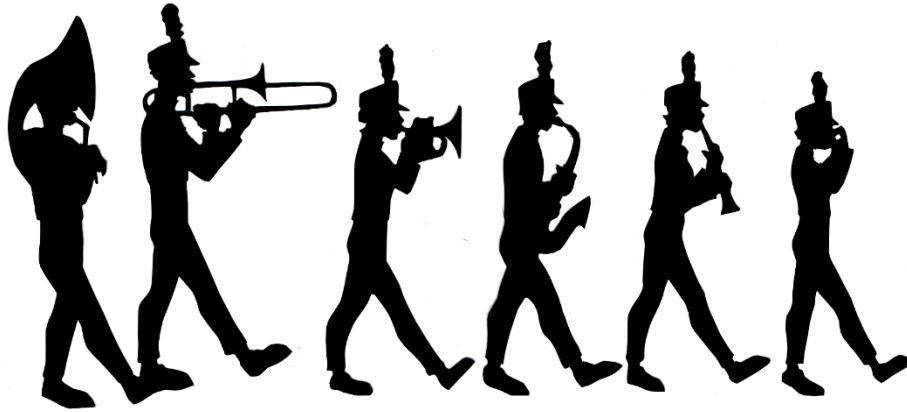


# Tuscarora Elementary Band Handbook 2019 – 2020

Miss Gillian Macchia, Band Director



*Welcome to the Tuscarora Band Program!*

In this class, we will continue to develop our musicianship through practice and performance. Class objectives include learning to read and play notes and rhythms, performing in groups, evaluating performances, and listening and responding to music.

## *Rehearsals*

Band will meet every other day for rehearsals. Knight Band will meet from 2:00-2:30pm on odd days (1,3,5). Squire Band will meet from 2:00-2:30pm on even days (2,4,6). This is our dedicated time to practice as an ensemble and work together. When I am working with another section or ready to start class, my expectation is that voices are off and eyes focused on me. Our time is limited so let's make the most of it!!

## *Weekly Lessons*

All students in fourth and fifth grades will receive one 30-minute lesson every week. This is our dedicated time to work on ourselves as musicians in a small group setting. We will learn new notes, address individual specific needs, fix problems, and provide each student with benchmarks and learning skills specific to them. Students will be pulled out of class based on a rotating schedule and are responsible for knowing when his/her lesson is. All missed music lessons, including lessons when an instrument is forgotten, must be made up with Miss Macchia. All missed classroom work must be made up in a timely fashion – students are still responsible for all work missed for a music lesson.

## Band and Lesson Rules

It is expected that each student follows these behavioral expectations while in both band rehearsals and lessons:

- Come to band/lessons prepared and on time
- Be respectful of the learning environment and each other
- Raise your hand to speak and wait to be called
- Stay in your own personal space
- Be considerate of others
- Play only your own instrument
- Have a positive attitude!

## Band and Lesson Required Materials

Students must have all five of the following supplies for every band rehearsal and lesson to be fully prepared and ready to participate to their best power.

1. METHOD BOOK: Each student must have his/her own copy of the lesson book. We will be using *Standard of Excellence Book 1 (Red)*. We will be using this in both band class and lessons and will be our primary “textbook” for band. This can be purchased from either vendor, or Amazon, listed below.
2. PENCIL: with eraser
3. INSTRUMENT: Students must have their instrument at all lessons and band class. This includes having reeds for woodwind players. Please have instrument cases labeled with the student name.
4. MUSIC: Provided by Miss Macchia as needed for concerts and/or lessons
5. FOLDER: This is provided to the student by Miss Macchia, all music and the method book should be kept in the folder

## Instrument Accessories

These are supplies that every instrumentalist should always have with their instrument.

**\*\*Not provided by Miss Macchia\*\***

Flute: Flute cleaning rod and cloth

Clarinet: Reeds (Size 2.5 Rico), Cleaning Swab, Cork Grease

Saxophone: Reeds (Size 2.5 Rico), Cleaning Swab, Cork Grease, Neck Strap

Trumpet: Valve oil

Trombone: Slide Oil

Baritone: Valve Oil

Percussion: Bell Kit for at Home Practice with Mallets

## Instrument / Accessory Vendors

Here are a few of the music vendors in the area from which you may arrange rentals and buy supplies. This list is only intended as an aid and you may patronize any vendor of your choice!

