



Center Cass School District 66
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Prairieview Elementary Cadet Band Handbook

Dear Parents and Students,

On behalf of Mr. Ohlsen and myself, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate all of the returning Beginning Band students to their second year of instrumental music. We hope that your child will continue to enjoy making music this year and for years to come.

The Cadet Band is designed to continue building on the skills that were covered in Beginning Band. By the end of this year the students should be adequately prepared to move on to the band program at Lakeview Jr. High School.

It is my goal to provide an experience that will be beneficial to our students' musical and intellectual growth. Research has shown that a sound music education will compliment and enhance a student's academic experience. We want to help your child's creativity grow and have them develop a lifelong appreciation for music as an art form.

Please take some time to read through the handbook. It includes important information, such as rehearsal days and times, practice charts and lesson schedules. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me at school.

We look forward to working with you over the upcoming year to make our program a success.

Sincerely,

Tom Tedeschi
Director of Bands

Band office phone
(630)783-5124
ttedeschi@ccsd66.org

For more information regarding the Instrumental Music Programs go to: www.ccsd66music.com
Our homepage has links to schedules, practice charts, all district music blogs, and other helpful music websites.

CADET BAND

The Cadet Band is designed as a continuing program for students that were in the instrumental music program at Prairieview School as a beginner. Most 5th grade band students will participate in this ensemble. This ensemble experience is designed to prepare the students for a higher level of performance through a variety of skill building exercises and challenging band literature. Performances for this group will include the winter and spring concerts, solo contest, Band-O-Rama, and the District 66 Winter Invitational Band Festival.

Cadet Band will meet on Tuesday and Thursday mornings from 7:15 to 7:50 am.

ATTENDANCE

All students are required to attend all rehearsals, lessons, and performances for which they are scheduled. Students will be given a participation grade at performances. A student may be excused from a rehearsal, performance, or lesson under the following circumstances:

1. The student is absent from school.
2. The director has been contacted by a parent in advance for special circumstances.

Students will be excused from their weekly band lesson if they have a test, quiz, or other class project that may prevent them from attending their scheduled lesson. Excessive absences may result in a parent conference. Students should contact Mr. Tedeschi if they are uncertain of what to do.

DISCIPLINE

School rules of conduct are officially extended to rehearsals, field trips, extra curricular activities, and all other school sponsored social/educational events. Students engaging in misconduct beyond the school day are subject to normal school disciplinary action.

UNIFORMS

All Cadet Band students will wear black pants, black socks, black shoes, and a District 66 Music polo shirt (green). Shirts will be ordered in September.

WEEKLY LESSONS

Each student in the band program receives one thirty-minute band lesson each week. The students will be placed in a small group in which they will attend their lesson. The lesson is always on the same day of the week but the time alternates weekly, so a student will only miss the same thirty-minute time slot once every eight weeks. Lessons may be adjusted due to scheduling conflicts, in which case the students will be notified of the changes by the director. Lesson schedules and practice charts are available on the music homepage at: <http://www.ccsd66music.com>

SUPPLIES

Instrument supplies such as reeds, neck straps, valve oil, cork grease, slide cream, cleaning brushes, etc. can be purchased through Mr. Tedeschi or Mr. Ohlsen at cost. An updated pricelist for items will be available on the website and also placed in the band rooms. Payment can be made by cash or check. All checks should be made out to District 66 Music Boosters.

GRADING

Students will receive a grade for group lessons and all performances. **All performances are required events.** Every student has a weekly assignment to prepare for his or her lesson. The assignment is a combination of lesson book material, band music, solos, and other special material suited for their instrument or ability. The student is asked to play the assignment and is given a grade based on the accuracy and quality of their performance.

Students also receive a weekly grade for their practice chart (see practice chart). Home practice time is the key element in helping a student become successful. This practice time should be considered their homework for band. All grades are averaged at the end of each trimester to determine their final band grade.

