

# Jewett Middle Academy Magnet School

## 2021-2022 Band Handbook



**“for greater bands and better people”**

**Tenisha Picinich, Director of Bands**

**Jacquelyn Moore, Principal | Heather Donhauser, Asst. Principal**



### Mission Statement

The Jewett Middle Academy Magnet School Band serves to cultivate excellence, inspire creativity, develop confidence and competence, and instill the intrinsic value of the students who participate within it.

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### Vision Statement

**The JMA Band Program's vision has three areas of focus...**

**Musical Excellence** The JMA band program highlights the quality of musical performance as a product of the effort invested into its creation. JMA band members will learn to value attention to detail and the passion underlying making music. The JMA band teaches the value of exposing oneself to different perspectives within music (and without), catalyzes critical analysis skills, and creates competent, well-informed communicators.

**Personal Growth** The JMA band program models excellent musicianship and character development. JMA band members are confident individuals and passionate about engaging in productive dialogue. JMA band members identify themselves as young masters of their craft through strength of fundamentals, well-developed technique, theory comprehension and application, uninhibited displays of musicality in performance, capacity for critical conversation, and productive self-critique.

**Lifelong Skills** JMA's band provides students the opportunity to learn to properly value the opinions of themselves and others, as well as the duty to respect others from collaboration. The JMA Band Program clarifies the value of asking for help and highlights that opportunities to advance in any avenue are available when using the right sources. Time spent in the JMA band will develop self-confidence to bolster students' development of their passions and skill sets throughout life through a deliberately cultivated sense of self-competence. The JMA band program develops a realistic understanding that excellence requires discipline, fostering perseverance and the ideal that goals are attained through appropriately informed, consistently executed actions.

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# Welcome!

The faculty and student leadership of the Jewett Middle Academy Band Program are very excited to welcome you this 2021-22 school year! The band strives to provide a rewarding musical experience to all who connect with us and we are privileged to have your commitment this upcoming year and beyond! Our success results largely from intentionally cultivating an inclusive “family” culture among our members, which makes time with the JMA band extremely fun and rewarding!

This handbook offers a holistic guide for how you can implement instrumental music into your middle school experience and take full advantage of the musical resources, opportunities, and dedicated faculty we have at JMA.

As many of you do live in the surrounding community, you may have formed connections on campus already! If not, we encourage you to follow us on social media (provided below) and/or attend one (or more) of our concerts for the ensembles we have representing our school! A detailed calendar can be accessed at [http://www.jewettacademymagnet.com/band/!](http://www.jewettacademymagnet.com/band/)

I am looking forward to a wonderful year and exceptional music-making! Please do not hesitate to reach out if you have any questions or concerns.

Welcome to the family!

Tenisha Picinich  
JMA Band Director  
[tenisha.picinich@polk-fl.net](mailto:tenisha.picinich@polk-fl.net)  
(863) 291-5320 ext. 477



*For greater bands  
and better people.*

## STAY CONNECTED!

**Band Website – check frequently!**

<http://www.jewettacademymagnet.com/band/>

### Contact Information:

Band Room (12-020L) | Email: [tenisha.picinich@polk-fl.net](mailto:tenisha.picinich@polk-fl.net)

School: (863) 291-5320 ext. 477 | Mobile (until 8 pm): (863) 332-2702

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### Social Media



**BAND App - join your corresponding classes [via this link!](#)**

**AND...**



**Follow us on Facebook! [Jewett Middle Academy Band](#)**

## Ensembles

- **Beginning Band**
  - Beginning Band provides introductory woodwind, brass, and percussion instruction in a class setting. Emphasis is placed on music fundamentals, as well as technical and listening skills. Most first-year members undertake their band studies in Beginning Band. The Beginning Band performs at school and community concerts; extra rehearsals and performances are required as part of this course. Summer Band Camp is *highly encouraged* for all Beginning Band members. No audition is required for Beginning Band.
  
- **Concert Band**
  - Concert Band provides intermediate woodwind and brass instruction in a class setting. Emphasis is placed on music fundamentals, as well as technical, and listening skills. Many second-year members undertake their band studies in Concert Band. The Concert Band performs at school and community concerts. Extra rehearsals and performances are required as part of this course. Summer Band Camp is *highly encouraged* for all Concert Band members. An audition is required as well.
  
