

FLAT ROCK MIDDLE SCHOOL BAND



MR. MATTHEW PRICE, DIRECTOR

WWW.FLATROCKBAND.ORG

The Flat Rock Band Program seeks to offer each student who is interested and eager to learn an enjoyable learning experience centered on individual musicianship and ensemble performance. A working understanding of basic tone production, rhythmic comprehension, fingerings, music vocabulary, dynamics, articulations, scales and key signatures, and rehearsal and performance of the best available literature reflect the Flat Rock goals of achievement.

Band Students are expected to develop a sense of pride and respect for the Music Program and each other. This sense of pride and respect will bring about the “group spirit” necessary for the success of the Flat Rock Band Program.

B--Be Better Every Day.

A--Always assume responsibility for your actions.

N--Never be disrespectful to others.

D--Do what is right always.

Table of Contents

Front Page--B.A.N.D Philosophy.....	Pg. 1
Table of Contents.....	Pg.2
Welcome from Mr. Price.....	Pg. 3
FRMS Statement of Obligations and Contract of Band Membership (SIGN AND RETURN).....	Pg. 4
Organizations, Opportunities, Helping Your Student.....	Pg. 5
Parent Volunteer Form (FILL OUT AND RETURN).....	Pg. 6
Parent Volunteer Form Ctd. (FILL OUT AND RETURN).....	Pg. 7
Grades, Operations Fee, Payment of Fees.....	Pg. 8
Band Principles, Procedures and Expectations.....	Pg. 9
Performances/Field trips & Class/Rehearsal Participation Policy.....	Pg. 10
School Owned Instruments, Switching Instruments, Instrument and Music Storage.....	Pg. 11
Symphonic Band Camps--Explanation and Goals.....	Pg. 12
Concert Attire & Private Lessons.....	Pg. 13
Percussion or School Owned Instrument Usage Form (SIGN AND RETURN).....	pg. 14
Recommended and Required Materials Check List.....	Pg. 15
Band Calendar.....	Pg. 16



Flat Rock Middle School Band Handbook
Matthew Price, Director
price.matthew@mail.fcboe.org



Dear Parents and Students,

Welcome to another year as a member of the Flat Rock Middle School Band! You have chosen to be a part of an organization focused on excellence and building character in each student. The potential that this program continues to show is noteworthy, and the success it has already achieved is a testimony to that. It is my hope that we will continue to work together towards a common goal of learning and achievement. Together we can create a positive environment and a place to make beautiful music.

In our efforts to achieve musical success, it is important that communication remains a central focus. As a result, this handbook has been prepared for you and your child to provide information about the Band Program here at Flat Rock Middle School. Please read it carefully as it includes many of the policies governing the band program. Most of the policies are remaining as they have always been, but there are some minor changes as well. Should you have a question or need, please contact me at price.matthew@mail.fcboe.org. The daily and yearly activities have already been planned and can be followed on the web at www.flatrockband.org. Once you have read the handbook, you and your child should sign the FRMS Statement of Obligations and Contract of Band Membership found on page 4 and return it to me by Friday, August 19 for our 1st test grade. There may also be extra forms included in this document that need to be returned to me as well. Please review each page carefully.

Throughout history, music has been considered the basis of all learning. Recent statistics prove that young people who participate in music are among the academically strongest in their schools. They also have higher SAT score averages than their fellow classmates. Their adult lives are filled with the success which is a direct result of their band experience. In addition to all of the musical skills that will be acquired through this program, self discipline, group cooperation, higher order thinking, high self-esteem, a sense of teamwork, networking/social skills and a sense of persistence and performance confidence will also be developed by each member of one of the finest organizations on campus.

As your child progresses in his/her understanding and command of the instrument, you will see how this same desire for excellence applies to every subject in school and serves as a training ground for dealing with many aspects of adult life.

The opportunity to enjoy a new level of communication and self expression is the goal for every young musician. Creativity is within all of us, and the language of music serves as a perfect vehicle to allow this personal growth and development.

For you, the chance to become involved is a bonus. We all know the importance of supporting your children in whatever they choose in life. You are invited and encouraged to work with your child in this exciting and rewarding learning process. Much can be said with music that is impossible to say in words.

It is truly an honor and a privilege to be a part of the Flat Rock Middle School Band. I am excited about working with each of you, and I am looking forward to a year filled with many musical adventures!

Sincerely,

Mr. Matthew Price

Director of Bands

Flat Rock Middle School

www.flatrockband.org

Enriching Lives Daily Through Music!



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FRMS Statement of Obligations and Contract of Band Membership

All materials, signed forms, and fees due (in a sealed envelope with your child's name) by Friday, August 19, 2011. Checks or money orders should be made out to the FRMS Band. Cash is also accepted.

I desire to be a member of the Flat Rock Middle School Band. My signature below signifies that I will do the very best of my ability to meet the obligations below.

