

Welcome to the Band!

Father Allouez Catholic School
2018-19

Band Handbook

It is our mission to honor the Creator..
“With a joyful noise”



Peace and blessings in our journey together!

Christopher Forbes
Director of bands, FACS

Please read thoroughly!
Sign and return final page by:
Wednesday, September 26th

Band Handbook - Father Allouez

Dear Parents and Students,

Welcome back to school, I hope you had a relaxing and fun summer! I am excited to be your new band director here at Father Allouez Catholic School. As the band director, I will strive to provide the band with appropriate challenges and rewarding opportunities.

Please read over the contents of this Band Handbook and record the performance dates on your calendar, **sign the last page and return it to band class by Wednesday, September 26th**. Feel free to contact me throughout the year with any questions or concerns at [**cforbes@gracesystem.org**](mailto:cforbes@gracesystem.org)

Make a joyful noise (Psalm 81)

Christopher Forbes, Director FACS bands

Behavior Expectations

Respect Director

- While the director is on the podium, there will be listening ears and playing instruments only when directed.

Respect Others

- Treat others as you would like to be treated (safety, respect, kindness, fairness, honesty “Do to others as you would have them do to you.” Matthew 7:12)

Respect Equipment

- Players should only play or come in contact with their own instrument.
- No food in the bandroom. Only Water in secure containers permitted.

***All other general school rules and discipline procedures also apply.

Classroom Expectations

- Students are to be in the band room at the scheduled time of class.
- Students will be ready to rehearse 3-5 minutes after the class period begins.
- All tardy students must present a pass from another teacher.
- Students will be directed to put away their instruments 3-5 minutes before the end of class (swab time for woodwinds).
- Instrument cases are to be out of the way during rehearsal (under or on side of your chair for most instruments).
- With the exception of larger instruments, students should regularly take instruments home following Wednesday rehearsal (practice! until we meet again:)
- Students will leave the room in clean, tidy condition.

Required Materials

Class Materials:

- A pencil (no ink please)
- Class method book (TBD) and band music/folder
- School Planner
- Identification on all materials

Reed Player Supplies:

- At least 2 good, playable reeds at all times
- Single reed instruments should have a good clean mouthpiece, ligature and cap
- An instrument that is in good playing condition
- Cork grease, swab, and reed holder (a four reed holder recommended)

Brass Player Supplies:

- Valve (trumpet / baritone), rotary (F Horn), or slide (trombone) oil.
- Slide grease for tuning slides
- Cleaning snake, valve and mouthpiece brush
- A good, clean mouthpiece.
- An instrument that is fully functional and clean

Percussion Player Supplies:

- Percussion kit and metronome (for home practice)
- Snare sticks and keyboard mallets

***Each student will be awarded participation points for each day in band. Failure to have required materials or meet expectations will result in a lowered participation grade. All other school discipline procedures will apply as well.

School Instrument Rental

If renting a band instrument is needed it is encouraged to do so through a local music store. These vendors offer quality instruments, often with free repair service, and a variety of rent to own options. There is also an option to rent instruments from school at a reduced rate. However, these instruments are typically used and of lesser quality than instruments obtained from a music store. Repairs, if needed, can be charged to the student / parent if neglect is determined. School instruments can be borrowed at no cost if there is a financial hardship (see FACS administration for fee waiver) or if a student switches to an instrument to help out the balance of the performing ensemble.

Concert Attendance

Band is a performing ensemble. Performance is an essential part of the band experience, for both the group and the individual player. **Concerts are required** and are each worth **two letter grades** within the semester.

Family emergency or illness: Students will receive an “Excused” grade for the concert. A written excuse from a parent / guardian **is required** to the director by the first rehearsal after the student returns to school.

Other Family Excuses: **A written excuse must be presented to the director at least 1 week before the concert.** Students will be responsible for arranging an appropriate make up assignment. The make-up assignment must be completed within **2 weeks** after the student returns to school, or the concert will be graded as a “**0**.” The student will receive an “Excused” grade for the concert after the assignment has been completed.

