

**Forreston Junior High School Band  
Manual 2018-2019**

## FORRESTON Jr. H.S. BAND MANUAL

This manual is written in the hopes that a better understanding of the policies, rules and regulations of our band program will be gained. If however, at any time you are unclear as to the expectations of your child, please call me.

### BAND PROGRAM PHILOSOPHY –

The Forreston Junior-Senior High School Band Program has many years of successful performances and has produced some of the finest high school musicians in the state of Illinois. This success comes from the philosophy that music is an art worthy of study. We are extremely proud of the musicians that have come through the program and we will have the same pride for all of our future students.

In the FJHS Band Program, you will learn more than just playing an instrument. You will learn about music history, music theory and composition, improvisation and creativity, and the artistry of interpreting music. You will also learn many life skills that will serve you well in your future endeavors, whether you choose music as a career or not.

The cornerstone of our program is *Daily Incremental Achievement*. Simply, we are asking you to “Be Your Best Every Day.” We are not asking you to be *THE* Best, simply *YOUR* Best every single day. Our staff and your fellow students are expected to bring their best every day as well. Together, we can overcome any of the challenges that will arise throughout the year. There are no quick fixes, though, so daily practice is expected of ALL students. I will help you set the goals to work towards, but YOU must do the hard work of getting yourself there.

## WELCOME TO THE BAND FAMILY!

Welcome to YOUR Band Family. You are an important part of this family and in the coming years, will shape this program with your individual and group efforts. Our organization will be exactly as strong as you choose for it to be. With this choice comes your opportunity and responsibility to grow within the Band Family, create lifelong relationships, and become an expressive musician and human being in our society.

### EXPECTATIONS

1. Students will:
  - a. work to the best of their abilities to improve themselves and their ensemble every day.
  - b. work with the director in a spirit of team work and cooperation.
  - c. come prepared every day with all necessary materials.
  - d. prepare their individual band part through home practice.
  - e. prepare all assigned test materials according to the schedule given to them.
  - f. receive instruction and criticism constructively and apply it to their playing for improvement.
  - g. maintain their instrument in top working condition.
  - h. care for all school equipment properly.
  - i. attend and be on time for all performances.
  - j. pay fees for supplies in a timely manner.
  
2. The Director will:
  - a. provide instruction so that the student can develop as a musician.

- b. provide the students with music that is within their abilities to perform but provides a challenge to grow.
- c. be prepared for rehearsals.
- d. inform the students and parents of all performances and extra rehearsals with enough lead time to arrange schedules.

3. Parents will:

- a. supply their child with an instrument (when appropriate), supplies, and a lesson book.
- b. listen to and certify their child's practice.
- c. support their child by attending their concerts and other performances.
- d. encourage their child to perform other than with the Forreston JHS Band.

## REHEARSAL RULES

- Follow directions immediately and the first time they are given.
- Keep away from equipment/instruments that do not belong or are not assigned to you.
- The Director is the only one allowed to talk in rehearsal unless you are called on.
- Have all materials ready: pencil, instrument, and supplies such as oil, reeds, mutes, etc.
- Stay in your seat/assigned area until you have been given permission to do otherwise.
- No one leaves the rehearsal until all materials are stored properly and the director dismisses you.

**BEHAVIOR** – The important question for students to ask themselves before they take any action is, "How will this help the band get better?" If it won't help the band, then don't do it.

**ATTENDANCE** - All performances, even though they take place outside of school time are considered "school work". Concerts, contest, and festivals are mandatory for all band members and are a part of their overall grade.

**EXCUSED ABSENCES** - In the event that there is a conflict between a band activity and something else on your student's schedule, please consult with me at the earliest possible moment. Please remember that excused absences are granted by the director and the principal, and that we constantly must weigh the good of the group against the good of the student. No excused absences (except illness or death in the family) will be granted **less than 10 days before an event**. *In the event of illness or a family emergency contact the director before the performance.* Students will be required to complete an assignment at the director's discretion to make up for the missed event.

**UNEXCUSED ABSENCES** - Unexcused absences may result in a failing grade for the nine weeks grading period in which they occur.

**REQUIRED MATERIALS / EQUIPMENT** – Students will need to provide the following.

1. **UNIFORMS** - Band students need to provide their own black (8<sup>th</sup> Grade) or White (6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> Grade) button, collared shirt, black dress slacks (no jeans), black dress shoes (no tennis shoes or high platforms), and black socks. Girls may substitute hose for socks. We will provide a vest that will be kept at school. When a student is in uniform it will be worn properly and completely at all times. This means that shirts will be tucked in and vests will be buttoned. No jewelry of any kind may be worn.

1. **INSTRUMENT**

- Brass – Kept in good working order and supplied with a cleaning and polishing cloth, grease

and oil.

- Woodwinds - Kept in good working order and supplied with grease, swab, and 3 working reeds.
- Percussion
  - 6<sup>th</sup> grade – Beginning Percussion kit (Bells and Drum Pad)
  - 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grades – Snare sticks, Tympani, Yarn, and Plastic Mallets

### 3. LESSON BOOK

- 6<sup>th</sup> grade - Standard of Excellence Book 1
- 7<sup>th</sup> grade - Standard of Excellence Book 2
- 8<sup>th</sup> grade – Standard of Excellence Book 3

4. 3-RING BINDER, 1", Black

5. PENCIL

**PRACTICING** – Each weekend students will bring home their instrument and lesson book for practice. Most weekends, they will be assigned an exercise to practice and perform for parents or guardians. After the performance, parents or guardians should sign the book to signify that they have heard their child play. This procedure should keep parents up to date on the progress their child is making.

