

(920) 710-BAND  
(920) 710-2263

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Coleman, WI 54112

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



## Middle School Band Handbook 2016-2017

**Welcome to the Coleman Middle School Band!**

Please take the time to review this handbook with your family. You are responsible for all information in this handbook.

This information can also be found at:

**[www.colemanbands.weebly.com](http://www.colemanbands.weebly.com)**

Ms. Becca Shuman, Director  
Email: [rshuman@coleman.k12.wi.us](mailto:rshuman@coleman.k12.wi.us)  
Phone: (920) 710-BAND / (920) 710-2263

***“Music is a gesture of friendship, the strongest there is.”***

***-Malcolm Arnold***

## COLEMAN MIDDLE SCHOOL BAND GOALS

1. Develop a life-long appreciation for music.
  2. Learn about music as it relates to history and culture.
  3. Develop a band environment of **respect, responsibility, kindness, and excellence.**
  4. Learn to read and understand the language of music notation.
  5. Develop rehearsal skills and self-discipline.
  6. Develop performance skills and confidence.
  7. Play expressively. Play from the heart.
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## CLASSROOM POLICIES AND GENERAL EXPECTATIONS

1. Be on time. Two tardies will result in detention, and three will result in a visit to the principal's office. (See the Coleman MS/HS Student Handbook for more information).
  2. Have all materials ready for class. (Instrument fully assembled, music and folder, accessories, and a PENCIL.)
  3. No food, candy, gum, or drinks, EXCEPT water.
  4. Bathroom and drinking fountain trips should take place during passing time. Only one person at a time will be allowed to leave the band room during class, and s/he must leave their cell phone with the director.
  5. Cell phones, tablets, etc. may only be used when the director has given permission. Any other use will result in confiscation for the remainder of class.
  6. If you feel sick, forgot your instrument, or can't otherwise play, ask Ms. Shuman for a "Silent but Present" form.
  7. Percussionists are the **only** students permitted in the percussion section, and they're the **only** students authorized to play percussion equipment. Failure to abide by this policy will result in detention.
  8. Maintain a positive attitude and be mentally present in all rehearsals – support your teammates!
  9. Respect the band room, your instruments, your peers, and your director. **Respect leads to excellence.**
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## BASICS FOR REHEARSALS (AND LIFE)

1. LISTEN to the music, to each other, to the director.
2. COMMUNICATE respectfully, efficiently, effectively.
3. BE KIND. WORK HARD. WORK HARD AT BEING KIND.
4. BE POSITIVE.
5. EXPLORE. Be open to new things. Be open to *trying*.
6. CELEBRATE SUCCESS. Of yourself, of your peers, of the band as a whole.

## INSTRUMENT EXPECTATIONS

### Woodwinds

- If you haven't had your personal instrument professionally cleaned and checked, please do so this fall. It's hard to reach your full potential on your instruments if the instrument doesn't function well. See Ms. Shuman about where to get your instrument cleaned.
- Store your instrument in its case with the case locked/latched.
- All reed players are to have at least **three** reeds and must rotate them regularly. **Do not keep your reed on your mouthpiece to store it!** This causes mold and bacteria to grow inside your mouthpiece -- yuck!
- You must swab out your instrument after every use! Bacteria can grow if you don't, and moisture can build up and damage your instrument. Make sure you have the proper mouthpiece, ligature, reeds, swabs, and cork grease for your instrument. See Ms. Shuman for supplies.

### Brass

- If you have not had your personal instrument professionally cleaned, please do so this fall. It's hard to reach your full potential on your instruments if the instrument doesn't function well. Please see Ms. Shuman about where to get your instrument cleaned.
- **Do not place your instrument in its case half-open in your locker.** This can damage valves and slide tubings. Students will be responsible for any damage to their instruments caused by this.
- The band program will supply all mutes needed, although students are highly encouraged to buy their own.

### Percussion

- The percussion section can easily become messy. Please keep it clean and organized! Failure to do so will result in loss of daily participation points.

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## BAND OFFICERS

The band will elect Band Officers at the beginning of the year. These officers will meet with Ms. Shuman once a month to discuss questions, concerns, and ideas for improving the band as a whole.

**President:** Open only to 8th graders. Leads the Band Officers, organizes activities for the band, and works closely with the director.

**Secretary:** Open to all grades. Takes attendance for the band at the beginning of all rehearsals. Takes notes at Band Officer meetings. Assists the President with officer activities.

**Librarians (two positions available):** Open to all grades. Work with director to distribute pep band and concert music to all CMS Band students. Also help with all other Band Officer activities.

**6th, 7th, and 8th Grade Representatives (one of each):** Represent their class. Communicate the needs, questions, and concerns of their class to the rest of the Band Officers and the director.

## ATTENDANCE

### Concerts

Concert attendance is **required** of all members of the MS Band. Each student is *crucial* to the success of our performances, so an unexcused absence from a concert will result in a grade reduction (see “Grading Procedures” on page 6). **Work is not an excused absence from concerts.** Clear your work schedule now while there is plenty of time, and notify your employer of concert dates to avoid problems later.

If there’s an unavoidable conflict (illness, family commitments, etc.), please have your parents/guardians call Ms. Shuman at **920-710-2263** as soon as you know about it – at least 3 weeks before the concert if possible. I will work with you on an individual basis.

If you need transportation to or from a concert, please let the director know!

### Rehearsals

If you miss rehearsal for an **excused** reason (as listed in the Coleman MS/HS Student Handbook), you will not lose any credit for the day’s work, and you’ll have some extra time to complete any assignments you missed.

