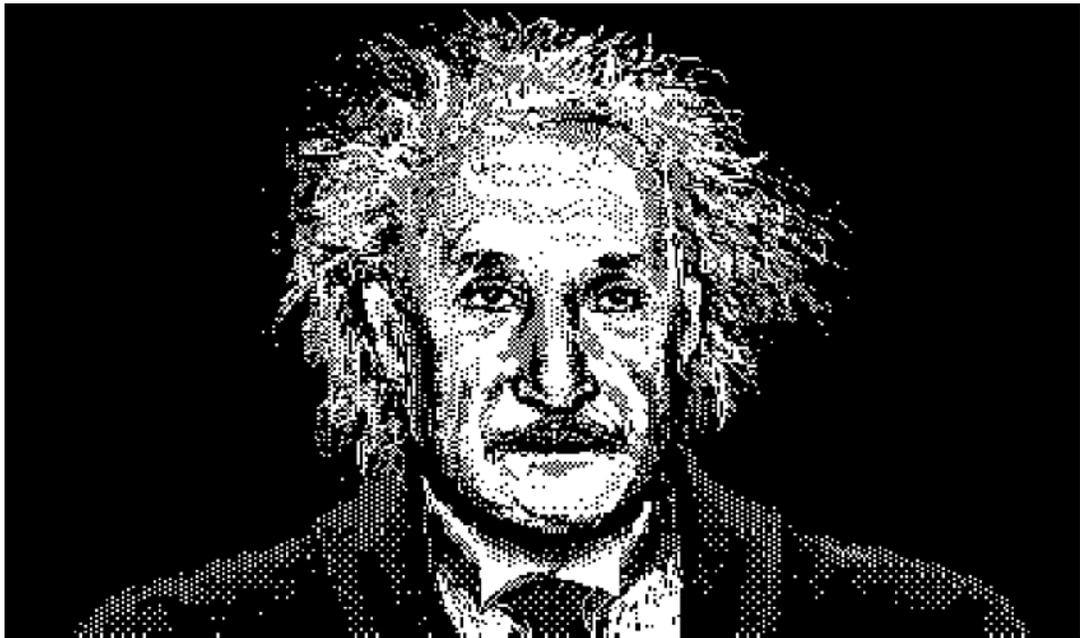


Chenery Middle School  
Band Handbook  
2018-2019



[www.chenerybands.weebly.com](http://www.chenerybands.weebly.com)

The Band Program at the Chenery Middle School has been highly acclaimed not only throughout the state of Massachusetts but has been nationally recognized for excellence. The success of the ensembles at Chenery is due to the high level of support it receives from your parents, from the school administration, and from the general public here in Belmont. You have become a part of this tradition by entering one of the bands offered here at Chenery.

Along with your participation in these groups comes some responsibilities. You have become part of a team that will grow to count on you to do your part. You will have a responsibility to the group to get your job done. That is, you will have to practice regularly each and every day not only to learn the material, but to develop the muscles needed to improve your tone and technique on the instrument. Just as a soccer goalie is useless if he doesn't work to develop his ability to leap to block the opponent's shot, a trumpet player who doesn't develop her muscles through concentrated practice will harm the quality of the team. A clarinetist who doesn't practice outside of class will never improve his tone on the instrument and will create a weakness in the group. The way you study your instrument affects not only your own development but will either contribute to, or detract from, the sound of the entire ensemble.

The Band Program at the Chenery Middle School is elective and is open to students with the consent of the conductors. Membership in our Band Program presupposes that the student has acquired a reasonable amount of technique on his or her instrument and has also developed an appropriate attitude toward good music-making and rehearsal techniques. The Grade Level Bands of Grade 6, 7, & 8 are each comprised of all the wind & percussion instrumentalists of the specific grade. All Bands meet 4 out of 6 days a cycle. The Chenery Winds (Mondays) and Chenery Jazz Ensemble (Thursdays) are ensembles comprised of students from potentially all three grades and rehearses from 2:45 - 4:00pm on the specified afternoon. These are auditioned groups and perform advanced literature.

Within this handbook you will find information on grading procedures (through the performance), performance tests in class, playing reviews, the Levels Program, attendance at concerts, etc.), care of personally and school-owned instruments and music, other ensemble offerings including the instrumental symphonies and, probably most importantly, the calendar of events so please save this book! Keep it in your binder, but post the calendar at home.

It is our intent that each student achieves a high quality musical experience as well as gains an appreciation of the participation with others toward a common goal.

Ms. Phipps & Ms. Riccio

## **COMMITMENT**

Music ensembles receive academic credit. Most academic courses, require outside preparation and performance ensembles such as the bands offered at Chenery Middle School are no exception. In addition, specific performances are scheduled after school hours and attendance IS REQUIRED. Attendance at these events is considered by the school administration to be a supplement to the exam schedule and, therefore, absence from a performance commitment will be reflected as a failing mark to be included in the period grade. The after-school performance schedule is at the end of this handbook. Please place this calendar in a conspicuous spot near your personal calendar at home and refer to it as you plan your other commitments. Any additions to this schedule will be reached by mutual agreement between the director and students involved.

