

Duncan Lake and
Kraft Meadows Middle Schools
Band Handbook



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Welcome to Duncan Lake and Kraft Meadows Middle School Bands. My name is Don Raaymakers and I am the director of bands for Duncan Lake and Kraft Meadows Middle Schools. I am proud to be a part of the Caledonia community and I am thrilled to have you as a part of this fast growing band program! In the rest of this packet you will find some information including most of the concert dates for the rest of the school year.

Communication:

It is important that we keep a strong line of communication between school and home. Parents can expect letters going home that will contain pertinent information. Should you have any questions, comments, or concerns please feel free to contact me at any time.

Don Raaymakers

Band Director

Duncan Lake and Kraft Meadows Middle Schools

Office: 891-1380 ext. 7205

E-Mail: raaymakersd@caledonia.k12.mi.us

Extra Help:

I try to keep students on the same playing level, however there may come a situation where a student is either struggling or excelling beyond expectations. I am available before and after school to help any student who may be struggling, or to supply advanced enrichment to those who require more challenge. I am also going to be offering an advanced percussion ensemble and an advanced jazz theory class to all interested students. I also highly encourage students to take advantage of private lessons; I can supply names of qualified private lesson teachers.

School Owned Instruments:

There are a few school owned instruments available for student use. These consist of very large brass and percussion instruments. The \$50 insurance fee must be paid in order for the student to take the instrument. Checks are made payable to **Caledonia Bands 2000**. This fee covers all routine repairs and insurance. All students using school instruments must pay this fee before they will be able to use the instrument(s). If there are financial concerns, please feel free to contact me and we will make arrangements.

Uniforms:

Students are required to wear black pants or skirt, black shoes and black socks, and a white, collared shirt for their concerts. Uniformity in concert settings is important for professionalism, our students work hard and we want them to sound *and* look nice. If finances are a concern, please contact Mr. Raaymakers and arrangements will be made to supply the needed items.

Grading:

Grades are computed based on the following areas:

20% - Practice Records:

Will be turned in at the scheduled turn in dates, late practice records will be docked points. Once a new six week period begins, I will NOT accept practice records from the previous six weeks.

40% - Participation:

Students are expected to have their instrument, music, four working reeds if applicable, and a pencil in class every day. If an instrument is in repair, a note from home is required. In a rare case that an instrument needs repair, a Meyer Music representative or a Marshall Music representative will be on hand to pick it up. Percussionists are required to have their own sticks. Students will be excused once each semester for forgetting their instrument. After that, students will receive a zero for participation for that day. Chewing gum will also result in a zero participation grade for that day.

35% - Concert Attendance:

Concerts are required with the exception of illness or family emergency, which must be excused with a phone call **before** the concert. **If there is an absence that is not due to the above circumstances the grade will suffer greatly.** The students work hard and deserve to be on stage and receive recognition.

5% - Playing tests and quizzes.

Performances:

All middle school students will perform at 4 concerts. The first concert for 8th grade is a football game that they will perform the pre-game with the high school marching band! The 7th and 8th grade bands will also perform in the Caledonia Memorial Day Parade. The 4 concert dates are scheduled and the dates are located at the end of this packet. Concerts are required and represent 35% of the students' grades. Any absence from a performance not due to emergency or illness must be notified by a written note at least two weeks in advance and will only be excused upon the director's discretion. Failure to oblige to the above criteria will result in a 50% for the performance grade. DO NOT schedule vacations during concert times. It is not only important to the student but also to the rest of the group, as they depend on each other.

Caledonia Bands 2000:

Caledonia Bands 2000 is a band support organization. This organization supports all bands grades 6-12. It is a dynamic group that does a variety of things to help our band students and program. Though fund raising is an important part that is not all the organization does. The goal of this organization is to involve as many band parents as possible. If you could help in any way, please feel free to contact me. Everyone is

invited! Meetings are held at 7:00 PM in the high school band room. Exact dates will be communicated as soon as they become available.

Middle School Band Concerts and Performances:

-October 30, 2008 – 6th and 7th grade Fall Concert – DLMS at 6:30 PM and KMMS at 7:30 – Duncan Lake Performing Arts Center

-October 10, 2008 – 8th grade performs pre-game – Practice is on 10/6 from 7-8 at HS.

-December 9, 2008 – Holiday Concert – KMMS at 6:30 PM and DLMS at 7:30– Duncan Lake Performing Arts Center

-February 17, 2009 – Winter Concert – DLMS at 6:30 PM and KMMS at 7:30- Duncan Lake Performing Arts Center

-March 3 - 8, 2009– Possible dates for MSBOA Band Festival – location and time TBA
8th grade only

-May 19, 2009 – Spring Concert – KMMS at 6:30 PM and DLMS at 7:30- Duncan Lake Performing Arts Center

Thank you for your time. I look forward to seeing you throughout the school year!
Please sign and return the bottom portion to school.

Thank you,

Don Raaymakers
Director of Bands
Duncan Lake and Kraft Meadows Middle Schools

We have read through the DLMS and KMMS Band Handbook and agree to participate in accordance with these guidelines.

Student Signature

Parent/Guardian Signature