle School Auditorium