WEEKLY PRACTICE CHART

All students are required to fill out a practice chart as part of their weekly lesson. The chart must be filled out completely with the amount of time practiced each day **and** a parent signature. Students receive credit for signed practice charts showing home practice each week. A sample chart is shown here:

Practice Chart Sample:

Week	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Total	Parent Sign
Assignment: Page 10, #'s 15-20 Band Music									
2/7	20	20	20	0	20	20	20	120	Mr. Ward
Assignment: Page 11, #'s 21-23 Solo music-first 16 measures									
2/14	0	40	0	40	0	20	20	120	Mrs. Ward

Practice charts will be checked at each lesson. Students are required to practice between 80 and 100 minutes each week. They will receive 10 points for 80 to 100 min. of practice, 5 points for a minimum of 60 min. of practice and 0 points for anything less than 60 minutes. A parent must sign the practice chart in order to receive credit. It is recommended that a regular practice schedule is set for the students to help achieve this goal.

Regular and consistent practice builds confidence, ability, strength, and success!!

SCHOOL-OWNED INSTRUMENTS

In the event a student is assigned a school-owned instrument, he/she will assume full responsibility for the care and maintenance of the instrument or equipment until it is returned. Students must sign out the instrument with the director. A form will be provided to those students to whom this applies.

EQUIPMENT / MATERIALS

Each student is required to have his/her instrument, music, **pencil**, and all accessories at all rehearsals and lessons. Identification emblems will be provided by the director for student instrument cases if necessary. Storage space will be provided at school where students may keep their instruments during school. Instruments should be taken home at the end of the school day. **Parents are urged to keep the instrument brand, make or model, and serial number information on file at home in case it is ever needed. (see last page)**

INSTRUMENT REPAIRS

Many instruments will need to be repaired at some point. **Quinlan & Fabish Music Company** services our school weekly and will handle most of the repair needs. Loaner instruments may be provided from the school, if available, while a student's instrument is being repaired. Payments for repairs will be handled directly through the music company for personal instruments.

SOLO AND ENSEMBLE CONTEST

As part of the band curriculum, all band members are required to participate in the district-wide Solo and Ensemble Festival. Each student will prepare a solo to be critiqued by a judge. The solo to be played will be chosen or approved by the director. Participation in this event is mandatory and students will be given a participation grade for their attendance at this performance.

SUMMER BAND

Summer Band is optional but encouraged for all band students entering grades 5 through 8. Registration information will be available in the summer school registration packets handed out in the spring.

PRIVATE LESSONS

Many of the successful students in our band program take private lessons. Private lesson instruction gives your child the opportunity to learn about the aspects of playing their specific instrument from a professional on that instrument. Private lessons usually take place once a week for thirty to forty-five minutes. We currently staff professional teachers for most instruments that teach from after school into the evening at Lakeview.

We strongly encourage any student, regardless of their age or ability to take advantage of private lesson instruction. Lessons are set up directly through the private instructor. Schedules and fees vary with each individual teacher. If you would like more information on lessons, please contact Mr. Tedeschi or Mr. Ohlsen.

MUSIC BOOSTER ORGANIZATION

The District 66 Music Booster organization is designed to assist the directors in the promotion and advancement of music education in our district. Everyone with a child in the program is a music booster. The Music Booster Officers are made up of volunteers who were selected by the band directors to serve in one of the following capacities: President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, Ways and Means, Librarian/Assistant, and Prairieview Representative. A copy of the By-Laws that outline the functions of the organization can be found on website at www.ccsd66music.com or by request from Mr. Tedeschi or Mr. Ohlsen. Music Booster positions are filled on an as-needed basis. Positions will be advertised when they become available to solicit potential volunteers. Booster meetings are open to the public and will be posted on the district website when scheduled. Meeting minutes will be posted on the music website.

VOLUNTEERS

Volunteers are always needed throughout the year for a variety of events and activities, such as the District 66 Winter Invitational, Band-O-Rama, and our concert performances. We will provide you with information regarding the events we may need additional volunteers.

I hope this handbook is helpful in outlining the program for you and your child. Please do not hesitate to contact me at any time if you have any questions or concerns.

Tom Tedeschi
Prairieview Cadet Band Director

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