

Arlington Middle School

AMS Band

2016 – 2017 Handbook

Table of Contents

A Letter from the Director.....	3
Band Set-up & Auditions.....	4
Booster & Fee Information.....	5
Required Materials.....	6
Grading Policies.....	6
Weekly Objectives.....	7
Early Band.....	7
Uniforms.....	8
All-West.....	8
Solo & Ensemble, Concert Festival, and Spring Trip.....	9
List of Upcoming Dates.....	10
Student Medical Release Form.....	11 & 12
Student/Parent Contract.....	13
ACS Traveling Policies.....	14

Daniel J. Foster
Arlington Middle School, Director of Bands
5470 Lamb Road, Arlington, TN 38002
arlingtonmsband@gmail.com
www.arlingtonmsband.com

August 01, 2016

AMS Band Parents and Students:

Welcome to one of the most exciting and rewarding experiences of your life!

The mission of the award-winning Arlington Middle School Band is to *influence the development of talented, respectful, and conscientious students through intensive musical study and performance*. We are looking to complete that mission in one of our best years ever!

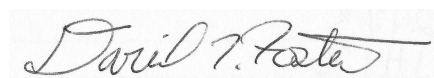
The AMS Band has consistently placed the most students at All-West, received superior ratings at Solo & Ensemble and Concert Festival, and won 1st place in a Music in the Parks competition for the last 11 years. This kind of success does not happen overnight, and it does not happen without a tremendous amount of parent and principal support. We have the most dedicated and talented middle school boosters that match our musically gifted students with high school and professional level quality music and equipment.

Last year was the inaugural season for our AMS Jazz Band. This is group uses a unique instrumentation to perform in the swing, rock, and Latin styles. To continue to build this new opportunity for students to learn the most American of musical genres, Mr. Foster will be looking for interested Trumpet, Trombone, Saxophone, Piano, Bass, Guitar, and Drum Set players in 7th or 8th grade to commit to Thursday evenings after school.

Most important to our success is the parent support for our individual students. Each child needs to know that you think what he does is important. Please encourage students at all levels to practice diligently and with purpose, keep their equipment in working order, and remember upcoming events and requirements. To help you do that, please use this handbook as a reference throughout the year. Sign and return the Mutual Consent and Medical Release forms in the back.

Please visit our website at www.arlingtonmsband.com and contact me at any time with questions or to volunteer at arlingtonmsband@gmail.com. Once again, Welcome to the Band!

Musically Yours,



Daniel J. Foster
Arlington Middle School, Director of Bands

The Beginning Band

The Beginning Band includes members who are in their first year of learning an instrument. Beginners are typically students who have never played a band instrument before, and in many cases have not played any instrument before. The two 6th Grade sections make up the bulk of the Beginning Band.

In addition to the 6th Grade Classes, the 7th Grade Beginning class also includes students on their first instruments. This class is typically much smaller, so they can move a lot faster. Some students may be asked to play with Concert Band if they hit certain achievement benchmarks quicker than the others.

Beginners are encouraged to try-out all the instruments at our annual Instrument Fitting Fairs. There, we will find out the instrument that will give each student his or her best chance at immediate success. If they could not make the Fitting Fair, students can select their three favorite instruments on the MAPS card and one will be chosen for them over the summer.

The Concert and Symphonic Bands

Students in their second and third years of music instruction will audition for placement in either the Concert or Symphonic Band. Both bands wear the same uniform, audition for All-West, and go on the Spring Trip. The only difference in the bands is the difficulty of the music. Unfortunately, band placements are final for the whole year. All students will audition each year, but that is the only chance to change classes. However, students may challenge each other for chair placement within both bands throughout the year.

Challenges will be scheduled for at least a week after their submission to Coach Foster. Students may only challenge students directly preceding them in chair placement. Challenges can include no more than three students total. Challenges cannot take place closer than two weeks before a performance, so students will be able to submit challenges up to three weeks before a concert.

