*Carl Sandburg Middle School*

*Band Program Handbook*

*2019-2020*

**Work Hard.**

**Be Kind.**

**Make Music.**

Our Sandburg Music Program enhances our lifelong appreciation of the arts through instruction, dedication, teamwork and performance.

Carl Sandburg Band Lessons Information

Mr. Daniel Weiner, Band Director

Room A-2

2019-2020 School Year

Thank you so very much for your being of our great Carl Sandburg Band Program for the 2019-2020 School Year! Listed below is important information about our Band Program for students and parents/guardians.

**Instrumental Music Lessons:**

Each student in 6th, 7th or 8th grade band will receive one group lesson per week starting at the beginning of September through the last full week of school in June. Weekly band lessons occur the same day each week but rotate each week through periods 1,2,3, 6 and 7.  A student will miss a class once every cycle in the rotation.  If needed, a make-up time can be arranged. Students can use the W.I.N. period to make up tests or assignments, however, rarely will there be “make-up” lessons during W.I.N.

Instrumental music students are required to attend their pull-out lesson each week.  All music students, vocal and instrumental, are required to attend all rehearsals and concerts.  Continued success of the music program depends on each and every student. One student missing a rehearsal or concert has a detrimental effect on the entire group.  Absences from lessons, rehearsals and/or concerts may result in the removal of the student from the performing group or other music activities at the discretion of the director.

It is expected that you are courteous and respectful to both your peers and teachers and all of the equipment in the band room and surrounding areas during all of your music activities, including band lessons, rehearsals and performances.

As per school policy, in order for students to participate in band rehearsals, concerts and trips, the students must be in good standing in the music program, meaning they must attend their band lessons and be prepared for them as well.

BAND LESSONS WILL START THE WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 9th. LESSON SCHEDULES WILL BE OUT SOON!

**Thursday Night Band:**

In addition to your weekly instrumental music lessons, all instrumental students in grades 6, 7, and 8 are members of the Sandburg Concert Band. Each member MUST attend rehearsals, which take place on Thursday Evenings from 6:30-8:15pm, starting on Thursday, October 3, 2019. These rehearsals will continue each Thursday evening (excluding Thanksgiving) until the winter concert, which will take place on Monday, January 13th at 7pm in Carl Sandburg’s Auditorium. Thursday Night Band will pause during honors band and the school musical season, then will start up again in late February up until the music trip in on Friday, May 15, 2020.

We will start up Thursday Night Band again in February and prepare for our Spring Concert, which will take place on Wednesday, May 6, 2020 at 7pm. This group will also perform in the Spring Music Adjudication Trip to Six Flags Great Adventure in Jackson, NJ, on Friday, May 15, 2020.

**Jazz Band:**

The Carl Sandburg Jazz Band auditions will be held in December.  This group is comprised of approximately 20 musicians.  All students auditioning for Jazz Band must be a member in good standing of the Concert Band and they should be attending their instrumental lessons. The Jazz Band normally consists of 5 saxophones, 4 trombones, 4 trumpets, a pianist, bassist, guitarist and 2 drum set players. Additional instruments, such as flutes and mallets may be asked to audition if necessary. The jazz band will perform at a Neshaminy district-level jazz festival, our spring concert and possibly on our music adjudication trip.

**Neshaminy Middle Honors Band:**

Certain students will be selected at the discretion of the director to participate in the Neshaminy School District Middle Level Honors Band. This is combined of any honors band of middle school band students compromised of students from Sandburg, Poquessing and Maple Point Middle Schools. These rehearsals will run from mid-December to the end of January with 6 mandatory evening rehearsals. Information will be distributed to those selected students at the beginning of November.

**8th Grade Band Members:**

All 8th Band Members from Sandburg, Poquessing and Maple Point Middle School are invited to perform with the Neshaminy High School Marching Band for 8th Grade Band Night at a Friday Football Game on ***Friday, October 4th***, starting at 5:30pm at the high school. All 8th grade band members will get a free performance T-shirt, will play in the stands with the marching band and get an ice cream social immediately after the football game. I would strongly encourage each 8th grade band member to come and get a little taste of the band program at Neshaminy High School.