- Revolution Music – 27 Liberty St, Bath, NY – (607) 776 – 3690
- Robert M Sides Family Music Centers – Arnot Mall, 3300 Chambers Rd Suite 5128, Horseheads, NY – (607) 739 - 1559

## Extra Help

I am at Tuscarora Elementary every afternoon this year. If you are struggling, have questions, want extra help, or extra practice time, please come see me and we will set up a time! This could be after school or a free period during the school day. Please have the student come see me first to ensure that I do not have a conflict and that all parties are aware of the chosen time.

## Practice

Students are expected to practice assignments discussed and performed in their lessons on a regular basis. As with any school subject, progress is achieved through repetition and contact time with the instrument. The best way to develop skills is to practice 10-15 minutes a day. By spreading practice over the course of a week, the subject matter stays fresh in your child's mind and muscle memory. A student will not be able to progress as fast if the only time they play their instrument is in band rehearsal and lessons.

### Tips on Forming Good Practice Habits



- ❖ Make practicing part of your child's homework schedule – Students who view practicing as part of a routine are more likely to practice on their own. Consistency, open-mindedness, and patience are keys to success.
- ❖ Have discussions about what your child feels confident playing and what they may be confused about. Certain skills of playing an instrument will come more easily than others. Celebrating a child's achievement, big or small, is a huge motivator to continue persevering through challenges.
- ❖ You do not need to be a "musician" to be a great music parent/guardian! Your only job is to provide motivation and support for your child!
- ❖ Set up a quiet space to practice in at home – Make sure there is a chair, some sort of music stand, and minimal distractions.
- ❖ We will be talking about ways to practice during lessons and will be creating a "Practice Methods" cheat sheet to keep in folders. This way, your child knows how to practice effectively at home!

## Concerts

Concerts are the culmination of many hours of hard work, practicing, and rehearsing! Concerts are mandatory – You have a very important role in our band! A letter will be sent home before each concert containing specific information for that concert and to remind you about the upcoming concert. All our concerts will be performed at the Addison High School Auditorium at 7:00pm. Transportation to and from the concert is the parent/guardian's responsibility. There will be a dress rehearsal during the school day before each concert so we can practice being on the big stage!

**CONCERT DRESS:** Dress your best – this is your moment in the spotlight! Ladies may wear a nice shirt or blouse, pants, dress or skirt (at or below the knee), and nice shoes. Gentlemen may wear a nice shirt, pants, and nice shoes (ties are nice but not mandatory). ☺

**\*Please mark these dates on your calendar: December 10, 2019 and May 28, 2020\***

## Grading

The arts are a subjective field. Keeping this in mind, student report card grades are based on the following criteria:

- Lesson Attendance – Missed lessons because of conflicts, forgotten schedule, and/or forgotten instruments must be made up. If a student is absent from school, the lesson is excused.
- Band/Lesson Participation – This includes playing in class, following the band rules, being prepared for class, and demonstration of understanding the subject matter.
- Written Work – At times, we may have a written assignment based on note reading, instrument fingerings, rhythm patterns, concert evaluation, etc. These should be completed with the same level of care as classroom work.
- Playing Exams – We will be having playing exams based on our concert music before each concert (2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> marking periods). The rubric for the playing exam will be sent home ahead of time so the students know what is expected of them.

## Extra Playing Opportunities

Students this year have the opportunity to join the Tuscarora Marching Band and the Tuscarora Select/Jazz Band! Stay tuned for more information coming about these groups!

## Contact

If you ever have any questions or concerns, please reach out to me! You can call me at Tuscarora Elementary at (607) 359 – 2261, message me on Schoology, or send me an email at [gmacchia@addisoncsd.org](mailto:gmacchia@addisoncsd.org).

Please complete this form and return it to Miss Macchia  
for one "free lesson pass"!

(Please return only this slip. Keep the rest for your records.)

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Class: \_\_\_\_\_

Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

I have read the Tuscarora Band Handbook.

Initials: \_\_\_\_\_

I understand the grading policy.

Initials: \_\_\_\_\_

Which is the best way for me to contact you?

❖ Parent/Guardian E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

❖ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

I understand that my child's success at playing a musical instrument depends upon the combined efforts of my child, myself, and their teacher. I will do my best to assist my child in abiding by these rules. I agree to provide transportation to/from concerts.

Parent/Guardian Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

I understand that I am required to attend all Band rehearsals, lessons, and concerts and that I will receive a grade on my report card based on my participation. I agree to be prepared at rehearsals and lessons and participate to my best ability and I understand that if I do not, it will affect my grade in Band.

Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_