

2026-2027

Anchor Bay MS North Band Handbook



Ms. Kirven - Director

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Phone Extension – MSN 7283

www.anchorbaybands.org

Band Website & Parent Communication

The Anchor Bay Schools Band Program has one website - www.anchorbaybands.org, where documents, handouts and links for MS North bands are posted. Announcements will be emailed home every few weeks with the subject line, "MSN Band Blast."

Required Supplies

- Pencil (not pen!) – needed every day!
- Instrument – in good working condition
- Cleaning Kit – can be purchased from Marshall Music, Port Huron Music, Ardis Music, or Amazon.
- Essential Elements 2000 Book 1 (5th and 6th grade)
- Essential Elements 2000 Book 2 (6th grade only, starting in trimester 2)
- Clarinet and Saxophone Reeds – Please plan to purchase a box of reeds for the year, from Marshall Music, Port Huron Music, Ardis Music, or Amazon. Preferred brands include Rico, Juno, or Vandoren. Strength 2.5 for 5th graders, strength 3 for 6th graders.
- Double Reeds – Oboe and bassoon players will need to provide their own reeds for the year. Students can usually rotate between two reeds for up to six weeks at a time.
- Percussion Requirements – Middle School North provides percussion instruments for students to use during the school day. However, students are required to bring their own sticks and mallets in a stick bag. The following items are required – 1 pair Vic Firth Drumsticks – SD1, 1 pair Mike Balter Hard Plastic Mallets – BB1 1, 1 pair Mike Balter Yarn Mallets – BB2, 1 Zildjian stick bag – z3255

Grading

Band is a co-curricular class. This means both 5th and 6th graders have graded events outside of the school day. Students will be graded in the following areas:

- Daily Rehearsal – Respectful and efficient use of class time, punctuality, and involvement with all required supplies. 2 points possible per day (10 per week)
- Performances – Includes attendance and wearing the appropriate concert dress. 50 points each.
- Quizzes — Playing quizzes or “level-ups” in class about once a month. These can be retaken as many times as necessary within the trimester. 25 points each

Conduct

Band classes are larger and louder than students’ other classes; therefore, students are held to a high standard of behavior. These expectations fall into what we call the 3 S’s:

- Silent: students are silent when the teacher is talking or someone else is playing
- Still: students sit in rest position (to the best of their ability) with their instruments when the teacher is talking or someone else is playing.
- Supportive: students are kind to their classmates and cheer for them when they try their best. Band is a safe space to try new things and make mistakes!

If the 3 S’s are not being met, students may receive a change of seat, an email home, and/or a disciplinary referral if necessary.

Concert Attendance

Concerts are our most important events of the year. Attendance at concerts is **required** for band students. To avoid scheduling conflicts, please see the list of concert dates below and **mark your calendars now**. If you already know of a conflict with one of the concerts, please list it on the Parent/Student Commitment Form at the end of the handbook. If transportation is an issue, please be aware that there are many other students performing in the concert whose families may be able to carpool.

Only family emergencies or student illness will count as an excused absence. Homework and sports practices are not an excuse. If a student misses a concert due to an excused absence, they 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. [OBJ]

Concert Dress

Since the concerts are special events, students are required to dress accordingly. Concert Dress is as follows: long-sleeved black dress shirt and long black pants or skirt, or long black dress; black shoes and long black socks or tights.

Homework

Band homework is referred to as practice in the music world. Practice is necessary for the individual and ensemble to improve. Students are expected to practice **at least** 10 minutes per day outside of class. Quality and frequency are most important. 10 minutes per day is better than 60 minutes all on Saturday.....of course 60 minutes every day is better than both!

Parental Assistance, Boosters, and Fundraising

Concerts are not possible without parent volunteers! For our concerts, I will send out SignUp Geniuses for parents to volunteer in the form of ushering, chaperoning, and/or donating treats for our Concert Afterglows. Additionally, all parents of band students are automatically members of the Anchor Bay Bands Boosters. We hope you will consider volunteering to assist at band events such as Tastefest and Band Festival. Please go to <https://www.anchorbaybands.org/boosters> for a list of events, and let us know if you can help!

The entire band program runs fundraising programs to supplement the funding we receive from the school district. These Booster Funds help cover instrument repair overages, special equipment, guest conductors/instructors as well as private lesson scholarships. Below you will find a brief description of each fundraiser:

- 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 website calendar and emailed in Ms. Kirven'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 Wednesday, January 14, 2026 from 6-8pm in the ABHS north commons.
- Flower Sale – April sale with an early May pick-up before Mother's Day!

MS North Bands Calendar of Events 2026-2027

Required Events in **Bold**

Please mark these dates on your calendar and save this page.

<u>Day</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Activity</u>
Sat	11/7	Annual Auction & Dinner Fundraiser @ Tina's Country House Visit www.anchorbaybands.org under "Boosters" for details
Tues	12/8	MS North Winter Band Concerts @ ABHS (all MSN band students) 5th Grade: Concert starts at 6:30pm, students report at 6pm 6th Grade: Concert starts at 7:30pm, students report at 7pm
Wed	1/13	Annual TasteFest fundraiser 6pm-8pm @ ABHS (Snow date 1/14) Visit www.anchorbaybands.org for details
Thurs	3/18	6th Grade Only - Band Concert @ ABHS Concert Start time: 7:00pm Student Report Time: 6:30pm
Mon	TBD	Annual Flower Sale Begins (April or May)
Wed	5/19	MS North Spring Concert @ ABHS (all MSN band students) 5th Grade: Concert starts at 6:30pm, students report at 6pm 6th Grade: Concert starts at 7:30pm, students report at 7pm

Signature Form

This form is the student's first assignment and is due **FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 11TH**

Both parent **and** student must sign the form below.

Student Signature: _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____

Conflicts with Calendar of Events (if none, please write "none" or "N/A" 😊)