Additionally, our 8th grade band members are asked to perform with the Neshaminy High School Symphonic Band at the annual 8th Grade Band Showcase on ***Wednesday, January 9t***h at Neshaminy High School. We will have a short rehearsal in the morning to play a prepared piece with the high school band, followed by a high school recruitment presentation by Mr. Lipton, who is the high school band director. We will also be receiving a pizza lunch, hosted by the Neshaminy High School Instrumental Music Boosters. We will be bused to and from the high school that day and we are invited to perform with that same piece with the high school band for their concert that same evening at 7pm. You are to wearing your Sandburg Concert Uniform that evening.

**BCMEA:** (Audition Only Bucks County Band)

 Certain students that are playing their instrument at a high level may be asked to audition for the BCMEA (Bucks County Music Educators Association) Music Festival, which is “All Bucks County Band,” which they can audition for amongst all of the middle schools in Bucks County. The students must be in 7th or 8th grade to audition. Each year, we normally get a few Sandburg Band students in BCMEA. Mr. Weiner will gladly help you prepare for this audition and please feel free to look at the BCMEA website at [www.bcmea.org](http://www.bcmea.org).

**Performance Uniform:**

Each student in the band will be required to purchase wear the Maroon Polo Shirt that says, “Sandburg Music” on it. Additionally, each student will wear Khaki Pants (No Skirts), Black Shoes and Black Socks for each concert performance. If you’ve been in the program for a few years, please try on your uniform and make sure you uniform still fits!  Please click on the link for a shirt order form: <https://www.neshaminy.org/Page/28319>

**Grading Policy:**

There are no grades given for being part of the middle school band in the Neshaminy School District. However, each student is required to bring the following to their weekly band lesson:

* Instrument
* Band Folder Including the following materials:
	+ Band Music
	+ Lesson Book
	+ Pencil
	+ Highlighter
	+ Scale Sheet (For Winds, Brass and Keyboard Percussion Only)
	+ Rudiment Sheet (For Drums Only)
	+ Fingering Chart (For Winds and Brass Only)

**Seating Placement:**

Every member of the band will have to do a seat placement. This will take place immediately after the winter concert. This placement, or assessment, will consist of a/an assigned scale(s), assigned portions of winter concert band music and a small sight-reading exercise from SmartMusic. New band seating and new lesson groupings will occur immediately after these based on how everyone scores on the assessment.

**Discipline Policy:**Please see the official Carl Sandburg Middle School Discipline Code Icon listed below for information in regards to this as our music program does following the school discipline protocol.

<https://www.neshaminy.org/cms/lib/PA01000466/Centricity/Domain/640/Discipline%20Code%202014-2015.pdf>

**Storing your instrument/folders:**

* Band Folder: Each band student will be assigned a large Carl Sandburg Band Leather folder for the school year. Each folder is to be stored in the folder cabinet while you have the folder at school during the day of your lesson or the day of band rehearsal. Your band folder is to be taken home with your instrument to practice.
* Your band instrument is to be stored in the band room instrument storage closet on your assigned shelf during the day of your lesson and band rehearsal. Please bring your instrument at the beginning of the school during (Before/During Homeroom) and take it home at the end of the day (During WIN/After School). Do NOT leave your instrument in your locker or another classroom.
* If you have an extremely large instrument, (Tuba, Bari Sax, Tenor Sax, Baritone) we will try our best for the student to have one instrument to keep at home and one instrument to keep at school. However, the student must still transport their band folder when they have lessons.

**WIN Period:**

Band Students may come down to the band room during the daily WIN period (2:25-2:55pm) with permission from both Mr. Weiner and their assigned WIN teacher. Please keep in mind that band room WIN is meant for students that want to practice their instrument alone and in groups to work on whatever music they need first.

**Concert Band Performance Dates:**

Winter Concert I: Monday, January 13, 2020 7pm Carl Sandburg Auditiorium

Winter In-School Concert: TBA

Spring Concert I: Wednesday, May 6, 2020 7pm Carl Sandburg Auditorium

Spring In-School Concert: TBA

Six Flags Great Adventure Trip: Friday, May 15, 2020 Jackson, NJ

Feel free to go to [www.neshaminy.org](http://www.neshaminy.org) and look at the school district calendar for individualized music events throughout the course of the school year.