## **GRADES**

Grades are performance-based as assessed through general preparedness and concert attendance (see above), Levels progress, Playing Reviews, and In-class Performance Tests (IPT). Students are also graded through written quizzes, journals, and binder checks, the weight of which differs depending on the ensemble. Each instrumentalist (Grades 6-8) is required to pass at least one instrumental level (exercise #1 and #2) in their Levels Packet each grading period until they have completed the ten levels to be eligible for an A on the report card. In grades 7 & 8, at the teacher's discretion, students may be allowed to substitute an afterschool performing ensemble, small chamber group, or Junior District Auditions for a level requirement during a given grading period but they will not progress through the level during that period. Every Middle School instrumentalist is encouraged to participate in at least one small ensemble.

## **CONCERT DRESS**

### **7th & 8th Grade**

Students should wear the following uniform to all concerts unless specifically asked to wear something else. Students and parents should make sure they have these clothes prior to the first concert. It consists of the following parts:

**Girls- black, calf-length skirt or black pants, white blouse, black nylons or socks and black shoes**

**Boys- black pants, white button down shirt, a necktie, black shoes & black socks**

**\*\*NO sneakers, UGGS, sandals, or leggings**

### **6th Grade**

Students should wear formal concert clothes, Girls can wear nice tops with a nice knee length skirt or pants with nice shoes. Boys should wear a nice button down shirt with a tie, nice pants and nice shoes.

## OPTIONAL ENSEMBLES

<b>Chenery Winds</b>	Open by audition only, this ensemble of advanced players will rehearse on Monday afternoons between 2:45 - 4:00pm. Auditions are held during the latter weeks of September.
<b>Jazz Band</b>	Open to interested students by audition. Audition material will be posted during the month of September with rehearsals beginning later. Study of improvisation and jazz techniques is available on traditional jazz instruments (exceptions may be made in the area of instrumentation). Rehearsals for this group are from 2:45 - 4:00 pm on Thursdays. There may be extra sectional rehearsals as well.
<b>Flute Ensemble &amp; Doublereed Ensemble</b>	Open to flutists or doublereed players in grades 5-8. Rehearsals for these groups are from 2:30 - 3:15 pm on Fridays.
<b>Women of Brass</b>	Open to female brass players in grades 5 - 12 meeting one afternoon or evening/week during March and April.
<b>Woodwind, Brass, and Percussion</b>	Open to instrumentalists in grades 6-8. Rehearsals for these groups are held on Tuesdays from 6:30- 8:00 pm during January and February.
<b>Small Ensembles</b>	These may take the form of woodwind quintets, brass quintets, percussion ensemble, etc., and are open to all Middle School band students. These groups will meet outside class time or on their own and, if a performance is given, can substitute for the level requirement.

## BINDERS

Students will provide a three-ring binder in which will appear every piece of music to be practiced for the ensemble. The binder will not include sight-reading materials found in the classroom . The binders will be checked periodically. The following items should be present in the binder:

- One** copy of every piece used in class
- a complete pack of *Levels 1 - 10* for your instrument
- any required method book (e.g., *SOE Bk. 3*)
- music is unwrinkled, unshredded, not defaced by ink or overzealous pencil marking
- A working pencil
- Band Handbook

Loss of or damage to music is a serious problem. Students receive a grade for their binder, which is averaged into the term grade.

## **CARE OF INSTRUMENTS & EQUIPMENT**

1. Students store instruments in the band room storage cabinets during the school day. These cabinets are assigned to specific students although some sharing may occur. The school is, however, **NOT** responsible for the loss or damage to instruments left in the building.
2. An instrumental cage and lock will be provided to any student in Grades 6 - 8 who needs one. If a lock is issued, this lock must be left in the locked position at all times or the student will lose the cage for a period and must contract with the main office for alternate storage.
3. Students should have **clearly visible identity markings** or tags on the outside of their cases to avoid mix-up of instruments.
4. Students are expected to treat printed music and the music binders with care. After rehearsal, each student will ensure that his/her music folder is taken care of and not left inappropriately on a stand in the rehearsal room.
5. Students will treat all instruments, regardless of ownership, with respect and care.

## **USE OF SCHOOL INSTRUMENTS**

1. The student assumes responsibility for care and maintenance of a school instrument while in his or her possession.
2. The student must sign out the instrument and the entry must be made in the computer database.
3. Summer use of school instruments:
  - a.) both rules #1 and #2 above will apply to any student using a school instrument over the summer months.
  - b.) in order to borrow an instrument over the summer, students must be returning, or intending to return to the Chenery Middle School in September.
  - c.) those instruments designated for servicing during the summer months may not be borrowed.

