

CONCERT BAND ✦ WIND ENSEMBLE ✦ JAZZ ENSEMBLE

GLENWOOD MIDDLE SCHOOL



BAND HANDBOOK

2015-2016

gmsbands.bandzana.net



Howard County Public School System



Band Concert & Events Calendar 2015 - 2016

Month	Date	Event	Time
November	14	All-State Junior Band Auditions - TBD	8:00 AM - 4:00 PM
December	17	Glenwood Concert Band & Wind Ensemble Winter Concerts at Glenelg HS Auditorium	7:00 - 9:00 PM
January 2016	28	Glenwood Winter Jazz Ensemble / Small Ensemble Concert at GMS	7:00 - 9:00 PM
	30	Howard County Solo & Ensemble Festival at Mt. Hebron HS	9:00 AM - 4:00 PM
March	17	*Wind Ensemble performance at the Middle School Band Assessments at Hammond High School TBA	TBA
	18	*Wind Ensemble performance at the Middle School Band Assessments at Hammond High School TBA	TBA
April	14	Concert Band performance at the Middle School Band Adjudication and Clinic at Centennial HS - TBA	TBA
	15	Concert Band performance at the Middle School Band Adjudication and Clinic at Centennial HS - TBA	TBA
May	14	Jazz Ensemble Trip to Hershey Park Music In the Parks Music Festival	8:00 PM
	28	Glenwood Jazz Ensemble with Glenelg HS Jazz Ensemble at <i>Jazz Under the Stars</i>	4:30 - 8:00 PM
June	2	Glenwood Concert Band & Wind Ensemble Spring Concerts at Glenelg HS Auditorium	7:00 - 9:00 PM

All event times Dates and locations are subject to change.

Bold events are required performances.

Please mark *all* dates on your family calendars so we may avoid schedule conflicts.

****Some additional after school rehearsals may be scheduled with guest artists as we prepare for our annual band assessments. Details will be sent home after arrangements with guest clinicians have been made.***

All-County G/T Band / Honors Band Audition information will be sent home when it is available

GUIDE TO GLENWOOD MIDDLE SCHOOL BANDS 2015 - 2016

Mr. David J. Apple, *Director*

gmsbands.bandzana.net

(410) 313-5520



PERFORMING GROUPS



The Concert Band is the usual entry level ensemble for students entering the 6th grade at Glenwood. Students in this band are from the 6th and 7th grade and have studied their instrument from 1 to 3 years. Members of the Concert Band work on ensemble playing skills, rhythm, intonation and other performance techniques. The Concert Band will represent Glenwood at the annual Howard County Middle School Band Adjudication in April. The Concert Band will also perform on the Winter Concert and the Spring Concert.

The Concert Band meets everyday during **Period 2** (8:44 - 9:34).

The Wind Ensemble is Glenwood's advanced band. This group's performers are usually 7th and 8th grade students who have studied their instrument from 2 to 4 years. Advanced performing 6th grade students are included in this group, but they are first asked to play a placement audition for the director.

Wind Ensemble students are young musicians who are very dedicated to their instrument. Many members of this group takes private lessons. The Wind Ensemble performs level 2-4 band music, and will represents Glenwood at the annual Howard County Middle School Band Assessment in March. The Wind Ensemble will also perform on the Winter Concert and on the Spring Concert.

The Wind Ensemble rehearses everyday during **Period 1** (7:50-8:40).

Wind Ensemble students involved in 7 & 8th grade Chorus will rehearse "**A Days**" with the Chorus and "**B Days**" with the Wind Ensemble,



The Jazz Ensemble is a premier select group of young musicians who rehearse one time per week after school hours. Selection for this group is not limited to grade level but is at the discretion of the director. The Jazz Ensemble performs music of the Jazz, Pop, Rock and Blues idioms composed especially for young bands. This group is open to all students who play or wish to perform on a "Jazz Instrument." These instruments include *electric bass*, *guitar*, *piano*, and *drum set* along with the saxophones, trumpets and trombones.