**Instrument Repairs:**

 ***Where to go when your instrument is in need of repair....***

 **(in no particular order)**

* **Music & Arts (Horsham, PA, Lawrenceville, NJ, Doylestown, PA)**

Music & Arts is the flagship provider of rentals and repairs for the Neshaminy School District. If your child's rented instrument is broken and you are renting it, Music & Arts will fix it for you. Please contact them directly at (215)896-5719 or contact Stacey Cafagna at stacey.cafagna@musicarts.com. You can leave the instrument with Mr. Weiner for Stacey to pick up/drop off every Wednesday during the school year. Some contracts will allow Music & Arts to lend an instrument while your child's instrument is getting repaired. [www.musicarts.com](http://www.musicarts.com/)

* **Pro-Line Music (Fairless Hills)**

 Make sure you call them beforehand to see how quickly they can repair your instrument and if they repair that selective instrument. [www.prolinemusic.com](http://www.prolinemusic.com/)  (215)736-8055

* **Sam Ash Music Store (Philadelphia Mills)**
Please call before you drop it off to see how quickly they can fix your instrument.

[www.samashmusic.com](http://www.samashmusic.com/)  (215)612-1339.

* **Steve Moyer (Langhorne)**Also one of the best in the business. Works on professional and basic instruments. Located in Langhorne Borough around the 7-11. Call beforehand for availability. (215) 741-9561
* **Mike Hammer (NE Philadelphia)**

one of the best woodwind specialists in the Philadelphia region. Would highly recommend high-end woodwind instruments Call beforehand for availability (215) 944-4981.  Many Philadelphia Orchestra members go to Mr. Hammer. Located in Bensalem. [www.hammerwoodwinds.com](http://www.hammerwoodwinds.com/)

* **John Ashcraft (Ewing, NJ)**
 One of the top brass specialists on the east coast. Has many professionals from the New York Philharmonic and the Philadelphia Orchestra works on their instruments, as well as some of the jazz musicians from Philly, NYC, DC and Boston. Located in Ewing, NJ. Call beforehand for availability (609) 730-3901
* **Music Forte (Fairless Hills)**

A smaller privately owned business that fixes and sells instruments, and offers private lessons.  Located on New Falls Road. **www.musicforte.com.**The technician's name is Jeff Neuhof.

**Renting Your Instrument:**

Music & Arts Center is the Neshaminy School District Flagship Music Accessories Store. Music & Arts Provides instrumental rentals for the entire school district. If you'd like to rent, re-rent or purchase an instrument, please feel free to visit their website at [www.musicarts.com](http://www.musicarts.com/) or call their Horsham, PA store at (215) 443-0585.

**Our district's music representative is named Stacey Cafagna, who picks up all rentals, purchases, repairs and accessories weekly around the Neshaminy's Schools. Stacey can be reached at (609) 605-0917 or at****Stacey.cafagna@musicarts.com**. Please keep in mind that you do not have to rent from Music and Arts, but most students and their family do use them for rentals throughout the entire Neshaminy School District.

**Some examples of items students will need are:**

Instruments, Lesson Books, Valve Oil, Slide Oil, Cork Grease, Patch Cords, Drum Sticks, Drum Equipment, Slide Cream, Reeds, Mouthpieces, Ligatures, Instrument Cleaners, Music Stands, Tunes, Metronomes and much more!

**Parent/Guardian Clearances:**

Please remember that all parent helpers that come in and out of the buildings of Neshaminy need to have the proper updated clearances. The same goes true for music trip chaperones. Please click on the following link to see your status on clearances.

<https://www.neshaminy.org/domain/2914>

**Private Lessons:**

Please click on the icon listed below to see a Neshaminy School District approved list of private lesson instructors. Feel free to consult Mr. Weiner before reaching out to these instructors.

 <https://www.neshaminy.org/Page/31343>

As you can see, there are many exciting opportunities for the 2019-2020 school year and I look forward to helping each student progress individually as well as within the ensemble.  If you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact me. Please scroll through the “Band” Page on the school website.

Thank you,

Mr. Dan Weiner

Band Director

Carl Sandburg Middle School

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Voice Mailbox: (215) 809-7491