



Greetings **7th and 8th grade** band students and parents; welcome to the 2023-2024 school year! One of our goals is to go practically paperless so we will be communicating through our band website cuthbertsonbands.org and Canvas.

Basic Band Information

- **Band Information Form** - please fill out and return by 8/30. The 2023-24 Band Handbook is available on our website - cuthbertsonbands.org
- **Canvas** - Students will submit a graded recording quiz/test every 6 weeks. <https://ucps.instructure.com/courses/257839>
- **Mattress sale** - Save the date - October 28th!
- **Band classes** - 7th and 8th grade band students are divided into 2 different classes. Students will be divided into the Advanced band and the Intermediate Band. Both classes will perform together on the concerts and will learn the same basic techniques, however, the Advanced group is open to the most proficient students who have demonstrated the ability to perform more difficult music. Instrumentation is a consideration for this class and private lessons are recommended to help students stay on pace.

Grading Policy

30% Performance Attendance (Concerts, performances, etc.)
 20% Practice Records (due Mondays) - parent initials required
 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**.

Concert Schedule – all dates are for 7th & 8th grade bands. 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!

Required events for all students

CMS Band Night (8th grade) @ Home Varsity football game	October 6th
Fall Concert (8th grade, Honor Band, and High school only)	October 26th
8th grade Adv and Honor Band Convention performance	November 5th (this is a required trip for the 8th grade Advanced class)
Winter Concert @ Holiday Bazaar (all bands)	December 2nd (Saturday)
"Works in Progress" Concert (7th & 8th grade bands)	February 22nd
NC Bandmasters District MPA Concert Band Festival	March 6th- 8th (date assigned by district)
Spring Concert (6th, 7th, and 8th grades)	May 14th

Optional events-students are eligible to participate in District Honor, All County, and All State bands based on audition.

8th grade Universal Studios trip	November 9th-12th
Limestone Band Clinic (selected students only)	November 16th – 17th
District Honor Band Auditions (optional, but recommended)	January 13th
UNCP Honor Band Clinic (selected students only)	March 18th
Carowinds Music Festival (7th grade band)	May 3rd
Solo and Ensemble Festival (optional)	May 11th

Concert attire is the black Cuthbertson T-shirt, black slacks, and dark/dressy shoes. If you need to reorder a T-shirt - visit Booster Hub (see attached QR code sheet)

Band Information Page

Enrichment

Ensemble

Circle of
Band

Individual

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. **Practice time should be primarily on days that students do not have band class.**

Binder

We will be using the band binders daily. For 8th graders, supplemental information will be given out to be included in the binder. If the binder has too much wear from last year it can be replaced with a new 1/2" white binder. To replace a missing binder, students will need to check out the master copy for their instrument and make copies on their own, or purchase a full replacement for \$15 (please see payment section).

Music Book

8th grade will be using the Tradition of Excellence Technique and Musicianship book this year in class and 7th grade will be using the Tradition of Excellence book 2 (blue). It can be purchased at the local music store, from Amazon, or online at musicarts.com. Percussionists will need to order the combined percussion book.

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.

Honor Band

The Cuthbertson Honor Band will meet after school on Thursdays from 4:15-6:00. This elite group will be made up of students from all grades and due to specific instrumentation needs, will be by invitation only. Interested students will submit an audition the first week of school and selected students will receive an invitation the second week of school. Rehearsals will begin September 14th.

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 minute 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,

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