The material on the challenge will include scales, sight-reading, and a prepared piece. It will follow the same process as All-West auditions. The scales and sight-reading will be chosen at random. The prepared piece will be determined at the time of the submission of the challenge. Prepared music will likely be All-West prepared music or an excerpt from an upcoming performance.

To submit a challenge, the challenging student will need to fill out the form available in the band room, including the signatures of the one or two students being challenged. The students will turn in the form to Mr. Foster and receive their challenge date.

Jazz Band & Symphony Orchestras

The AMS Symphony Orchestra is a group that combines the best band and string players at AMS and rehearses on Tuesdays after school until 5:30. The Jazz Band is a different group that plays swing, rock, and Latin style music after school on Thursdays until 5:30. Wind and percussion members of both groups must be current members of the AMS band and will be placed based on their audition in the spring.

The AMS Jazz Band and Symphony Orchestras have their own rehearsal and performance schedule. Please refer to information that will be given out to members in the fall. Participation in either extracurricular group comes with an additional fee charged to a separate account. This fee goes to the music and equipment that these groups use that the full band does not. More information will be distributed after auditions for these groups are held in the fall semester.

Booster & Fee Information

The Arlington Middle School Band Boosters is the organization that keeps the band running. Without parent support, the band absolutely would not be successful. Fortunately, we have one of the most amazing middle school booster organizations in the state, and every parent is a member, and only you can determine how active you are!

This year's Booster Board is:

Jessica Story, *President*
TBD, *Vice President*
Karena Byers, *Treasurer*
Angela Baker, *Secretary*
Shannon Wilson, *Uniforms*

Since the school has opened, the AMS Band Boosters paid for all the band expenses through the band fee and fundraising. This year, with the support of Arlington Community Schools and the ACS School Board, the annual general band fee will be **\$25**.

This fee covers things that every student uses every year, so it does not cover the cost of the Concert Black uniform that the Concert and Symphonic Bands use or the Spring Trip. Please see pages 7 & 8 for more uniform information. After students pay this fee, they will receive the following supplies paid for by the fee:

- Binders
- Band T-Shirts
- *Time for Band* Book 1 (Beginning Band technique book)
- All-West Registration (see page 9)

Please pay the fee at registration or as soon as possible when school starts. The general band fee is due at the Fall Booster Meeting and can be paid at band events or by placing it in the locked wooden box in the band room at any time.

Students who play the Tuba, Bassoon, Baritone, Bass Clarinet, French Horn may have the option of renting an instrument from the school. The school rental comes with an annual \$50 nonrefundable maintenance fee. Percussionists will also pay the \$50 maintenance fee to use school-owned equipment. This payment may be combined with the general band fee on the same check.

Small instruments may be taken home for practice once the Instrument Check-out Form is completed and returned. Students are responsible for any instrument maintenance required during the rental period. We will give you a working instrument, so a working instrument must be returned to the band! Larger instruments cannot ride the bus, but they may be taken home on breaks and weekends after signing them out on the Weekend Check-out sheet found on the wall of the band room.

Fees are not meant to be a limiting factor. If money becomes tight at any point, please contact Mr. Foster. No child needs to be denied a music education because of situations that are out of their control.

All checks can be made out to the "AMS Band"

Required Materials

All students must have their blue band binder containing all sheet music and any necessary instruction books. These should be organized in an appropriate way to facilitate ease of transition in rehearsal and performance. All Beginning Band students will use *Time for Band*, Book 1 by David Ryan (Blue Cover), which will be provided. In case it is lost, copies are available at local music stores, like Amro, Lane, and Bartlett Music Academy.

Most importantly, all students must have a working instrument and all necessary accessories during class and at every performance. These accessories may include, but are not limited to:

- Mouthpiece
- Ligature
- Reeds (Buy them by the box. It's MUCH cheaper!)
- Neck Strap
- Sticks and/or Mallets
- Cleaning Rag or Brush

Although private lessons are highly encouraged for every student, percussionists are the only students that are required to take private lessons. Students who have a problem with taking lessons should play another instrument. Because the very best students on every instrument take lessons, everyone should look into it by visiting the "LESSONS" page of the band website or contacting Mr. Foster for a recommendation.

