

GILES-LEIGH SCHOOL
DISTRICT 80
NORRIDGE, ILLINOIS
INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC DEPARTMENT
CADET BAND/CONCERT BAND
PARENT
HANDBOOK

2011-12

www.norridge80.org

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Dear Giles-Leigh Cadet and Concert Band Parents:

I am looking forward to the 2011-12 school year with much enthusiasm and excitement for it is sure to be another successful year for our young band members. With all of our more experienced players returning once again and over 60 ambitious players moving into Cadet Band from Beginning Band, our potential is tremendous. Over the last several years, the members of the Giles-Leigh Concert Band have received recognition by earning Division I ratings at IGSMA district contests and superior ratings at solo and ensemble contest. The structure and policies in this handbook are implemented to carry on this tradition of excellence in our band program.

The quality and success of the Giles-Leigh Cadet and Concert bands are directly affected by the attitude, dedication, and responsibility of each individual player. A sense of pride must be established by each student in his/her abilities and contributions to the band as a whole. A positive attitude, regular home practice, cooperation, and regular attendance at all rehearsals, group lessons, and concerts are essential for your child to help achieve the musical goals we have for the year. This handbook highlights the basic schedule your child will follow, student expectations, as well as some important policies associated with our band program. I will go over these items with your child during our first few rehearsals.

Due to the nature of our two-school band situation, your child will be using the bus for transportation at various times throughout the school year. Every precaution will be taken for your child's safety, but the teacher, driver, or school can assume no responsibility in case of an accident.

Please read through this packet and sign the bottom of this page along with your son or daughter and return it to me, along with book fees, by the second week of band rehearsals.

I extend my very best wishes that your young musicians have a rewarding and successful school year.

Sincerely Yours,
Christopher Bucaro
Band Director
Norridge School District 80

I have read and understand the information presented in this handbook. My child,
_____, understands and will follow the policies and
responsibilities associated with being a Giles-Leigh Cadet or Concert Band member.

_____ Band Member's Signature

_____ Parent or Guardian Signature

******Parent E-mail address:** _____

Please return this by the second week of school. Thank-you.



Welcome to the Giles-Leigh Junior High Band Program

STUDENT EXPECTATIONS/CLASSROOM MANAGEMENT

In order for our bands to reach their potential, every member must make an effort to do his or her share to improve his or her musical skills. Parental involvement and encouragement have proven to be very beneficial in helping students develop their musical talents. Therefore, the band student, is expected to:

1. **Exhibit a positive attitude and be attentive during full band rehearsals.** This will lead to improvement for the whole band. Listen to the director and respect the other band members by listening to directions, acting responsibly, and playing only when asked to. Do not talk or disturb others when the director is on the conductor's podium.
2. **Be responsible!** Bring your instrument, music, books, and pencil to band every day you are scheduled.
3. **Attend all rehearsals and lessons each week.** Check the band schedule outside of the band room or in your homeroom for times. Please arrive on time.
4. **Practice your part in the music being rehearsed in band and assigned technique exercises on a regular basis.** Prepare to your best ability any special technique exercises that are particularly challenging.
5. **Grading:** Being a member of the band is an ongoing commitment. **Band is a class and you will receive a grade for taking the class. Grading is explained on pages 6 & 7. You also receive grade point average credit for being in band.** Therefore, treat band as a class and work hard to achieve success! **You are expected to remain in the band for the entire school year.**
6. **You must attend all performances listed on the schedule at the end of this handbook.**
7. Realize that every part is important for a quality performance. Each of you has an important part to contribute to the team! This may mean switching to a needed instrument in an appropriate category (tuba, bari sax, tenor sax, horn, percussion, etc.).
8. Make every effort to take **private lessons** on your instrument. Teachers' names and phone numbers are available upon request. This is very important for the best possible musical growth.

Students who follow the above will have a very positive experience in band and will earn a grade that reflects their efforts.

BEHAVIORAL STUDENT CONSEQUENCES

Students who do not follow behavioral guidelines such as #1 above in rehearsals or lessons will have the following consequences applied:

- | | |
|--------------------------|---|
| 1 st Offense: | Teacher-student conference |
| 2 nd Offense: | Student forfeits his/her section seat and is moved down a chair |
| 3 rd Offense: | Student forfeits his/her section seat and is moved down another chair |
| 4 th Offense: | Conference with parents |
| 5 th Offense: | Student loses special privileges such as field trips, may be demoted, or may be removed from the band entirely. It is up to the discretion of the director. |

2011-12 Band Schedule

CONCERT BAND

Concert Band will follow this schedule.