The Jazz Ensemble rehearses after school on **Thursdays** from **2:30 to 3:30**. The Jazz Ensemble will perform a winter concert in January, at the Glenwood Showcase of Stars, the Jazz Under the Stars with the Glenelg High School Jazz Ensemble, and at and the Hershey Park Music Festival.

MATERIALS

All students need to be prepared with their music folder, assigned music, technique book, instrument (with the student's name marked clearly on the case), Student Agenda Book, and a #2 lead pencil at each band rehearsal and section rehearsal. Two blank CD-R disks are also useful items to have so I can record music examples for band students throughout the year. Music examples may also be heard on the web site.

In addition to the above, all band students are required to purchase a technique and rhythm studies book for class. These texts will be used through 8th grade. The following should be acquired by the second week of classes:

For all Glenwood Concert Band and Wind Ensemble Students:

Foundations For Superior Performance, Warm-Ups & Technique for Band by,
Richard Williams & Jeff King. Published by KJOS.

Basics in Rhythm by,
Garwood Whaley. Published by Meredith Music (Hal Leonard).

For all Glenwood Percussion Students:

Elementary Drum Method by Roy Burns

These books are available through the Music and Arts Centre in Chatham Station in Ellicott City as well as other music retailers in the area.

All Trumpet & Trombone Players need a *Straight Mute* and a *Cup Mute*. See Mr. Apple for brands.

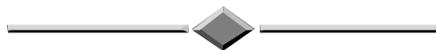
CONCERT DRESS

The attire for all Glenwood Band Students during public performances are as follow:

Boys: Black dress trousers, white long or short-sleeved dress shirt, dark socks and dress shoes. No athletic shoes or blue jeans please.

Girls: A black skirt (of appropriate length) or slacks, white long or short-sleeved shirt or blouse (with a collar), dark socks or hose and dress shoes. No athletic shoes or blue jeans please.

Students will be provided any necessary Concert Attire Accessories when and as needed.



SEATING

Although chair placement in Middle School Bands are not of paramount importance, it is recognized that performing musical ensembles need a set of hierarchical parts to function correctly. Parts (or chairs) will be given to band students in Concert Band, Wind Ensemble or Jazz Ensemble based on his or her performing ability, comfort level with the difficulty of the musical part, and the immediate needs of the ensemble. Instrument sections will rotate parts as much as possible and sections will be re-auditioned at least once during the school year. Student placement within a section may change as the student develops his or her musical skills. The director may reassign placements at any time for the good of the ensemble and its members. The director's decisions in this matter is final.

SECTION REHEARSALS

Each band student will be assigned a section rehearsal group and time.

Small group sectional rehearsals (**Music Sectionals**) are an important component of the Music Performance Classes. These classes provide opportunities for the music teacher to assess students' progress in musical and technical areas in a setting that would be impossible in the large group rehearsals. Furthermore, Music Sectionals are used to teach specific content and techniques that would otherwise be impractical, irrelevant and/or impossible to address during the large group (band) rehearsal. Students are expected to attend Music Sectionals as scheduled and their participation in them are part of their overall grade for the class.

Section Rehearsals will follow a **rotating schedule** ensuring that no student misses the same class more than twice per quarter for any given G/T seminar or any band sectional.

Band Section Rehearsal Procedures

- Students are expected to attend all scheduled Band Section Rehearsals. Exceptions will occur when a county / state assessment is given.
- Band Section Rehearsals are 40 minutes long. Students will return to class for the last 10 minutes.
- Participation in Band Section Rehearsals is part of the overall Band grade.
- Students are to **report directly to their scheduled Band Section Rehearsal in the Band Room** and will be released to the regular classroom so that they arrive with at least **10 minutes** remaining in the period to turn in homework, record homework, pick up worksheets, and check in for attendance. Students must follow all due dates for homework in their regular classes. Any work missed during Section Rehearsals will be able to be made up with no penalty. See **Advisory Period below**.

Mr. Apple and all other academic teachers at Glenwood encourage band students to select a **classroom buddy**, which would be beneficial for them to help get information they missed while attending a Band Section Rehearsal – similar to what they would do when they are absent from school.