Grading Policies

The main grades in band are the performances. Each performance, including Solo & Ensemble, is the formal summative assessment for that material, and so is a test grade. Please see the calendar for a list of performance dates and place them on your calendars ASAP.

Performances can be excused at the discretion of Mr. Foster in the event of an unavoidable conflict, but written notification from the parent is required at least a week before the performance. If the emergency occurs the day of the performance, written notification from the parent is required within a week after the performance. Performances can then be made up with a mock All-West audition/lesson with Mr. Foster outside of class time.

Performances are also dictated by the ACS Travel Guidelines shown on page 14. Students who miss a performance because of grades or behavior will need to make up the missed grade. Please review, sign and return page 14 to acknowledge your understanding of these policies.

All students are also required to learn and pass-off all 12 major scales and their chromatic scale. Pass-offs involve playing the scales for Mr. Foster. This can be done before or after school, but not during class. Beginners may use the book for reference, but more experienced players must have their scales memorized. Scales may be passed-off at any point in the year before they are due. Many of our best students pass-off all 12 majors in the first semester. Three major scales are due each quarter, and the chromatic is due by the end of the year. This helps keep students from procrastinating. Please see the Scale Pass-off Sheet for the due dates.

In addition to the above grades, the Beginning Band will have a weekly grade gathered from the Weekly Objective worksheets. See page 7 for more details.

Weekly Objectives

Each week on *Tuesday*, beginners will turn in their completed Weekly Objective sheet and pick up a new one. Unless otherwise noted, this exchange will happen every week.

Each week is worth 10 total points, which are usually broken up as follows:

- 5 Points = Practice Record
 - 2 hours required each week, 2 points for each hour
 - 1 point for parent signature
 - Up to 5 points extra credit available for practicing over 2 hours in a week
- 3 Points = Music Theory/History Question
 - Short answer or multiple choice questions related to topic covered in class
- 2 Points = Rhythm of the Week
 - Write the counts in the blanks under the notes

Weekly Objectives will be accepted late with the loss of all extra credit. They will be accepted up until the end of the quarter in which they were assigned. Weekly Objectives are not meant to be a limiting factor, but a way of organizing information. Mr. Foster just wants to see that you are learning!

Early Band

Early Band is a regular place and time for students of all grade and ability levels to practice together and learn from each other. It is a voluntary event, which can be attended as often as desired. There is no commitment or requirement, but all students are highly encouraged to participate as often as possible.

Beginners who attend Early Band often get a helpful hand from experienced players. Students from different bands can play music together. Students can pass off scales and seek help from Mr. Foster. Many Beginning Band students will use this time to get their 2 hours of required practice, especially tuba players that cannot take their tubas on the busses.

Early Band occurs every weekday except for Thursday, because that is when the Arlington Middle has faculty meetings. Students may arrive as early as 7:30 am. They can enter through the front doors of the building and be buzzed in by the office staff. They will then stay in the band room until 8:45, when they will go to their homeroom classes.

Uniforms

The Concert & Symphonic Bands will perform in a “Concert Black” dress uniform that is purchased from the band. *These uniform parts are yours to keep.* Feel free to hem them yourself or get them altered to fit your unique shape and size. Beginning band members do not play for judges, so they will not need one in 6th grade. 7th grade beginners will use uniforms in the Spring semester, but not the Fall.

New uniforms are distributed in October and November and cost \$60. Checks are made to the “AMS Band”. This fee is separate because students should only need to purchase a full uniform once, so it is not part of the annual band fee. You may combine this check with the band fee at registration if you know you will need a uniform.

Uniforms Continued on Next Page

The female uniform is a 1-piece, A-line, floor-length black dress with flutter cap sleeves. All dresses come in a standard length that is much too long for most girls. Please *hem* the dress so that it just skims the floor when standing in bare feet. Ladies will also need to acquire their own pair of *black dress* shoes that are flat or have no more than 1-inch heels. No flip-flops, sandals, or open-toed shoes may be worn. You may choose to wear flesh-colored hosiery or none at all.