An **unexcused** absence from rehearsal will lower your grade. Unlike many other classes, the work missed in a band rehearsal cannot be fully made up. So, when a student misses a rehearsal and the absence is **unexcused**, the student will not receive points for that day’s work (5 points per day).

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## CONCERT ATTIRE

Each student will need to order a band shirt for concerts. We will order these during the first quarter. Students will also need to provide their own of the following:

- Black dress pants or a long black skirt (past the knee **when sitting down**)
  - Black socks or black nylons
  - Black, closed-toe dress shoes (**no flip-flops**)
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## PURCHASE OF ACCESSORIES

Students may purchase accessories for their instrument from Ms. Shuman in the band office, or from an area music store. All accessories must be paid for at the time of purchase. If you need financial assistance, please talk to Ms. Shuman privately and we can make alternate arrangements.

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## FUNDRAISING

Each year, the Coleman Bands participate in fundraisers to help the program, or to help students pay for trips. Please be sure to pick up items in the band room on the designated days and make payments on time. It is in your best interest to take care of all fundraising business quickly and efficiently!

## STUDENT ACCOUNT INFORMATION

Profits gained from individual fundraising will be placed in that student's personal student account. Students are not allowed to transfer funds between each other. If a student drops out of the band program, all their fundraising money will be transferred to the general band account since the money was raised for the band. **Please include your student's name in the Memo line of any check you turn in for payment.** Students may see Ms. Shuman to check their account at any time.

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## INSTRUMENT RENTAL AND STORAGE

Students who need to use a school-owned instrument should see Ms. Shuman at the beginning of the year. These students will need to sign an instrument agreement form, and they'll need to sign out their instrument for the year.

Each student will be issued a band locker/cubby at the beginning of the school year. All students may keep their instruments, folders, and other personal items in their band lockers during the year. However, the band program is **not** responsible for any items lost if they are left out in the band room or in the hallways.

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## INDIVIDUAL REPAIR

Instruments are investments that need regular care and maintenance. We recommend taking your instruments to a professional shop **yearly** for any minor adjustments, and every few years for any major repairs. Some reliable and highly recommended repair shops include:

### Heid Music

2605 S. Oneida St.  
Green Bay, WI 54304  
(920) 498-2228

### Instrumental Music

2908 Ontario Rd.  
Green Bay, WI 54311  
(920) 863-3191

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## SOLO & ENSEMBLE

**All MS Band students will participate in the Solo & Ensemble process.** Students may choose to perform a solo or a small group event. You may also choose either to perform at Festival on **Saturday, April 1, 2017**, or for Ms. Shuman sometime during the week of **March 27-31, 2017**. If you perform at Festival and earn a rating of 3 or higher, you will automatically earn full points for your Solo & Ensemble performance grade. If you choose to perform for Ms. Shuman, your performance will be graded on a rubric similar to those used at Festival. More information about the Solo & Ensemble process will be provided later in the year.

## GRADING

Grading in band may be different than in your other classes – it's based largely on your attitude, preparedness, participation, cooperation, and progress, as these things are vital to your individual growth and to the success of the band. You will also earn substantial points for each of our performances. Grades will be earned through a combination of the following:

### Performances:

- Concerts (winter and spring): 100 points each
- Solo and Ensemble: 100 points

### Rehearsals:

*These points can be easily earned by being on time, having all your materials, and contributing positively to each class. Points will be deducted for each negative incident.*

- Daily Participation: 5 points each day

### Additional Assignments:

- Weekly Listenings: 5 points each
- Weekly Practice Cards: 10 points per week
- Additional performances as scheduled (Memorial Day, community performances, etc.)
- Other assignments as given by the director. For example:
  - Scale or playing tests (generally 5-10 points each)
  - Projects (points will vary)

### Extra Credit:

Extra credit forms can be found on the band website ([www.colemanbands.weebly.com/forms.html](http://www.colemanbands.weebly.com/forms.html))

Opportunities for extra credit include:

- Attend a concert (of any genre) in which you are not participating and turn in a short write-up
- Play at every pep band performance for the year
- Write about an article in the newspaper or from a **reliable** online source about a musical subject
- Listen to an album of any genre and write a review (see Ms. Shuman for instructions)
- Student ideas: bring your idea to Ms. Shuman for approval!

**If you ever have questions about your grade in band, PLEASE ASK!**  
**The sooner you ask, the sooner we can figure it out.**

## WHY BAND?

Many of you don't have to ask this question, you just *know* the answer.

Others may need some convincing of the power of music. I could *tell* you about it all day, but you will not understand until you *feel* it.

Music has the power to bring students, teachers, families, and communities together. It strengthens listening, supercharges the brain, increases learning potential, and helps people forms strong, lasting relationships.

Playing in band opens our eyes and our minds to other cultures and other ways of thinking.

Playing in band teaches us how to be positive, constructive members of a family. How to work toward a common goal, and how to celebrate the success of our peers.

Playing in band is a way to learn about *ourselves*. To explore who we are, and who we can become. To grow into the best possible versions of ourselves: compassionate, bold, expressive, collaborative members of our community and our world.

Playing in band develops more than a musician, it develops a *spirit*. It takes what we already have inside of us and helps us express it, learn from it, and help it flourish.

Music is part of every person. It's a part of life. It's a fundamental part of being *human*. Its power may show itself in different ways, but it is *real*, and it is *life-changing*.

So, why not band?



***“Music can name the unnameable,  
and communicate the unknowable.”  
-Leonard Bernstein***