

Handbook for

Beginning Band

*2025-2026*

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### Mrs. Michelle Gaunt

Mrs. Michelle Gaunt is the K-12 music instructor for Munising Public Schools. She spends her morning at the Middle/High School and the afternoon at Mather Elementary. The best method to contact her is via email or you may leave a message on her office phone.

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387-2103 ext. 2135

# Course Description

Beginning band is a class for all beginning instrumental musicians. Beginning band teaches students to properly handle and play instruments while enhancing skills in team building, tone production, ear training, sight-reading. Students will choose one instrument to focus their skills on learning and perform regularly at scheduled concerts.

Students will be learning one of the following instruments:

* Flute
* Oboe
* Clarinet
* Alto Saxophone
* French Horn
* Trumpet
* Trombone
* Baritone
* Tuba
* Percussion (Keyboard and Snare)

# Materials

Students will need the following supplies:

* Instrument
* Binder or Folder (school provided)
* Pencil to keep in the instrument case (Mrs. Gaunt will provide one at the beginning of the school year)
* Sound Innovations for Concert Band Book 1 for your specific instrument (blue, published by Alfred) We have copies available for use, but if you want to purchase one they cost $8.99 new $11.99 for combination percussion. Available at Jim’s Music in Marquette or Online. Students must write their names in their books.
* Vic Firth SD1 drumsticks for percussionists not renting a percussion kit
* Swabs for woodwinds (will be provided for school instruments and generally come with rentals)
* School Reeds will cost $2 per reed for students to purchase in a pinch. The first two reeds will be provided to reed players

**Instrument Rentals & School Instruments**

Students are encouraged, **but not required** to rent their instruments from Jim’s Music in Marquette for their participation in band. They have fair priced, rent-to-own instruments and instruments that can be purchased outright. Instruments on a rent-to-own contract will also get maintenance whenever there is something wrong versus a school provided instrument which may take weeks to repair.

**Rental information will be sent home with students once instrument is selected.**

School instruments will be loaned first to the students who used them the previous year, then on a first-come, first-serve basis. Students will not be allowed to take a school owned instrument home until the **Band Rental Agreement** is signed by a parent and/or guardian. Students using shared instruments, such as the Bari Sax and Percussion, will also be required to fill out a rental agreement.

**Students using their own personal instrument or a rental** will need to have a nametag on their instrument with phone number and complete the following Google Form ( <https://goo.gl/forms/tF0y4D3no45kVD9x2> ). This is so I can keep track of which instruments belong to students in the event it gets misplaced or a nametag gets removed. Any personal instruments that are not marked or entered into the database that are left at the school at the end of the year will be an assumed donation to the music program and will be absorbed into the school’s instrument inventory.

**Instrument Switching**

Some students may need to switch instruments due to limited success on the chosen instrument or personal reasons. Those who need to switch will need to discuss it with Mrs. Gaunt and their family. A switch is not guaranteed and depends on the availability of instruments. Students wishing to switch who are renting from Jim’s Music need to have a family member contact Jim’s Music directly. Mrs. Gaunt will not switch students renting from Jim’s until a family member contacts them about the rental and informs Mrs. Gaunt.

**Classroom Rules & Expectations**

* **Be respectful to everyone** 
  + This includes the directors, guest teachers, each other, and The Band Room. Respect rehearsal by not talking while the teacher is on the podium
* **Accept responsibility for yourself, your actions, and your learning**
  + Pick up after yourself, pay attention, and work hard. Practice, Practice, Practice!
* **Never touch anything that does not belong to you** 
  + Keep your hands, feet, and objects to yourself. Do not touch anyone else’s instruments, do not touch percussion instruments, or director’s equipment.
* **Do your best everyday** 
  + Be prepared with your instrument, book, music, and pencil every day. **Get better not bitter,** know your music by practicing at home. Setup quickly and participate every day.
* **NO FOOD**

**Woodwind & Brass Expectations**

* Have instruments and music ready to go at the start of class
* Participate and stay on task
* Put your instruments and music away in your assigned cubby
* Make sure your area is clean and straightened before leaving the room

**Percussion Expectations**

* Have sticks/mallets and music ready to go at the start of class
* Participate and stay on task
* Put materials and music away in their proper place & cover all the instruments
* Be careful and take care of the percussion instruments. They are new as of February 2025.

