Student Handbook 2017-2018

Welcome to Faulkton Band/Choir!

(insert picture)

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Band Course Overview: The Band Department is designed to fulfill the needs of students who enjoy playing instruments in a concert setting. The band will perform at contests, concerts, and other school events.

Choir Course Overview: The Choir Department is designed to fulfill the needs of students who enjoy choral singing. The choirs will perform all styles of choral literature. The choirs will perform at festivals, contests, concerts, and other school events.

We Value:

* Musical citizenship and collaboration – connecting with others through music.
* Creativity and diversity of perspectives.
* Discipline, commitment, and perseverance.
* Individuality in musical expression.

This student handbook contains important information necessary for the success of each student enrolled in middle school and high school band/choir in the 2017-2018 school year. Please read through it carefully and keep it as a reference and/or bookmark it for future reference. Open communication is key to maintaining a successful vocal music program. Please feel free to contact me with questions or concerns.

General Expectations:

* Be on time to class and in correct seat. (Be ready when the bell rings.)
* Have all materials ready each day. (Pencil, music, folder, paper, water bottle, etc.)
* No food, candy, drink, or gum allowed in the rehearsal area. Exception = WATER (clear container)
* Bathroom trips should take place in between classes.
* No cell phones, iPods, iPads, etc. (unless directed to use them)
* Focus on the task at hand: Be mentally involved, even if you are not physically.
* No use of vulgar language.
* No talking unless called on by the director.
* Respect the people, equipment, and furnishings of the room.
* Come to class with a positive attitude and ready to learn!

Attendance is critical for the success of each individual student as well as the entire ensemble. Attendance is expected for all performances, sectionals, and additional rehearsals scheduled outside of the regular class time. Makeup work for points will be allowed if discussed ahead of time and is considered an excused absence with Mrs. Mickelson.

Communication:

Students are responsible for communicating with the instructor any concerns they have at any time. Please ask questions if something is not clear. I want you to succeed!

Music and Supplies:

* Students will be assigned a folder and cubby with music for the band and/or choir. Each individual is responsible for the folder and its contents. Failure to return music or folders in appropriate condition will result in a charge.
* Markings that should appear in music must be done with an erasable pencil and within proper score marking procedures. Please no doodling.
* You may take your folder and music home at any time during the school year, but please have it in class each day.
* Do not ask to make up assignments/tests/quizzes for other classes during band/choir. If discussed beforehand, permission must be granted by Mrs. Mickelson if one needs to leave band/choir to make up an assignment for another class.
* Permission must be granted to use the practice room. Please keep it clean. No food or drink (except water) should be in the practice room.

Concert Dress:

Boys will dress in nice dress pants (no jeans, shorts, must be without holes) and a nice dress shirt (no t-shirts). Girls should dress in nice dress clothes. If a dress or skirt is chosen, it is to be at the knees or below. Dress pants can also be worn with a nice shirt. Please follow the school dress code and use your best judgement.

All Contests:

Dress appropriately and represent your school well.

Performance Guidelines:

* Be early for report times.
* Come prepared physically and mentally.
* Have equipment and/or materials ready to go before report time.

Important Dates:

* Homecoming (required)
  + September 29
* All State Chorus (optional)
  + October 27, 28
* K-6 Christmas Concert (required)
  + December 5
* 7-12 Christmas Concert (required)
  + December 7
* Small Group Contest (optional)
  + February 7
* Large Group Contest (required)
  + March 28
* 7-12 Spring Concert (required)
  + April 5
* K-6 Spring Concert (required)
  + April 17
* Miller Instrumental Contest (required)
  + April 21
* Pops Concert (required)
  + May 3

Grading and Evaluation:

* Rehearsal Participation (50%)
  + The student can receive 5 points each day for rehearsal participation.
  + Regular attendance and cooperative behavior are required for full participation points. This includes some early morning rehearsals that may be scheduled throughout the year. (Drumline for example)
  + Respect for the teacher and fellow choir members is expected.
  + WATER bottles are definitely encouraged.
  + The student is responsible for putting his/her folder and/or instrument and music away in the correct place before leaving the classroom.
* Performances (25%) Because band/chorus is a performance-based class, attendance is required for all concerts.
  + A written not from home is required for an excused absence. Students may earn points for an excused absence by singing or playing, for the director, the music from the missed concert, or through other options that must be approved by the director.
  + The student cannot make-up points lost due to an unexcused absence.
  + The only excused absences from a performance are:
    - If you are ill the day of the performance or a family emergency occurs. To perform, you must attend at least a half day of classes. If you miss more than half a day, please call the office and leave a note for me in advance to report your illness/absence.
* Written Assessments/Theory Worksheets (25%)
  + The student will be able to define musical vocabulary and correctly identify music theory concepts taught during the daily rehearsals on written assessments.

Grading Scale:

* Same as school handbook.

Cell Phones:

* Each student will be assigned a cubby to put his/her phone in for the class period. If a student does not have a phone, he/she will be given a slip to take the place of the phone. The slip will be sent home to be signed by legal guardian and brought back to school.

Pep Band:

We will play at ALL home games unless notified by the director. The band will also play for homecoming in the parade and possibly during half time for the football game. All pep band nights/days are required. Students will be given 2 passes for work, illness, etc. Please remember that if you are gone, you are letting the band down. Do not use your passes unless you absolutely have to. If a double header occurs, boys will play for the girls game and vice versa. No cell phones out when we play.

National Anthem:

Students may volunteer to perform the National Anthem at local events. Students wishing to do so must make arrangements with the instructor to discuss possible dates and to schedule a rehearsal beforehand.

Lettering:

To be discussed at a later time.

**I look forward to a great year and getting to know each and every one of you and your musical talents!**

**Agreement of Understanding**

We verify that we have read and understand all parts of the Faulkton Music Department Handbook for the current school year. We agree to comply with the commitments explained for both the student and parents for a successful program. We understand that choir/band is a unique experience filled with rewards for those who strive to meet the goals. We also understand the idea of cooperative goals and the responsibility of each individual in meeting those goals in a timely fashion. We agree to do our part to help the director and the administration of the Faulkton Music Department to meet the musical demands.

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Student Signature Date Parent Signature Date