



Oakleaf 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 / BAND INFO & UPDATES: <https://www.facebook.com/oakleafyellowjacketband>

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

****VISIT THE BAND WEBSITE IF YOU HAVE NOT DONE SO ALREADY: 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 / and this packet should help you get started.

*****CONCERT BAND / ***JAZZ BAND**---- You are the best-of-the-best!

1. Every student should already have their instrument and hopefully you worked on the music I assigned to you over the summer. ☺

2. You need Accent on Achievement Book 2. Woodwind musicians still need the brand of reeds and size I require. Brass musicians have a certain mouthpiece I require. Please arrange to get these items ASAP.

-PLEASE CHECK YOUR BAND FOLDER OR THE BAND WEBSITE FOR A DETAILED LIST-

3. This band has many scheduled performances this year--- Check the band calendar for your important dates! All students are required to audition for All-County Band; and several students are advanced enough through a private teacher to audition for the All-State Band. Practice every day!!!

-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.

4. The majority of teaching this year will be getting all the 8th graders ready for high school band, and challenging the 7th graders to be better musicians and leaders for the future bands.

5. Jazz Band is also the Yellow Jacket Pep Band and DrumLine! Jazz Band/Pep Band will perform more than the other bands so please practice every day and BE READY!

6. Band Calendar, Band Fees, Supply List can be found on pages 3, 4, and 5. ---→ ---→ ---→

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.

Standard School Grading Scale: A = 90-100 B = 80-89 C = 70-79 D = 60-69 F = 50-59	Florida Bandmasters Association Grading Scale: A = Superior B = Excellent C = Good D = Fair F = Poor
--	---

Band Directors across the state strive for 'Superior' rated bands in their schools. The grade of 'Excellent' is also a goal for many Directors trying to turn around a program; or they are in certain communities where it is hard to have a growing band program.

My standards are high! 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. Make sure to practice the material we are working on in band class--- complete your LEVEL. ☺**
2. **Come to band class everyday with the instrument and supplies.**
3. **Be at the performances; whether you are performing or not.**
4. **Come before school and ask the Director for help.**
5. **Take private lessons from a professional musician if it is convenient for you.**
6. **Listen to the other musicians in class--- you might be able to learn from their performance or help them if they are struggling.**
7. **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.**

Parents please call me or email me if you have questions or concerns regarding the band program.
CHECK 'FOCUS' FOR BAND TESTS AND GRADES

I look forward to another wonderful year. Let's have a 'SUPERIOR' band program again this year.

Band Calendar of Events 2020-2021 (a ? below = no confirmed date yet)-(as of: 10/1/20)

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

*8/25- Students start school- WELCOME BACK! No instruments first 2 days of school-bring instruments on Thursday!
→**Drumline has before school rehearsals every morning (EXCEPT TUESDAYS) until the music is learned & they perform at the home football games. The games are REQUIRED if you are a member of the Drumline.**

*8/27- DrumLine rehearsals start---8:30-9:15, every morning (except Tuesdays) until music is learned. ☺ (REQUIRED EVENT)

*8/27- Bring instruments! Students should have all required supplies needed.

→*8/31- yearly fair-share Band Fee due (\$120) / +\$100 yearly rental if using a school instrument. --**Please contact Mr. Summers if you need more time to get the fees in... it's not a problem, I just need to know.....more info on back ->**
-THE BAND TRIP FEE IS DUE LATER. BAND TRIP CHAPERONE FEE IS DUE LATER.-

*9/15- Drumline at football game. Stay after school. Game starts at 6pm. (REQUIRED EVENT)

*10/3(online)- (Saturday)- All State auditions- this is ONLY for those musicians who are selected to audition.

*10/6- Drumline at football game. Stay after school. Game starts at 6pm. (REQUIRED EVENT)

*10/13- Drumline at football game. Stay after school. Game starts at 6pm. (REQUIRED EVENT)

*? 10/24- Clay County JR/SR high marching band event- more details to come (REQUIRED EVENT)

*10/27- Drumline at football game. Stay after school. Game starts at 6pm. (REQUIRED EVENT)

*11/3- Drumline at football game. Stay after school. Game starts at 6pm. (REQUIRED EVENT)

→*10/30- Band Trip student & chaperone fee due (\$240) --**Please contact Mr. Summers if you need more time to get the fees in... it's not a problem, I just need to know. more info on back ->**

*12/11 (Friday)- 6:00pm- Band Concert (REQUIRED EVENT)

LOOK! *12/12 (Saturday)- Concert Band trip/performance at Universal Studios Citywalk! (either this will be the date of the trip or it will be May 1, 2021... December 12 is option #1)..... more info on back ->

*1/13-1/16- FMEA All State Music Conference/Performance- required if student is selected by the All State Committee.

-All County Honor Band:

*?1/30 (Saturday)- Clay County Honor Band AUDITIONS / don't plan anything from 8am-2pm- CB (audition is REQUIRED EVENT)

*? April (Thursday)- 6-9pm- Clay County Honor Band rehearsal- required for the selected CB students.

