

TRMS Band Handbook
7th & 8th Grade
2025-2026



TRMS Band Director: Mrs. Emma Lang Hodges
PHS Band Director: Mr. James Young

Welcome

Welcome to being a band student! We are so excited for you to be a member of the TRMS band. Playing an instrument gives you a lifelong skill that fosters musical appreciation and gives you skills such as dedication and responsibility. Your child's participation in band is so much more than performance preparation; it reinforces the importance of self-discipline as the fundamental of healthy self-esteem, group pride, personal satisfaction, and aesthetic joy. Being in the band is teaching them how to master the circumstances of life by putting ambition and skill into action. Our lessons will provide group and individual instruction on instrument technique, and will be focused on ensemble performance, music theory, and music history. It is our goal that the band will provide an enriching and exciting experience for all students involved.

Curriculum & Mission

“By performing, creating, responding and connecting, the music department will provide a personalized learning environment to foster awareness of music’s essential role in the enrichment of life. Music and the arts are core educational elements and must be available to all students. We will provide all students with a well-rounded education so they can be productive and successful in their personal and professional lives.”

The four domains, or artistic processes, are perform, respond, create, and connect. Within these domains, students will meet the standards in everyday learning through singing, playing, reading, improvising, composing, listening, analyzing, connecting, and relating historical ideas to artistic ideas and works.

Band Class Rules

1. Be Responsible
2. Expect Excellence
3. Always be Prepared
4. Respect Others
5. Stay Safe
6. No food or drinks in the classroom, only water is allowed.

Any student who receives a major or displays any other disciplinary issues throughout TRMS, will be subject to being removed from the program under the discretion of Ms. Lang and Mr. Young.

Materials Needed

All students:

1. An instrument in working condition and a case labeled with your name and parent contact info.
2. Essential Elements: Book 1/yellow book (for your specific instrument) This is the book that AMRO supplies.
 - a. You can order this online (Amro Music or Amazon)
 - b. You can order this from the TRMS band. Bring \$10 and I will place an order for you.
3. Tuner: (You can buy this at a local music store, online, or this can be an app on your phone. I suggest the app "Tonal Energy".)

Woodwinds: In addition to the materials under "all students"

1. Reeds (3 required at all times)- Rico or Vandoren
2. Cork Grease
3. Mouthpiece (Students using a school owned instrument should also purchase their own)
4. Cleaning Kit

Brass: In addition to the materials under “all students”

1. Valve Oil and Slide Grease (Trombones-Slide oil)
2. Mouthpiece (Brass players using a school owned instrument should also purchase their own)
3. Cleaning Kit

Percussion: In addition to the materials under “all students”

1. Steve Weiss Best Seller Stick Pack #1

*Reeds may be purchased at school for emergency purposes at \$3 each. I suggest buying a box of reeds from a music store or ordering a box online.

*All woodwind players are required to have 3 working reeds at all times.

***ALL PARENTS: The brand and specifications on all of these materials matter for your child to be successful in this class. Please reach out to me if you have ANY questions.**

Instruments

ALL students are expected to purchase and/or rent an instrument through a reputable music company. TRMS uses AMRO Music. The only instruments that are SOMETIMES provided by the school are Tuba, Baritone, and French Horn. It is required that students keep their instrument in a clean and working condition.

School Instruments: If borrowing a school instrument, you must abide by the following rules:

1. Buy your own mouthpiece.
2. It is up to the student to keep the instrument in clean and working condition.
3. The instrument is the responsibility of the student and should not be played or loaned to any other students.
4. The instrument must be returned in the same condition in which it was loaned. If it is returned damaged beyond natural “wear and tear” then the cost of fixing the instrument will fall to the student and/or their parents or guardians.

Important Dates

August 7, 2025: TRMS 7/8 Grade Band Parent Meeting at 6 PM

September 9, 2025: 8th Grade Night (Includes 7th grade)

This is where students will play the National Anthem at a home football game for the middle school. 8th graders will be recognized on this night. 7th and 8th graders will be **required** to attend. More info will be provided. Time TBA. Attire: Band tshirt from last spring, Khaki Pants/Shorts, and tennis shoes.

