

2025-2026  
Anchor Bay MS South  
Band Handbook



Mr. Fenton - Director  
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[www.anchorbaybands.org](http://www.anchorbaybands.org)

## **Band Web Site & Parent Communication**

[www.anchorbaybands.org](http://www.anchorbaybands.org)

You will find documents, handouts and links for MS South bands. In addition, most announcements given to students and emailed home for MSS events will be posted in the

**“Anchor Bay News Feed”** Section.

### **Required Supplies**

- Pencil – Pens are strictly forbidden. No erasable pens! No Exceptions!
- Instrument – in good working condition
- Essential Elements 2000 Book 1 – 7<sup>th</sup> Grade
- Essential Elements 2000 Book 2 – 8<sup>th</sup> Grade/Symphony Band
- Woodwind Requirements:
  - Reeds (Good Brands are Vandoren, Rico Royal, and D’Adarrio. Strength 3)
  - Cleaning supplies (Swabs, Clothes, cleaning rods, etc.)
- Brass Requirements:
  - Valve oil
    - “Blue Juice” is the best for Trumpets
    - Super slick Slide Cream w/ and water spray bottle is best for Trombones
    - Yamaha rotary oil is best for French Horn
    - Hetman No.2 Valve Oil or Yamaha Synthetic Oil is good for Baritone or Tuba
- Percussion Requirements – 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Students will be expected to bring in their Bell Kits for a large portion of the year. If a student does not have a bell kit, then we can have them borrow a school one if possible. All Percussion is also expected at this point to have their own stick bag.
  - Stick bag should have.
    - Vic Firth SD1’s (Snare Sticks)
    - Timpani Sticks (VFT1)
    - Hard Plastic Bell Mallets (MBBB11)
    - Hard Rubber Xylophone Mallets (SU6R)
    - Yarn Mallets (MBBB2)
    - Vic Firth Stick Bag (ZXSB00401)
    - All of these items can be purchased through **Port Huron Music Center**

### Grading

**Band is a co-curricular class.** This means all ensembles have graded events outside of the school day. Students will be graded in the following areas:

- 50% Performances – Includes attendance as well as wearing the appropriate concert attire
- 30% Quizzes - Playing tests will occur regularly in class.
- 20% Daily Knowledge checks and Preparation – Students will be expected to perform and test their knowledge on a daily basis. Students should come prepared with the proper materials in order to receive full credit.

### Concert Attendance

Here at Middle School South, we take pride in our band concerts throughout the year. Attending all performances is required for band students. To avoid scheduling conflicts, I have compiled and included a list of all known performances at this point. **Please mark your calendars now.** If you already know of a conflict with one of the scheduled events, please email Mr. Fenton at [dfenton@abs.misd.net](mailto:dfenton@abs.misd.net).

If transportation is an issue, please be aware that there are many other students performing in the concert. Many parents would be more than willing to help get a student to and from a performance. To be excused from a concert a parent must contact your band director via email **at least 4 weeks ahead of time**. An Absence from a concert will only be excused last minute for things such as family emergencies, funerals or serious illness. Students excused from a performance must make up the grade by completing a performance make-up assignment.

An unexcused absence from a performance will result in a 0% for that event's grade with no chance of a make-up assignment.

### Chamber Music

Chamber Music is when the students are paired up in groups of 2 to 5 students and learn a piece of music independently. All students will be participating in the Chamber Music Curriculum.

Groups will be assigned by Mr. Fenton early in the school year.

*All Students will be expected to perform in their Chamber Music Group at some point in the year. This performance will be counted as a Trimester Exam Grade.*

### **New Events and Opportunities**

As your child enters the Middle School South Band Program, there are many new events that open up starting at the 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Level. More information will be sent out on this as the year goes on.

**Middle School Jazz Band** – Starts around Mid October. Rehearsals are commonly Tuesday from 6:00pm to 7:30pm at MS South

**MSBOA Solo and Ensemble** – Students get a chance to perform for a professional musician, and that judge will give them a rating where they can receive a medal if they perform well. MSBOA Solo and Ensemble usually happens around the end of January or Beginning of February.

**DSO Civic Youth Ensemble** – Audition Only Group. Students can be selected to perform and rehearse in Downtown Detroit at Orchestra Hall working with some of the best musicians in South-East Michigan. More information will be sent out on this soon.

**MSBOA Festival** – *This is a required event for all 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Bands.* Please block off the date indicated on the Band Calendar. More information will be sent out on MSBOA Festival around the month of February.

**District MSBOA Honors Band** – This is a group of some of the best middle school musicians in Macomb County. This group is nominated and chosen by a committee from MSBOA (Michigan Schools Band and Orchestra Association).

**Middle School Marching Band Night** – Early in the year, students will have the opportunity to spend a day with the Anchor Bay High School Marching Band. *This is a required event for all 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Students and Symphony Band Students.* More information will be sent out the first week of school on this event.

### Concert Dress

Since the concerts are special events, students are required to dress accordingly. Concert Dress is as follows:

- Solid black dress pants or maxi-skirt (no short skirts), solid black top, black shoes or solid black jumpsuit or long black dress. (I recommend low heels for performances).

OR

- Solid black pants, Solid White OR Black collared button-up dress shirt, Black necktie or bowtie, solid black shoes and LONG BLACK SOCKS.