*? April (Friday)- 6-9pm- Clay County Honor Band rehearsal- required for the selected CB students.

*? April (Saturday)- 9am-2pm- Clay County Honor Band rehearsal- required for the selected CB students.

*?4/10 (Saturday)- 6:00pm- Clay County Honor Band Concert- required for the selected CB students.

***MUSIC ASSESSMENTS BEGIN:**

*2/4- FBA Jazz Band Assessment – Jazz Band performs for the Judges! -very important performance! (REQUIRED EVENT)

*2/5-2/6- District Solo Assessment- only for CB musicians taking private lessons and/or selected by Mr. Summers & Mr. Dunn -a piano accompanist fee is required.

→*3/9 (Wednesday) OR 3/10 (Thursday) - FBA Band Assessment -Concert Band performs for Judges!- **Most important performance of year!** Please plan accordingly. / Let coaches know you will miss the game or practice. (REQUIRED EVENT)

*Month of February- Auditions for all band students for next year's Bands (REQUIRED EVENT)

*3/27- Jazz Band performs at the Jacksonville University Jazz Festival (REQUIRED EVENT)

*?April?- Jazz Band performs at school for Principal's Sixth Grade Parent Night (REQUIRED EVENT)

*4/30 (Friday)- 6:00pm- Band Concert & Awards /(REQUIRED EVENT)

LOOK! *5/1 (Saturday) – Concert Band trip/performance at Universal Studios Citywalk! (either this will be the date of the trip or it will be December 12, 2020... December 12 is option #1)..... more info on back ->

*?5/13? (Thursday)- JB performs at OVE Fine Arts Festival /(REQUIRED EVENT)

Please check the band Facebook for updates throughout the year. <https://www.facebook.com/oakleafyellowjacketband>

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.

2020-21 BAND FEES for Concert Band / Jazz Band

Band fee (fair-share) is the amount that each student is responsible for contributing to the band program. Some people believe that the school or county should fund the band programs. Wouldn't that be great? That will not happen! So, the band programs must fund themselves.

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.

Please let me know if other financial arrangements need to be made. My goal is to find a way for every band student to experience performing their instrument for thousands of people at all the events listed on the band calendar.

The Band Fee is not the same as the rental fee to the music store and does not include the yearly \$100 rental for school instruments.

Note: There is a separate fee for the band trip(s).

***Concert Band / Jazz Band 2020-21 → \$120** [Due on August 31]

*This band fee **DOES NOT** include the band trip!

*This band fee **DOES NOT** include the band trip!

*Polo sizes come in: Adult Xsmall, Adult S, M, L, XL, XXL, XXXL / men & women styles

*Parents must provide the band instrument, band book, and instrument care supplies listed on the REQUIRED INSTRUMENT LIST, through Costello's Music (904-579-3723), Music and Arts Store (904-292-9705), or any other music store.

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

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

(sometimes jeans will be acceptable-Director will let you know)

→ The 7th graders from last years Concert Band/Jazz Band have been credited this fee due to the cancellation of the Charlotte trip.

-> -> *Chaperones* <- <-

*On Feb 4, 2021- Jazz Band is performing at the FBA Jazz Band Assessment. Need 2 Chaperones and 2 trucks. No cost.

*On Mar 9 or Mar 10, 2021- Concert Band is performing at the FBA Band Assessment. Need 3-4 Chaperones. No cost.

*On March 27, 2021- Jazz Band is performing at the Jacksonville University Jazz Festival. Need 2 Chaperones and 2 trucks. No cost.

*On ?May 13, 2021?- Jazz Band is performing at the OVE Arts Festival. Need 2 Chaperones and 2 trucks. No cost.

-> -> *Band Trip* <- <-

The band trip planned for the 2020-21 year is a performance/fun trip to Universal Studios Orlando. Our band program has been accepted to perform on the Citywalk stage which sits in the public walking area. We have been approved for 2 different dates: December 12, 2020 (our 1st option) and May 1, 2021 (our 2nd option if we are unable to do December). We perform first and then spend the rest of the day in Chaperone groups having fun at both theme parks: Islands of Adventure & Universal Studios :) This is a day trip; we will return late at night. Parents- this is a band trip, not a family vacation. Students will stay with the band group for the entire trip.

We will travel by nice charter buses. The bus company is filling 50% capacity so there will be a lot of space on each bus. Because of the size of our group, we have reserved 2 buses.

The fee is: \$240 and is due on October 30 (or a later date if we cannot go in December). This trip fee includes: a 2 park ticket, charter bus seat, and a meal card. Sorry, no personal yearly passes are accepted.

*Note: To be accepted for performance, we must pass a musical evaluation (done!), agree to the ticket policy, and have a specific number of musicians and chaperones. Our Concert Band has 34 members - WE NEED EVERYONE TO GO :) Please contact Mr. Summers if you need more time to get the fees in... it's not a problem, I just need to know.

→ The 7th graders from last years Concert Band/Jazz Band have been credited this fee due to the cancellation of the Charlotte trip. Also, one parent from each family of last year's 7th graders from the cancelled Charlotte Trip, has been credited to go as a Chaperone on this year's trip.