

CRONE MIDDLE SCHOOL

4020 111th Street
Naperville, IL 60564

Parent/Student Band Handbook 2023 - 2024



Please visit the Crone Band Website at:

<http://cronebands.weebly.com/>



Mrs. E.J. Roberts

6th Grade Band, 7th and 8th Grade Technique, and Jazz Band

Mr. John Timmins

7th and 8th Grade Band, 6th Grade Technique,

Wind Ensemble, and Jazz Ensemble



PANTHER BANDS

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Dear Parents and Students,

Welcome to the band department at Crone Middle School! We are very excited about the 2023-24 school year. The purpose of this handbook is to provide you with an awareness and understanding of the policies, organizational structure, and general functioning of the band department at Crone. Please read the handbook in its entirety, discuss it with your family, and keep it for future reference.

Music in District 204 is a vibrant part of the curriculum. In addition to providing music education, our band program is designed to help meet the emotional, social, and cultural needs of every student.

Goals for students include:

1. To discover, appreciate, and value their talents, the talents of others, and the beauty of music.
2. To develop the desire to improve their musical performance as well as increase knowledge of music theory, composition, and improvisation.
3. To gain a sense of self-fulfillment by striving to reach their full potential.
4. To develop a life-long enjoyment and appreciation of music.
5. To prepare your musician for all the outstanding musical opportunities that await them at Neuqua Valley High School.
6. To instill a life-long enjoyment and appreciation of music long after leaving Crone Middle School.

We hope you will share in these goals and help us provide the best possible experience for everyone. Please feel free to contact us at any time with questions or concerns you may have.

We're looking forward to a great year!

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Crone Middle School's band program is a curricular activity for students who wish to pursue the study of a band instrument. It requires extra time and responsibility to those involved. The program is designed to introduce quality band literature through conceptual learning. *Teamwork, enthusiasm, energy, responsible behavior, and careful listening* are the "keys" to a successful band experience.

The development of group or ensemble performance skills, such as balance, blend, intonation, and precision, are pursued during daily band rehearsals. Music history, composer backgrounds, and compositional services are also explored during this full group experience. "Cross-curricular connections" are used frequently. Students will experience the similarities between band (the study of music) and other subject areas. The staff and students work together to help one another succeed. In addition to the cross-curricular connections, the band department focuses on other areas such as interpersonal relationships, character building, community service, organizational skills, and self-discipline...all the intrinsic values of music education.

Lockers

Band lockers are available for students and will be assigned during the first week of school. Students should store only their instrument and band related materials in their band locker. Students with smaller instruments (clarinet, oboe, and flute) have the option to store them in their hall locker.

Instrument Repairs

Instrument repair is a highly specialized skill. It is very easy to damage an instrument in an attempt to repair it if you are not a trained professional. Please share any instrument problems with the band directors so that we can assess the problem and make recommendations as to what sort of repair is necessary. This will help protect you and your instrument from costly repairs.

What is Technique Class?

The tradition of musical excellence achieved and sustained by District 204 instrumental music students can be largely attributed to the design and adoption of a dual curriculum model. Since the 1980's, a comprehensive musicianship curriculum, including components of music theory and music history, has been paired with an instrument-specific, skilled-based curriculum designed to provide each student with the technical skills needed to "experience" high quality repertoire at an artistic level. The success of District 204 music students is a reflection of both the scope and sequence of the dual curricula, and the dedication of each instrumental music teacher to consistently deliver pedagogically-sound, sequential instruction, as well as timely assessment and feedback of student progress.

Technique Class is where the students learn to play their instruments. *Technique Class* is the instrument specific small group lesson that all band and orchestra students participate multiple times throughout each quarter. The focus of this class is to work on instrument specific techniques that allow students to grow much faster on their instruments. We do not work on band music during this time. *Technique Class* has its own curriculum that helps introduce musical concepts and allows students work towards mastery of these concepts.

Texting for Communication to Students and Parents

The Crone Band Department uses Remind, a texting app to send out reminder text to parents and students about assignments and class announcements for band. This is optional for 6, 7, and 8th grade students, but it highly recommended. **Students, or a parent of a student in wind ensemble and jazz ensemble are required to sign up for Remind in case there is a last-minute change in before school rehearsals.**

If you would like to receive Remind texts, please text the following including "@" to 81010:

6 th Grade Band Students/Parents	@7k4b79
6 th Grade Band Combo Students/Parents	@f38fk6
7 th Grade Band Students/Parents	@crone7th
7 th Grade Band Combo Students/Parents	@79k2h6
8 th Grade Band Students/Parents	@bfb2g7
8 th Grade Band Combo Students/Parents	@crone8t
Wind Ensemble	@fgk4bb4
Jazz Ensemble	@bae2hc

A band grade is given each quarter as band is a part of the school curriculum. Here is the approximate percentage break down of each grading period:

Classwork

Classwork includes compositions/composition packets, written assignments, quizzes and tests.

Effort and Participation

Each student will receive daily points for effort, having proper supplies, timely turn-in of permission slips, written work, and preparation.