- I will **CONDUCT** myself in a responsible manner during class, rehearsals, and performances.
- I will **PRACTICE** my assigned parts diligently. I accept the obligation to **ATTEND** all rehearsals and performances.
- I agree to **POST** the performance and rehearsal dates given to me on my home calendar.
- I agree to have my **ABSENCE** from any band function thoroughly explained in advance and in writing by my parents.
- I agree to **WEAR** the uniform as agreed upon by the students, parents, and director.
- I **UNDERSTAND** the Band Grading Process: 50% Playing and Written Test; 40% Daily Class Performance; and 10% Band Homework and Correspondence
- I **UNDERSTAND** the rules governing student expectations and the band principles.
- I **UNDERSTAND** that being a part of the band requires commitment to the ensemble; therefore, I agree to be a positive contributor to the group. I understand that success in the Flat Rock Middle School band program is defined by a series of "p" characteristics: practice (at home!), presence, promptness, preparedness, and participation. I will learn and commit these characteristics to memory and will do my best to abide by them as a member of the FRMS Band.

Student Signature _____ Date _____

I have read the Flat Rock Middle School Band Handbook and will support my child in meeting the obligations to the band that are outlined within this document. I agree to cover my child's Operations Fee and uniform costs. I also authorize the Director of Bands and the members of the FRMS Band Boosters Executive Board to contact me via phone or email concerning the day to day operations of the band.

_____ My child already owns an FRMS Band polo shirt and does not need a new one.

_____ YES, my child needs an FRMS Band polo shirt! (\$20.00)--All Bands need a polo shirt.

Polo Shirt Size (Circle): Youth L Youth XL Adult S Adult M Adult L Adult XL

7th/8th Grade Band Uniform: Note: All 7th/8th Graders must have a formal band uniform. If you already have these items from previous years, the following fees will not apply. Please check what your student needs for this school year.

- _____ Dress--Girls \$65.00.
- _____ Vest Rental--Boys \$10.00
- _____ Tux Shirt--Boys--\$20.00
- _____ Bowtie (Black)--Boys--\$5.00

_____ The required \$40 FRMS Band Operations Fee and any other applicable forms and fees are attached in an enclosed envelope.

_____ My child's fees will be turned in by Friday, August 19th. _____ Please expect my fees on _____.

Parent Signature _____ Date _____



ORGANIZATIONS:

Flat Rock Middle School is located in Tyrone, Georgia. The school opened in 1990 and has a current enrollment of 880 students. It is an acclaimed National Blue Ribbon School and a Georgia School of Excellence. The school is located in the northern part of Fayette County. After attending middle school, students go on to attend Sandy Creek High School.

The FRMS Band program consists of 220 members. The teaching staff includes one head director who also receives assistance from the Sandy Creek High School directors. Sixth grade band students are divided into Advanced and Intermediate/Beginning Band classes. Students in the 7th and 8th grade are divided into Symphonic or Concert Band by audition. These performing ensembles are ability-based. In addition to daily grade level rehearsals, the ensembles meet once a week after school as a full band. Flat Rock bands perform at school concerts, assemblies, regional and national concert band festivals, community events, and athletic events throughout the year.

The Flat Rock Symphonic Band has been a featured performing ensemble at the 2003 National Middle School Band Conference, the 2004 Southeastern United States Band Clinic, the signing of the 2004 HOPE Scholarship Legislation with Governor Sonny Purdue presiding, the 2007 Georgia Music Educators Association In-Service Conference, and the 2009 University of Georgia Midfest Band Festival. Flat Rock bands consistently score Superior ratings at GMEA Performance Evaluation, the All-Star Music Festival, and the Carowinds Band Festival. The band has also performed at Walt Disney World and Six Flags Over Georgia. Over the years, FRMS band students have consistently participated in the Georgia All-State Band, the GMEA District VI Honor Band, the John Phillip Sousa MS Honor Band, the UGA Midfest Honor Band, and the GMEA Solo/Ensemble Festival.

The Flat Rock Band program strives to provide as many educational experiences as possible in order to provide an enriching curriculum for all students. We are unyielding in our quest to attain musical and academic excellence every minute of every hour of every day. As members of the FRMS Band, students are given the tools they will need in order to be outstanding musicians as well as outstanding members of society.

OPPORTUNITIES

Trip to a Theme Park inside or outside of the state

Performance with local middle, high school, and college ensembles

Music Camps

Interaction with Leading Professional teachers and performers throughout the Southeast

Band Competitions and Evaluations

Opportunities to build a strong core group of lifelong friends

Possible Performance at Prestigious State and National Music Festivals

HELPING YOUR STUDENT

- 🎵 Show an interest in your child's study.
- 🎵 Help keep the instrument in good repair with periodic servicing and see that your child has reeds, oil, and other supplies necessary to keep the instrument in good working order.
- 🎵 Ask your child to play for you occasionally.
- 🎵 Keep a schedule of band activities in a prominent place to help avoid conflicts with other activities and appointments.
- 🎵 Volunteer time to the Band Boosters. Parental involvement is greatly appreciated.



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Parent Volunteer Form

It is with your help that the Flat Rock Middle School Band has been so fortunate! Your help allows the band to concentrate on the music. Below is our band help list. Please sign-up for as many activities as possible. Of course, if every parent signed up for at least one activity, we would be covered completely. Many of these projects cannot be completed without your help.

As always, **THANK YOU** for your support!

Organization Help- A core group of parents are needed to work with Mr. Price and the Band Boosters Executive Board in order to provide our students with a fun and safe musical environment.