- Mr. Apple will be very flexible, when necessary, with Section Rehearsals to meet the individual Band Student's academic needs. If you need to miss a Section Rehearsal, please see Mr. Apple before hand so he can plan for your absence and get you what you missed.

Band Section Rehearsals will be **scheduled on a 5 week rotation**. This ensures that you will never miss any other class more than two times per quarter.

- Band Students are expected to familiarize and follow the Band Sectional Schedule they are given. Students should also regularly communication with their classroom teachers to inform them of their upcoming Band Section Rehearsal. All teachers will have a copy of the Band Section Rehearsal Schedule, but it is up to the individual Band Student to inform the classroom teacher at least a week before. This ensures all teachers and students will plan for mutual success in teaching and learning.
- If you have any questions or problems with the Section Rehearsal Schedule or Section Rehearsals, see Mr. Apple and he will help you work things out.

Section Rehearsals will begin the **SECOND WEEK** of school. The current Section Rehearsal schedule will always be available for view on the [GMS Band Website \(gmsbands.bandzana.net\)](http://gmsbands.bandzana.net) under the **Class Schedule** page. This is also printable and downloadable.

- **Advisory** is a school-wide period set as a dedicated time for students seeking extra teacher help and make-up of work and assessments.. Students may use this time to make-up any work or instruction missed during Section Rehearsals, as necessary. Students may also begin their homework at this time. The Advisory Period will begin the **SECOND WEEK** of school.



BAND STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES

The Band Student will:

Be Respectful:

- Respect the rights and property of others
- Demonstrate appropriate behavior during all rehearsals and performances. Be a good audience. NOT wear hats in class.
- NO Cell phones or portable electronic device use in class. There are exceptions for some apps. NOT chew gum, bring any food, or drink into the Band Room.

Be Prepared:

- Be prepared with **all** necessary instruments, equipment and music at **each** rehearsal. Practice each day. Keep up your “Chops!”
- Participate in all scheduled concerts. (Please see the event calendar.) Do your best!

Be Responsible:

- Report to all Band Rehearsals and Section Rehearsals on time. Complete all assignments on time.
- Follow directions the first time and be an “active listener”.
- Take your instrument and music home nightly and PRACTICE AT HOME EACH NIGHT. NOT deface or fold music.
- All music handed out is the property of Howard County Public Schools and GMS. Music MUST be returned on demand or at the end of the performance.
- Students may make notes or other educational marks on music with a #2 pencil only.
- All students provide their own instrument unless other arrangements have been made with the director. County policy is to lend only large instruments (Tuba, Baritone, Baritone Sax.). See *last page*.
- Label personal instrument cases with student’s name and address.

HOME PRACTICE

Instruments **are not** to be left in school overnight. Please take your instrument home to practice and review for the next day’s rehearsals. Practice enough minutes daily (at least 30) so you can perform your parts well and keep up with the group. Playing quizzes and exams will be given throughout the year. You will want to be prepared!

Some thoughts when practicing your instrument at home

Students and their parents can take certain steps towards increasing the effectiveness of a student's practice routine. Those steps include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Take your instrument home each day.
- Schedule a regular time or set of times to practice each day.
- A Practice Area should be in a quiet location, free from distractions. Good lighting and adequate ventilation is a must.
- Students will need some sort of music stand to ensure proper playing posture.

- Students should sit up straight on a hard chair while practicing.
- The instrument must be in first rate, working condition. The higher the quality of the instrument and mouthpiece, the higher the possibility of sound, and the easier it is for the student to play!
- Help motivate your child towards practicing. Remind the student that practicing must be done even when they don't want to. You make them brush their teeth when they may not want to; proper practice should be viewed in a similar way.
- Praise work well done. A congratulatory remark can be made while the student is practicing, or later, such as during meals.
- Avoid non-constructive criticism. Practicing, in its very essence, is repeatedly playing something that you may not do well yet. Many students will feel uncomfortable playing "poorly" in front of parents or siblings, especially if they are musicians as well. But this is a necessary step towards improvement.
- Plan activities ahead. Remember that a student's participation in rehearsals and performances is not only required, but a very necessary part of the success of the ensemble. A band is a team, and as such, each individual's contribution towards the success of the whole ensemble is vital, necessary, and important.
- Take **private lessons** to help you achieve your musical goals sooner and to help you gain more enjoyment from playing your instrument.

