



## ***Oak Leaf Jr. High School Yellow Jacket Band***

4085 Plantation Oaks Blvd. Orange Park, FL 32065  
Mike Summers, Director of Bands / Tyler Dunn, Associate Director of Bands  
904-336-5775 x65816 / michael.summers@myoneclay.net / james.dunn@myoneclay.net  
www.oakleafband.com / Like us on Facebook: Oakleaf Jr. High Band

***\*WELCOME TO THE YELLOW JACKET BAND PROGRAM!***

***\*VISIT THE BAND WEBSITE IF YOU HAVE NOT DONE SO  
ALREADY: [www.oakleafband.com](http://www.oakleafband.com)***

***\*‘LIKE’ us on FACEBOOK: Oakleaf Jr. High Band ← this is important!!***

The start of a new school year can be quite crazy. I will do my best to provide ALL band info to you in order to get your student “plugged-in” to the most exciting band program around. The band website is updated every week- [www.oakleafband.com](http://www.oakleafband.com) / and this packet should help you get started.

***\*\*\*BEGINNING BAND- DO NOT GO OUT AND BUY AN INSTRUMENT YET!!!!***

No instrument has been assigned to a student, unless you have already spoken to me. ☺ There are over 100 students signed up for the Beginning Band classes, and it is my responsibility to place each student with the correct instrument, unless you already own a band instrument.

***\*\*PLEASE READ THE ‘INTRO TO BEGINNING BAND’ INFO ON BAND WEBSITE\*\****

### **Making the ‘GRADE’ in Band**

\*First, let me say that the student truly controls their grade in the band class. The amount of practicing at home and desire to be the best young musician they can possibly be... will ultimately decide their grade.

\*Unlike the other core subjects, Band grades are 99.9% ‘subjectively’ calculated. Meaning: the individual musician is graded on:

1. correctly displaying the foundational techniques on their instrument
2. accuracy of notes and rhythms
3. proper breathing and tone production
4. mastery of the music they are performing for the Director

\*Evaluations/Tests in band are a little more complex than a ‘10 question test worth 10 points each’...

I am not only listening for the song/musical exercise to be performed perfectly, but I am also looking for ALL the other details listed above.

\*My standards are high – BUT attainable! I evaluate each student based on the state band standards and then try to give them a fair numerical grade based on the standard school grading scale. I expect all band students, no matter the level, to be making A’s AND B’s in their band class.

\*Every level of band has a ‘Level Form’ to complete for me for the school year. There are 3 levels: Level 1– Beginning Band, Level 2- Intermediate Band, and Level 3- Concert Band. These forms list all tests/evaluations for the band the student is in.

**\*Here are tips on how to make the ‘GRADE’ in band:**

1. Practice every day and fill out the Practice Log in the back of the Accent on Achievement book. Make sure to practice the material we are working on in band class--- complete your LEVEL. ☺
2. Come to band class every day with the instrument and supplies.
3. Take private lessons from a professional musician if it is convenient for you. See website for list.
4. Listen to the other musicians in class--- you might be able to learn from their performance or help them if they are struggling.
5. Dedicate yourself to being the best musician you can possibly be. Learning a band instrument and how to read music is not easy. It does take work and commitment.
6. Parents please call me or email me if you have questions or concerns regarding the band program.

**→CHECK ‘FOCUS’ FOR BAND TESTS AND GRADES←**

***\*\*PLEASE READ\*\****

***BAND IS FUN!!! But- There is an Academic Commitment AND a Financial Commitment.  
Over the next several days, as we conduct music evaluations, if you feel that the band program  
is not for you, then please contact the guidance department to make arrangements for a  
schedule change. Sincerely, Mr. Summers & Mr. Dunn***

## **2018-2019 BAND FEES for Beginning Band**

Band fees are the amount that each student is responsible for contributing to the band program.