Band Parent Association President- Youlanda Davidson Band Parent Treasurer- Anna Regi
Band Parent Association Vice President- Susan Eason Band Parent Association Secretary- Tracy Ploeckelmann
Band Parent Committee Chairs: (You will assist the Boosters and Mr. Price with making sure these events run as smoothly as possible).

Band Icee (Frozen Yogurt) Sale- Every Wednesday in the cafeteria. Time: 11:20-1:30pm. Two parents a day to collect money and hand out icees. You are not committing to every Wednesday. Just let us know when you can help, and Mr. Price or a member of the Executive Board will contact you to set up a service schedule.

_____ I can assist with Icee Sale by being the Icee Coordinator (See Mr. P for further details).
_____ I can assist with Icee Sale (You will receive a call for available dates).

Band Concession Stand- The football concession stand is a great fundraiser for the band. A volunteer works at the concession stand during the home football games. We will need 6-8 volunteers for each game. Parents from any grade may participate. Approx. time- 3:00-7:00pm (Please check the date if you can work the concession stand)

Tues., Sept. 13th vs. WWMS _____ Tues., Sept. 20 vs. FCMS _____ Tues., Sept. 27 vs. BMMS _____

Pep Band/Extra Event Parent Chaperone- A band chaperone watches the students while we are at the football games and while we are having extra events such as the Mini-Symphonic Band Camps and Movie Nights. We will need 6-8 chaperones for each game and even more for the other activities. Parents from any grade may participate. Students in Symphonic Band and 8th Grade Concert Band are in the Pep Band. All bands will participate in the Mini-Band Camps. Approximate time- 3:30-7:00pm. (Please check below if you can be a Band Chaperone at 1 or more events)

Tues., Sept. 13th vs. WWMS _____ Tues., Sept. 20 vs. FCMS _____ Tues., Sept. 27 vs. BMMS _____

Symphonic Band Camps--9AM-7PM @ FRMS--All Bands--See page 11 for further details.
Sat., January 7th _____ Sat., February 4th _____

Magazine Sale- Count/record orders during school day. Sale runs: Sept. 20- October 7.
_____ I can assist with the Band Magazine Sale

October Concert--6th Grade- Thursday, October 27 Assist with decorations and set-up
_____ I can assist with the October Concert

Band Pictures- Parents will chaperone. Watch over the areas where pictures are being taken. We will need 6-8 parents for the day. Picture date: Friday, September 16.
8:30-12:30pm _____ 12:30-3:30pm _____



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Poinsettia Sale- Distribute plants, count orders. Sale runs- Nov. 2-23 Delivery- TBD
 _____ Count orders (during school) _____ Delivery Help

Cookie Dough/Coffee Sale- Count orders, distribute tubs. Sale runs- Jan. 5-19. Delivery- TBD
 _____ Count orders (during school day) _____ Delivery Help

Stage Technicians/Helpers- Set up/break down the chairs,stands, and equipment at concerts/performances/Assist moving all band equipment to the performance arena at school and abroad.

- _____ October 27th—6th Grade Costume Concert, 7PM at FRMS Gymnasium
- _____ November 10th—Veterans Day Concert (Symphonic Band only during school)
- _____ November 15th—Fall Band Concert, 7PM at SCHS Patriot Hall (Symphonic and Concert Bands Only)
- _____ December 2nd—Tyrone Tree Lighting Ceremony (Friday Evening)
- _____ February 28th—Pre LGPE Concert, 7PM FRMS.
- _____ May 8th—Spring Band Concert, 7PM at SCHS Patriot Hall (All Bands)

Other Needs

- Band Volunteer (during the school day) _____
- Computer Work _____
- Website _____
- Photography _____
- Building, fixing, hammering, painting as needed _____
- Have a trailer or van to move equipment _____

The following items are needed for the concession stand. If you are able to donate any item, please send *next week*.

- _____ 6 or 12 packs of Coke or Sprite- *Must be Coke brand due to county contract*
Approximate need- LOTS (60 cases) for concession stand
- _____ Case/pack of water- 16 ounce bottle please
Approximate need- LOTS (100 cases) for concession stand/band student performances
- _____ Kleenex- needed year round, we never seem to have enough!
- _____ BIG boxes/bags of candy or snacks (skittles, m&ms, chips, slim jims, etc)
Approximate need- LOTS (60 cases) for concession stand/band student performances

If anyone has contacts for large donations from companies/stores, contact Mr. Price.

Parent Name _____

Student Name _____ Band Period _____

Home Phone Number _____

Other Day Number (if calls can be taken) _____

****Please return this form by Friday, August, 19th 2011****
*****THANK YOU for your support*****



Grades:

Playing and Written Tests (50%) Students will be given weekly playing and written tests. Students must take all tests on the day it is scheduled or receive a zero test grade. It is the responsibility of the student to schedule any make-up tests due to absence. Chair placement will result from playing tests.

Daily Class Performance (40%) Students will be given points based on preparation for class. Bringing their instrument, music, and pencil will figure into the overall grade. Points will be subtracted from the daily grade for not having instrument, music, pencil, or other required equipment/materials.

Band Homework and Correspondence (10%) Students will have band homework (practice time) each night. It is the student's responsibility to complete and turn in proper documentation for practice hours. Students will also receive written homework from time to time. Students will also be given a grade for taking correspondence home, having it signed, and returning it on time.