Performances/Concerts/Performance Readiness Tests

Points for concert participation will be based on attendance (or completion of a written make-up assignment), behavior at concerts, having supplies, being on time, and having the proper uniform.

Performance Readiness Tests will be in-class play-tests on concert music.

Absences from Performance

Absences will only be **excused if approved by the director at least two weeks prior to the performance**. Family emergencies and illness will be excused.

Any student who misses a performance will have the opportunity to complete a make-up assignment (commonly a 1-2 page type-written assignment related to the concert). An excused absence may receive up to full credit. Please mark your calendars carefully at the beginning of the year to avoid conflicts with performances.

Technique Assignment Performance and Practice Reflections

Students will be assessed on their *Technique Class performance of assignments spelled out on the quarter goal sheets*. A parent signature will be due on practice reflection when the assignments are due in technique class.

Home Practice

Should you remind your child to practice? Do you need to remind him/her to do the dishes, take out the trash, and finish homework? Comments such as: "If you don't practice on your own, you'll have to quit!" lead to more failure than to success. Feel free to ask your students questions. Students welcome the chance to be experts at something. You may even find his/her music studies interesting too! Home practice helps make it possible to play a musical instrument to the best of one's ability. All band members must practice regularly at home to ensure progress. It is not possible to perform well with good tone quality, accurate pitches and rhythms, correct articulation, dynamic control, and style without home practice. The greatest benefit of home practice is building self-confidence and pride in one's performance. The recommended practice goal for all band members is 30 minutes a day for five days a week. A student who is musically talented but puts forth little practice time (effort) may receive a low grade. This indicates a student that is not performing to his/her potential. A weekly on-line practice reflection is required from all band students found on the Crone band website.

Private Lessons

One-to-one instruction is strongly encouraged to ensure attention and success as an instrumentalist. Private teachers are of the highest caliber and work closely with the directors. Advanced high school students give "Guided Practice" lessons to interested middle school band members at a reduced rate. These students are highly recommended by the high school directors. They also complete an application process/interview with the middle school directors. A list of private lesson instructors will be available approximately the third week of school on our band website. You may request a private instructor at any time during the school year. Most of the private lessons for Crone will be held at Neuqua Valley High School.

Band Uniform

The Crone Music Department feels strongly about creating unity and professionalism using a uniform for performances. All music department students will wear the following for performances-**no exceptions:** long black dress pants, (no jeans), black socks (**no sport socks, they must go up the leg**), all black dress shoes (no gym shoes), and a music department polo shirt tucked in. The staff will inspect student's full uniform prior to every performance.

Neuqua Valley Music Department Information

The Neuqua Valley Music Department celebrates a nationally renowned reputation for excellence. We strongly encourage our students to attend the many incredible concerts and musical events at Neuqua Valley.

For a listing of upcoming events, freshman information, and opportunities at Neuqua Valley High School, please visit:

www.neuquamusic.org



How can parents further their musician's musical experience?

Attend Live Performances

One of the best ways to promote musical growth in your son/daughter is to listen to recordings of professional musicians or take them to live performances. Our area, especially Chicago, is rich with live concerts in all styles of music. We are also very fortunate to have outstanding performances available through Neuqua Valley High School Music Department. Taking your musician to Neuqua concerts will provide your musician with excellent musical examples to imitate while allowing them to see what great musical opportunities await them in high school.

Provide Private Lessons

Private lessons provide students with the enrichment and personalized instruction necessary to excel in music.

Consider an Instrument/Equipment Upgrade

Please see your instructor for any questions that you might have!

Purchase Recordings of Professional Musicians

Students who imitate more accomplished performers succeed.

All Band Students will need a 1.5" black 3-ring binder and 3 ring pencil pouch. 7th and 8th grade students will need 4 dividers labeled: scale sheets, goal sheet, band music, and handouts.

Woodwinds

- ▯ At least three good reeds **at all times**. A good brand is Vandoren. **Vandoren** strength of **2.5** for 6th graders and **Vandoren 3** for 7th and 8th grade.
- ▯ Reed guard/Mouthpiece Cap
- ▯ Cork grease
- ▯ Cleaning swab
- ▯ Name tag on case with student's name and contact phone number

Brass

- ▯ Valve oil - Water spray bottle for trombones players
- ▯ Slide grease (lanolin is best) (slide cream for trombones)
- ▯ Mouthpiece brush
- ▯ "Snake" internal slide cleaner made for brass instruments
- ▯ Mutes will be made available through school if required. Please do not purchase mutes without the advice of your teacher
- ▯ Name tag on case with student's name and contact phone number

