

Joseph L. Carwise
Middle School
Band and Orchestra
Handbook

2018-2019

Jason Obara, Band and Orchestra Director

Robert Vicari, Principal

Welcome

First off, I would like to take this opportunity to welcome you to the Carwise Middle School music program. You have made a wise decision to study music. I hope that because of your time with me, you will become a life-long lover of instruments, music, and the arts.

The purpose of this handbook is to provide as much information as I can about the band and orchestra department at Carwise. I plan on continuing high standards of excellence with this program. In order to achieve these standards, all members should be familiar with some of the procedures that will be adhered to throughout the year. The last page is a form for parents to sign indicating they have read and understand the policies outlined in this handbook. Please return this as soon as possible, as it is the first grade of the year. Thank you, and let's make it a great year!!!

Code of Conduct

Students are to adhere to all rules applicable in the county code of conduct and Carwise Middle School rules. In addition, the following are some rules for the band and orchestra classes.

1. **"If it's not yours, don't touch it!"** This is just a simple way to protect personal and school property. This rule applies especially to the percussion equipment.
2. Loud and boisterous behavior is inappropriate in the band room. This interferes with instructions and activities and will not be tolerated.
3. Class time is for classroom activities only.
4. When the director is on the podium, students must pay attention so learning can take place. Rude behavior is unacceptable.
5. No food, drink, or especially gum will be allowed in the music room. This is our home and we want to keep it in the best condition possible.

"If my mother were watching, would I be doing this???"

A word on discipline...

Carwise has a tradition of very high standards for this program. Every child in it is a representative for the school and the music program. Discipline problems will NOT be tolerated. After the first warning, time out will be given with a zero in participation for the day. After this, I feel it is necessary for the parents to know that their child is not participating in class. This way, you know if the money you are paying to rent an instrument is going to waste. If the situation cannot be resolved, I will seek other remedies.

Attendance and Concerts

Since we are involved in making music, every individual plays an important part in our classes. I hope that everyone will be in my classes unless there is an emergency or illness.

Band and orchestra are both performance-based classes. Because of this, there will be before and after school performances and rehearsals. All performances are mandatory and are part of the student's grade. Unexcused absences will result in a lower grade. If you are in the Advanced Band and Orchestra classes, it is an expectation that you will be at EVERY performance. This includes Music Performance Assessments, Winter and Spring Concerts, competitions, and showcase concerts at two or three local high schools (even if you're not zoned for that high school). If you cannot make this commitment, you can still participate in music, just not the advanced level classes. The FBA and FOA Music Performance Assessments are the most important performances of the year. Students who miss these events will result in a failing grade. An absence may be excused if the parent provides a written note explaining the absence. The director has the final say on whether an absence is excusable. (For example, being sick and missing school would be excused. Too much homework or not finding a ride would not be.)

Grading Policy

Classwork/Participation	20%
Practice Time/Homework	30%
Performances	25%
In-Class Testing	25%

Practice Time

Band and orchestra students are expected to practice at home for a certain amount of time each week. This is their homework for my class. Students will record how many minutes of practicing were done each day. Parents should monitor their student practicing to validate the amount of practicing done. This will be formally collected every week. This will be incorporated into the homework section, which is 30% of the student's grade, so be diligent in your record keeping. Parents, please take the time to sit down with your child and explain the importance of good practice time. It might even be helpful to set up a specific time to practice each day. Three hours of practicing each week is required to receive full credit. My goal, however, is to make it so everyone *wants* to practice 3 hours a day!

Communication

Communication between the director and the parents is very important to student success. You can expect notes home as well as email communication. I also plan on using our class Focus site. There is a calendar on the website with important dates for your use as well as many other things. There is also phone in the office of the music room.

- Band and Chorus direct line – 727-724-1478
- Mr. Obara's email – obaraj@pcsb.org
- Websites – www.focus.pcsb.org

Chair Placement

The director will assign students to specific parts and chairs to achieve the best sound possible in the ensemble. Sometimes students forget that ALL parts are important for a balanced ensemble. An ensemble is only as strong as its weakest link. Seats and parts will be assigned through playing tests or specific auditions. Reseats may be given at any time according to musical progress and preparation. Whatever the case, **THE DIRECTOR'S DECISION IS FINAL.**

Care of Music

- Do not fold, tear, or otherwise mutilate music.
- Since some students do share music or books, it is the student's responsibility to have their music at rehearsal or performance even if they are absent.
- Do not make excessive marks on music.
- It is the student's responsibility to let the director know about lost music. Only then can music be replaced appropriately.