Bonus Grades- Extra points will be given for participation in extra music activities such as District Honor Band, Solo/Ensemble Festival, All-State/District Honor Band Auditions, and other performance activities. Students should talk with the band director *in advance* for possible bonus assignments.

Operations Fee:

It is becoming more and more difficult for the school system to provide the financial support necessary to maintain a successful, active band program. As a result, **the Operations Fee is \$40.00 for each student in the band.** This will not only help to support the band program, but it will also consolidate traditional beginning-of-the-year expenses into one payment. Since the Flat Rock Middle School Band Booster is a 501 (c)(3) non-profit corporation, your contribution may be tax deductible. The operations fee will cover a significant number of costs associated with the FRMS band program, including but not limited to the following:

Band Binder--Each student will receive a binder and plastic sheets for storing music and handouts. It is the responsibility of each student to replace lost or defaced band binders.

Method Books/Supplementary Materials--Each student will receive a band method book and supplementary materials. By ordering instructional materials at once, we eliminate common issues such as students receiving incorrect method books, students receiving method books for incorrect instruments, or back-ordered books that could take up to several weeks for arrival.

Clinician Fees--One element of a comprehensive music education experience is giving the students opportunities to work with renowned conductors, composers, and performers. This contribution will help to offset the cost of bringing in such esteemed musicians.

Music--The cost of one band piece is between \$50 and \$100 (Some advanced pieces are even more expensive). This contribution will allow us to continue building a music library that meets the educational needs of the students.

Miscellaneous--There are various expenses that our band program will incur throughout the year. In the future, we would like to host receptions following Fall and Spring band concerts, provided snacks or dinner when a performance or clinic will not allow the students to go home, assist paying for competition and performance fees, etc. With this contribution, we can continue to provide these and other items for the students.

Payment of Fees

The band booster club will accept cash, checks, or money orders for the payment of fees, fund raiser items, etc. All payments should be sealed in an envelope with the student's first and last name, grade, and band period clearly written on the envelope along with what the payment is for. All payments should be placed in the money-box located in the band room. ***Please do not drop payments off in the front office. There will be a \$15.00 fee for all returned checks.*** Re-payment for returned checks and the penalty charges will need to be made by **money order** or **cash**. ***If a person has more than one check returned, we will no longer be able to accept their checks.***



Please be sure to write your student's first and last name on any third party checks. This greatly helps our treasurer.

Band Principles:

- Follow all classroom procedures
- Be prepared at all times. *Don't let being unprepared keep you from learning!*
- Try your best!
- Show respect to all. *Follow the golden rule.*
- Take responsibility. *Be responsible for your actions and attitude.*
- Commit yourself to success. *Success comes from hard work and perseverance.*

Classroom and Rehearsal Procedures:

- Enter the band room quickly and quietly.
- Get your instrument and music, then go directly to your seat.
- Put your music in rehearsal order, then sit in rest position until class begins.
- There will be no extraneous talking or noise while the director or any designated person is on the podium.
- Students should never chew gum while participating in or attending a band activity.
- Instruments and binder should be taken home EVERY night.
- Have the Band Director look at your instrument before you take it to the shop. If the instrument must be taken to the repair shop, a written note must be sent in for the student not to receive a zero grade.

General Expectations

- Students are responsible for **knowing all the dates** on the band calendar.
- Instrument/rehearsal/performance issues must be sent in written format by the parent to the band director. This will allow the opportunity to handle situations as they arise.
- Students are responsible for the music and instruments that are checked out to them. Damage to sheet music, instruments, or band equipment will result in a fee assessed to the student.
- All paperwork needs to be turned in on time
- Percussion players must have their own bell/snare kit and stick bag in class each day. The stick bag needs to include snare drum sticks, timpani sticks, yarn mallets, rubber mallets, hard mallets, and a timpani pitch pipe.**
- Students are expected to practice at home daily in order to be prepared musically for each rehearsal.
- Instruments should be taken home **daily**. The band room is for storing instruments *during the day only!*

Consequences

If conduct expectations and classroom procedures are followed the band will be able to focus on our musical goals for the year. Consequences are given for offenses which disrupt the daily flow of the class. Consequences will affect the student's daily class work grade. Offenses of a more serious nature which demand the immediate attention of the band director/administration will be referred on the severe clause. Disrespect and disobedience is unacceptable and will call for immediate disciplinary actions.

1 st consequence	Warning/talk with student
2 nd consequence	The student will put instrument away and will complete an alternate writing assignment. An Email or note is sent home. Parent Contacted Act 1.
3 rd consequence	Parent is Contacted Act 2.
4 th consequence	MORNING Detention
5 th consequence	Office Referral--Conference with parents and administrator to discuss dismissal from the FRMS band program. Note: <i>If a student has an IEP, the special education teacher will be consulted and encouraged to attend the conference.</i>

SEVERE CLAUSE- Acts of repeated disrespect and disobedience will result in an immediate Office Referral and possible dismissal from the program without refund of any band fees for the year.