**Percussion Storage Room Expectations**

* Put things away in their assigned spot. Everything is labeled, and has a spot on the wall or shelf. Please make sure this is done, so students in other classes can find things.
* Keep the room clean from clutter and garbage. Don’t shove things in random places or throw garbage in random places
* Do not be destructive with items in the room. Don’t break sticks/pencils/shove things in the sink, instruments, or under shelves
* It is not your personal hangout. Just get what you need and go. Likewise, brass & woodwind, if you need to use the sink, just use it and go. Don’t dilly dally around in there or mess with their stuff.

**Practice Room Expectations**

* Practice Rooms are a privilege, not a right. It is a space for working on music, not for goofing around or hanging out. No one enters a practice room without Mrs. Gaunt’s specific instruction to do so. Practice room privileges can be revoked at any time, for any reason.
* You are to work on specific skills/parts when in the room, alone or with others. When done, come out and join class. Practice room use does not have to take the entire class period. If you are not working, you will be asked to leave the room. No questions or arguments.
* Rooms are to be respected. Use of food, graffiti, destruction of items, phones, air pods, etc. will be not tolerated. Violations will result in a warning and/or SRC.
* No one should bother the students working in rooms. Likewise, students working in rooms should not bother other students in rooms or in the main room. Violations will result in a warning, and/or a trip to SRC.

**Use of Mrs. Gaunt’s Office**

* It is ultimately Mrs. Gaunt’s Office, not a personal hangout room. It is her space that used to do work and keep confidential information. Students are only allowed to use the office with Mrs. Gaunt’s permission. If she doesn’t give you explicit permission, stay out.
* If you are allowed to use it, keep it clean. Don’t leave your stuff everywhere or make a mess of things. Mrs. Gaunt likes to have a clean, organized office and there have been many issues with this in the past.
* Keep your feet off the desk; it’s gross. Hands and papers go there. Don’t use the office chair and mess with the settings; use the fluffy chairs or normal chairs instead. And please do not move things on the desk or eat in there. Once again, many issues with this in the past.
* It is not your personal hangout. Don’t go wandering in there if you are waiting for your turn to play or to hang out with independent music students. It wastes class time for me to get you or to have someone else go get you.

# Grading Outline

* Rehearsal Skills (50% of grade) 5 points/day
* Performance Evaluations (20% of grade) 28 points with up to 7 extra credit points available
* In-Class Assignments (5% of grade) Points vary per assignment
* Concerts (25% of grade)

**Rehearsal Skills**

Students are graded daily based on the rubric below. This grade is worth **5 points per day or 25 points per week and counts as 50% of their quarterly grade.** Students will start each week with the full amount of points. It is their responsibility to keep their full points each week by following the rubric listed below. Any student who is unable to participate in class due to illness or any other reason, must provide documentation from a parent or guardian excusing them from participation for the day. Otherwise, if a student is present, full participation is expected. Students will keep their daily points with exceptions for the following:

* Missing materials -1 point per item missing (reed, music, book, etc.)
* Missing/forgotten instrument -4 points for each day missing
* Late for rehearsal start (after first 5 minutes of class) -1 point
* Lack of participation -5 for no participation during 75% or more of the class, -4 for 50-75% of class, -3 for 30-50% of class, -2 for 15-30% of class, -1 for 10-15% of class
* Poor rehearsal attitude/behavior/violation of expectations. Each incident will be an immediate deduction of 2 points or more depending on severity. This includes but is not limited to:
  + Making fun of others’ playing ability/mocking/rude remarks/cell phone use
  + Not listening/respecting High School mentors or Mrs. Gaunt
  + Taking other students’ music, materials, and/or instruments
  + Messing/using with percussion equipment/room when not a percussionist or without Mrs. Gaunt’s permission
  + Not utilizing practice rooms for their intended use
  + Leaving behind messes
  + Not putting away instrument properly

**Performance Evaluations**

Performance evaluations occur throughout the year. Each Evaluation is worth 28 points with the opportunity to earn up to 35 points if students achieve Mastery at all levels.

