

Dear Parent(s),

This letter is to let you know the expectations I hold for all 8th-grade band students, information about grading, and concert information. Students in 8th-grade band will be graded the following:

Knowledge and Skills

- **Concerts** Student must arrive on time for the concert, perform the music to the best of his/her ability, and demonstrate good concert etiquette. Please see the Monona Grove Concert Attendance Policy and important 8th-grade band dates on the reverse of this sheet.
- **Prepared Playing Tests and Sight-Reading Tests** Student will test by performing selected songs each quarter.
- **Rehearsal Etiquette**
 - Student will have instrument and music ready when the director steps on the podium to begin rehearsal.
 - Once the rehearsal has begun, student will not talk. (Student will raise a hand to ask questions.)
 - Student will start and stop playing on cue from the conductor.
 - Student will listen to, and follow, directions.
- **GIG Teacher's Evaluation Grade** *Guided Instruction Groups (GIGs)*) GIG teachers will evaluate each student's individual progress based upon the student's performance during small-group instruction. Knowledge & Skills GIG grades are not based on attendance.
- **Quizzes and Written Reflections** Student will occasionally have written quizzes, and will write reflections on concert performances.

Effort

- **GIG Attendance** Student is expected to attend one Guided Instruction Group each week with his/her music and instrument.
- **Responsibility** Student brings his/her music, instrument, and a pencil to class every day. He/She has a positive attitude in class and participates to the best of his/her ability.
- **In-Class Assignments** Student will occasionally do in-class assignments; for example, music theory worksheets.
- **Return Forms** Student returns parent communications and progress reports by the deadline.

Citizenship

- **Respect** Student shows respect for fellow band members and the director, and takes proper care of band equipment.
- **Teamwork** Student works cooperatively with others and contributes positively to the band.
- **Following the Rules** Student understands and complies with school and band room rules.

Practice Log There will not be a practice log in 8th-grade band this year. This does NOT mean that students should quit practicing. We feel that students are mature enough by 8th-grade to understand when they need to practice, and to know what they must do individually so that the band may reach its full potential.

The Band Grading Scale is based on the chart below. If you use Infinite Campus to view grades online, please be aware that because we use a 12-point scale instead of percentages based on 100, you may receive grade notifications when your child is doing well (for example; an 11) but the Automatic Grade Notification system may read that as 11% and send you a warning. Please contact us if you see something about your child's grade that seems incorrect, or if you have questions about grading.

A+ = 12	B+ = 9	C+ = 6	D+ = 3	F = 0
A = 11	B = 8	C = 5	D = 2	
A- = 10	B- = 7	C- = 4	D- = 1	

Concerts are an important aspect of the Monona Grove Music program. Students work for months toward performances, and it is important for them to experience the celebration of their hard work and practice. Additionally, all students are an integral part of each musical group, and the group's performance suffers if students are missing. Students are required to stay for the duration of all performances and concerts to support their peers. Below is a list of performance dates for members of the 8th-Grade Band. Please review the dates and place them on your family calendar:

Glacial Drumlin 8th-Grade Band Concert Dates 2011-2012

Monday, November 14 - 7:00 p.m. – Glacial Drumlin School Gymnasium
(This concert will be shared with the 7th-Grade Band)

Wednesday, February 29 – 3:30-8:00 p.m. -- District Solo/Ensemble Contest –
Glacial Drumlin School (Solo/Ensemble is a voluntary activity, open to all students in the 8th-Grade Band)

Tuesday, March 20 – 7:30 p.m. – Glacial Drumlin School Gymnasium
(This concert will be shared with both the 6th- and 8th-grade Bands)

Thursday, May 24 - 7:00 p.m. -- Glacial Drumlin School Gymnasium
(This concert will be shared with the 7th-Grade Band)

Wednesday, May 30 – approx. 8:15 am – 1:30 pm -- Monona Grove HS Auditorium
(8th-Grade Band CD Recording Session)



Students should wear a white shirt and a black skirt or pants for concerts.



MONONA GROVE CONCERT ATTENDANCE POLICY

Participation in public appearances is a requirement of all elective, music performance classes in the Monona Grove School District. Public performance is part of the curriculum of these organizations, as outlined in guidelines established by the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction.

The district music staff is further committed to the value of public performance as a tool for measuring each student's cumulative knowledge and growth. Thus, **attendance at public performances is required.**

Exceptions to this requirement are made only if a student has extenuating personal circumstances or an emergency situation. Examples of acceptable reasons for missing a performance are the death of a relative/friend or an unexpected and serious illness. Examples of unacceptable reasons for missing a performance are: non-school athletic events, work, and birthdays or parties. A Knowledge & Skills grade is assessed for concert performances. Students who do not attend a performance (except for emergency situations) will be awarded a failing grade for the concert.

In the event of a conflict known in advance, the parent/guardian and student are required to complete a "Request for Performance Absence" form. The form is to be turned in to the organization's director as soon as possible, but at least **two weeks** prior to the scheduled performance date. Students can obtain a form from their respective ensemble directors.

If a student misses a concert for any reason, please make sure to contact the student's music teacher as soon as possible regarding the absence.

To access the MGSD Music Department web page with concert information, practice logs, and more you can go to the following link:

www.mononagrove.org/music

You can also find the MG Music Dept. webpage by going to **www.mononagrove.org**. Then on the list on the left choose **district programs**, and from there you can select **MG Music Department**.

If you have any questions about this letter or any aspect of the 8th-grade band program, please feel free to contact me at Glacial Drumlin School at **839-8302** or by e-mail at **janice.stone@mgschools.net**

Thank you,

Janice Stone

Please sign and detach the form below and return it to Mrs. Stone.

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I have received the list of the 8th-grade Band Concert dates for the 2011-2012 school year.

If my child has a conflict (other than an emergency situation) I will notify the director at least *two weeks* prior to the performance.

If my child misses a concert for any reason I will notify his/her band teacher as soon as reasonably possible.

Print Student Name

Parent Signature

Date



**Due Date:
Friday, Sept. 16**

