

North Scott Band Department

1st Quarter "Cheat Sheet" for Parents

The Rundown: The 1st Quarter expectations are different than those for the other quarters since we have chair auditions happening. Due to those chair auditions at the middle of the quarter, we only require FOUR lessons (two regular lessons plus the two chair auditions) instead of the usual five. After the 1st Quarter, the requirements go back to "normal" (as stated in the Handbook).

Marching Band: Please refer to the handbook, webpage, or weekly emails for complete details, but here are the main points: All wind players will need a lyre for marching band. They can be purchased at West Music or Griggs Music. ***Trumpet and Trombone players, please purchase a "bell-clamp" lyre. They work much better than the others. Other pertinent items include "grubby" shoes for rehearsals (NO flip-flops!!!), sunscreen, "loose"/comfortable clothing, and water.

Lessons: Each student is required to do FOUR lessons this quarter (Two regular lessons plus the two chair audition lessons). FRESHMEN need to attend a band lesson sometime during the first two weeks of class to get them "up and running". All private lessons come out of other regular classes or study halls, if applicable. Students sign up for lessons on the lesson schedule one week in advance of the lesson, after checking with the classroom teacher regarding tests or any other potential conflict. We will then send the schedule for the week to teachers on each Monday morning.

Those students studying privately on their primary band instrument will receive credit for two those lessons by having their instructor fill out the LESSON VOUCHER. These may be found on the webpage under "Communications".

Students are only allowed to come out of the same class twice per quarter to minimize the amount of time taken away from instruction.

Students can only sign up for one lesson per week.

Lessons are on the materials assigned in their LESSON BOOK, as well as band music.

If a lesson is missed due to a test or quiz in a class during that time, or an excused absence from school, the student is to see us immediately to schedule a time to make up that lesson. In other words, if they miss for reasons beyond their control, have them COME IN AND TALK TO US RIGHT AWAY! We will be more than happy to arrange a make-up time.

The first lesson books are provided to Freshmen and new members to our program.

Chair Auditions: Chair placement auditions (two lessons beginning in the middle of marching band season) will be scheduled into two 8- or 9-day cycles. These will be required lessons. Students will sign up for the first cycle and we will schedule them for the second cycle. This way all students will have the same number of days to prepare etudes. The first cycle will be sight-reading, which doesn't require any specific advance preparation. At the end of the sight-reading portion, the students will receive a sheet with short musical excerpts to prepare. For the second cycle, they will play the musical excerpts and scales (the scales must be memorized). Attending those will fulfill the remaining lesson requirements for the first quarter, given they have completed the two initial band lessons previously mentioned.

Computer Assignments: Each student is required to do the following grade-specific computer assignments for the first quarter:

Freshman/New Members:	Volume 1, Unit 1
Sophomores:	Volume 2, Unit 7
Juniors:	Volume 2, Unit 11
Seniors:	Volume 3, Unit 15

These must be done in the music computer lab (the program is on the network) and can be done at any time between 7:00 am and 4:00 pm on school days. The scores from these assignments count as part of their lesson grade. **REMINDER: They can re-do the computer assignments as many times during the quarter as they want to improve their grade.** These scores count twice, giving the student SIX grades in the lesson/computer assignment category (4 lessons + 2 Comp)

HINT: If the students go through the lessons before taking the review, they have an opportunity to take notes. These notes may be then be used when they take the review. (In other words, they can do as well as they want- they just have to take the time!)

Understanding PowerSchool: Due to the nature of our lesson grading system, it is necessary for us to create a checkpoint for Mid-Term reports (halfway through the quarter). We will typically base those on 3 grades, which means they should either have 3 lessons in or a lesson (or 2) plus their computer assignments. After that, we will begin to plug zeros into the remaining grades they have yet to complete. (If you see a zero, please check the heading- that indicates that they have yet to complete that assignment/lesson.) This is not a scare tactic, but merely to show the students and parents what their grade will look like at the end of the quarter if they don't do anything else. The zeros will be replaced with grades as they complete them. Again, we are trying to eliminate any surprises and let parents know exactly what has to be done before the end of the quarter.

Band Web Page: Please check the band webpage (www.nsband.com) if questions arise. Between the on-line handbook, the "communications" page (where most schedules, downloads, etc. are found) and the calendars, the web page provides 95% of the information parents need to stay on top of things in the band department. If questions are not answered via the webpage, please feel free to call us (Kessinger: 285-3316; McMann: 285-3317) or email us (bill.kessinger@north-scott.k12.ia.us, or mike.mcmann@north-scott.k12.ia.us)

1st Quarter Band Events

*Required for all Band students

Date	Event	Place	Time
8/4/2011	Jazz Combo Jam Session	Mojo's	7:00 - 9:00 pm
8/22-24/2011	*Uniform Fitting	Band Room	Before or After School
9/2/2011	*Home Football Game	Band Room	5:45 pm report
9/8/2011	Jazz Combo Jam Session	Mojo's	7:00 - 9:00 pm
9/15/2011	*Homecoming Parade / Assembly	Band Room	5:30 pm report
9/16/2011	*Homecoming Football Game	Band Room	6:00 pm report
9/23/2011	*Home Football Game and BAND BASH	Band Room	4:00 pm
10/11/2011	Mock All-State Auditions	Band Room	Before or After School
10/14/2011	*Home Football Game / Yearbook Pics	Band Room	Times TBA
10/21/2011	*Home Football Game (SENIOR SHOW)	Band Room	6:00 pm report

www.nsband.com