**Brass & Woodwind:**

**Ratings:**

**Tone Quality 5\*- Mastery (Extra Credit)**

**Intonation 4- Proficient**

**Note Accuracy 3- Progressing**

**Rhythmic Accuracy 2- Needs Improvement**

**Tempo 1- Not Proficient**

**Dynamics**

**Phrasing**

**Accents & Articulations**

**Percussion:**

**Ratings:**

**Grip 5\*- Mastery (Extra Credit)**

**Technique 4- Proficient**

**Note Accuracy 3- Progressing**

**Rhythmic Accuracy 2- Needs Improvement**

**Tempo 1- Not Proficient**

**Dynamics**

**Phrasing**

**Accents & Articulations**

**Assignments**

Students may at times be asked to complete in-class music theory assignments to help enhance skills and deepen understanding of what students are learning. These assignments will stay in the classroom and will not be taken home for homework.

**Concerts**

Students in the music elective classes are required to attend concerts as part of their grade. Concerts are worth **100 points**, broken down below.

* Participation- 60 points
* Concert Etiquette- 15 points
* Preparation- 15 points
* Concert Dress- 10 points

If a student is unable to make a concert due to extenuating circumstances, please notify Mrs. Gaunt via email or voicemail as soon as you are able (within 48 hours). If you are aware of an absence earlier, please contact Mrs. Gaunt as soon as you know of the absence. Students with excused concert absence will have to complete a make-up assignment.

Students that are unexcused from a concert will have to complete a make-up assignment for a maximum 50% credit. The unexcused make-up assignment is for students to perform their concert music in front of the class for evaluation.

Please keep in mind that concerts are a culmination of months of work and the main point of the class please try not to miss one!

**Extra Credit**

Students can earn 10 points extra credit by attending a non-school concert and bringing back the program or ticket stub. They may also earn extra credit by participating in drama club events and other community music or drama events. Students may also earn extra credit by practicing for extra time at home

# Events

**Concert Dates**

The following are the tentative dates for the school concerts. These concerts will take place at Mather Auditorium and begin at 6:00pm with students in uniform, ready to go at 5:30pm. Dates are subject to change and if they are, notification will be sent home.

**Winter Concert:** 11December, 2025 (Make-Up Day 18 December 2025)

**Spring Variety Concert:** 14 May, 2026 (Make-Up Day 18 May 2026

**Concert Etiquette**

* Please hold applause until after the end of each piece
* Please remain seated until after a piece is finished and do not return to seat until a piece is finished
* Please stay until the end of the concert
* No food or drink during a performance
* Please turn off or silence all electronic devices during the performance
* No flash photography during performance

**Concert Dress**

Students will be assigned a concert uniform at the beginning of the school year. Students will be responsible for any damage that is inflicted on the uniform. Concert dress is to be worn at both performances. Students will turn in their uniform at the conclusion of the last concert so please bring a change of clothes at that time.

**Girl’s Uniform:** Black dress or pants & top (we have uniforms for use at the school if you do not want to provide your own) black socks or tights, black dress shoes (responsibility of the student; no tennis shoes or boots if possible. We do have some men’s dress shoes available for use)

**Boy’s Uniform:** Black dress shirt, black dress pants, orange tie (provided by the school however if a student has their own dress pants and dress shirt they would like to use, that is fine), black socks, black dress shoes (responsibility of the student; no tennis shoes or boots if possible. We do have some men’s dress shoes available for use)

# Awards

# Students will receive awards at the end of the year during the spring concert. Every student will receive an award based on their efforts in class throughout the year.