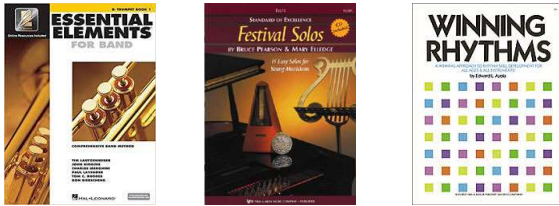
7th and 8th Grade Percussion

Some of these items are included in your beginning percussion kit

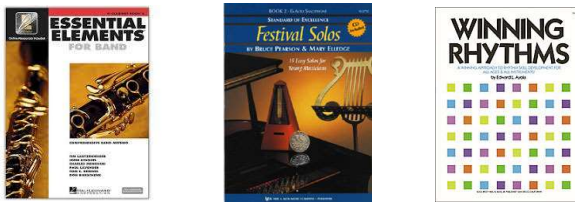
- ▯ Drum sticks – Vic Firth American Custom SD 1
- ▯ Xylophone/bell mallets – Hard rubber
- ▯ Timpani mallets – Labeled "General"
- ▯ Yarn mallets – any color (rattan or birch shaft)
- ▯ Tomahawk training drum sticks
- ▯ Stick bag – **Please label individual sticks and mallets**
- ▯ Name tag on stick bag with student's name and contact phone number

Books for the 2023-24 School Year

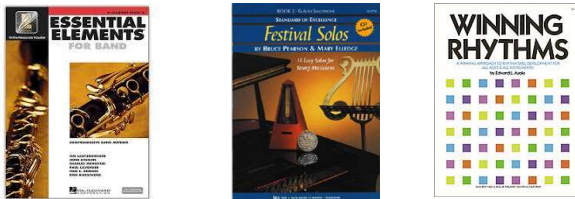
6th Grade (3 books)–Winning Rhythms (not instrument specific, everyone buys the same book)
 Essential Elements, *specific to your instrument* - **Book 1**
 Standard of Excellence Festival Solos, *specific to your instrument* - **Book 1**



7th Grade - (3 books)- Percussion see below – Winning Rhythms (You may use last year’s)
 Essential Elements, *specific to your instrument* - **Book 2**
 Standard of Excellence Festival Solos, *specific to your instrument* - **Book 2** (Please keep last year’s book, too)



8th Grade - (2 books) Percussion see below–Winning Rhythms (You may use last year’s book)
 Essential Elements, *specific to your instrument* (You may use last year’s book) - **Book 2**
 Standard of Excellence Festival Solos, *specific to your instrument* - **Book 2**



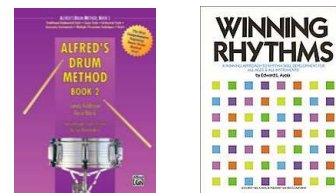
Percussion

6th Grade-A Fresh Approach to Snare Drum
 A Fresh Approach to Mallets Percussion



7th Grade- Alfred Drum Method for Percussion
Book 1 and Winning Rhythms

8th Grade-Alfred Drum Method for Percussion
Book 1 and Winning Rhythm



Crone Band Calendar 2023-24 - Please put these dates on your family calendar.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Who</u>
10/13/23	8th Grade Marching Wildcat Night	NVHS	TBA	8 th grade band
10/25/23	Band Demo Concert	Crone - Gym	6:00 & 7:15 PM	All band students
11/11/23	ILMEA Festival	West Aurora High School	All Day	Select students only
11/28/23	Prelude Information Meeting	Virtual	6:00 PM	Current 5 th Grade
12/04/23	Holiday Concert Set-up	Crone - Gym	7:00 PM	Wind and Jazz Ens.
12/05/23	School Performance Holiday Concert	Crone - Gym	Daytime	Wind and Jazz Ens.
12/05/23	BCO Holiday Honors Concert	Crone - Gym	7:00 PM	Wind and Jazz Ens.
01/24/24	Instrumental Registration Night	Cafeteria	4:00 PM – 7:00 PM	Current 5 th Grade
02/17/24	Solo & Ensemble Contest	Fischer Middle School	All Day	Participating students
02/27/24	Music Department 8 th Grade Concert	Crone - Gym	6:00 PM	8 th Grade Band
02/27/24	Music Department Honor Concert	Crone - Gym	7:30 PM	Wind and Jazz Ensembles
03/16/24	District 204 Band Festival	Still Middle School	TBA	Wind and Jazz Ens.
03/06/24	Music Department 6 th Grade Concert	Crone – Gym	6:00 PM	6 th Grade Band
03/06/24	Music Department 7 th Grade Concert	Crone – Gym	7:30 PM	7 th Grade Band
04/10/24	South Side Jazz Festival	Neuqua Freshman Center	6:15 & 7:45 PM	Jazz Band/Jazz Ens
04/13/24	ILMEA Jazz Festival	Dundee Middle School	All Day	Select students only
05/16 & 5/17	Drumline, and Color guard	Band Room/Gym	7:00 - 7:50 AM	Drumline and Color guard
05/18/24	Fine Arts Festival	NVHS	All Day	All band students
05/22-5/26/23	Band Parade Rehearsals	Crone	7:00 - 7:45 AM	Drumline and Color guard
05/20-5/24/24	Band Parade Rehearsals	Crone	3:15-4:45 PM	All band students
05/27/24	Memorial Day Parade	Naperville	8:30am-12:30pm	All band students
TBD	Wind Ens/Jazz Ens Auditions Videos Due	TBA	TBA	Select students only