



**Band Program
Handbook**

2018-2019

Welcome!

Welcome to Endeavor Charter School's Band Program! I am so excited you have decided to begin or continue your instrumental music study. You are fortunate to have the opportunity to learn in a growing program that will build a long history of commitment to excellence. This handbook outlines the principles and procedures required for the Endeavor Band Program to be successful. Please read this handbook carefully, understanding our organization has high expectations for each individual student. By upholding Endeavor Charter School's standards of excellence you will find success and memories to last a lifetime.

Communication

Communication is vital to any successful program. Communication will be carried out through email, phone, letters, and the class website. The website has a lot of information including the band handbook, important dates, homework, and assessments. Please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns throughout the school year!

Ms. Tompkins, Music Director
ctompkins@endeavorcharter.com

Commitment

Commitment is the fundamental ingredient of a successful band. Without commitment from teachers, parents, and students, our band program cannot be successful. Band goes beyond merely teaching music—it builds life and teamwork skills. Commitment is an important aspect of teamwork.

Band at ECS is a yearlong course and a yearlong commitment. **No student may drop the course during the year.** He/she may only change courses at the end of each year. Adolescent students' interests change frequently—often from day-to-day. Often students experience a “writers block” moment where they are having difficulty on their instrument or having trouble making the next hurdle. For some students, it feels easier to quit rather than push forward and work through this slump. It's important to remember that these slumps do pass and the student will begin to progress again. All musicians go through this; it is natural. Our job is to push and encourage them to stick with it. This is a great life lesson for students to see things through to the end and helps develop strong character.

Rules & Procedures

Conduct

These rules and procedures are designed to create a positive learning environment where students are able to learn and feel safe. Students who are unable to follow these basic rules and instructions will find themselves involved in parent conferences, administrative conferences, or even lose the privilege of being a member of the band.

1. Students must be in their assigned seats with instrument and all materials within five minutes after the official start time of class.
2. Daily instructions and rehearsal order will be on the board. Students are expected to prepare accordingly.
3. Students are to remain quiet during rehearsal. If they wish to ask or answer a question, raising a hand is the appropriate way to signal the teacher.
4. Students are to remain engaged and participate actively during class. No work for other classes is allowed during band class.

5. **Food, gum, candy and/or beverages of any kind are strictly prohibited** in the band room. Only water is allowed.
6. Respect the property of others
 - a. Students should never touch or otherwise tamper with another student's instrument, accessories, case, or other band materials.
 - b. Percussion instruments are for percussionists only. Non-percussionists are not allowed to touch or move these instruments without specific permission from the director.
7. All Instruments must be stored on the proper shelves or lockers, not on the floor.
8. All stands and chairs must be put back on the appropriate rack before students are dismissed.
9. Percussionists should put away all accessories before being dismissed.
10. Trash such as old reeds, reed cases, paper, etc. must be put into a garbage can.
11. **PENCILS ONLY!** Absolutely no pens/highlighters/sharpies should EVER be used to mark in your music!

Consequences

Students are expected to follow all classroom and school policies, those who choose not to will have their daily participation grade deducted and will be given a:

1. Verbal Warning
2. Verbal warning and 15 min removal from class activities
3. If behavior continues, the student will receive silent lunch and parents will be contacted.

Homework

Most of the homework in band class is for students to practice. The only way to improve as a musician is through consistent and diligent practice. Students will also receive written theory homework each week.

2018-2019 ECS Band Calendar

Wednesday, July 25 th	First Day of School
Tuesday, December 11th 7:00pm	Holiday Concert
<u>Friday, May 10th</u>	<u>Band Competition</u>
Tuesday, May 21st 7:00pm	End of Year Concert
Thursday, June 6th 6:30pm	8th Grade Graduation

*These dates are open to change. Parents will be notified at least two weeks in advance if a date on this calendar changes.

*Times and Locations will be announced two weeks in second semester.

Grading Policies for all Ensembles

The grading for band classes is straight-forward and is based on the idea that everything we do in class contributes to the student's success. Therefore, all parts of the curriculum are important.

There are 4 basic areas of grading:

1. Practice at Home (Homework)/ Class work (30%)

Practice at home will be the main factor in determining your success and the overall success of the band program. All students should get in the habit of taking their instrument home to practice.

Students must hand in a practice record signed by their parents each Thursday, unless we miss school on Thursday, in which case it would be due the next day that we return. All students in the ECS Band Program are required to practice a minimum of 100 minutes a week to earn an A for their practice grade. That is 20 min a day if you practice 5 days a week, 14.3 minutes if you practice 7 days a week. Don't procrastinate!!! For every minute you practice you get a point. If you practice for 45 minutes you get a 45% ☹ If you practice 100 minutes you get a 100%. ☺

2. Class Participation/Behavior (20%)

Unlike sports, there are no "benchwarmers" in band; everyone is a contributor. Each student holds the key to their own success and to the success of the band. The classroom expectations are outlined in the "Rules and Procedures" section and will be used to calculate the students' participation grades.

3. Performance Attendance/ Tests (50%)

All performances are mandatory, and students are expected to be on time and display good behavior during the concert. Absences from mandatory band events will only be excused for the following reasons and only with an email or phone call to the band director:

1. Personal illness
2. Death in the immediate family
3. Family emergency

An unexcused absence will be determined by missing a band event without a legitimate excuse or advance communication and will result in a zero for their performance attendance.