Instrument Storage

All students will have the opportunity to store their instrument in one of the instrument storage rooms in the band room. These spots are for instrument storage only. No backpacks or books shall be stored in here except possibly when your instrument is in use during class.

Instrument Rental & Repair

Students are strongly encouraged to rent their own instruments from one of the rent-to-own suppliers in the area. Those who play flute, oboe, clarinet, trumpet, trombone, violin, viola, or saxophone are especially encouraged to get their own instruments. Most high schools do not provide rental of these instruments. Beginning percussionists are special people and will be required to buy a kit that includes a practice pad, bells, sticks, and mallets. Now, due to financial concerns, I understand that it is not possible for all students to own their own instrument. I have a very limited amount of school owned instruments for rent. The cost, which is county wide, is \$60 for a full year, \$35 for a semester. Percussionists will be required to pay a partial rental fee because they will be playing school owned instruments (xylophone, bass drum, timpani drums...). These rental fees go to repair and maintenance of the school owned instruments. Personally owned instruments (not school owned) are the responsibility of the student to get repaired. If it is more convenient, the band may facilitate the repair. However, once it is repaired, it will only be returned to the student upon payment of the full cost of repair.

Materials

Since this is a performance-based class, it is very important that each student has all required materials everyday. These include:

- Instrument
- Music and Folder with Syllabus in it
- Appropriate Music Books
- Pencil
- Paper for note-taking
- Planner

Failure to have any of these will result in a zero for the day.

Beginning Band and Method Books

Beginning band and orchestra students will be required to buy their own method books. This is so they can write in them and have their own fingering chart. Beginning band students will use *Accents on Achievement, Book 1*. Orchestra students will use *Essential Elements for Strings*. Books can be bought from various music vendors in the area.

Intermediate and advanced ensembles will use other various method books throughout the year. The school will provide a limited number of these for in class use only. I highly recommend students purchasing their own for the routinely used books. (titles yet to be determined)

Parental Involvement

Parents are encouraged to be involved in all aspects of their child's life. In music, I feel there is a certain amount of parental involvement necessary to promote student success. There are times throughout the year that I will need volunteers to chaperone events, help out with transporting students, help set up concerts, help with uniforms, even help run instrument try out stations in the beginning of the year for the beginning band classes. Parents are encouraged to respond with how they can help on the final sheet of this packet. PLEASE, stop by the front office and register as a volunteer as soon as possible. All volunteers/chaperones must be registered. All drivers must now be Level 2 cleared as well.

Uniform Rental

All ensembles will wear the Carwise Middle School band uniform for performances. Tuxedo shirts, vests, and bow ties are provided by the school. Dresses will be provided for girls in some classes. There is a uniform rental fee per student that is collected by the boosters. This money goes to the cleaning and replacement of the uniforms. Details will be coming when this is due. In addition to the uniform shirt, all students are to wear black dress pants and some type of dress shoes (NO TENNIS SHOES. However, nice Sketchers, open toe, etc. are perfectly acceptable).

Fundraising

Unfortunately, even with the Pinellas County Referendum, music is sadly under funded in this state and throughout the country. We are fortunate to have the referendum in this county, but that cannot pay for all the activities we participate in. In order to afford new music, instruments, uniforms, and repairs, we must fundraise. Please help out as much as you can in these fundraisers. We can't have a successful program without money! Please note on the signature page if you DO NOT want your child to participate in the band fundraisers throughout the year.

Jazz Band

We are lucky to have jazz band as an actual class here at Carwise. I love jazz and always look forward to working with this group. The ensemble is limited in numbers and membership is auditioned based. Students must remember to be flexible about instruments since a successful jazz band requires full sections of saxophones, trombones, trumpets, and rhythm section. Some students will not be able to play their concert band instrument in jazz band. The jazz band is a smaller ensemble that is routinely asked to perform at different community events. Please be aware that participation in jazz band requires a commitment to attend all performances. Like any performance, failure to attend will result in a lower grade.

Responsibility and Commitment

Being a member of a musical ensemble requires a sense of responsibility and commitment. Instrumentalists are sometimes being trusted with \$6000 instruments! It is expected that students will act as responsible young adults. This is the only way for these ensembles, with the large number of students in each class, to function efficiently.

Commitment is also very important. All individuals who join are now part of a group larger than themselves. They have committed to attend class, behave, and practice. In order for a musical group to be successful, all of its members must be committed to it.

Being a member of the band or orchestra is an honor and should make you proud. You represent the program wherever you go. Be proud and act accordingly. It is not an embarrassment to be in music. Have pride in your program!

The ultimate goal of the music department is to transform these students into young musicians.