GRADING POLICY & Scoring Rubrics

In Middle School, Band is considered an academic class and is therefore subject to the standard grades of A through E. Band students will receive a letter grade for their classroom work each quarter. Students participating in band are evaluated on the following set of criteria:

Factors to be evaluated

1. Quality of work in band rehearsals and section rehearsals (20%)
2. Quality of home practice evident in rehearsals, assignments and assessments (20%)
3. Relationship of ability to performance (20%)
4. Group relationship, interaction, cooperation and performance (20%)
5. Rehearsal discipline, procedure, preparation and regular section rehearsal attendance (20%)

EVALUATING INDIVIDUAL AND GROUP MUSIC PERFORMANCE

Grade Equivalents for Individual Music Performance

4 = A = 90% or above (Superior)

3 = B = 80% to 89% (Excellent)

2 = C = 70% to 79% (Fair)

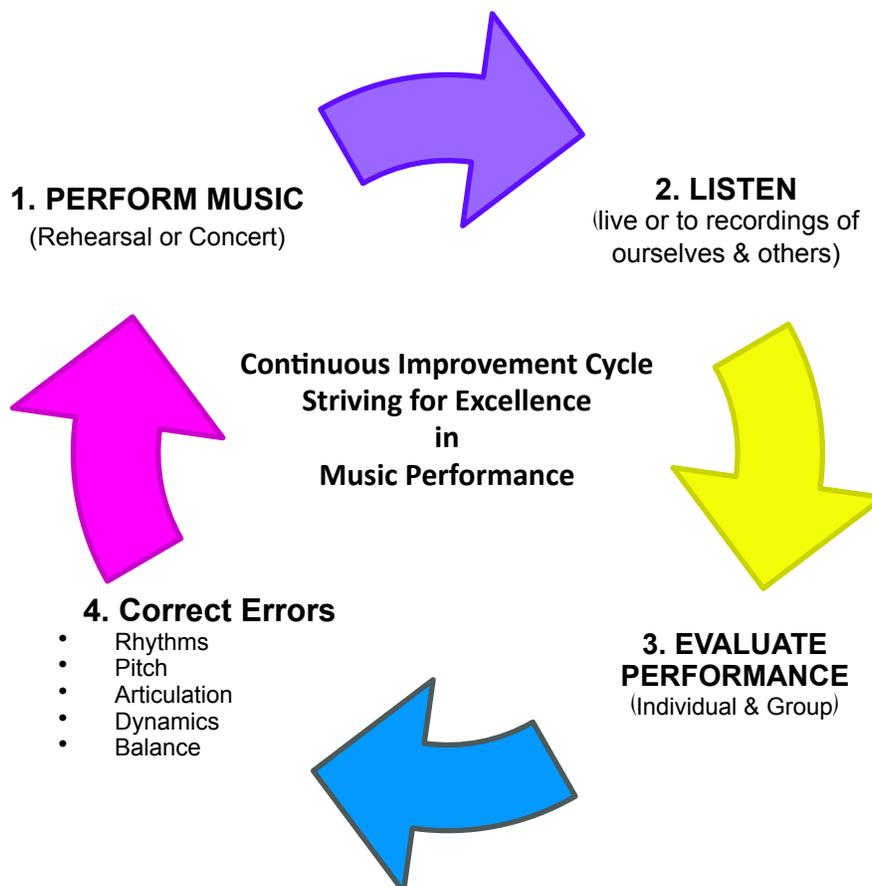
1 = D = 60% to 69% (Poor)

No Score = E = 59% or below (Unsatisfactory)

Festival Ratings and Grade Equivalents for Group Performance Assessment

Rating	Letter Grade	Description
I	A	A Superior Performance. The best conceivable performance. This rating might be compared to a percentage grade of 96% - 100%
II	B	An Excellent Performance. An unusual performance in many respects, but not worthy of the highest rating due to minor defects in performance. A performance of distinctive quality. This rating might be compared to a grade of 90% - 95%
III	C	An Average or Fair Performance. A performance showing some accomplishment and promise, but lacking in essential musical qualities. This rating can be compared to a grade of 80% to 89%
IV	D	A Below Average Performance. This a performance that is weak and uncertain and is comparable to a grade of 74% -79%
V	E	A Poor Performance. This rating indicates a performance in which the performers reveal a lack of preparedness and musical understanding. The grade would equal a score of 73% or below.