**SCHOOL INSTRUMENTS** - In order to balance the instrumentation of the band, the school owns instruments that are too expensive for families to afford on their own. It may become necessary for me to assign one of these instruments to your student to play for the year or the semester. Understand that I will only make assignments that are necessary for the well being of the band, and that I will only make an assignment to your child if they are capable of doing it. There is no charge for assigned instruments.

**MUSIC** – Students will be issued music through out the year. It is to be kept neat and in good condition. Make any marks on music with a pencil only. Students who lose music or return it in poor condition will be fined for the replacement cost.

**AWARDS** – Forreston Jr. High School recognizes excellence in music performance by awarding the **Directors Award** to the 8<sup>th</sup> grade student who contributes the most to the success of the band through their performance skills, leadership, participation, and attitude.

### **GRADING BREAKDOWN –**

20% Performance Exams – Students will be evaluated on their individual progress throughout the semester by live and recorded performance exams.

30% Listening Assignments – Students will listen and respond to assigned recordings to improve their understanding of the music being performed as well as to increase their individual musicianship.

40% Concert Performance – Students will be evaluated on their individual and group performance at concerts as well as their being “on-time” and meeting uniform requirements.

10% Daily Incremental Achievement and Participation – Students will be evaluated daily on their individual progress, as well as proper participation and behavior in class.

**SUPPLY FEES** - Students can charge reeds, oil, drum sticks, etc. and pay for them at the end of each nine week grading period. At that time all fees must be paid. Fees paid by check should be made out to FORRESTON HIGH SCHOOL. Failure to pay fees on time will result in denial of future charges and may affect the student's grade.

**MUSIC PATRONS** - As the parent of a music student you are automatically a member of this organization. The Patrons do a tremendous job in supporting the various programs and events we undertake; we could not function without them. Help in making your student's musical experience the best it can be by participating in the Music Patrons and helping with their projects.

### **MUSIC PATRONS MISSION STATEMENT**

Forreston Music Patrons is a non-profit, fundraising organization that strives to enhance District 221's music programs by providing the students extra opportunities to encourage musical growth.

The Music Patrons support all aspects of the music program and align themselves with the philosophy of both the Forreston Music Department and the Forrestville Valley School District 221.

### **MUSIC DEPARTMENT PHILOSOPHY**

At Forreston Junior/Senior High School, we strive to create life-long consumers of music. In the Music Department, we believe that music is an essential part of the curriculum and society as a whole. Through an active collaboration between teachers, students, parents, and the community, we strive to provide a proper musical education to help students develop the expression and understanding of the complex musical language.

Music education should contain many varied experiences for students. Because of the inclusive nature of music, the music classroom should be a cross-disciplinary classroom in which all subjects are incorporated in its curriculum. As such, it is a necessary, foundational aspect of a comprehensive education.

### **SCHOOL DISTRICT PHILOSOPHY**

The Forrestville Valley School District #221 will provide a culture of continuous growth to include effective programs of instruction, safe and well-maintained facilities, and relevant community connections to prepare all students for college / career readiness in their desired field of study through fiscally-responsible decision making.

**CONTACTING ME** – While I am always eager to talk to parents about their child's progress or their responsibilities, there is an appropriate time and place. It is easiest to reach me by email (llipinski@fvdistrict221.org). I check my email often, but there may be a delay in response as I am teaching or out of my office for a few moments. I will return all emails in a timely fashion. I am also available for face-to-face meetings, given enough time to arrange my schedule. If you would like to set up a meeting, please contact me at least 3 days in advance of your preferred meeting date.

This information probably does not cover every possible situation that occurs throughout the year. Please feel free to contact me any time you have a question. I know that with your help, cooperation, and encouragement your child will help make the Forreton JHS Band the best possible musical organization it can be, and that they will learn and grow in the process.

Sincerely,

Lawrence M. Lipinski  
Forreton Jr.HS. Band Director

PLEASE PUT THESE EVENTS ON YOUR FAMILY CALENDAR

Date	Event	Time	Location
	Homecoming Parade (7 <sup>th</sup> and 8 <sup>th</sup> grade only)	TBA	Methodist Church Parking Lot
	ILMEA Auditions (Select Students)	TBA	
	Band Pictures, Wear Concert Attire to School	All Day	FJHS
	Fall Band Concert (7 <sup>th</sup> and 8 <sup>th</sup> grade only)	7:00 pm	FJHS Gym
	ILMEA Jazz Festival (Select Students)	TBA	Rochelle Township HS
	ILMEA Festival (Select Students)	TBA	Dekalb HS, Dekalb, IL
	Christmas Band Concert – All Bands	7:00 pm	FJHS Gym
	Rt.72 Solo Ensemble Concert (7 <sup>th</sup> and 8 <sup>th</sup> only)	TBA	
	Rt.72 Music Festival (7 <sup>th</sup> and 8 <sup>th</sup> only)	6:30	FHS Gym
	FJHS Band Spring Concert	7:00	FJHS Gym
	German Valley Parade	TBA	

I have read the Forreton J.H.S. Band Manual and understand the policies and procedures it outlines. I have put the dates of performances on our family calendar.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student Signature date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent Signature date Parent Preferred  
Email Address