

# Band Handbook 2017–2018



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## INTRODUCTION

Welcome to an exciting year of music making with the McCleskey band. As the largest group in the school, we pride ourselves on our students' many accomplishments—both musically and academically!

We know you had a choice of connections classes and we are glad you chose one that provides an outlet for self-expression and creativity while utilizing the parts of the brain that help tremendously in other subject areas.

We are here to foster a love of music. If at any point we can help, please do not hesitate to contact us with your questions. Our door is always open to students and their parents.

Sincerely,

Jody Miller  
Director of Bands

Andrew Paller  
Assistant Director of Bands

PLEASE READ THE BAND HANDBOOK CAREFULLY AND RETURN THE COMPLETED FINAL PAGE BY THE BEGINNING OF THE SECOND WEEK OF CLASSES.

**BAND WEBSITE**—Parents and students should check the band website frequently. The site will include updated band calendars, important announcements, instrument information, links to the Kell and Sprayberry bands, and forms that are sent home for parents to sign. Bookmark this site and visit it frequently.

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

**GRADING SCALE**—A student's grade is derived mostly from effort and participation in class. Please have all instruments, music, a pencil, and other appropriate supplies in class daily or the grade will be negatively affected.

6<sup>th</sup> grade           •60% participation  
                          •40% pass-offs, checklists, or  
                          playing/written tests

7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> grade •60% participation  
                          •29% performance/written tests  
                          •11% practice records

Students who feel they need extra credit may work out an individualized plan with the directors. Extra credit may be earned by helping younger students in morning practice sessions, auditioning for or participating in Honor Band, UGA Honor Band, All-State Band,

church or community ensembles, participation in extra ensembles, or assisting as a crew member for concerts of other classes.

**HOME PRACTICE**—Seventh and eighth grade band students must record their home practice time on the practice record. These are turned in on a specified date at the end of each grading period. ALL STUDENTS ARE EXPECTED TO PRACTICE DAILY. In order to earn an A on the practice record portion of his or her grade, a student should practice 20 minutes per day at home. If you skip a day, please make up for it later in the same week. Lack of home practice affects the students' performance individually and as an ensemble. Do your part! Sixth graders are not expected to keep a practice record, but home practice will generally be evident in the preparation of pass-offs.

### **SAMPLE PRACTICE SESSION**—

5-10 min. Long Tones (to warm up your embouchure muscles, focus breathing, prepare mentally to listen to your tone quality, etc.). Can be scales, crescendo/decrescendo exercises, etc.

- 5-10 min. Scales/Techniques (to start fingers moving, develop evenness and control). You should practice slowly at first, and gradually build speed. Always use a metronome.
- 2-5 min. Articulation (to develop clean legato and staccato styles and speed). Pick some comfortable pitches and start at a slow tempo. Practice various rhythms in different combinations with a metronome.
- 10-15 min. Method Books (Lesson materials, etudes, class tests, etc.)
- 10-15 min. Band Music (to come prepared for class each day). Isolate difficult passages and work through them slowly. Practice with accurate rhythms and tempos. Use a metronome.
- 2-5 min. Play something you like! End your session with something you do well or enjoy playing. It can be a tune you like or a passage in your music.

**SIXTH GRADE PASS-OFFS**—Sixth grade students will pass off lines in their method book used in class. Pass-offs are equivalent to chapter or unit tests. Pass-offs are completed in class, but students may get extra pass-offs by showing up on scheduled pass-off days in the band room during the morning practice time. Additionally, several checklists will be completed throughout the year to help students set goals for excellent performance skills.

**MORNING PRACTICE**—On the specified days, the band room is open for either 6<sup>th</sup> grade pass-offs, 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> grade practice time (may be recorded on the practice record), or small ensemble rehearsals. Some sectionals may also be scheduled near concert or band festival dates. Morning practice times are from 8:15 until 9:05 and students are responsible for appropriate behavior. The morning practice times are posted on the board in the band room weekly.

