

# 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Band Syllabus and Information

Greetings from Northridge Middle School! This packet is written to give you a heads up on all of the wonderful things that are going to be happening in the Northridge Band Program this year. We are thrilled about this new chapter and hope that you are too! Our 6<sup>th</sup> grade band is the place where your child's musical journey begins! It is here that they learn the basics of making music. Emphasis is placed on tone development, breath support, posture, and a number of other important fundamentals.

## 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Expectations

Students participate in a daily, 40 minute band class and are graded on continual improvement of fundamental musicianship.

## Parent Contact

There are several ways in which you can keep in touch with announcements from our band program:

- Like us on Facebook: "Northridge Middle School Band"
  - We put a HUGE amount of information up on this page.
- Email List: Make sure you put an accurate email on the following info form.
  - I will send out a detailed email prior to any major event.
- Remind: Text Messaging Service (See attachment for detailed instructions)
  - Download the free Remind 101 app and enter this class code: **@Nmsband15**
  - OR Send a text to: **81010** that says: **@Nmsband15**
  - OR sign up at [www.remind.com](http://www.remind.com)
- Webpage: <http://www.vbmsbands.com>
  - We will keep all pertinent info on this site
- Instagram: **@vbbands**
  - We'll put pictures of our students (who have a media release) on this page. It's a good way to see what's going on in class that day!
  - You'll also see pictures from around our band program, up through the High School.

**Attendance of Public Performances** is a HUGE part of your child's grade. We are a performance-based group! Please make every attempt to have your child at all events:

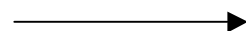
- **Christmas Concert- December 17<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 pm - Van Buren Fine Arts Center**
- **Spring Concert- May 2<sup>nd</sup>, 7:00 pm - Van Buren Fine Arts Center**

*Any unexcused absence may result in a lower grade and/or the student **will be ineligible to attend our summer band camp.*** Exceptions can be made for extenuating circumstances; however, there will be an alternate assignment given for "excused" absences, no matter the circumstance. In order for a student to be eligible for the alternate assignment, parent contact must be made prior to the absence, or official documentation given after the absence. **Handwritten letters will not be accepted after the absence.** We want to teach our students that band is a TEAM activity! We are at our best when ALL students are present and accounted for. We need everyone in order to be successful! If there are excessive or significant absences that do not fall under the title of "excused", then the director reserves the right to remove that student from the band program.

## Behavioral Expectations

We believe that band students are among some of the best-behaved individuals in our school; however, when a student begins to frequently distract others from learning, we take corrective measures. Our classroom rules go as follows:

1. Be Prepared! Be in your seat at the assigned time with all required materials; band binder, file folder, instrument and a sharpened pencil.
2. Show respect at all times! Do not distract others from learning.
3. Take ownership of your surroundings! Do not chew gum or consume food or drinks in the bandroom, and do your best to take care of your instrument and our band equipment.



Consequences include:

1. Verbal warning
2. Refocus form - This form allows a student to reflect upon their behavior and consider ways to improve upon it.
3. Lunch Detention/Parent Contact – Students who complete three or more refocus forms will attend lunch detention.

**School Instruments:** If your child uses a school-owned instrument, then the fee for the year will be \$100. This can be paid all at once, or \$25 per quarter. Payment arrangements can be made; contact us if you have any questions or concerns. We're here to help! We want every child to be equipped with a **quality** instrument.

**Supplies:** We provide beginning band students with all supplies that they will need. If a student loses what they are given, or uses an excess of a particular supply (reeds, etc.), then there will be supplies available for them to purchase. **Replacement notebooks (including band book and inserts) are \$10.00.**

Clarinets will have 10 reeds available each semester. Our goal is to encourage responsible reed management and usage. Additional reeds may be purchased for \$2.50.

Again, if you have difficulty with our fees, please contact us for arrangements. We are willing to work with everyone! We just want to make sure we touch base with you personally. It is our goal to enrich lives through band, but if for some reason a student wishes to drop band, they may only do so at the end of the semester. We appreciate parent communication with a band director before counselors change the schedule.

Finally, thank you so much for entrusting your child's music development to our band staff. We look forward to serving you and your child and hope to work together to ensure a productive and positive musical experience.

The following page is the student information/health form that we will use this year. Please complete it in its entirety and sign at the end, confirming that you and your child have read and discussed all information provided.

Thanks for your support!

## Crystal Reeves

Director

Contact Information:

Office Number:

**479-471-3126**

Google Voicemail -

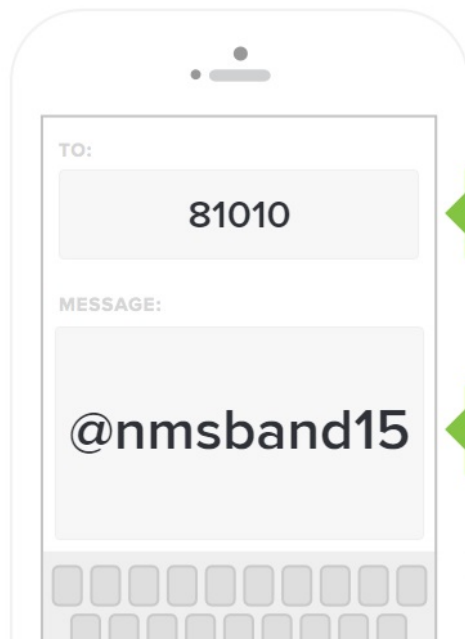
**479-274-8120 (goes directly to Voicemail)**

E-mail:

[crystal.reeves@vbsd.us](mailto:crystal.reeves@vbsd.us)

# REMIND Text Message Service Instructions:

Instructions for students and parents to join Northridge Band



Enter this number

Text this message

Be sure to include the "@" sign at the beginning of the text

When it prompts you for your name,  
Students: Enter your FIRST and LAST name  
Parents: Enter your first and last name, and include your child's name