

# Viking Band Handbook

Mr. Glenn Eikenberry  
Mr. Steven Boswell

## REHEARSALS

Band rehearsals are every day and will begin the first full day of school. Band students that are also in choir will go to choir rehearsals on a rotating basis. Students are expected to come prepared to every rehearsal with their instrument, music and a pencil. Students that do not come prepared for rehearsal will receive a lower Characteristics of a Successful Learner grade.

7th/8th grade River Trail students should take the bus to Viking in the morning starting the first day of band and will be shuttled to River Trail after band is finished. 6<sup>th</sup> grade River Trail band students will take their regular bus to school, get on the band shuttle at 1:40 and will take a bus home from Viking. Students should know which bus they should get on to go home. Please contact the transportation office if you need the bus numbers.

## LESSONS

All students will be scheduled for a small group lesson once a week on a rotating basis. *Attendance at lessons is crucial for student growth. Be prompt and prepared for your lessons.* Always check in with your classroom teacher to tell them you are going to your lesson. The lesson schedule will come out weekly. Lessons are on a rotating schedule so the students will not miss the same class period continually. The schedule will be posted weekly on the band website as well as in the bandroom. Students are responsible for checking their lesson time and notifying their band director if they are unable to make it. Students are excused from lessons for tests and quizzes, but they must communicate their reason for missing a lesson with their band director. Students that fail to communicate their absence with their band director will be unexcused.

Due to the tight scheduling demands, **makeup lessons will not be offered or scheduled.** In order to make up an missed lesson, students must practice and turn in the following items to their private lesson instructor: 3 band karate songs and a scale that they will be tested on in the current quarter (see *Scale Quizzes* or ask your band director for scale quiz schedule). Students need to be practicing for this make-up material, instead of merely recording their first effort at it. Whether the make up lesson videos consist of a strong enough effort and quality to qualify for full credit is up to the band director's discretion.

## BAND KARATE

Band karate refers to our process of working through our band method books, *Tradition of Excellence*. Students have a checklist that corresponds to songs in the book. Students complete songs in their book by practicing them and mastering them. Once a student has mastered a song in their book they may get it checked off by playing it for their band director or sending a recording of themselves playing the song to their band director. As students complete songs they move up to more advanced levels or "belts". Students are expected to check off 3 songs each week, except during solo/ensemble festival season (see "solo & ensemble festival" below for explanation).

## **BAND BENCHMARKS**

In order to continue full participation in band, students must reach certain Band Karate benchmarks by the end of the school year. This is an encouragement to make regular growth throughout the school year, and it ensures a baseline performance level and knowledge base for each year's ensemble. The requirements set for the end of the 2017-18 are:

Concert Band (6th Grade)	Blue Belt (85) by end of 5th grade
Symphonic Band (7th Grade)	Brown Belt (129) by end of 6th grade

## **PLAYING TESTS**

Chair placement in the band will take place during the first week of September. Each grade level will be tested on grade level-specific scales and etudes. Playing tests will be graded and determine seating order. Playing test material can be found on the band website.

## **UNIFORMS**

The required uniform for performances will be the red D56 music polo (tucked in), black pants, black socks, black shoes, black belt. For marching performances, students will wear the polo with jeans or jean shorts and white tennis shoes. Many students already purchased a polo during Gurnee Days, if you need to buy one, bring \$30 to your director before September 9th.

## **CONCERTS**

All performances are part of the school sponsored program, therefore attendance is expected at all of these activities. Excused absences must be approved by your band director. If there are any conflicts, please notify your director as soon as possible! Each person in band is a VIP, we need all of our band 'teammates' to be there at each concert. As a band we depend on everyone to attend and contribute their part. When band members are missing, it is detrimental to the band. We count on all of you to contribute to an exciting band year at Viking!

## **SOLO & ENSEMBLE FESTIVAL**

Solo and Ensemble Festival occurs each year in February. All District 56 middle school band students are involved. Students will be assigned to an ensemble and given music in November. Weekly lessons leading up to the festival will be used as time to rehearse with the other students in their ensemble.

Interested students have the option to participate in additional ensembles or a solo. Those that are interested should notify their band director.

All students are required to attend the festival in order to perform with their ensembles. Be sure to read all emails regarding solo/ensemble festival carefully.