- **Symphonic Band**
  - Symphonic Band provides advanced woodwind and brass instruction in a class setting. Emphasis is placed on music fundamentals, as well as technical and listening skills. Most second and third-year members undertake their band studies in Symphonic Band. The Symphonic Band performs at school and community concerts as well as FBA regional and state band festivals. Extra rehearsals and performances are required as part of this course. An audition is required as well.
  
- **Percussion Ensemble**
  - Percussion Class provides thorough fundamental percussion instruction in a class setting. Emphasis is placed on music fundamentals, as well as technical and listening skills and provides appropriate-level instruction to all members. Members of the JMA Percussion Ensemble perform at school and community concerts, as well as FBA regional and state band festivals. Extra rehearsals and performances are required as part of this course, namely to perform with the appropriate-level concert band.
  
- **Jazz Ensemble**
  - **Students must be enrolled in another concert band or orchestra class to be eligible and be a 7<sup>th</sup> or 8<sup>th</sup> graders with at least one year of band experience.** The JMA Jazz Ensemble will perform at school concerts and is typically the school's most visible ensemble within the community. This band consists of traditional jazz band instruments: alto saxophones, tenor saxophones, baritone saxophones, trumpets, trombones, piano, guitar, bass, drum set, and auxiliary percussion. **(Director does not start beginning guitar, bass, piano, or drum set players. Students must have prior experience on these instruments).** Selection for this ensemble is based on end-of-year auditions, level of musicianship, leadership throughout the school year, and instrumental needs of the band. This ensemble will be graded as all other advanced bands. Extra rehearsals and performances are required.

## **Student Expectations**

- Students are expected to comply with the Behavioral Expectations of **both** Jewett Middle Academy Magnet School and Polk County Public Schools, which can be located on their respective websites.
- Students are expected to be masters of their own schedules according to the attendance guidelines below. This includes:
  - Delivering the calendar to parents and reminding them of upcoming events.
  - Checking and reading posts made in the BAND app.
  - Students must align the schedule of other extracurriculars and work around the practice and rehearsal schedule. Communicating with sports coaches and club sponsors about band & orchestra functions is essential to avoid conflict.
  - Providing informal and written communication with the band directors about sports events participation.
  - DETENTIONS, WORK, EXTRA HELP IN CLASSES, HOMEWORK, MAKE-UP TESTS, FAMILY TRIPS, UPCOMING TESTS, RETREATS, etc. ARE NOT EXCUSED ABSENCES.

## **Attendance Policy**

- At JMA Magnet School, attendance is paramount to student success. The JMA Band Program is "co-curricular," which means that enrollment in an ensemble will require participation both during and after-school.
- Good attendance from all members is critical for a program to be successful. Each rehearsal and performance is a group event that heavily relies on the presence of each individual member.
- Therefore, all band students are required and expected to be at all official instrumental music functions. That includes after-school rehearsals, games, competitions, FBA events, and required parades. The student is presented with a calendar of these events at the beginning of the year to assist with the planning of doctor's appointments, jobs, working with school athletics, etc. and a signature at the end of this handbook indicates understanding and compliance of all attendance requirements. Attendance is a key part of the student's grade in band.

## **Absences**

**An excused absence form can be found on our page on the [JMA website](#), which should be filled out prior to, if possible, each time a student is absent from a scheduled band rehearsal, performance, or other required band event. This form should be used each and every time a student will not be in attendance. Any documentation you may provide should be brought to the band director so she may make a copy for record-keeping (before turning them in to the Attendance Office). The Attendance Office does not automatically communicate info related to students' attendance to the Band Director.**

The JMA Band Program excuses students from rehearsals and performances using the Polk County Public Schools (PCPS) attendance policy. This allows for certain absences which will not be counted against a student's nine (9) allowed per 9-weeks. These are:

1. Religious holidays
2. Illness with medical documentation
3. Chronic and extended illness



#### 4. Death or illness within immediate family

**Absences that do not meet the above criteria are not considered excused** by the JMA Band Program. Both excused and unexcused **absences** from certain rehearsals & performances will **require a make-up assignment** (i.e. research paper, recording assignment, worksheet, equipment/organizational duties, etc.) in order for students to receive make-up credit for their grade. Either a conference or additional assignment will be assigned to compensate for unexcused absences; failure to complete **both** requirements for an unexcused absence forfeits the opportunity to receive full make-up credit. **It is a student's responsibility to follow-up with the director for an absence-related assignment.** As per PCPS guidelines, students will be provided a minimum completion time of the number of days absent plus two days.