Band meets: Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays all year.

Time: 7:45 AM to 8:30 AM

Place: Tuesdays-at Leigh

Wednesdays-at Giles

Thursdays-at Giles

For your convenience, there will be a "BAND BUS" available at 7:30 AM in front of school to take your child to rehearsal. The majority of band students take this bus. Your child must arrive to catch the bus by 7:30 AM or the bus will have to leave without him/her. Parents also have the option to drive their child to rehearsal, if they prefer to. If you are going to drive your child, please make sure he/she arrives at rehearsal by 7:35 so he/she can start on time with the others. The bus will take your child back to his/her "home school" after rehearsal is over.

The first Concert Band rehearsal will be on Tuesday, August 30th (at Leigh). Giles students will take the bus to Leigh that morning and back!

CADET BAND

Leigh Students

Leigh Cadet Band rehearses during Period 6 every Monday and Tuesday. Rehearsal takes place in the band room from 12:32 until 1:12 during the Enrichment/Resource period.

The first Leigh Cadet Band rehearsal will be on Monday, August 29th during Period 6.

CADET BAND

Giles Students

Giles Cadet Band rehearses during Period 6 every Wednesday and Thursday. Rehearsal takes place in the band room from 12:32 until 1:12 during the Enrichment/Resource period.

The first Giles Cadet Band rehearsal will be Wednesday, August 31st during Period 6.

IMPORTANT!! Since the Cadet Band rehearses separately during the year, it is essential that there be a full *combined* Giles-Leigh Cadet Band rehearsal just before a performance. This will involve Cadets from either Giles or Leigh being bused to the opposite school for a full band rehearsal. A letter will be sent to parents in advance as well as notice placed in the "Newsletter" section of the band website regarding these rehearsals.

Cadet and Concert Band Group Lessons

Full band rehearsals bring students together in one large band setting. Group lessons, on the other hand, bring small groups of 4-10 band members together who play like or similar instruments. This is where your child learns musical concepts and performance skills. Time is also spent on assignments in the method books. These studies are graded like homework assignments in other academic classes. Group lessons take place for one period during the school day, once a week, throughout the school year. This is the only time any academic class will be missed for band and I will rotate the lesson time from week to week so the same class is not consistently missed. Students are expected to attend all lessons and rehearsals throughout the school year.

Posted Schedule

Group lesson times and rehearsals are posted outside the band room and in homeroom each week so your child can check his/her lesson day and time as well as any special performances. Each student must check the schedule so as not to miss the group lesson, full band rehearsal, or any special event for the week. I will inform the band members when the group lessons will start.

Attendance Expectations

Every band member must attend all rehearsals, as well as scheduled performances, including festivals, solo contests (if applicable), and the IGSMA Organizational Contest (Concert Band only). A calendar of band events is currently being finalized and will soon be posted on the appropriate link located within the district's band web page at www.norridge80.org. All concert informational notices/letters will be posted on the District 80 band web page at least two weeks prior to a concert. Not showing up for a performance causes harm to the entire band and can lead to embarrassment to the other band members, especially if that absence means messing up the musical selections the band has prepared. Missing a band performance and/or several rehearsals due to any reason other than sickness or family emergency will be considered unexcused and result in the child's grade being lowered substantially, losing privileges such as field trips, or being demoted or even dismissed from the band. It is up to the discretion of the director. I am asking that if your child should have to miss a **performance** due to an emergency, please call or e-mail me **in advance** so that I can make other arrangements and adjustments.

Practicing at Home/Weekly Practice Journals

All students are required to fill out a practice journal as part of their weekly group lesson. The journal must be filled out completely with the amount of time practiced each day **and a parent signature**. Students will receive credit for signed practice journals showing home practice each week. A sample chart is shown here:

Week of:	Assignment	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thurs.	Fri.	Sat.	Sun.	Total	Parent Signature
Oct 11-17	Page 15, #34,35,36,37/ Band music	20	20	20			20	20	100/A	Mr. Doug
Oct 18-24	Scale # 1 and 2									Mr. Doug
Oct 25-31	Tribal Quest, mm. 35-78									Mrs. Doug
Nov 1-7	Scale # 3 and 4									Mrs. Doug

The journals will be checked weekly. Students will receive 20 points for 90 minutes and above of weekly practice, 10 points for 60-89 minutes, and 5 points for less than 60 minutes weekly. A parent must sign the practice journal in order for credit to be given. Late practice journals will not be accepted for credit. They are due at each group lesson. It is recommended that a set practice schedule be set at home to help each student achieve these goals. Regular and consistent practice builds confidence and success.