September 25, 2025: 8th Grade ONLY Rehearsal with the high school band.

September 26, 2025: 8th Grade Night with PHS Band of Gold @ home football game. ONLY 8th grade. Students will play pep tunes with the high school band. Call time TBA. Students must wear band tshirt from the spring, khaki pants, and tennis shoes.

November 11, 2025: Veterans Day program at the armory in Trenton during school hours. Students must wear concert black clothing.

November 22, 2025: All West Auditions

December 7, 2025: Christmas Concert @ 2 pm.

Call time for $\frac{7}{8}$ grade band- 12:45 pm. Attire is professional, concert black attire. More info will be sent home closer to December.

***Other events will be added throughout the year. There is a possibility of several after school rehearsals in November/December to prepare for our Christmas Concert!!**

Grades

Band is a year long class that occurs 4 days a week. Once you are enrolled in the band class, you are committed to being a part of the program for the entire school year. The following areas are how you will be graded in band:

Participation/Preparation:

If a student comes to class on time and prepared, this is an easy weekly grade. Each day that you do not come to class prepared results in a letter grade drop for your weekly grade.

Performances/After-school Rehearsals:

Performances will act as a summative assessment grade. If a student is going to miss a performance, a parent/guardian should let me know as soon as possible. Alternate assignments will be given to those that are excused from the performance. For after school rehearsals, we will work around other extra-curricular activities such as sports and clubs.

Playing Test:

Playing tests will be scheduled in advance. Tests will be given during class. This is very important to see the improvement of the student.

Homework:

Homework will include practice sheets and assignments. When a practice sheet is given, parents, please ONLY sign this form if your child has actually practiced their instrument. If you sign this form without your child completing the requirements, it only hurts your child in their success. The amount of practice required on a practice sheet for a given week will vary.

**All assignments can be made up at any given time within that 9 week period.

****Extra Credit:** Extra credit opportunities will be given throughout the year. Some of these include auditioning for honor bands, attending a local concert, etc.

Performances

ALL performances are mandatory. To have a successful performance, all students within the ensemble must be present. Every student matters to successfully perform together. Performances are a huge part of your overall grade. If you are excused, an alternate assignment will be given.

Dress Code for Performances: Each performance may require a different dress code, but many will require all black clothing, also known as concert black.

An acceptable list of concert attire: Slacks, button down shirt, blouse, dress (floor length or with leggings), skirt (floor length or with leggings), black dress shoes.

*All attire should conform to the school dress code.

Honor Bands

Honor Bands are a great opportunity to expand your musical knowledge and participate in a very rewarding event. TRMS will participate in 3 honor bands this year: UTM Honor Band, APSU Honor Band, and the ALL West Honor Band. All three of these events happen between January and March. Students are picked based on an audition.

Private Lessons

Private lessons are the key to developing an outstanding musical organization. Students who study their instruments privately with a professional show rapid improvement in individual musicianship. As these students improve, their excitement towards practicing increases, they continue to improve, and they become a stronger contributor to the overall success of the band. If you are interested in taking private lessons, please contact me and I will help you get in contact with a private instructor.

Communication-REMIND

Please sign up for REMIND:

TRMS 8th Grade band- Text @trmsband30 to 81010

TRMS 7th Grade band- Text @trmsband31 to 81010

Announcements will also be sent through email and with a letter sent home with your student. Please fill out the form below so that I have your email address!!

*PLEASE contact me with any questions at any time.

Mrs. Emma's Email Address: Emma.Lang@trentonssd.org

Trip/Travel Permission

I give permission for my child to participate and travel with the TRMS band, Mrs. Emma, and/or Mr. Young. I understand that multiple trips are taken throughout the year, and my student has permission to travel and participate in any and all music/band related activities during or after school hours.

*Anything in this handbook is subject to change.

Band Agreement

Parents and Students, read through this handbook and please return this sheet only by August 7, 2025.

I have read and understand the requirements and expectations of being in the TRMS Band.

Student Name _____

Instrument _____

Parent/Guardian Name _____

Parent/Guardian Signature _____ Date _____

Parent/Guardian E-mail Address 1 _____

Parent/Guardian E-mail Address 2 _____