Solo and Ensemble

The Solo and Ensemble festival is a time for students to perform by themselves or in small groups. It is a great experience where the students are judged by other band directors from around the state. All intermediate and advanced students will be strongly encouraged to participate.

Schedule of Events

MS Night Football Game – TSHS: ____, ELHS: ____, PHUHS: ____

Winter Concerts – Dec 18th

All-State Conference – January 10th- 12th

All-County Concerts: **Band** – Feb 2nd **Orchestra** – Feb 4th

Solo/Ensembles: **FOA**–Apr 27th **FBA**–Apr 26th-27th **Jazz**–Feb 22nd

FOA Concert Performance Assessment – March 21st – 22nd

FBA Concert Band Performance Assessment – March 26th – 28th

Music USA Orlando – April 5th – Advanced Band and Orchestra

Spring Concert – May 21st

All dates are subject to change. New information will be given asap.



PLEASE READ THE 2018-2019 BAND AND ORCHESTRA HANDBOOK BEFORE COMPLETING THIS PAGE. THE HANDBOOK CAN BE FOUND HERE: <https://www.carwiseperformingartsbooster.org/forms/>

Signature Page

I have read the Carwise Middle School Band and Orchestra Handbook and understand all aspects covered therein. I agree to abide by the rules and regulations covered in the Handbook.

Student's Name (printed) _____
Student Signature _____

I have read the Band and Orchestra Handbook with my child and we understand and agree to abide by all aspects covered therein.

Parent/Guardian Name(s) _____
Parent/Guardian Signature _____
Date _____

Schedule of Events

MS Night Football Game – TSHS: ____, ELHS: ____ PHUHS: ____
Winter Concerts – Dec 18th
All-State Conference – January 10th- 12th
All-County Concerts: **Band** – Feb 2nd **Orchestra** – Feb 4th
Solo/Ensembles: **FOA**–Apr 27th **FBA**–Apr 26th-27th **Jazz**–Feb 22nd
FOA Concert Performance Assessment – March 21st – 22nd
FBA Concert Band Performance Assessment – March 26th – 28th
Music USA Orlando – April 5th – Advanced Band and Orchestra
Spring Concert – May 21st

All dates are subject to change. New information will be given asap.

STAY CONNECTED

Visit Our Website:

<https://www.carwiseperformingartsbooster.org/>

Join Our Facebook Page:

<https://www.facebook.com/carwiseperformingarts/>

Email:

info@carwiseperformingarts.org



UNIFORM RENTAL

Parent and Student Information

Student's Name _____ Grade _____

Teacher Mrs. Moss Mr. Obara

T-Shirt Size Youth S Youth M Youth L Adult S Adult M Adult L Adult XL

Ensemble (check all that apply) Band Orchestra Jazz Chorus Music Theater

Parent's Name _____ Spouse/SO _____

Address _____ City _____

Home Phone _____ Cell Phone _____

Email Address _____

Are you interested in volunteering YES NO Volunteer Status: Level 1 Level 2

Volunteer Opportunities Please check as many boxes as you can! We NEED you!

<input type="checkbox"/> Concert Concession Help	<input type="checkbox"/> Music Theater Painting	<input type="checkbox"/> Music Theater Set Design and Construction	<input type="checkbox"/> Music Theater Cast Dinners week of Show
<input type="checkbox"/> Bingo / Silent Auction Help	<input type="checkbox"/> Music Theater Ads	<input type="checkbox"/> Music Theater Table Decorations	<input type="checkbox"/> Music Theater Stage Parent
<input type="checkbox"/> T-Shirt Coordinator	<input type="checkbox"/> Music Theater Donation Needs	<input type="checkbox"/> Music Theater Playbill Design	<input type="checkbox"/> Music Theater Ticket Sales
<input type="checkbox"/> Sponsorship Coordinator	<input type="checkbox"/> Music Theater Donation Props	<input type="checkbox"/> Music Theater Video/Photography	<input type="checkbox"/> Music Theater Cast Party
<input type="checkbox"/> In Home Help – Copies, Fliers	<input type="checkbox"/> Music Theater Costumes	<input type="checkbox"/> Music Theater Hospitality	<input type="checkbox"/> Chaperone (LVL 2, Must Volunteer and Attend Meetings)

Fees (includes t-shirt, one year rental of concert uniform, booster membership):

\$ _____ \$25.00 - Band, Orchestra, Chorus, Jazz Uniform Fee

\$ _____ \$25.00 - Additional Commitment Fee Required for Musical Theater Students

\$ _____ Donation (Optional)

\$ _____ **Total Amount Paid** Cash Check # _____ Paid Online Shirt Given

Make Checks Payable to CPABC