Performances/Field-trips

Students are expected to show a positive attitude and contribute in class. All performances/rehearsals count as a test grade. Parents should clear all commitments on days of concerts/rehearsals. As the premier performing ensemble at FRMS, the Symphonic Band will rehearse after school every **Thursday from 3:50-5:00 with a few other days when needed.** The Concert Band will rehearse after school **Monday (once a month) from 3:50-5:00 with a few other days when needed.** Please check the calendar at the end of this document or at www.flatrockband.org for exact dates. To be in the Symphonic Band students must attend all rehearsals. *ONLY* school related conflicts will be worked out with the band director if *PRIOR NOTICE* is given. Absence from band rehearsal without prior notice is considered unexcused and the student may be removed from the Symphonic Band. If a student needs to be absent from a rehearsal, then a note signed by the parent explaining the reason must be given to the director at least **ONE DAY BEFORE** the absence or the absence will be considered unexcused. **Unless an emergency occurs, notes received the day of the rehearsal or later will result in an unexcused absence. Students receiving two unexcused absences from rehearsals prior to a concert will not be allowed to participate in the performance.** Students will not be excused from band rehearsal for doctor/dentist appointments or other outside school activities. Parents are asked to schedule appointments on a different day as a detailed band calendar is at the end of this document as well as on the web at www.flatrockband.org. Pep band is part of the Symphonic Band schedule. The Pep band will perform at home football games and pep rallies. A student who misses class work or performances for any reason will receive a zero in the grade book until the assignment is made up. Band members will be tested regularly to determine mastery of various musical concepts. **Students who receive excessive unexcused absences will be referred to the administration for dismissal from the Flat Rock Band program. Please note: Absences from performances will be excused at the director's discretion. A student who receives an excused absence from a performance must submit a project assigned by the director as compensation. Absences from performances are STRONGLY discouraged.**

The Symphonic Band will perform at several festivals/concerts this school year. As a Symphonic Band member all students must attend. Some trips will include extra financial expenses. Parents are asked to be prepared for this commitment. Flat Rock is proud to share our premier ensemble with the community and the nation. If a student or parent does not want to maintain this commitment, the Flat Rock Band offers other musical opportunities in which a student may participate. This will require a class schedule change. **Symphonic Band members must follow all school field trip guidelines in order to remain eligible.**

Class/Rehearsal Participation Policy

All students are expected to play each day in band class. Students who do not play or who fail to bring required materials to class will quickly notice a decline in their grades. These are the top four excuses for not playing and my policy on each:

“My braces hurt.” We completely understand that orthodontic appliances can sometimes be very painful. We will work with students on this as long as we do not feel that they are taking advantage of the situation. Students are to follow doctors’ instructions for easing the pain. One day is typically all that is allowed for brace pain.

“I forgot my horn.” Instruments are a VERY vital part of being in the band. In short, if you forget your instrument, you cannot play in class/rehearsal. If you do not play, you are not fully participating, and you are missing out on the day’s lesson. **A student who does not have his/her instrument on the day of a playing test will receive a zero on the test.** Part of being in band is learning responsibility. The students are discouraged from calling parents and asking them to bring instruments or other materials that were left at home. **This is the sole responsibility of each student.**

“My instrument is in the shop.” If a student’s instrument is in the shop, he/she must present the directors with the following information:

▪ The name of the shop performing the repair ▪ The date the instrument was taken to the shop ▪ Parent/Guardian signature

“I don’t feel well.” In general, if you are well enough to be at school, you are well enough to participate in class. We realize that this is not always the case. Students who are not well enough to play will be sent to the clinic. Incidents of this nature will be handled on an individual basis.



School Owned Instruments

When using a school owned instrument please treat it as though it were your very own. You will be assessed a \$25 rental fee per instrument for the year to cover regular and routine maintenance. The students are expected to perform regular maintenance such as oiling the valves, slides, keys as necessary and cleaning the instruments they use. Students and the parents of students who use school-owned instruments must sign a liability/loan contract found on page 12 of this document. **School instruments can NOT be released until this contract is completed and returned with a \$25 contribution to cover regular and routine maintenance.** In signing the contract, parents/guardians are assuming responsibility for any minor repairs incurred during the period of use. **Students using school-owned instruments will be required to provide their own mouthpieces.** Please refer to the materials list on pg. 15 for appropriate mouthpieces. In the event of loss or major damages inflicted upon the instrument (major scratches, dents, dented valves, broken piping, curled bells, etc.) **the student (parent) is financially responsible for replacement/repair!** These instruments are very expensive and are purchased on a very limited budget. Students are responsible for cleaning instruments and performing regular upkeep duties, such as oiling valves, greasing slides, and applying cork grease where needed. Please be sure to keep cases latched and dusted!

Students that share instruments will be asked to split the cost of repairs on their instrument if it cannot be determined which student caused the damage. Please keep in mind that not all necessary repairs to instruments were intended by the student. Some repairs are pure accidents, but still must be paid for. If parents are not willing to agree to this contract for school instrument, then you are asked to furnish your own instrument.

Switching Instruments

Some students will be asked to change instruments so that our band can have balanced instrumentation. This is the perfect opportunity for selected students to learn to play a new instrument. Typically, switches will remain within instrument families (ex: clarinet- bassoon, trumpet-euphonium). Of course, there are some exceptions to this rule. Our band is in need of multiple students to play the following instruments: tuba, euphonium (baritone), French horn, bass clarinet, bassoon, and oboe. **Please note: Students may NOT switch to percussion instruments (unless the band is in DIRE need of more percussion players). All instrument changes must be approved by Mr. Price.**

Instrument and Music Storage

-The band room has shelves that can be used to store instruments **during the day only**. All instruments should be taken home daily. *It is a good idea to put some type of locking device on the case.* This will help in providing maximum security.