**PRIVATE LESSONS**—Students who study privately will usually perform at a far more advanced level than students who do not. Private lessons are offered at most music stores, at Kell High School, and at some professional musicians' homes. Check the board at the front of the band room for teachers' flyers.

**CLASSROOM PROCEDURES**—A student's willingness and ability to follow classroom procedures can affect either the academic or the conduct grade. The following classroom procedures are expected to be part of a student's daily routine:

- Enter band room quietly and orderly
- Be in seat on time with instrument assembled, music out, and pencil on the stand
- Begin warming up before the director steps on the podium
- Play "B-flat Down" when the director steps on the podium, then assume ready position
- Mark director's instructions on the music
- Put away all belongings at the end of class
- Clean the band room by picking up trash and cleaning up the instrument storage area
- DO YOUR BEST AT ALL TIMES

**CLASSROOM RULES**—It is expected that students who sign up for band really want to be here and make music together. Band students should follow all Cobb School District rules, all McCleskey school rules, and the following band-specific rules:

- No gum, candy, food, or drink (except water) EVER
- Be on time for class
- Cell phones should be OFF and put away
- Put away all materials after class
- Have all instruments, music, pencil, and supplies daily
- Be courteous to all adults and students in the room—SET A GOOD EXAMPLE
- Play only when asked to do so
- Use or play only the instrument and equipment assigned to you
- SHOW RESPECT FOR YOURSELF AND OTHERS AROUND YOU AT ALL TIMES

**CONSEQUENCES OF BEHAVIOR**—In the event that behavior must be addressed, we will adhere to school expectations and CCSD expectations. Consequences may include:

- Verbal warning or eye contact in class
- Brief teacher/student conference after class
- Lunch detention
- Teacher calls or e-mails parent
- Face-to-face conference with student/parent/teacher
- Office referral
- Face-to-face conference with student/parent/teacher/administrator

The directors will use their discretion in determining which steps are to be utilized or skipped in the consequences. **STUDENTS, PLEASE USE COMMON SENSE AND MAKE WISE DECISIONS IN THIS CLASS AND IN OTHERS.** Failure to follow rules will affect the conduct grade each grading period.

**SUPPLIES FOR BAND**—Please refer to the band website for supply lists for each band and grade level. Any family without internet access should ask the band directors for hard copies of supply lists. Supplies are available at local music stores. Students' grades are negatively affected when they don't have reeds, music, or other necessary supplies for band class.

**MAINTENANCE OF INSTRUMENTS**—There will be two graded instrument inspections each school year. Students are expected to keep their instruments in proper playing condition at all times. Please take instruments to a qualified repair shop at the first sign of trouble. Very small problems can often turn into expensive repairs if not handled quickly and correctly.

**SCHOOL OWNED INSTRUMENTS**—Some instruments that are very large and expensive are provided by the school. These will be checked out to students during the first week of class. School owned instruments may be taken home for practice and used in band class only after the two proper forms are completed and returned. Parents and students should make a notation of all prior damage to an instrument on the back of the blue sheet. Students who use school owned instruments are expected to

complete all repairs in the same manner as students who own their instruments. School owned instruments must be turned in at the end of the school year in the same condition in which it was issued. It is the student's responsibility to take school owned instruments to the music store for repair when necessary. The band does not charge for the use/rental of school owned instruments. The school owned instruments for sixth graders are bassoon, French horn, baritone, and tuba. School owned instruments for seventh and eighth graders are piccolo, bass clarinet, baritone saxophone, French horn, F-attachment trombone, baritone, tuba, and percussion (but not mallets and sticks for playing the percussion instruments).

**INSTRUMENT STORAGE**—Students will have assigned lockers for their instruments. Please use only your assigned locker. **EVERY CASE MUST BE LABELED WITH A NAME TAG AND WITH AN ADHESIVE LABEL (masking tape).** Percussionists should also label all personal mallets and sticks with a permanent marker. Many cases look the same and thorough labeling will help prevent mix-ups. Although theft and vandalism are not a problem at McCleskey, prevention is important. Consider adding your instrument to your homeowner's or renter's insurance policy. Students should keep combination locks locked and keep the combination in a safe place. Never share your combination with anyone!