#### Rehearsal & Performance Commitments

- Student attendance is paramount to success and full contribution to and of the band.
- Students are expected to arrive at rehearsal 15 minutes prior to rehearsal start time (ex: 3:15 PM for a 3:30 PM downbeat)
- There are instances in which an after-school club or service organization may hold a meeting conflicting with rehearsal time. We encourage students to articulate to these clubs' respective sponsors the precedence of your rehearsal attendance; however, as we understand some conflicts are inevitable, please be sure to fill out an absence form provided on the website and be in communication with the directors regarding the conflict.

**Important Dates & Events** Our students would not be considered musicians without the opportunity to perform. The performance aspect of any band program is vital to its success. This allows students to showcase their musical learning and take pride in their achievements. We want to offer our band students every opportunity for performance, while also allowing our students to remain active in other activities. With this in mind, we only have several required concerts/events, while also offering many additional voluntary events throughout the year.

**Music Performance Assessment (MPA)** Each year the Symphonic Band performs three selections of music in front of a panel of esteemed judges to receive a rating; therefore, participation in the Symphonic Band requires preparation of music at the highest level. **Students who are in a District Performance-attending band must agree to attend ALL rehearsals as well as the District MPA performance.** More details will be made available as the date approaches. Please contact Ms. Picinich with questions or concerns.

#### Classroom Procedures

- **Entering the Classroom/Beginning Class** The bell system has been set up to assist teachers rather than to begin or end classes. Please enter the band building in a timely manner to get your instrument and all necessary materials and equipment prior to the bell ringing. Do not linger in the locker room. Proceed directly from your preceding class to the band building/room to store your bag, exchange your tuner with your phone, set up your chair and music stand and read the board. There will be a daily itinerary with daily objectives, a bellringer, and music listed to be put in order. Again, do not wait for the bell to ring to begin daily class procedures. Students should be ready to play within one minute of the tardy bell.

- **Sharpening Pencils** The classroom has a pencil sharpener. All pencils should be sharpened BEFORE start time.
- **Backpacks and cases** Backpacks should be placed under your chair. Flute, oboe, & clarinet cases are allowed under a chair, but all other cases should be left in the locker room or along the walls of the room. Be sure to remove all necessary items from your case before class begins.
- **Mobile phones, earbuds, electronics etc.** These items should be switched off/silent during class and exchanged with tuners before class begins as they are a distraction from the learning environment. It is not acceptable to have your phone on your stand to “check the time.” If it is necessary, you should seek approval to use your device.
- **Food, Drink, & Gum** Any kind of consumable food or drink item (gum included), open or closed, is not allowed at any time in the band room. This is to maintain the condition of our facility, to prevent roach infestation, and to keep trash out of the room. Students who consistently violate this policy may be asked to help clean the band room on their own time.
- **Classroom/Intercom or Office Announcements** If there are announcements from the office intercom, director, student, parent or guests, students should instantly become silent. If you are moving chairs or stands, freeze in your place so as not to disturb the announcements that are being given. You may resume your movement or activity as soon as the announcements are over.
- **Requesting Music** Requesting copies of music must be handled before or after class via the music request form on the website or to the band secretaries via the BAND app.
- **Using the Restroom During Class** The school bell schedule provides time to get from sequential classes in a timely manner. Of course, occasionally students will need to use the restroom during the day. Students may sign-out to go to the restroom only AFTER completion & check of the bellringer and will be allowed to do so one at a time. If this process is misused or abused, the director reserves the right to revoke it.
- **Illness/Unable to Play During Class** If you are suffering from some illness that makes it difficult to play your instrument, first and foremost consider your physical needs and the potential effects of contact with others. If you are able to attend class without compromising the health of yourselves or others, you must follow this procedure to earn your class participation grade: set-up your instrument/music and equipment as usual. During the class period you are expected to “finger” and sing (to the best of your ability) on your instrument without actually playing for **all** activities that day. If you feel too sick to sit up and “finger” and sing, you should visit the school nurse, sign out and go home.