## **IPADS**

iPads should always be brought to weekly lessons. iPads do not need to be brought to full band rehearsals unless your band director asks you to bring it on a particular day. Please make sure you have the following apps on your ipad: GarageBand, insTuner, ProMetronome, Remind, Google Classroom. You must also have the [band website](#) saved on your homepage.

# Information for Parents

## **DO RE MI**

Do Re Mi is the booster club that supports District 56 bands. If you are a parent of a child in the Gurnee D56 Band Program, you are a member. We encourage all parents to attend the meetings and help support our great program. Please visit the website to find more information. The first meeting is Monday August 22 6:30-7:30pm in the Viking Band room.

## **VOLUNTEERING**

Our program would not be as great as it is without parent volunteers. We highly encourage our parents to volunteer for at least one event each year. Please visit our [Sign-Up Genius](#) to view our volunteer opportunities.

# Ways to stay connected

**REMIND** Everyone in Viking Bands should join this to receive text updates on concerts, rehearsals and events. You may download the Remind app for free and use the codes provided to join. Or if you do not want to app but wish to receive text updates you may text the code provided to the phone number 81010.

Code for 7th/8th graders: @D56SymBand

Code for 6th graders: @D56ConBand

**BAND WEBSITE** Check the [band website](#) regularly. There is tons of valuable information there.

**FACEBOOK** Follow the band on Facebook...[Do Re Mi facebook group](#) for updates

**TWITTER** Follow the band on Twitter @D56VikingBand

# 2017-2018 BAND CALENDAR

Monday	September	11	Marching Band rehearsal 6-7pm, 6th-8th gr band
Wednesday	September	13	Festival of Marching 7PM (Warren HS), 6-8th gr band
Saturday	September	23	ILMEA Auditions – Round Lake High School
Monday	October	2	Do Re Mi meeting, 6:30 PM, Viking Band room
Saturday	October	7	Homecoming Parade 9am (picture 8am), 6th-8th gr
Thursday	October	19	Kick-off concert 6th-8th gr Bands and Choirs 7PM
Saturday	November	4	ILMEA Band Festival, selected 7th-8th, Wauconda HS
Monday	November	6	Do Re Mi meeting, 6:30 PM, Viking Band room
Wednesday	November	15	Warren 8 <sup>th</sup> grade Festival, Almond Campus
Saturday	December	9	Jazz Ens at PTO Holiday Shop 10:30
Thursday	December	14	6th-8th grade Winter Band + Jazz Concert, 7pm
Tuesday	December	19	Symphonic Band Winter Band Tour
Monday	January	8	Do Re Mi meeting, 6:30pm, Viking Band room
Sunday	January	14	Bowling Bash - Bertrands/Waukegan
Wednesday	January	31	Evening Jazz Ensemble Rehearsal, Viking, 6-7:30
Thursday	February	1	Portillo's Fundraiser, Gurnee location
Monday	February	5	Do Re Mi Meeting, 6:30pm, Viking band room
Wednesday	February	7	Evening Jazz Ensemble Rehearsal, Viking, 6-7:30
Saturday	February	10	District Solo/Ens Contest, Antioch Upper Grade School
Thursday	February	22	Warren Jazz Festival 6:30, Jazz Ensemble
Saturday	February	24	Rolling Meadows Jazz Festival, Jazz Ensemble
Thursday	March	8	Contest "Preview" Concert 6-8th Bands and Choir 7PM
Friday	March	9	Organizational Contest Grayslake MS, (Symphonic Band)
Monday	March	12	Do Re Mi Meeting, 6:30 pm Viking band room
Wednesday	March	TBA	North Chicago Band Festival - 6 <sup>th</sup> gr during day
Fri/Sat	April	13-14	Symphonic Band Trip
Monday	April	23	Do Re Mi meeting, Viking band room, 6:30pm
Wednesday	April	25	Viking Jazz Night, 6:30pm
Fri/Sat	May	4&5	Viking Dinner Theater (Jazz Ensemble)
Thursday	May	10	6th-8th grade Bands Spring Concert 7PM
Fri/Sat	May	TBA	MITP
Fri/Sat	May	TBA	MITP

I have read the information about the Viking Band Program and understand that I am an important part of the band. I will practice, be present and perform to the best of my ability. I also agree to have a wonderful time making music with my friends!

Student's Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Parent's Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_