Only students' instruments (in the case) and sticks/mallets may be kept in the locker. Do not leave lunch, snacks, clothes, shoes, books, backpacks, folders, or other personal belongings in the locker.

**EXTRA ENSEMBLES**—Extra ensembles meet either before or after school and are open to seventh and eighth grade band students. Sixth grade students who have shown exceptional progress may join Pep Band during the second semester. Students who sign up for these ensembles are accepted by audition or demonstrated ability/work ethic in class and are required to attend all ensemble rehearsals and performances. These groups often are invited to represent McCleskey or the band off campus for special community performances. Audition information will be sent home at a later date.

**CONCERTS**—Concepts learned in band class will always culminate in a performance. Parents and students will receive a concert calendar the first week of school. Please add these to the family calendar immediately. Students are expected to be at all scheduled concerts for their class. Parents should contact the directors in advance of a concert or other class event if attendance is an issue. *Eighth grade students who miss a scheduled concert or required class event may not participate in the band spring trip.*

**CONCERT ETIQUETTE**—Multiple classes often perform on the same concert. We purposefully arrange the format so that the students can see and hear their peers perform. Students are expected to stay for the entire concert—even the part when they are not playing. Otherwise, proper concert etiquette and procedures will include:

- Do not talk during a performance
- Do not leave your seat during a performance
- Do not invite friends or family to sit with the band class
- Applaud generously for all concerts, no matter which student, which class, or which school
- Remain in full uniform for the duration of a performance, even if your part of the performance is finished
- Assist with moving equipment back to the band room

**CONCERT ATTIRE**—Sixth grade students should wear nice personal attire for the concert (traditionally referred to as “Sunday dress”). It is suggested that girls wear dresses or slacks with dress shirts. Guys should wear slacks and dress shirts. Athletic shoes are not allowed.

7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade band students will wear a full concert uniform. Uniform ordering information will be sent home in October or November.

**SCHEDULE CHANGES**—Any student wishing to drop band may do so only with a signed note

from the parent no later than May 1. Schedule changes after the deadline are not allowed, as schedules for all connections classes are prepared weeks in advance.

**STUDENT/PARENT INFORMATION**—Please return the completed Band Member Data Sheet at the back of this handbook by the beginning of the second week of class. You should inform the band directors of any changes in this information during the school year. THANKS AND WE LOOK FORWARD TO A WONDERFUL YEAR!!