## **Grading Procedures**

The bulk of a student’s grade in band is based on participation, preparation, progress, attendance, and knowledge. If a student is prepared for class every day and is fully participating in class activities, they will succeed. Ability level is assessed regularly, but it will never be used as the sole method for determining a student’s class grade. The grading policy will vary slightly according to class level. As per the PCPS policy, students must maintain a 2.0 grade point average as well to maintain good standing with the school and ensemble.

## **BEGINNING BAND**

### **Weekly Participation – 25 Points (5 Per Day/5% of grade)**

- Students are expected to have all required materials (see REQUIRED MATERIALS below) on a daily basis.

- Students will earn daily participation points as follows:
  - 5 Points – Has all materials in working condition, participates in class, and contributes to the overall band sonority.
  - 3 Point – Is missing one of the following: pencil, method book, music, reed, or mouthpiece but is still actively focused on improving their playing through fizzling, borrowing from a neighbor, or another appropriate means of musical practice.
  - 0 Points – Is missing two or more of aforementioned materials, is missing an instrument, or is not participating in an appropriate manner.
- Students who fail to prepare for class are unable to contribute to rehearsal nor fully learn within our performance-based curriculum. Every effort should be made to remember to bring your instrument, music, and other materials each day we have class.
- If your instrument is in the repair shop, ask for a loaner from the business and **remember to take the mouthpiece out of your instrument's case before you send it in** to be repaired.

### **Worksheets and Quizzes – 50 Points (10 % of grade)**

- Students are expected to participate in all class activities on a daily basis. These include but are not limited to: bell-work assignments, listening journals, theory worksheets, music history, planner assignments, and vocabulary quizzes. Quizzes will be given with at least two days' notice.
- Students may be given the opportunity to redo or make-up poor or missed assignments at the director's discretion.

### **Written or Playing Tests – 50 Points (10% of grade)**

- For playing tests, students will play sections of their music individually or in small groups. These will be announced at the beginning of each unit and should be written down in their planner.
  - Playing tests will consist of one or more of the following musical aspects: tone, intonation, rhythm, pitch, phrasing, articulation, dynamics, meter, and steady beat. They may also include skills and techniques such as posture, embouchure, breathing, and sight reading. Tests will be given with at least a week's notice.
- Written tests may consist of musical terms and/or various aspects of music theory and history. Students will be made aware of the grading rubric that will define the various levels of skill proficiency.
- Students may be given the opportunity to improve upon a written or playing test score at the director's discretion.

### **Pass-Off Completion – 75 Points (15% of grade)**

- Students will progress through skill levels via small playing and written music assignments based upon our state standards. Each level will contain a set amount of activities, which students can work through at their own pace. Students are required to do a determined number of Pass-Offs each 9 weeks, but may complete additional pass-offs for extra credit, chair placement, level completion recognition, etc.

### **Concert Performance – 300 Points (60% of grade)**

- A concert is the most important event we have as it is the culmination of all the hard work we do in class. It is the showcase of our students' amazing talents and is extremely rewarding.

Performing is also a learning experience that cannot be repeated in any other way. As with any sports team, a band has many players. Each and every player has a part to play in the concert that cannot be replaced or made up. Every person is counting on the next; this is an aspect of band that makes it so great!

- *In the event that a student does not attend a concert due to illness, family emergency, or other extenuating circumstance, immediate communication with the director is necessary for an excusal.* Students who miss a scheduled concert or event will be required to complete an alternate assignment to receive credit. Students with unexcused conflicts must complete a make-up assignment, as outlined above.