-All instruments, cases, and books must be clearly identified with the student's name at all times. The completion of this will be used in the grading process.

-Instruments and equipment are the responsibility of each individual musician. **PLEASE LABEL ALL INSTRUMENTS AND EQUIPMENT ON THE OUTSIDE!!**

Example:

Cody Adams
 7th Grade Symphonic Band
 1st Period--Mr. Price



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Symphonic Band Camps--January 7th and February 4th--All Bands 9AM-7PM--Band Room

These are extremely important events for all of the students in the Flat Rock Band. Our students will be exposed to some of the finest guest conductors in the state. They will also interact with some of the leading professional musicians/instructors in the state. These musicians perform for the students, instruct them in master classes and sectionals, and sit in on full band rehearsals. The students will be shown performance tips regarding alternate fingerings, intonation tendencies, clarity of articulation, phrase shape, etc. in an extremely “hands-on” setting. The modeling provided and the interaction between these professional musicians and the student musicians impart a wonderfully unique learning opportunity to all of the students involved. In addition to the full band rehearsals, students will attend master classes for their instrument as well as sectional rehearsals during which time band music and chamber music concepts are rehearsed. The inclusion of a chamber music experience (e.g., flute choir, clarinet choir, tuba/euphonium ensemble) create exposure to new repertoire and sounds for our young musicians and will allow them to develop greater musical independence because of the fewer number of players on each part. In addition to their participation in chamber music, the students will all attend a recital given by the professional musicians at the conclusion of the camp. The inclusion of the recital gives students the opportunity to develop their ears through exposure to expert tone qualities, phrasing, balance, and intonation. Social activities will also provide opportunities to build group spirit and pride, and they will also allow our students to develop relationships with others throughout the program. This interpersonal cohesion and task cohesion will help lead to wonderful productivity both during the camp and throughout the remainder of the school year.

A detailed schedule of events for both camps will be sent home with the students in advance. It is my ultimate goal to provide my students with as many valuable musical experiences as I can. There is nothing like seeing and hearing your instrument being played at its highest level. Even more important in my mind is that this event is an excellent opportunity for the students to come together and work towards a common goal with their peers and indeed their friends. With these camps and other experiences, it is my hope that the students will grow closer to each other and will take ownership of the program. The students will have a great deal of fun; they will learn a lot of new material; and they will continue to develop those excellent leadership skills that will continue to mold them into our leaders of tomorrow. It is also my goal to develop and maintain a balanced curriculum for my students. Some of the main goals of the FRMS Band and its staff are to:

- Maintain a balance in all facets of the program.
- Set up every faction in such a way that it produces the highest possible musical product.

It is our belief that it is important to be well rounded and to offer as many different avenues for performance as possible—whether it is jazz, marching/pep/popular, concert, or chamber music.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me any time. I will be more than glad to discuss all of the exciting opportunities and events that are scheduled for the students.



Uniforms

For most concerts, band members are to wear formal “concert attire.” Appearance is a major part of performing, and we will often be judged on the way we look as a group. The Flat Rock Middle School Band strives to look as classy, professional, and uniform as possible. Great sounding bands look great!

6th Grade Band Uniform

FRMS Band polo shirt, black dress pants, black belt, solid black socks and solid black **DRESS** shoes.

Concert Band Uniform

Formal Uniform: Girls: Gown, solid black hose, solid black dress closed-toe shoes.

*The gown will be ordered through the FRMS Band.

Boys: White tuxedo shirt, black pants, vest, bow tie, solid black socks, solid black dress shoes. *Shirts, vests, and bow ties will be ordered through the FRMS Band.

Casual Uniform: Band Polo Shirt and blue jeans (or blue jean shorts). This uniform will be used for casual performances such as football games, pep rallies, field trips etc.

Symphonic Band Uniform

Girls: Gown, solid black hose, solid black dress closed-toe shoes.

*The gown will be ordered through the FRMS Band.

Boys: White tuxedo shirt, black pants, vest, bow tie, solid black socks, solid black dress shoes. *Shirts, vests, and bow ties will be ordered through the FRMS Band.

Casual & Football Season: Band Polo Shirt and blue jeans (or blue jean shorts).

7th and 8th Grade Band Parents: Do not purchase uniform components at this time.

For optimal uniformity and convenience, all uniforms will be ordered through the band program as they have been in the past. More information about the additional uniform costs will be available in the near future.

Private Lessons

One of the most valuable investments a parent can make for a band student is in a good private lesson teacher. There is nothing like the instruction of a musician who has dedicated his or her life to studying and perfecting the art of one instrument. **Students are encouraged to enroll in private lessons.** Private lessons are for all students – beginners, those who are struggling, and advanced students. **Anyone can benefit from a private instructor.** Lessons are also a great idea for students auditioning for honor ensembles outside of the Flat Rock program. A list of outstanding teachers and contact information are posted on our band website, along with resumes and fliers (if available).

Withdrawing from the FRMS Band Program

Students who join the FRMS Band program are making a commitment to a three-year, progressive course. While it is my hope that every student will remain in band throughout middle school and even into high school, I realize that some may decide to choose a different path. However, these individual decisions, though unintentional, can be detrimental to the remainder of the band. The following policy has been implemented to maintain the integrity of the ensembles:

6th Grade and Concert Band Students – may withdraw within the first ten days of school **OR** at the end of the first semester.