# 2017-2018 McCleskey Band Calendar

DATE	GROUP	EVENT	LOCATION
Aug. 17	6/7/8 Band Parents	Band parent meeting/Open House	McCleskey
Aug. 29	6/7/8 Band	Cheesecake fundraiser begins	
Sept. 9	6 <sup>th</sup> Grade Bands	Beginning Band Carnival	Kell
Sept. 15	8 <sup>th</sup> Grade Bands	8 <sup>th</sup> Grade Night	Kell
Oct. 16 (week of)	6/7/8 Band	Cheesecake delivery week	
Oct. 20	8 <sup>th</sup> Grade Bands	8 <sup>th</sup> Grade Night	Sprayberry
<b>Oct. 24</b>	<b>8<sup>th</sup> Grade Bands</b>	<b>Fall Concert 7:00 PM</b>	<b>McCleskey</b>
Dec. 2 (Saturday)	7/8 Grade Band Students	All-State/Honor Band Auditions	Dodgen
<b>Dec. 5</b>	<b>6<sup>th</sup>/7<sup>th</sup> Grade Bands</b>	<b>Winter Concert 7:00 PM</b>	<b>McCleskey</b>
Dec. 7-9	7/8 Grade Band Students	UGA Midfest Clinic	UGA
<b>Dec. 14</b>	<b>8<sup>th</sup> Grade Bands</b>	<b>Holiday Concert 6:30 PM</b>	<b>McCleskey</b>
Jan. 6 (Saturday)	7/8 Grade Students	Final All-State Auditions	Perry, GA
Jan. 22	6/7/8 Band	Candle fundraiser begins	
<b>Feb. 2-3</b>	<b>7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> Grade Bands</b>	<b>Symphonic Band Camp</b>	<b>McCleskey</b>
Feb. 9-11	7/8 Grade Band Students	District Honor Band Clinic	Lovinggood
March 1-3	Band Students	All-State Band	Athens
<b>March 8</b>	<b>7/8 Grade Bands</b>	<b>Pre-LGPE Concert 7:00 PM</b>	<b>McCleskey</b>
<b>March 19-23</b>	<b>7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> Grade Bands</b>	<b>GMEA Band LGPE TBA</b>	<b>McEachern</b>
<b>March 29</b>	<b>8<sup>th</sup> Grade Bands</b>	<b>Rising 6<sup>th</sup> grade night</b>	<b>McCleskey</b>
<b>April 24</b>	<b>8<sup>th</sup> Grade Bands</b>	<b>Dollywood Rehearsal 4:15 PM</b>	<b>McCleskey</b>
<b>April 24</b>	<b>8<sup>th</sup> Grade Band Parents</b>	<b>Dollywood Trip Meeting 6:00 PM</b>	<b>McCleskey</b>
<b>April 27</b>	<b>6<sup>th</sup> Grade Bands</b>	<b>Spring Concert 5:00 PM</b>	<b>McCleskey</b>
<b>April 28</b>	<b>7/8 Percussion Ensemble</b>	<b>Night of Percussion 6:00 PM</b>	<b>Kell</b>
<b>May 5</b>	<b>Jazz Band</b>	<b>Night of Jazz 6:00 PM</b>	<b>Kell</b>
<b>May 4</b>	<b>7<sup>th</sup> Grade Bands</b>	<b>Spring Concert 5:00 PM</b>	<b>McCleskey</b>
<b>May 8</b>	<b>8<sup>th</sup> Grade Bands</b>	<b>Spring Concert 7:00 PM</b>	<b>Kell</b>
May 10-11	8 <sup>th</sup> Grade Bands	Music Festival trip	Dollywood

This calendar was set and approved by the school administrators in May 2017. Specific information regarding each event will be sent home with students throughout the year. Please mark your calendars for events pertaining to your band.

**All students are expected to attend all events scheduled for their class. The mandatory concerts/events are in bold.** *All concerts begin at 7:00 PM unless otherwise noted.*

## McCleskey Middle School Band Band Member Data Sheet

PLEASE READ THE BAND HANDBOOK CAREFULLY AND COMPLETELY. SIGN AND RETURN THIS PAGE TO THE BAND OFFICE.

*"I have read the McCleskey Band Handbook, including the rules, regulations, expectations, and responsibilities set forth, and will do my best to comply with them. I understand that my child will potentially be photographed as a result of participation in the band program. Pictures and/or quotes may be used in our band newsletters, web page, yearbook, slide show presentations, or other school-appropriate publications."*

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student's name—PRINT

\_\_\_\_\_  
Band Class

\_\_\_\_\_  
Instrument

\_\_\_\_\_  
Instrument Brand

\_\_\_\_\_  
Instrument Serial Number

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Guardian name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Guardian name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Street Address

\_\_\_\_\_  
City/State

\_\_\_\_\_  
ZIP

\_\_\_\_\_  
Home Phone Number

\_\_\_\_\_  
Cell Phone Number

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent Work Number

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent Work Number

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent email address

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student email address

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student's signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

**WE WOULD ALSO APPRECIATE YOUR SENDING IN A BOX (OR 2) OF KLEENEX FOR USE IN THE BAND ROOM! THANKS!**