* Best in Band: Given out at Director’s discretion to honor a student of any grade level for their contributions to the music program.
* Most Improved: A student who has shown the most improvement on his or her instrument throughout the year
* Musicianship: Students who display outstanding musicianship in class
* Achievement: Students who are solid in all areas of participation
* Merit For students who go above and beyond participation and musicianship
* Students’ Choice: Students vote on different areas to recognize their peers

# Fundraising

We will be participating in the Vertical Raise Fundraiser in the fall. This fundraiser will go towards field trips and supplies for the band. For Vertical Raise, students do not sell any items, but share a donation link to people they know via text, email, and social media. It is all donation dependent. Last year, we made about $7,000 in donations so here’s hoping we can do that again! The more we make, the more fun trips we can go on and the more things we can purchase for the program.

# Online

Students will be emailed an invitation to join the band Google Classroom. I will have copies of notes as well as other announcements and resources on the page.

# Movies

During days of absence or for learning, students may be watching a movie in class. Movies may be selected from the below list. If there are any movies you do not wish for your child to watch, as some are PG-13, please list on the acknowledgement form. Leave blank if all are okay.

* Phantom of the Opera Live at Royal Albert Hall
* Cats
* An American in Paris
* Fantasia & Fantasia 2000
* Disney musicals (Encanto, Beauty and the Beast, Moana, etc.)
* The Nightmare Before Christmas
* My Music Story- Yoshiki or Perfume (on Disney+)
* The Greatest Showman
* Hello Dolly
* Funny Girl
* Fiddler on the Roof
* The Sound of Music
* Hairspray
* White Christmas
* The King and I
* The Wizard of Oz
* My Fair Lady
* Oklahoma!
* The Music Man
* Guys and Dolls
* Carousel
* Annie
* The Wiz
* Singing in the Rain
* Newsies

# Field Trips

We normally try to do a matinee field trip to NMU. Tickets normally cost around $5 and students are gone for the entire school day. Students will need to pay for the lunch, if they wish to eat at NMU, as our fundraising efforts usually pay the ticket price. Lunch is $12.50.

We will need chaperones for the trips, so please indicate on the acknowledgement form if you would like to be contacted to chaperone.

# Events Calendar

* **December 11, 2025**: Winter Concert @ Mather (be ready to go by 5:30pm)
  + **Make Up Day December 18, 2025**
* **May 14, 2026**: Spring Concert @ Mather (be ready to go by 5:30pm)
  + **Make Up Day May 18, 2026**

# Mustang Music Parent/Student Acknowledgement Form

Please print. Thank You!

**Student Name (Last, First):**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ **Grade:** 6

**Ensemble:** Beginning Band

**Parent/Guardian Name(s**)\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Parent/Guardian Phone:** ( ) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_-\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ ( ) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_-\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Parent/Guardian Email:**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Would you like to be contacted to chaperone or volunteer?** Yes No

**Shirt Size (adult letters)\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Pant Size (adult letters)\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Movie Permission**

Student DOES NOT have permission to watch the following films from the list (leave blank if all allowed):

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Student Acknowledgement**

I have read and fully understand the attached information within the band/choir handbook. I understand that my attendance at all performances is mandatory and failure to attend will result in a deduction of my grade. By signing below, I agree to abide by all handbook guidelines.

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

**Parent Acknowledgement**

I understand my child is required to attend all performances. I acknowledge that if my child fails to attend a performance his or her grade will be affected. I have read and reviewed the attached information. By signing below, I understand that my child must follow **all** guidelines outlined in the handbook.

Parent Signature:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**PLEASE RETURN BY THE END OF THE WEEK TO MRS. GAUNT for 10 points**