Symphonic Band Students – Students in the FRMS Symphonic Band are making a year- long commitment.

Teacher request for schedule change – Parents/guardians of students who are disruptive, destructive, or unwilling to work will be contacted to discuss dismissal from the band program. *If a student has an IEP, the special education teacher will be consulted and encouraged to attend the conference.*

Schedule changes will not be made without the approval of the director and an administrator. Please note: **It is not the practice of the FRMS Band Program to re- admit students who have withdrawn from the band program.** The high school band directors also frown upon admitting students who did not complete the middle school band experience. Students should take this into careful consideration before submitting a schedule change request.



Flat Rock Middle School Band Handbook
Matthew Price, Director
price.matthew@mail.fcboe.org



FLAT ROCK MIDDLE SCHOOL BAND
Percussion and School Owned Instrument Usage Form
Usage Fee: \$25.00 per student + Operations fee.

Percussion

Student _____

I understand as a percussion student, I must supply my own bell kit, snare pad with stand, and stick bag. I agree to be responsible for the up-keep of the Flat Rock Middle School Band percussion equipment, sticks and mallets while it is in my care. I will notify the band director immediately if damage occurs to the equipment, sticks, or mallets. I understand I am responsible for the cost of repairs during the school year. I agree to purchase a bell kit with snare pad, stick bag with above listed sticks and mallets, and a chromatic pitch pipe in order to play in the FRMS percussion section

Student's signature _____

Parent's signature _____

Date _____

School-Owned Wind Instrument

Student _____

Instrument _____ SerialNumber _____

Condition _____

In signing the contract, parents/guardians are assuming responsibility for any repairs incurred during the period of use of an instrument owned by FRMS. In the event of loss or major damages inflicted upon the instrument (major scratches, dents, dented valves, broken piping, curled bells, etc.) **the student (parent) is financially responsible for replacement/repair.**

I understand that I am responsible for cleaning instruments and performing regular upkeep duties, such as oiling valves, greasing slides, and applying cork grease where needed. I also understand that I am required to keep cases latched and dusted when my instrument is not being used.

Student's signature _____

Parent's signature _____

Date _____



Flat Rock Middle School Band Handbook

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FRMS Required Instrument & Accessories List

FLUTE: Must be “open hole” with plugs

Recommended Brands/models:

Yamaha 285S, Pearl 501, Armstrong, Gemeinhardt 3, Emerson 3

Required Accessories:

Tuning Rod, Handkerchief swab

CLARINET and BASS CLARINET: Wooden instrument is preferred

Recommended Brands/models:

Buffett E11, Normandy 4, Yamaha TCL34, Selmer, Noblet

Required Accessories

Mouthpiece: Vandoren 5RV Lyre mouthpiece (clarinet) Vandoren B45 mouthpiece (bass clarinet)
Bonade inverted ligature, Minimum of 4 Vandoren V16 strength 2 ½ reeds, Reed guard to hold 4 reeds, silk swab (not felt), cork grease, Clear mouthpiece patches

ALTO, TENOR, BARITONE SAXOPHONE:

Recommended Brands/models:

Yamaha, Selmer

Required Accessories:

Mouthpiece: Rousseau (5R facing) or Selmer C* mouthpiece, Reeds, 2 1/2 or 3 strength, Rovner Ligature, Plastic reed holder (holds 4 reeds), Clear mouthpiece patches

FRENCH HORN: school owned instrument

Required Accessories:

Mouthpiece: King H2 or Conn H2 mouthpiece
Rotary valve oil, piston valve oil, tuning slide grease,
Mouthpiece brush, cleaning snake, polishing cloth

TRUMPET: Must have 3rd valve slide ring

Recommended Brands/models:

Yamaha YTR 2335S, Bach TR 300 HS, Blessing, King

Required Accessories:

Mouthpiece: Bach 5C or 3C, Valve oil, tuning slide grease, mouthpiece brush, Cleaning snake, polishing cloth

TROMBONE: school owned instrument

We recommend F attachment horns in 6th grade, but do not require it.

Recommended Brands/models:

“F attachment” Trombone: Blessing B88, Conn 88H, Bach TR 200B

Tenor Trombone (no F attachment):

Bach TB 300, Yamaha 354, Conn 33H, Holton TR 602, King

Required Accessories:

Mouthpiece: Bach 6 ½ AL, Trombone slide cream (Superslick is the best), tuning slide grease, water spray bottle, cleaning snake, polishing cloth, mouthpiece brush

BARITONE/EUPHONIUM: School owned instrument

Required Accessories:

Mouthpiece: Bach 6 ½ AL, Piston valve oil, tuning slide grease, mouthpiece brush, Cleaning snake, polishing cloth, mouthpiece pouch

TUBA: School owned instrument

Required Accessories:

Mouthpiece: Bach 18 or Bach 24AW or Conn Helleberg 7B mouthpiece,
Piston valve oil, tuning slide grease, mouthpiece brush, Cleaning snake, mouthpiece pouch, polishing cloth

PERCUSSION:

Students are *required* to have a percussion kit that has a practice bell set, a practice pad, and a real snare drum (preferably a “piccolo” snare drum). The kit must have all of the proper hardware to set up each of the instruments.