## **INSTRUMENT REPAIR SERVICES**

French Music Co., 76 Otis St., Westborough, 508-366-5994 (rentals & repairs)

Leonard's Music, 128 The Great Rd., Bedford, 781-271-1189 (ww repairs)

Osmun Musical Instruments, 77 Powder Mill Rd. (Rt.62), Acton, 978-823-0580  
(all brass instruments)

## **SUCCESSFUL PRACTICE GUIDE**

1. Practice at the same time each day if possible.
2. The practice area at home should be free from distractions and should have a music stand, good lighting and a straight-backed chair.
3. Tuners and metronomes are important tools to use during practice.
4. Each practice session should include the following:
  - a.) tone improvement studies (long tones, dynamic studies, etc.)
  - b.) rhythm improvement studies
  - c.) articulation studies (tonguing and slurring exercises)
  - d.) scale studies
  - e.) musicianship studies (études, solos, levels, etc.)
  - f.) difficult passages from the band music
5. Half hour of conscientious practice per day (5+ days/week) is the ***minimum*** amount of time necessary for efficient progress at this level.

## **PRIVATE INSTRUCTION**

Private instruction for students is **tremendously encouraged** at this level and is available from teachers in the immediate vicinity of Belmont. Please consult directors for aid in finding a private instructor. Each private lesson should also include items from #3 (a-e) above. Help with band music should first come from the directors as the private instructors have a curriculum of their own to follow. If the directors can't answer your question, then ask your private instructor for help and forward the information to the directors.

## **AWARDS**

The Director's Award is presented annually to an outstanding 8th Grade Band member and an outstanding 8th gr. member of Chenery Winds. The award, consisting of a wall plaque, is determined by the band directors. This award is made possible through our POMS organization.

Students who complete the *Levels* achievement are recognized after they complete Level 10 (or multiples thereof) and are awarded at the final concert of the year.

## **COMMUNICATION**

To assure proper communication with the families, we be asking students to fill out an information sheet at the beginning of the year as their first assignment. We will also be having students join a Google Classroom class where students and parents can receive announcements and assignments throughout the year. As always, our website is also available for information as well.

# 2018-'19 Chenery Bands Performance Calendar

September 11-14	Jazz Band Auditions
September 17-21	Chenery Winds Auditions
October 5	Marching Band Night at BHS, time TBA (8th Grade only)
November 9	Veteran's Day Assembly—CMS Aud., 9:00am (CW only)
November 15	8th Grade Band & BHS Wind Ensemble at CMS, 7:00pm
December 3	7th & 8th Band Concert, CMS Aud., 7:00pm
December 6	Grade 6 Band/Chorus Concert, CMS Aud., 7:00pm
December 10	Honors Concert, CMS Aud., 7:00pm (CW & Jazz)
Jan. 8-Feb.12	Instrumental Symphonies & PT Chorus Rehearsals, CMS, 6:30-8:00
January 14	Grade 5 Band/Orchestra Concert, CMS Aud., 7:00pm
January 28	Solo & Ensemble Night, CMS Aud., 7:00pm
February 2	Northeastern Junior District Auditions, time TBA
February 7	Jazz Night , BHS Aud., 7:00pm (Jazz only)
February 14	Instrumental Symphonies & PT Chorus Concert, CMS Aud., 7:00pm
Feb.26-Apr.9	PT Band Rehearsals, CMS Band Room, 7:00-8:30pm
Feb.26-Apr.9	Women of Brass Rehearsals, CMS Aud., 6:00-7:00pm
March 6	Chenery Winds, BHS Symphonic Band & Wind Ensemble Concert, CMS Aud. 7:00pm
March 14	6th, 7th, & 8th Grade Band Concert, CMS Aud., 7:00pm
March 27 & 29	Northeastern Junior District Rehearsals (after school until 8pm), off-site
March 30	Northeastern Junior District Rehearsal & Concert, 7:30am-5:00pm, off-site
April 5	MICCA Concert Festival (CW only), CMS Aud., 2:30pm
April 11	PT Band/WOB Concert, CMS Aud., 7:00pm
April 25	Honors Concert, CMS Aud., 7:00pm (CW & Jazz)
April 27	MICCA Solo & Ensemble Festival, time TBA, off-site
April 29	Solo & Ensemble Night, CMS Aud. 7:00pm
May 7	MAJE Jazz Festival, Reading HS, time TBA (Jazz only)
May 24	Chenery Honors Festival, CMS Aud., 8:00-10:30 (afterschool ensembles only)
May 27	Memorial Day Parade, Cushing Square, 10:30-1:00pm (7/8 Band only)
June 3	7th & 8th Grade Bands Concert, CMS Aud., 7:00pm
June 6	6th Grade Band/Chorus/Orchestra Concert, CMS Aud., 7:00pm
June 10	Grade 5 Band/Orchestra Concert, CMS Aud. 9:00am