### **ADVANCED BANDS (refer to descriptions above)**

- Weekly Participation – 25 Points (5% of grade)
- Worksheets and Quizzes – 50 Points (10% of grade)
- Written or Playing Tests – 125 Points (15% of grade)
- Concert Participation (incl. rehearsals) – 300 Points (60% of grade)

### **Required Attire**

The proper uniform is required for all performances, field trips, and band activities as applicable. Make sure you begin looking for these items early - well in advance of concert performances. Also, do not forget to try on pieces used in previous years to ensure they still fit - middle school students grow out of clothes quickly! Please notify your director if you have trouble acquiring the necessary uniform pieces.

- BEGINNING BAND: Band T-shirt and long denim blue jeans (no shorts)
- CONCERT BAND/SYMPHONIC BAND
  - **Boys** - black long pants, black long socks, black dress shoes. Boys will also be supplied with a white button-down dress shirt, black bowtie and cummerbund. **There is an additional uniform rental fee of \$10 for concert/symphonic band students.** A Uniform Rental Contract will be supplied the first day of school with more information.
  - **Girls** - Closed toe black shoes. Girls will be supplied with a long black skirt, white button-down dress shirt, black bowtie and cummerbund. **There is an additional uniform rental fee of \$10 for concert/symphonic band students.** A Uniform Rental Contract will be supplied with additional information.

### **Required Materials**

\*A **1-1/2 inch** dedicated band **binder** with:

- Pencils w/ eraser
- Plastic sheet protectors
- 3 Dividers
- Standard of Excellence Book 1 (Beg./Conc. Band) **OR** Tradition of Excellence Book 2 (Sym. Band)

- Master Theory by Charles S. Peters and Paul Yoder (Book #'s will be determined after school start)

### **Band Fees**

Throughout the school year, there are a few band fees students will need to pay. These fees help us cover the cost of band shirts, new instruments, new uniforms, and more. Listed below are the fees your student may need to pay during the year. No student will be excluded from band due to financial hardship.

#### **New Students**

- \$10 – Jewett Middle Academy Band T-Shirt
- \$50 – School-owned instrument Rental Fee

#### **Returning Students**

- \$10 – Jewett Middle Academy Band T-Shirt (if you do not already have one, you will need to get one)
- \$10 – Concert Uniform Rental (Please see uniform section below)
- \$50 – School Owned Instrument Rental (please see school owned instrument section below)
- \$5 – Uniform Dry Clean Fee, This allows the band to take all uniforms at the end of the year and clean any items that were used during the school year.

#### **Jazz Ensemble Students**

- \$10 – Jewett Middle Academy Band T-Shirt (If you do not already have you will need to get)
- \$10 – Concert Uniform Rental (Please see uniform section below)
- \$50 – School Owned Instrument Rental (please see school owned instrument section below)
- \$28 – Jazz Band Polo, This is required for all JAZZ BAND ONLY Concerts

## **Parent Involvement**

**Parents who desire to volunteer with the JMA Band Program MUST BE cleared by the district.**

Directions to do so can be found at <https://polkschoolsfl.com/getinvolved/>.

The success of any band program relies heavily upon the support of parent volunteers. We will have many opportunities throughout the school year for you to become involved with the JMA band in several different capacities. Even if you have little time to spare, there are areas outside of regular school hours that you can volunteer for. Info will be sent home via email and the BAND app. We will need large numbers of parent volunteers to help with:

- Concert set-up and tear-down
- Uniform distribution
- Library organization, filing, music copying
- Community relations (music advocacy, donation solicitation, etc.)
- Publications (newsletters, parent contact/volunteer organization)

## **Field Trip Chaperones**

We need at least 1 chaperone per 10 students on EVERY field trip. Please complete the required applications now even if you cannot commit to a specific trip or date, and even though trips are not guaranteed this school year. It takes 8 WEEKS to be approved and there is a one-time, \$25 background check fee due with the application.

## **Private Lessons**

Although private lessons are not required, they are HIGHLY encouraged, and a fantastic way to accelerate the musical growth of a band student along with providing an additional challenging music experience. The private instructor contact list will be provided to all students and will be available to students in the band room at all times.

## 2021-22 Band Calendar

Import to your digital calendar via the band website!

