Cuthbertson Middle School Band

Greetings **7th and 8th grade** band students and parents; welcome to the 2026-2027 school year! One of our goals is to go practically paperless so we will be communicating through our weekly newsletter and Canvas.

Basic Band Fast Facts

- **Band Information Sheet -** We need all families to scan the QR code and fill out the required band information sheet.
- **Canvas** - Students will submit graded assignments weekly including a weekly video assignment, weekly practice record, and a graded recording quiz/test every 6 weeks. https://ucps.instructure.com/courses/397706
- **Mattress sale** - Save the date - November 14th!
- The 2026-27 Band Handbook is available on our website - https://cuthbertsonbands.org/middle-school-bands/
- **Band classes** - 7th grade band students are divided into 2 different classes, Advanced band and the Intermediate Band based on ability level at the end of last year. Both classes will perform at concerts, have trip opportunities, 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. 8th grade band will be divided by instrumentation for Semester 1 and move to Advanced and Intermediate in semester 2 based on audition.

Grading Policy

30% Performance Attendance (Concerts, performances, etc.)
20% Practice Records (due Mondays) - parent initials needed
20% Weekly assignments on Canvas
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

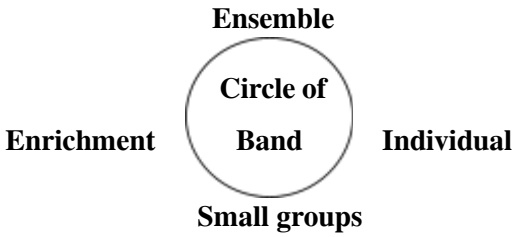
CMS Band Night (8th grade only) @ Home Varsity football game	September 18th
Fall Concert (8th grade only)	October 22nd
Winter Concert @ Holiday Bazaar (all bands)	December 5th (Saturday)
"Works in Progress" Concert (Advanced bands)	March 4th
NC Bandmasters District MPA (Advanced bands)	March 17th or 18th (date assigned by district)
Spring Concert (6th, 7th, and 8th grades)	May 18th

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

UGA MidFest Honor Band clinic (selected students only)	December 10th–12th
District Honor Band Auditions (optional, but recommended)	January 16th
Music for All Regional Atlanta (selected students only)	**March 24th-25th**
Solo and Ensemble Festival (optional)	May 8th
Band-a-thon	May 28th

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. All students will need to wear the CMS Band T shirt for concerts ($18) as well as black pants. Shirt order and payments can be made in BoosterHub - https://cuthbertsonband.boosterhub.com/store/274

Band Information Page



Homework - due Mondays

P**ractice Records... are part of Student Grades!** This is part of why our bands sound so good year after year. Students start recording minutes on Mondays and end with Sunday and are accepted with parent signature to verify the time was met. Please help your student to write the time down as they do it, rather than try to "remember" on Sunday night. Some families keep the practice record up on the fridge for easy access and a good reminder. Students will write down how many minutes they practice daily and the goal is to show **100** minutes of total weekly practice time. Practice time should be primarily on days that students do not have band class.

Binder and Music

We will be using the provided band binder daily. 7th grade will receive their new binder on the first day of class. 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.

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 from the repair store 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 4:15-5:30 beginning **September 24th**. 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.

Professional Instruction

Sessions are held once a week in 30 minute sessions taught by professionals on the instrument. Lessons are designed to help students play at a higher level, to learn additional techniques or get extra help, to achieve honor band placements, and/or work on 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

This is once a week, free 30 minute tutoring sessions run by our high school students is designed to give enrichment for beginning to mid-level students. Free Melodies will be held on Tuesdays starting in November.

Band Booster Organization - https://cuthbertsonband.boosterhub.com/register/18062 - log in to create your parent account!

We have a wonderful group of band parents that support that band and have made communication a top priority. There have two main sources of information:

- Weekly Band Blast emails. We have lists for high school and middle school families.
- Facebook- We have a group titled Cuthbertson Bands Parents/Guardians. Please answer all of the membership questions. This group is for parents/guardians only, no students or extended family please. We use the FB page to post things that cannot wait for the weekly band blast, as well as travel information when our bands travel to performances, so we take security of this page seriously.
- Our band booster organization partners with Levy Restaurants to work a concessions stand at the Bank of America stadium for the NFL, CLT FC, and Concert Series each year. We are able to raise around $20,000 annually to support the MS and HS concert programs, and add additional events to support the extracurricular ensembles and some travel. Every volunteer shift raises about $200, and each event raises about $1500. This is easy money and a great way to fundraise without leaning on our circles to donate money. All we need is your time- if every family volunteers for 2 concession shifts, we'd have more than enough people to fulfill our obligation.

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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