You may also wear jewelry limited to small earrings and/or a small simple necklace. Try not to wear anything too flashy that would draw unnecessary attention to you or distract from the performance. A solid black sweater or shoulder cover may be worn in case of cold weather for outdoor concerts or travel between venues. Ladies may be asked to remove their cover-ups at the time of performance.

The male uniform includes 4 parts: (1) shirt with four black studs, (2) black pants with an adjustable waistband, (3) black vest, and (4) black bow tie. Gentlemen will also need to acquire their own pair of *black* socks and *black dress* shoes.

Shirts should be worn completely buttoned with the sleeves rolled out and buttoned. They must be tucked into the pants. **Pants** come *unhemmed*, so all students must hem them to their appropriate length. They should be pulled up to the waist, which is around the navel NOT the hip. Use the silver clip on the side to adjust the waistline by about an inch. **Vests** are buttoned when in public *except* for the bottom button. Please leave that one unfastened. **Bow Ties** are adjustable and clip together under the collar of the shirt.

If you lose or outgrow any part of your uniform, please try to replace it as soon as possible to avoid panic at the last minute. Used uniform parts may be donated to the band at the end of the season, so we may be able to replace at no cost. However, if we do not have your size or you would like to purchase brand new parts, pants are \$25, Shirts are \$20, Vests are \$15, and Bow Ties are \$5.

Beginners will wear one of two uniforms. Their casual uniform is the current band T-shirts and kaki pants or shorts. The formal uniform is dress-clothes. Dress-clothes will vary in style and formality, but they must follow these guidelines:

- All clothes must comply with the ACS and AMS dress code
- No Jeans or Spandex
- No Sneakers or Athletic Shoes
- Men's Shirts must be collared (No T-Shirts)
 - Ties are welcome, but not required
- Skirts and Dresses must pass the knees when seated
 - You cannot cross your legs and maintain proper playing posture
- Hair must be of a natural color and may have appropriate ties, bows, or bands
- Hats may not be worn as they block the view of students behind you

Students not in the correct and appropriate uniform at the time of a performance may not be allowed to perform with the band and must make-up the missed grade.

Concert Festival

The Concert and Symphonic bands participate in the West Tennessee's annual performance evaluation. The performances occur during the day and the school will provide transportation to and from the event. If AMS lunch is missed due to the performance time, the boosters will provide a lunch for students, or you can choose to bring a bag lunch for yourself. Concert Festival usually occurs in March. The specific dates and times will be announced in February.

All-West

Each year, the West Tennessee Band and Orchestra Association (W.T.S.B.O.A) puts their convention in the Canon Center in downtown Memphis to show off all the great things that are happening with music education in West Tennessee. Since our students are the greatest part of education, the most successful players are selected to participate in honor bands with guest conductors of great skill and prestige.

The Junior High category (6th - 8th graders) is separated into 2 bands: Blue and Red. The goal of each band is to reward hard-working and dedicated students with an enriched learning experience in a large group of their peers. The hope is that students will return from the event with a greater appreciation for music, their instruments, and players from schools all over the region. Additionally, we hope that students learn new and useful techniques to share with their home bands.

Although attendance at the actual clinic is not required if you make the band, all Symphonic Band members will audition for All-West. Concert Band members are *highly* encouraged to audition and will learn the music regardless. Beginning band members may participate at the request of their private instructors. Registration for the auditions is covered in the band fee. Transportation will be provided to the auditions when they are held in Jackson, TN. Please visit arlingtonmsband.com/all-west for more details.

Solo & Ensemble

Solo & Ensemble is an opportunity for students to show their individual talents in solos and small groups. Every member of the AMS Band will perform at least one solo. They will receive a solo to perform from Mr. Foster, or they can choose to play one given by their private teacher.