Grading

Since band is a co-curricular class at school, your child will receive a report card grade for band that counts toward his/her grade point average (GPA). As a result, your child is expected to remain in band for the entire school year. The grade received reflects both the effort and achievement of each student as well as his/her contribution to the overall success of the band.

Cadet and Concert Band Grading is based on a point system as follows:

Rehearsal attendance	30 points
Group lesson attendance (On Time/At Correct Time).....	20 points
Brings instrument, music, folder, and a pencil to all band classes	10 points
Performance of music assignments at lessons.....	20 points (maximum)
Turns in a signed practice journal at lessons.....	20 points (90+ minutes weekly)/ 10 points (60-89 minutes weekly) 5 points (less than 60 minutes weekly)
Total Possible.....	100 points

Point Scale: 92-100 = A
85-91 = B
77-84 = C This point-based system corresponds to the district’s
70-76 = D percentage grading system.

Please check the district’s online gradebook to check your child’s weekly progress.

Challenges

Concert Band members may take part in the challenge system. A challenge occurs when one member of a particular section of the band competes against the person sitting in the next chair “higher” in the same section in order to try and “win over” and earn his/her chair (seat). The person being challenged has to go along with the challenge. Challenges are limited to only two (2) times per quarter and no challenges may occur the week before any performance. Challenges are encouraged for Concert Band members.

Extra Rehearsals

Occasionally, there may be a need for an extra morning rehearsal to be scheduled a few days prior to a concert. Every possible effort will be made to notify the parent and student as early as possible.

Supplies

Any supplies such as reeds, valve oil, etc. or books your child needs should be ordered from Quinlan and Fabish Music Company. You can call them at (630) 654-4111 to make an order. Deliveries are made to the school every Friday.

Promotions

Cadet Band members who complete method book #1 will need to begin book #2 immediately. Parents can purchase these by calling Quinlan and Fabish Music Company. Many advanced Cadet Band members may pass nearly the entire second book and earn membership in the Concert Band before year’s end. There will be two time periods during which promotions to Concert Band will be allowed:

- A. the week before Christmas vacation in December, or
- B. the last Friday in April

****6th-grade promotions are only allowed if instrumentation needs arise within the Concert Band.**

Field Trips

Concert Band members take an annual end-of-the-year field trip to Great America. Band students must meet the following criteria to go on the trip:

1. All performance assignments must be completed;
2. Have no more than three (3) unexcused absences from rehearsals, lessons, or concerts for the year;
3. Demonstrate exemplary classroom behavior, attitude, and cooperation throughout the year

Uniforms/Concert Attire

Concert Band: The uniform consists of a white tuxedo shirt, black studs, bow tie, and black cummerbund. They are worn at every performance except graduation. They will be passed out in October. Medals earned from previous solo/ensemble contests must be worn on the uniform. Each student must be responsible for the uniform and damaged or lost items will constitute a fine to pay for replacements. You will need to provide the following:

Girls: Black dress slacks only. No jeans or sweat pants are allowed. **Dress black, closed-toe shoes with a low heel (1" or lower) must also be worn. Skirts, or any type of open-toe shoes are not allowed.**

Boys: Dress black slacks, socks, and black dress shoes are to be worn.

Cleaning of the tuxedo shirts after each performance is each student's responsibility. The shirts must be dry-cleaned. Please leave the cummerbund, bow tie, and studs at home when the shirt is being dry-cleaned.

Cadet Band: You will need to provide the following:

Girls: Black dress slacks, dress black, closed-toe shoes with a low heel (1" or lower), and a solid white blouse or turtleneck shirt without any decorations.

Boys: Black dress slacks, white button-down dress shirt, long tie of any color, black socks, and dress black shoes. Jeans, sweat pants, or gym shoes are not to be worn for performances.