How we improve as musicians and students:



CRITERIA	Fully Developed 4	Adequately Developed 3	Partially Developed 2	Undeveloped 1
TONE / TONE PRODUCTION	An exemplary demonstration of tone quality. Tone is full, rich, and characteristic of the style in all ranges and registers. Characteristic tone is maintained in all facets of technical accuracy and expression.	A proficient demonstration of tone quality. Tone is full, rich, and characteristic of the style the majority of the time in all ranges and registers. Characteristic tone is maintained in most facets of technical accuracy and expression.	A demonstration approaching proficiency in tone production. Performance shows some flaws in basic tone production. Characteristic tone is not maintained in some facets of technical accuracy and expression.	A demonstration which displays a lack of proficiency in tone production; performance demonstrates many flaws in basic tone production. Characteristic tone is lacking in virtually all facets of technical accuracy and expression.
INTONATION	An exemplary demonstration of intonation. Pitch is centered and accurate in all ranges and registers. Accurate intonation is maintained almost always .	A proficient demonstration of intonation. Pitch is centered and accurate most of the time in all ranges and registers. Accurate intonation is maintained most of the time.	A demonstration approaching proficiency in accurate intonation. Pitch is centered and accurate to a moderate degree through all ranges and registers. Accurate intonation is maintained some of the time.	A performance that demonstrates a lack of understanding in the area of intonation. Pitch accuracy is inconsistent through all ranges and registers. Accurate intonation is not maintained .
MELODIC & RHYTHMIC ACCURACY	An exemplary demonstration of melodic and rhythmic accuracy at the indicated tempo. The performance displays a near flawless execution and interpretation of melodic and rhythmic patterns in all ranges and registers.	A proficient demonstration of melodic and rhythmic accuracy at the indicated tempo. The performance displays some minor flaws in the execution and interpretation of melodic and rhythmic patterns in all ranges and registers.	A demonstration approaching proficiency in melodic and rhythmic accuracy at the indicated tempo. The performance displays inconsistent execution and interpretation of melodic and rhythmic patterns in all ranges and registers.	A demonstration that displays a lack of proficiency in melodic and rhythmic accuracy. The performance demonstrates an inability to execute and interpret melodic and rhythmic patterns in all ranges and registers.
TECHNIQUE	An exemplary performance demonstrating the highest level of technical skill. The performance demonstrates clean and appropriate articulation (i.e., slurring, accents, releases, etc.) throughout all ranges and registers.	A proficient performance demonstrating a high level of technical skill. The performance demonstrates some flaws in the area of articulation (i.e., slurring, accents, releases, etc.) throughout all ranges and registers.	A demonstration approaching proficiency in technical skill. The performance demonstrates a moderate level of control in the area of articulation (i.e., slurring, accents, releases, etc.) throughout all ranges and registers.	A performance that demonstrates a lack of proficiency in technical skill. The performance demonstrates a lack of control in the area of articulation (i.e., slurring, accents, releases, etc.) throughout all ranges and registers.