All students are highly encouraged to find and perform small ensemble pieces in groups of their choosing. Mr. Foster has many different pieces for ensembles with regular instrumentation. Please find one early to be well prepared for the performance in April. The pieces do not need to be from any specific list, but they do need to be of musical quality and you must have a score (all parts in one book) for the judge.

If you wish to sign up your group for the performance, go to arlingtonmsband.com/solo--ensemble and fill out the Google Form at the top of the page. You do not need to sign up for the solo, as everyone is performing one. Mr. Foster will use these submissions to sign up students for the event. As always, the cost for participation is covered in the band fee.

Spring Trip

In April or May, Concert and Symphonic band members have the privilege of traveling to a regional band competition with an accompanying trip to a nearby theme park. This competition is a way for the AMS band to get experience playing with other students in bands from across the country. It allows us to rate our skills against other groups and schools of top quality. Students look forward to this trip every year as a reward for their hard work and perseverance. Details of each trip are unique for that year, so it will be discussed at the Spring Booster Meeting in January.

In order to ensure a superior performance, attendance is required unless an appropriate excuse is submitted before the final payment is due. The payment schedule will be announced at the second booster meeting. Refunds cannot be given after the final payment is due, because all money at that point will be given to the performance coordinator, the charter bus company, and the theme park. Additionally, tickets purchased at the discount price afforded by the competition are one-day only tickets and cannot be saved for later use.

List of Upcoming Events

Date	Event	Performers	Location
September	AHS Band 8 th Grade Night First	All 8 th Graders <i>Not Required</i>	AHS Football Stadium
September 20	Fall Booster Meeting and 6 th Grade Performance <u>Consent Form and Fees Due</u>	Beginning Band	AMS Cafeteria
November 9	Lakeland Veteran's Celebration	Symphonic Band	Lakeland Elementary School
November 10	AMS Veteran's Day Celebration	Concert & Symphonic Bands	AMS Gymnasium
November 13	<i>Probable Date</i> of Arlington Town Veteran's Celebration	Symphonic Band	Arlington Historic Depot Square
December 11	AMS Winter Concert	All Students	AHS Auditorium
January 14	WTSBOA All-West Auditions	Required for Symphonic Band	Arlington High School
January 19	Spring Booster Meeting	Concert and Symphonic Bands	AMS Cafeteria
February 9 – 11	All-West Clinic	All-West Participants	Canon Center for the Performing Arts
March 7	Pre-Festival Concert	Concert and Symphonic Bands	AHS Auditorium
March 8	Concert Festival	Concert and Symphonic Bands	Colonial Middle School – Memphis, TN
April 1	Solo & Ensemble Festival	All Students	Elmore Park Middle School, Bartlett, TN
TBA	Spring Trip	Concert and Symphonic Bands	TBA
May 7	AMS Spring Concert	All Students	AHS Auditorium
May 24	AMS 8 th Grade Promotion Ceremony	Next Year's Symphonic Band	Bellevue Baptist Church, Memphis, TN

All Dates Subject to Change – Stay posted on the AMS Band Website and Google Calendar!

ARLINGTON MIDDLE SCHOOL BAND
2016 – 2017 Medical Release Form (For Concert & Symphonic Band ONLY)

Student Name _____ Birth Date ____/____/____
Last First MI

Address _____
(Number & Street- City- State- Zip)

Home Phone # _____ Grade for 2016 – 2017 (circle one): 7th 8th

Band (circle one): **Concert** **Symphonic** Instrument: _____

EMERGENCY NOTIFICATION

Father's Name	_____	Home Phone	_____
Father's Work #	_____	Cell Phone #	_____
Mother's Name	_____	Home Phone	_____
Mother's Work #	_____	Cell Phone #	_____

ALTERNATE EMERGENCY NOTIFICATION

The following persons are authorized to act in my behalf if I cannot be reached in the event of an emergency.