### What you wear must also conform to school rules in addition to the rules above!

#### Homework

Band homework is referred to as practice in the music world. Practice is necessary for the individual and ensemble to improve. It is expected students will practice **at least** 20 minutes per day outside of class. Quality and frequency are most important. 20 minutes per day is better than 120 minutes all on Saturday.....of course 60 minutes every day is better than both!

#### Extra Credit

Students shouldn't need it; however, extra credit will be given to students who attend a band or orchestra performance other than their own and can give proof. At most band performances a program/pamphlet is given out to the audience members. The concert program will be considered proof. Simply write your name on the program and turn it in to your band director.

I highly recommend seeing a high school band concert, especially the Wind Ensemble. At these concerts students can hear what the very best band students in the Anchor Bay Schools sound like.

#### Parental Assistance/Fundraising

Any parent of a student in any band is automatically a member of the Anchor Bay Bands Boosters. We hope you will consider volunteering to assist at band events. Please go to <https://www.anchorbaybands.org/boosters> for a list of events. Please let me know if you can help.

The entire band program has some fundraising programs we run to help supplement the funding we receive from the school district. Some areas the boosters help in are instrument repair overages, special equipment, guest conductors/instructors as well as private lesson scholarships. :

- **Restaurant of the Month** – Most months there will be a special day at a local restaurant where a portion of the day's profit will be donated to the band program. Location and dates are found on the web site calendar and emailed in Mr. Fenton's mass emails.
- **Band Auction and Dinner** – Adults only – The auction is the band's biggest fundraiser and has great items to bid on. Tickets on sale through the web site!
- **Tastefest** – A collection of local restaurants at the high school. One fee will get you and your family into this event. High school and Middle School students will be performing music during the event. Tastefest is Tuesday, January 9<sup>th</sup>, 2024, from 6-8pm in the ABHS commons.

## **MS South Bands Calendar of Events 2025-2026**

Required Events in **Bold**

*Please post these dates on your calendar and save this page.*

<u>Day</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Activity</u>
<b>Fri</b>	<b>9/19</b>	<b>7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Marching Band Performance with High Schoolers (8<sup>th</sup> Graders and Symphony Band Only)</b>
<b>Tues</b>	<b>12/9</b>	<b>MS South Winter Band Concert @ ABMSS (all MSS band students) Time: 7:00pm                      Call Time: TBA</b>
TBD	TBD	HS/MS Jazz Band Concert @ ABHS
Sat	1/31	Middle School Solo & Ensemble Festival (Voluntary)
<b>Thur</b>	<b>2/19</b>	<b>Anchor Bay Pre-Festival Concert @ ABHS (All 7<sup>th</sup> &amp; 8<sup>th</sup> Gr Band)</b>
<b>*3/5-3/7*              MS Band Festival (7&amp;8) - Please block off all three days for this event OR 3/11-3/13 Parent Volunteers needed for this event!</b>		
<b>Thurs</b>	<b>5/28</b>	<b>MS South Spring Concert @ ABHS (all MSS band students)</b>

If you have any questions regarding this schedule or handbook or your student, please email me at [dfenton@abs.misd.net](mailto:dfenton@abs.misd.net).

Student report times for concerts are found on concert announcements sent home or on the band's website.

**20th Annual**  
Anchor Bay Bands

# Auction Dinner

Tina's Country House

November 8th, 6pm

**Tickets are \$75**

Enjoy this special evening  
celebrating our award-winning  
music programs and student  
musicians of Anchor Bay.

Age 21 or older event.



### **7<sup>th</sup> Grade Assessment Schedule**

DATE	Trimester 1
9/17	E.E. Book 1 #164 “Essential Elements Quiz”
10/1	E.E. Book 1 #175 “Egyptian Dance”
10/29	E.E. Book 2 #24 “Grandfather Clock”
11/12	Scale Quiz (Bb Major)
	Trimester 2
1/13	E.E. Book 2 #47 “Victory March”
2/2-2/6	Chamber Music Performances
2/9	Scale Quiz (F Major)
	Trimester 3
TBD	Spring Assessment

### **8<sup>th</sup> Grade Assessment Schedule**

DATE	Trimester 1
10/15	E.E. Book 2 #24 “Grandfather Clock
10/22	E.E. Scale Quiz #159 (Bb Major)
11/12	E.E. Book 3 #48 “Winning Streak”
	Trimester 2
1/13	E.E. Book 2 #65 “Sea Chantey”
2/2-2/6	Chamber Music Performances
2/9	E.E. Scale Quiz #163 (Eb Major)
	Trimester 3
TBD	Spring Assessment

### **Symphony Band Assessment Schedule**

DATE	Trimester 1
10/15	E.E. Book 1 #175 Egyptian Dance
10/22	E.E. Book 2 #24 “Grandfather Clock AND #159 (Bb Major Scale)
11/12	E.E. Book 2 #41 “In Sync” AND #163 (Eb Major)
	Trimester 2
1/13	E.E. Book 2 #65 “Sea Chantey” AND #167 (F Major Scale)
2/2-2/6	Chamber Music Performances
2/9	E.E. #171 (Ab Major Scale)
	Trimester 3
TBD	Spring Assessment