No exceptions: excuses submitted during concert week will not be accepted.

***If a written excuse is not presented at least 1 week prior to the concert and the student does not attend - the student will receive a “0” for the concert grade and their semester grade will drop two letters.

Performance Dates (arrival times are 30 min before performance)

- Christmas Concert – Thursday, December 13th 6:00
- Solo and Ensemble (optional) – Saturday, March 2nd (Times: TBD)
- Spring Concert – Tuesday, May 21st 6:00

Other performance opportunities may be available throughout the year

Please keep up to date with current newsletters. As we get closer to events, dates and times will be posted.

Concert Dress Expectations

In a performance, looking your best shows respect for your audience and that you care about the performance. Dressing in a professional way and coordinating with the entire group demonstrates that you work together – attire should not distract from music.

Gentlemen

- ❖ Nice shirt
- ❖ Nice black pants
- ❖ Nice black socks and shoes
- ❖ Tie (optional)

Ladies

- ❖ Nice top
- ❖ Nice black pants or skirt (skirt must be below the knee when you sit down)
 - ❖ If wearing a skirt you must be wearing nylons or tights with it.
- ❖ Nice back shoes (please be aware of heel height)
- ❖ Splash of Color (optional) i.e. scarf or headband

Everyone needs to be:

- ❖ Clean
- ❖ Tidy (i.e. no messy hair!)

*all other school rules and dress codes apply

Lesson Attendance

Students are **required** to attend and complete the work for all lessons throughout the school year. Lessons are an essential part of the band experience and they count as a very significant part of the final grade in a term. **Students who miss a lesson must make up the lesson before their following lesson (or the end of the quarter) to receive full credit.** Students will not be allowed to make up a lesson beyond the make up period.

Unexcused absences will be recorded as a “0” in the grade book and marked “missing” until the lesson is made up. **Full credit will not be awarded** for make up “unexcused” absences. If a student is unable to attend a listed make-up time, s/he is responsible for scheduling a time with the director. **If a student is late for a lesson, points will be reduced.**

Rehearsal and lesson grades are worth 10 points: points are earned by following expectation guidelines, such as being on time and prepared.

Practice Charts

Ten points will be awarded for each weekly practice chart with a minimum of 60 minutes for beginners and 100 minutes for advanced players. Charts are to be **signed** by a parent or guardian and presented to the instructor during the student's lesson time.

** It is imperative to the success of the band and the individual that students practice.

Instruments should go home on non band days.

*****Students are expected to be prepared for rehearsals and lessons.**

***Access to all grade progress will be posted online via Powerschool. It is encouraged that you check grades frequently. Grades will also be mailed home periodically. If you feel that your grade is not accurate, please talk to Mr. Forbes

Need Help?

Anytime a student needs help with band, please contact Mr. Forbes ASAP! He is available at school Monday through Wednesday. If before or after school help is needed please set it up ahead of time. Mr. Forbes is happy to help any student in need!

Extra Credit

- ❖ Playing your band instrument in a performance outside those listed as "required"
- ❖ Going to Musicals/Concerts/Operas/Symphonies etc... outside of FACS (a program must be shown to the teacher and questions about the show may be asked!)
- ❖ Helping the band on a special project

Differentiation

If for some reason a student is having trouble practicing and/or performing for lessons, please contact Mr. Forbes. Requirements for the student can be adjusted. This action requires e-mailing/notes from home by parent/guardian of the student.

*** Dropping from band ***

Students can option out of band during the school year, however, this action is highly discouraged. Before this action can occur there is to be a meeting with administration, class teacher, student and parent(s) to determine cause for the request and consideration toward issue resolution.

Please read thoroughly, enter dates on your home calendar, and return this page of the handbook to your director with both a student and parent signature by

Wednesday, September 26th

I have read and understand all of the policies / expectations in this handbook for participation in band at FACS and am willing to comply with all standards thereof.

Student

_____ grade level: _____

Print name

Sign

Date

Parent/Guardian

Sign

Date