Concert Attire

The presentation of our students in any performance is important. This organization stands for excellence and the appearance of our ensembles is essential to the presentation of the music we perform. Therefore, these specific uniform policies and procedures are in place for all members of the band program.

Gentlemen

- White Dress Shirt
(button down or collared shirt)
- Black shoes
- Black pants

Ladies

- White Dress Shirt
- Black shoes
- Black pants or skirt
(Please ensure your skirt length follows the school dress code)

Ensembles

5th and 6th Grade Band

The 5th and 6th grade band meets on B Days, Tuesday and Thursday and is open to all 5th and 6th grade students at ECS. In 5th and 6th grade band, we focus on:

- Building students' tone quality, basic playing fundamentals, and musicianship, and care/maintenance of music equipment.
- Introducing the basics of music theory and history.
- Establishing good practice habits.
- Developing of students' general knowledge of music through varied and challenging ensemble literature, approaching a Grade 1-1.5 (NCBA) level of difficulty.
- Instilling values, knowledge, and skills that enable students to pursue musical experiences later in life.

7th and 8th Grade Band

The 7th and 8th Grade band meets on B Days, Tuesday and Thursday and is an elective open to all 7th-8th graders who have some experience with reading music and playing an instrument. In 7th and 8th grade band, we focus on:

- Developing of students' tone quality, playing fundamentals/technical exercises, higher-level musicianship, and care/maintenance of music equipment.
- Further studying and applying music theory and history.
- Reinforcing good practice habits.
- Further developing students' general knowledge of music through varied and challenging ensemble literature, approaching a Grade II and III (NCBA) level of difficulty.
- Instilling values, knowledge, and skills that enable students to pursue musical experiences later in life.

Music

Each student will need to purchase a **one inch white binder** (*with clear pocket on front and spine of the binder*) to hold their music. It is the student's responsibility to take care of this music. All music (whether originals or copies) should be cared for as if it is irreplaceable. Here are some guidelines for the care of your music:

- All music/technique books should be kept clipped in the student's 3 ring binder.
- Music folders should be kept in music storage cabinets or in student backpacks.
- Music folders should NEVER be kept in cases. This will damage both the instrument and the music.

Required and Recommended Equipment

The following is a list of equipment and accessories that band students should be using in middle school.

Required Materials

-5th and 6th Grade Band members should purchase the Tradition of Excellence Book 1. Local music stores should have these in stock.*

-7th and 8th Grade Band members should purchase Tradition of Excellence Book 2. Local music stores should have these in stock. Please keep your Tradition of excellence book one as we will use them for review.

Woodwinds

- ***All reed players should always have at least 3 working reeds*** at all times and cork grease in their case.
- A pencil
- A name tag for his/her instrument case (available at local music stores or luggage tags work well).
- Reeds should be **2-3 in** strength. See Ms. Tompkins for further guidance.
- Vandoren, Rico or Rico Royale, Mitchell Lurie, Hemke are good brands of reeds.
- Not Recommended- La Voz, Flavoreeds, plastic or plastic covered reeds

Brass

- All valve brass players should have valve oil in their cases

- Horns, trombones with the F attachment, and rotor valve tubas should use **rotor oil**.
- Trombone players should have slide grease or slide cream
- A pencil
- A name tag for his/her instrument case (available at local music stores or luggage tags work well).
- **All Trumpet and Trombone players should be prepared to purchase a straight mute by 8th Grade, as it is occasionally called for in Grade III music. Good mute brands are: Tom Crown, Yamaha, Humes & Berg, and Dennis Wick.** Stone-Lined (brand) mutes or two-piece straight/cup mute combinations are not recommended.

School Instruments

Students who cannot afford to buy or rent an instrument will be provided a school owned instrument if one is available. The student will be given a **Check-Out Form** that includes a detailed analysis of the instrument (serial number, model, make, mouth piece size, case appearance, any dents/scratches /marks, etc). This form must be read and signed by both parent and student, and returned to Ms. Tompkins before an instrument will be issued to the child. Any instrument that is lost, stolen, or returned with damage that was not previously on the instrument will result in a fine no less than \$50.00, but not to exceed \$500.00.

Rent -To-Own Program

I understand that extra expenses can be difficult. Luckily, Music and Arts offers a wonderful Rent-To-Own program to help parents purchase instruments for their child. I have worked with Music and Arts for multiple years and have always been satisfied with their business and the quality of their instruments. With this program, parents can purchase a brand new or slightly used instrument and make monthly payments (between \$25.99-\$50.99/month) towards ownership. PLUS, if your child changes his/her mind and wants to switch instruments, any money already paid can be put towards a different instrument or an upgraded instrument!

2018-2019 ECS Band Handbook

I have read, and understand the information contained in this Handbook, and agree to the expectations, procedures, calendar/events, and grading system of the ECS band program.

Student Name

Grade

Homeroom Teacher

Ensemble: (Circle one) 5th and 6th Grade Band 7th and 8th Grade Band

Student Signature

Date

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

Parent/Guardian Email

After filling out this information, please return to Ms. Tompkins no later than **Tuesday August 7th**