**This fee pays for band shirts, music, in class supplies, state and district musician fees, & other miscellaneous items that every band is responsible for in order to exist and perform.**

You can pay the entire amount by the first due date; or you can pay smaller payments each month... -SEE BELOW-

**→\*\*\*Please Note: The band fee does NOT go to a music store and IS separate from your rental agreement with a music store. The rental agreement is between you and the music store.**

**\*Beginning Band 2018-19 → \$90 (cash, money order, cashiers check- no personal checks)**

**[Pay all on Sept 19, or 2 payments of \$45 each on Sept 19 and Oct 17]**

\*Parents must provide the band instrument, band book, and instrument care supplies listed on the REQUIRED INSTRUMENT LIST, through any music store. Please check the 'Required Instrument' form for acceptable brands.

\*Note: Please provide the following for your child for the concerts:

UNIFORM- gray band polo (included in band fees), black dress shoes, black dress socks, and black pants.

\*Note: shirt sizes come in: Youth M, Youth L, Adult S, M, L, XL, XXL, XXXL

**\*\*\*I repeat --- there is a separate form that will list all supplies / instrument stuff you will need to get from the music store. I will pass that out during the first week of school after I have determined what instrument your student going to play.**

## **Beginning Band Calendar of Events 2018-2019**

***\*The Band Calendar will be updated when necessary; so check the band website or Facebook often.\****

\*8/14- Students start school- WELCOME BACK!

\*First week: Instrument evaluations & Music evaluations / SCHEDULE CHANGES IF NEEDED

**→\*8/21- 5:30pm (before Open House)- BB- Mandatory Beginning Band Parent Meeting in band room. This is the time when you will be given detailed info on how to get band instruments/supplies for your child. Students will know what instrument they will be playing by this date--- exciting!!! (REQUIRED EVENT)**

\*9/4 (day after Labor Day)- Beginning Band should have ALL their instruments & supplies needed for Band or schedules will need to be changed.

**→\*9/19- Band Fee Payment #1 due (\$45 or full amount of \$90)**

**→\*10/17- Final Band Fee Payment due (\$45 or full amount of \$90) ---ALL FEES NEED TO BE IN---**

\*12/7 (Friday)- 3:50-6pm BB- Mandatory Rehearsal after school & before band concert that night (REQUIRED EVENT)

\*12/7 (Friday)- 6:30pm- Band Concert / (REQUIRED EVENT)

\*Month of February (4<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup>)- Auditions for all band students for next year's Bands (REQUIRED EVENT)

\*4/5 (Friday) - 3:50-6pm BB- Mandatory Rehearsal after school AND before band concert that night (REQUIRED EVENT)

\*4/5 (Friday)- 6:30pm- Band Concert & Awards / (REQUIRED EVENT)

**→Leading up to a band event, Mr. Summers will ALWAYS send home a letter with details so that the Parents can be prepared.**

**Please check the band website for updates throughout the year. [www.oakleafband.com](http://www.oakleafband.com)**

**Please check the online grading system: FOCUS for dates of tests and your student's band grades.**

**"Poor planning or forgetting" does not excuse a band student from any REQUIRED date listed above associated with their band (s). Let your athletic coach know if there are any dates you will miss a practice/game due to a REQUIRED Band event.**

→ The OLJHS Band Program is one of the elite programs in the State and high standards/expectations are emphasized. By "electing" to sign up for BAND, the student (with parent support) commits to being at all rehearsals, performances, and/or scheduled events THAT APPLY TO THE STUDENT'S BAND THAT THEY ARE A MEMBER OF. There are State Standards that each band student is responsible for completing in the Band Class. All rehearsals & performances are a part of these standards / band curriculum and their attendance is crucial to their musical development and overall grade in band. The OLJHS Band Program participates in many events during the school day and several events throughout the year which take place during after school hours or on the weekend.

\*Note: By being a member of the Band Program, the student & parent agree to be at all 'REQUIRED EVENTS' related to the student's band/group; and understand that all rehearsals and performances related to the student's band/group; are a part of the State Standards for Band. Only an emergency can excuse a student-musician from a REQUIRED EVENT. (Mr. Summers definition of an emergency: *an unforeseen family emergency due to death or serious illness.*) There are NO 'make-up' assignments for missed performances because there is no other assignment that can equal the weight of importance of a performance. ☺