Recommended Brands/models:

Ludwig/Musser LE 2481, Ludwig/Musser LE 2482 R, Yamaha SCK300

Required Accessories:

Vic Firth SD1 General drumsticks
1 pair of hard rubber xylophone mallets
1 pair of medium hard yarn marimba mallets
1 pair of Vic Firth general timpani mallets,
Metronome



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FRMS 2011-2012 Band Calendar



August

- August 8th—School Starts
- August 11th—6th Grade Band Parent Meeting in the FRMS Band Room @ 7PM
- August 15th—After School 7th/8th Grade Concert Band Woodwind Rehearsal 3:50-5:00. (Flutes, oboes, clarinets, saxes, bassoons)
- August 16th—7th/8th Grade Band Parent Meeting in the FRMS Band Room @ 7PM
- August 18th—After School 7th/8th Grade Symphonic Band Woodwind Rehearsal 3:50-5:00. (Flutes, oboes, clarinets, saxes, bassoons)
- August 19th—All Signed Band Handbooks are due to Mr. Price.
- August 22nd-26th—Band Uniform Fittings (during school day—parental assistance will be needed and greatly appreciated)
- August 22nd—After School 7th/8th Grade Concert Band Brass and Percussion Rehearsal. 3:50-5:00. (Trumpets, trombones, baritones, tubas, percussion)
- August 25th—After School 7th/8th Grade Symphonic Band Brass and Percussion Rehearsal 3:50-5:00. (Trumpets, trombones, baritones, tubas, percussion)

September

- September 1st—After School 7th/8th Grade Symphonic Band Rehearsal 3:50-5:00.
 - **Full band.** Rehearsals will continue for the full Symphonic Band every Thursday for the rest of the year.

- September 12th—After School 7th/8th Grade Concert Band Rehearsal 3:50-5:00. **Full band.**
- September 13th—FRMS Football Game vs. WWMS (Possibly Pep Band and Concessions)
- September 16th—Band Pictures (During the Day) Parent chaperones needed.
- September 20th—FRMS Football Game vs. FCMS (Pep Band and Concessions)
- **September 20th—Magazine Sale Starts!**
- September 27th—FRMS Football Game vs. BMMS (Concessions Only)
- September 27th—Fayette County Marching Exhibition (8th Grade Band Members Only)

October

- October 3rd—After School 7th/8th Grade Concert Band Rehearsal 3:50-5:00.
 - **Full band.**
- **October 7th—Magazine Sale Ends!**
- October 11th—Football Playoff Game (Pep Band and Concessions TBA)
- October 18th—Football Championship Game (Pep Band and Concessions TBA)
- October 27th—6th Grade Costume Concert, 7PM at FRMS Gymnasium.
- October 28th--Band Pictures during class.

November

- **November 2nd—Poinsettia Sale Starts!**
- November 3rd and 8th—Veteran's Day Performance After School Practices 3:50-5:30 (Symphonic Band Only)



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FRMS 2011-2012 Band Calendar



- November 7th—*After School 7th/8th Grade Concert Band Rehearsal 3:50-5:00.*

Full band.

- November 10th—Veterans Day Concert (Symphonic Band only during school)
- November 14th—*After School 7th/8th Grade Concert Band Rehearsal 3:50-5:00.*

Full band.

- November 15th—Fall Band Concert, 7PM at SCHS Patriot Hall (Symphonic and Concert Bands Only)
- **November 18th— Poinsettia Sale Ends!**
- November 28th—Afterschool Honor Band Rehearsal (Students may play their scales and audition material for extra feedback)
- November 29th—Afterschool Honor Band Rehearsal (Students may play their scales and audition material for extra feedback)
- **November 29th—Lollipop Sale Begins**

December

- December 2nd—Tyrone Tree Lighting Ceremony (Friday Evening)
- December 3rd—District VI Honor Band/All State Auditions at Union Grove MS. All Symphonic Band Students are expected (but not required) to audition.
- December 8th-10th—University of Georgia Midfest Honor Band
- December 12th—*After School 7th/8th Grade Concert Band Rehearsal 3:50-5:00.*

January

- **January 5th—Cookie Dough Sale Begins!**
- January 7th—Symphonic Band Camp—All Bands 9AM-7PM, FRMS.
- January 16th—*After School 7th/8th Grade Concert Band Rehearsal 3:50-5:00.*

Full Band

- **January 19th—Cookie Dough Sale Ends!**

February

- February 6th, 13th, 27th—*After School 7th/8th Grade Concert Band Rehearsal 3:50-5:00. Full Band*
- February 4th—Symphonic Band Camp—All Bands 9AM-7PM
- February 10th-11th—District VI Honor Band
- February 28th—Pre LGPE Concert, 7PM FRMS. All Bands, FRMS.

March

- March 1st-3rd—All-State Band In Savannah, GA.
- March 12th -23rd—Possible Large Group Performance Evaluation. TBA (ALL Bands) Please keep these weeks empty from other activities, as LGPE is one of the most important performances of the year.
- Solo and Ensemble—TBA

April

May

- May 8th—Spring Band Concert, 7PM at SCHS Patriot Hall (All Bands)