MUSICALITY & INTERPRETATION	An exemplary demonstration of musicality and interpretation. The performance displays the highest level of musical understanding of the concepts of style and phrasing.	A proficient demonstration of musicality and interpretation. The performance displays a high level of understanding of the concepts of style and phrasing with some minor flaws.	A demonstration approaching proficiency in the areas of musicality and interpretation. The performance displays a moderate level of understanding of concepts of phrasing and style, with many flaws.	A performance demonstrating a lack of proficiency in the area of musicality and interpretation. The performance displays a lack of musical understanding of the concepts of phrasing and style.
SIGHT READING	An exemplary demonstration of rhythmic, pitch, dynamics and phrasing accuracy. The performance displays the highest levels of musical understanding of pitch, rhythm and phrasing.	A proficient demonstration of pitch, dynamics and rhythmic accuracy. The performance displays a high level of understanding of the concepts with some minor flaws in pitch accuracy, rhythm and phrasing.	A demonstration approaching proficiency in the areas of pitch and rhythm. The performance displays a moderate level of understanding of the concepts with inconsistent execution of pitch and rhythm, with many flaws.	A performance demonstrating a lack of proficiency in the area of sight reading. The performance demonstrates the inability to execute and interpret pitch and rhythm patterns in all ranges and registers. Many missed notes and rhythms, little or no musicality.

Concert Attendance Policy - *Please Read Carefully*

Every student who participates in an instrumental ensemble at Glenwood is a valuable member to that group and is expected to participate in every scheduled concert. The students in these groups put forth many hours of rehearsal and practice to achieve a high level of performance in their public concerts.

Concert performance dates are published at the beginning of each academic year and sent home to each band family so they may plan appropriately.

G.M.S. events are also published in the *Cobra Comments* and *P.T.S.A. Newsletter*, through our web site and *The HCPSS Connect*. Every effort is taken to keep Band Parents informed of every event and concert in a timely manner. Therefore, it is requested for the good of the ensembles involved, that any absences from all required scheduled concerts be avoided. Please contact Mr. Apple a **minimum of three weeks** in advance if your child is absolutely unable to attend a scheduled concert. Illness on the day of the performance is always excused. **Unexcused absences** from concerts will result in the reduction of the student's quarterly band grade by one letter grade lower.

Just as it is with an athletic team, if you attend practice, you are expected to show up for the game.

PRIVATE LESSONS

Private music lessons are **highly encouraged**, but NOT required as membership in any Glenwood Music Ensemble. Lessons give the student more self-confidence and personal attention to specific musical skills than band rehearsal alone. It will also help with future musical endeavors if the student has been taking private lessons for a period of time. Private lessons are VERY HIGHLY suggested if you plan on trying out for any Honors Ensembles or plan to continue to play at Glenelg High School, where the competition for seating is greater.

Speak with Mr. Apple if you need information on Private Music Instructors or see the band web site.

ADDITIONAL PERFORMANCE OPPORTUNITIES

In addition to the regularly scheduled performances, band students have the opportunity to participate in these additional musical activities: All-State Band, All-County G/T Symphonic Band, Honors Band and Solo and Ensemble Festival.

The **All-State Band** is open to 7th and 8th grade students only, however the **All-County G/T Band** and **All-County Honors Band** are open to any middle school band member in a Howard County Middle School.

Both bands are selected by an audition process and by recommendation of the student's Band director. For more information on these activities, please see Mr. Apple.

I encourage all Glenwood Band Students to try a solo or a small ensemble for the Solo Ensemble Festival. Get with a friend, work up a fun duet, play a short musical selection, play a solo. Remember we practice our instruments to perform and share our music, not just to play in our bedrooms for our stuffed animals and family pets.

See Mr. Apple and he will help guide you with your solo or ensemble selections.

Extra academic credit will be given to those band students who choose to prepare and audition for any of the above events.

EVENTS CALENDAR

A calendar of all of Glenwood Middle School's instrumental performances and activities for this school year is located on the second page just after the cover. The list of events is also on the band web site Calendar Page.

Please place these dates on the family calendar as soon as possible to avoid any date conflicts. Updates to the calendar will be online and will be sent via email as they occur. Dates are provided early in the school year so that we will have 100% student participation at all required performances.

Remember, all Band Students are expected to participate in all scheduled performances of the ensembles to which they belong.



CONTACTS

The best way to contact Mr. Apple is always by phone. Email is also an option for quick notes or for planning purposes but, I cannot always be expected to answer emails immediately. Please allow 24 hours for an email response. I will call you back by phone when I am not with students, if you leave a message.

