



Greetings **6th grade** band students and parents; welcome to the 2023-24 school year! One of Cuthbertson's goals is to go "practically paperless", so we will be communicating through our band website cuthbertsonbands.org and Canvas.

PLEASE READ ENTIRE WELCOME LETTER – LOTS OF IMPORTANT INFORMATION INCLUDED!

If this is your first band child – welcome to the band family! It might seem like a lot of new and different information at first, but soon you will be in tune with how the band operates. We have a great new parent mentor program in place. Contact Mrs. Ebert at Katie.ebert@ucps.k12.nc.us if you would like to participate.

Basic Band Information

- **6th grade** instruments will be delivered to CMS and passed out to students the 1st week of school. If you have not made rental arrangements yet, please contact Music and Arts 704-341-0000 to rent an instrument.
- We will be using the Tradition of Excellence Book 1 (it's red) for our music book and each student will need to have their own copy. If the rental instrument did not come with a book, students will need to purchase their own copy for class. It can be purchased through the local music store, Amazon, or online at musicarts.com. A music stand is also beneficial for at home practice time.
- Students participating in 6th grade band will be divided up into 2 classes based on the instrument they play, either Brass (will include Saxophones also) or Woodwinds (will include French Horns also). Being grouped with similar instruments makes for an easier time learning beginning band techniques.
- Part of the beginning band is to find the best instrument fit for each student. It's very common for students to switch to different instruments during this time to find their best fit. It's super easy and quick for the music store to switch out instruments, so no worries. It's part of the process!
- The 2023-24 Band Handbook is now available on our website! All students need to read and be familiar with all band policies. The **handbook acknowledgment** form needs to be signed by both students and parents by Wednesday 8/30. Printed copies of the Band Handbook will be available for families with limited Internet access.

Concert Schedule – all dates are for 6th grade band. Cut away this portion to post on your calendar or refrigerator!

All performances are considered mandatory participation and are graded events. It is impossible to have a truly successful performance unless each member is in attendance. Therefore, we always give advance notice for performances so all members can arrange their calendars accordingly. Please do not schedule appointments or make out-of-town trips when a performance is scheduled!

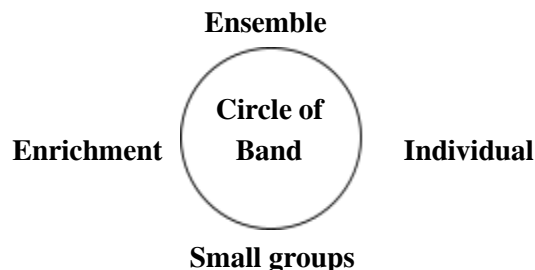
Winter Concert @ Holiday Bazaar (6th, 7th and 8th grades)
Solo and Ensemble Festival (optional)
Spring Concert (6th, 7th and 8th grades)

December 2nd (Saturday)
May 11th
May 14th

Concert Attire

All students will need to wear the CMS Band T shirt for concerts (\$15) as well as black pants. Payments can be made in BoosterHub (see QR code on parent page for more information).

Band Information Page



Grading Policy

- 30% Performance Attendance (Concerts, performances, etc.)
- 20% Practice Records (due Mondays) - parent initials required. This will start the 2nd 6 weeks.
- 20% Weekly “pass off” assignments
- 30% Participation (daily grade – includes having these items in class every day: **instrument** (sticks or mallets for percussionists), **music and binder**, at least three working reeds (clarinets and saxophones), at least two working reeds and a water canister (double reeds) and a **pencil**).

Homework

All band students have daily homework – to PRACTICE ☺ and turn in practice records. Students will write down how many minutes they practice daily and the records need to show an average of **100** minutes of weekly practice time. Records are due every Monday and will need parent initials to verify practice time.

Instrument Repair

If a student’s instrument is being repaired, please bring a note signed by a parent and make every effort to secure a “loaner” instrument to be used until the instrument is returned. Students will need to use their own mouthpiece for the loaner instrument until their instrument is finished with repairs. Students will still be expected to participate in class while repairs are occurring.

Canvas - <https://ucps.instructure.com/courses/289518/pages/cuthbertson-middle-school-bands>

Professional Instruction

Sessions are held once a week in either 30-60 minute sessions taught by professionals on the instrument. Lessons are designed for the upper level intermediate to advanced students and will go in depth to help students play at a higher level for the advanced band class and to achieve honor band placements and/or Solo and Ensemble performances. Students may sign up individually or share a lesson with another student of similar ability. *Many parents have found that enrolling their child in private lessons pays back when they receive college scholarships.* Sign ups are happening now!

Free Melodies

Free Melodies will be held 1 day a week after school (beginning closer to the end of September, date TBA). This is once a week, free 30 minutes tutoring sessions run by our high school students designed to give enrichment for beginning to mid-level students.

To our parents, we want to thank you specifically for supporting this wonderful endeavor for your child. We know that it takes extra time to bring your children to rehearsals, make sure they transport their instrument back and forth, and just be a cheerleader at home during your child’s hard work. Thank you so much for all of the extra things you do to help your child and our school. If you have any questions or concerns, please don’t hesitate to contact us!

Musically yours,

Katie Ebert, Director of Bands CMS - Katie.ebert@ucps.k12.nc.us

Todd Ebert, Director of Bands CHS - Todd.ebert@ucps.k12.nc.us

Samantha Liddle, Associate Director of Bands Samantha.liddle@ucps.k12.nc.us