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Students Involved</u>
August 10th (Tues)	8 AM	First Day of School!	JMA Magnet School	ALL BAND STUDENTS
August 13th (Fri)	End of School Day	Handbook Contracts Due	In Class	ALL BAND STUDENTS
Aug. 17th - Oct. 7th (Tues/Thurs)	3:15-4:00 PM	After School Help Sessions	JMA Band Room	All-State Auditioners
September 18th (Sat)	8:30 AM	All-State Auditions	Lakeland Christian School	All-State Auditioners
October 12th (Tues)	7 PM	Prism Concert	TBA	SB & JB
October 15th (Fri)	3:30-7:30 PM	Rock-O-Thon	JMA Cafeteria	ALL BAND STUDENTS
Mid-late October	TBA	8th Grade Band Nights	WHHS, HCHS, LRHS, AHS	8th Graders
November 29th (Mon)	3:30-5:00 PM	CB Rehearsal	JMA Band Room	CB & Assigned Percussionists
November 30th (Tues)	3:30-5:00 PM	SB Rehearsal	JMA Band Room	SB & Assigned Percussionists
December 2nd (Thurs)	3:30-5:00 PM	BB Rehearsal	JMA Band Room	BB & Assigned Percussionists
December 7th (Tues)	6:30 PM	Winter Concert	TBA	ALL BAND STUDENTS
January 13-15th (Wed-Fri)	All Day	FMEA/All-State	Tampa Bay Convention Center	All-State Honor Band Students
<i>Mid-January</i>	In school	S/E Forms/\$ Due	JMA Band Room/Online Form	Open to all band students

Jan. 18th - Feb. 10th (Tues & Thurs)	3:15-4:30 PM	S/E Help Sessions	JMA Band Room	Open to all band students
Jan. 24th - Feb. 10th	TBA	S/E Piano Dress Rehearsals	JMA Band Room	Open to all band students
February 11-12th (Fri-Sat)	TBA	Solo and Ensemble	Lakeland Senior High School	Open to all band students
<i>Late February</i>	TBA	Concert Band Pre-MPA	TBA	SB & CB Students
March 4th (Fri)	TBA	Concert Band MPA	Kathleen HS	SB Students
April 24th (Mon)	3:30-5:00 PM	CB Rehearsal	JMA Band Room	CB & Assigned Percussionists
April 25th (Tues)	3:30-5:00 PM	SB Rehearsal	JMA Band Room	SB & Assigned Percussionists
April 27th (Thurs)	3:30-5:00 PM	BB Rehearsal	JMA Band Room	BB & Assigned Percussionists
May 2nd (Mon)	3:30-5:00 PM	CB Rehearsal	JMA Band Room	CB & Assigned Percussionists
May 3rd (Tues)	3:30-5:00 PM	SB Rehearsal	JMA Band Room	SB & Assigned Percussionists
May 5th (Thurs)	3:30-5:00 PM	BB Rehearsal	JMA Band Room	BB & Assigned Percussionists
<i>April/May</i>	TBA (likely during school)	Recruitment Concerts	TBA	SB & JB
May 10th (Tues)	6:30 PM	Spring Concert		ALL BAND STUDENTS
May 20th / May 28th (Fri/Sat)	TBA	Year-End Celebration / Trip	TBA	ALL BAND STUDENTS
May 30th-June 10th (Mon-Fri)	9 AM - 2 PM	Summer Instrumental Band Camp	TBA	Summer Band Students

\*This is a tentative schedule for the year. Adjustments may be made in the light of new protocol requirements. All dates are subject to change and subject to administrative approval. Parent communication will *immediately* follow any changes.

Thank you for your flexibility and be sure to communicate any concerns you may have.



**Student Name:**

**Period #:**

(Please enclose the appropriate cash or check (payable to Jewett Middle Academy) amount according to the 'Band Fees' section outlined above.)

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**By signing this page of the band handbook, we acknowledge that we have read, understand, and consent to its content.**

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**Parent Name**

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**Parent Signature**

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**Student Name**

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**Student Signature**

**\*\*\*Please return the last page of this handbook no later than Friday, 8.13.21\*\*\***