As always, if you have any concerns about your child or their participation in the program, please contact me directly by phone.

I will be available from 8:00 A.M. to 2:45 P.M. daily.

A huge resource for both parents and students is the **Glenwood Band Web Site** at: gmsbands.bandzana.net

Note there is no "www" in front of the address. Please visit the site for much more on music and our program.

MUSIC RETAIL AND REPAIR SHOPS



Coffey Music - All repairs, pro sales & lessons
31 E. Main St.
Westminster, Maryland 21157
410-876-1045



Baltimore Brass Co. - *brass repairs*
99 Mellor Avenue
Catonsville, Maryland 21228
410-744-1722

Baltimore Woodwind Repair - *bassoon repairs*
4307 Harford Road
Baltimore, Maryland 21214
410-444-6546

Brass Arts Unlimited - *brass repairs*
8050-B Philadelphia Road
Baltimore, Maryland 21237
410-866-1587

Damon Foreman Music Academy - *Instruction*
2465 Maryland Rt. 97
Glenwood, MD 21738
(410) 988-2992

Daudelin Woodwind Repair
6166 Downs Ridge Court
Elkridge, Maryland 21075
410-799-4363

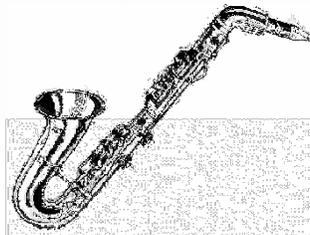
Lee Lachman - *woodwind repairs*
7503 Creighton Drive
College Park, Maryland 20740
301-345-3389

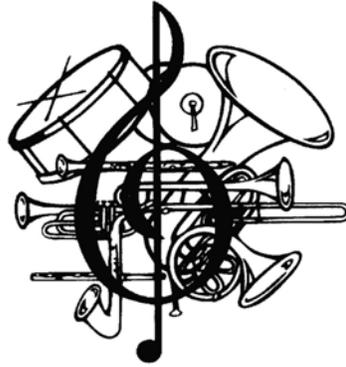
Rosso Music - *all repairs*
5600 Ritchie Hwy
Baltimore, Maryland 21225
410-636-1007

David Scianella - *trombone / brass repairs*
13709 Stoner Drive
Silver Spring, Maryland 20904
301-879-3064

Jim Tull Instrument Repair - *all repairs*
9566 North Laurel Road South
Laurel, Maryland 20723
301-776-2683

Music & Arts Centers - *all repairs, sales, instruction*
Chatham Station
Ellicott City, Maryland 21042
410-461-1844





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2015 - 2016

GMS BAND HANDBOOK

PARENT / STUDENT RETURN & COMMITMENT FORM

Please complete the following form and return it to Mr. Apple by the indicated date.

September 4, 2015

I have read the Guide to Glenwood Middle School Bands and will do my best to fulfill the Student Responsibilities. As a Glenwood Band Student, I also understand that my participation in a performance ensemble is a commitment to a team, and I will participate in all **required** performances. If I feel I have difficulties in continuing my commitment to an ensemble, I will discuss any problems with Mr. Apple, my parents and a Guidance Counselor before making any decisions that would effect any change to my Academic Schedule.

STUDENT NAME *(Please Print)*

INSTRUMENT PLAYED

- Oboe
- Bassoon
- Bass Clarinet
- Baritone Saxophone
- French Horn
- Baritone Horn / Euphonium
- Tuba

If your child plays a Howard County owned musical instrument, please check the appropriate box at the **left** so that a *Home Instrument* may be assigned to your child if needed.

I will send the loan agreement home to be completed by the student and the parent. School instruments are loaned on a first come first served basis.

REMEMBER, Only the indicated instruments are available to loan from Glenwood Middle School. All other students provide their own band instrument.

STUDENT SIGNATURE

PARENT / GUARDIAN SIGNATURE

As a parent /guardian of a Glenwood Band Student, I have reviewed this guide with my child and will help him or her do their best to be a successful student musician and member of the Glenwood Band Program. We have also reviewed the **Concert Dates Calendar** and placed all performance dates on the family calendar.