(1) Name _____ Relationship _____

Phones: Home _____ Work _____ Cell _____

(2) Name _____ Relationship _____

Phones: Home _____ Work _____ Cell _____

PHYSICIAN INFORMATION

Physician's Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Office Number _____ Answering Service # _____

THE INFORMATION FURNISHED ON THIS FORM IS ACCURATE. I/WE, the undersigned, being the parent, legal next of kin, or legal guardian hereby authorize any necessary medical treatment for _____ while he/she is participating with THE ARLINGTON MIDDLE SCHOOL BAND. I also guarantee payment of all charges incurred during this medical treatment (physician, hospital, x-ray, lab, medication, ambulance, etc.) I/WE have read and understand all requirements for a student to participate in the AMS Band and are committed to fulfilling ALL requirements for participation in the program. We understand that this form MUST be notarized and a copy of the FRONT and BACK of the INSURANCE CARD attached before it is returned so that the participant may practice/perform with the Band.

Signature of Parent / Legal Guardian

Date Notarized

Signature of Notary Public

Student Information Form & Contract

Student's Name: _____
Last, First Middle

2016-17 Grade: 6th 7th 8th 2016-17 Band: **Beginning** **Concert** **Symphonic**

Instrument: _____

Parent Name(s): _____

Primary Phone Number: _____ Secondary Phone Number: _____

Email Address(es): _____

Home Address: _____
Street City State Zip Code

I, the undersigned, give my child permission to travel and participate in all band trips and performances as detailed in the 2014-15 Band Handbook. I acknowledge that I have read and understand all rules, policies, and procedures in the handbook, and I will fulfill the expectations mentioned within to the best of my abilities. I understand that band is a year long commitment, and that if I am unable to meet my commitment for whatever reason, I will communicate that to Mr. Foster in as soon as possible before a commitment is missed.

Signature of Parent or Legal Guardian: _____ Date: _____

Please complete and return this form (and the Medical Release Form if you are in 7th or 8th grade) to Mr. Foster or a member of the Booster Board by the First Booster Meeting on September 15th.

Parent Volunteer Information

No large student organization can operate without parent support. The Arlington bands have a tremendous history of amazing booster parents, of which you are now a critical part! Please indicate below any and all areas you might be willing to assist with on an event-by-event basis. *This is not a commitment form.* You will receive information regarding these activities as they come up. Please consider helping all you can, you are truly needed and greatly appreciated!

_____ Being a Booster Officer (President, Vice-President, Treasurer, Secretary, etc.)

_____ Chaperoning students on out-of-school trips

_____ Chaperoning students at Arlington Middle or High School

_____ Helping with the Friendship Dance (Friday, February 5th)

_____ Helping fit for, distribute, and alter uniform parts (September and October)

Arlington Middle School Performing Arts Expectations

The AMS Performing Arts ensembles (Band, Chorus, Orchestra) appreciate the opportunities afforded to us to perform in and around our community. These opportunities exist as a privilege earned by excellent performances from students in the past. In order to continue to provide these opportunities for future band, chorus, orchestra members, behavior procedures must be followed.

1. Students are expected to perform at every event that they are eligible to attend.
2. Students who currently have a grade of “D” or “F” in any class will not be allowed to perform/travel with the group. Grades will be assessed 10 school days prior to the event. Grades must be brought up to a “C” or better in each class by 4 pm the day before the event in order to qualify for the next scheduled performance.
3. Students who receive an in-school suspension (ISS) or an out of school suspension (OSS) prior to a performance will be required to have a parent/guardian accompany them on an off campus performance.
4. Students who receive an out-of-school suspension (OSS) anytime during the school year will be required to have a parent/guardian accompany them on the out of town trip in May.
5. Students who need to be reprimanded or removed during a trip because of poor behavior may be removed from the remainder of trips for that year.
6. The above expectations apply to performances during school time or off of school property. They do not apply to the semester summative performance assessment concerts (Winter and Spring).

These expectations will be effective August 24, 2015.

Student name _____
(please print)

Please sign and return indicating that you have read, understand, and agree with the expectations.

(student signature)

(parent signature)