

**TRANSFIGURATION  
CATHOLIC SCHOOL**



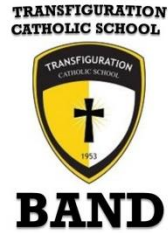
**BAND**

**BAND HANDBOOK**

**2019-2020**

**Table of Contents**

Welcome letter	3
Quick review sheet	4
Band tuition cost	5
Performances	6
Performance dates	6
Concert dress	6
Inclement weather	6
Ensembles and lessons	7
Beginning band	7
Black & Gold band	7
Jazz band	7
Small ensembles	7
Lessons	7
Ensemble and lesson meeting times	8
What to bring	8
What to have at home	8
Expectations	8
Instruments	9
How to get a musical instrument	9
Local places to rent/lease/purchase an instrument	10
Instrument insurance	10
Taking care of your instrument	11-12
Tips for parents	13
Acknowledgement form	14



Dear Parents and Students,

Hello! Welcome to the 2019-2020 Transfiguration Catholic School Band Program. My name is Mike McGuire and I am very happy to be here with you. This is going to be an exciting year!

I'm sure you have many questions. This handbook is intended to answer your concerns and to learn more about the band. Please take the time to review the handbook with your child/children before band starts. At the end of the handbook is a sheet for you to sign stating that you and your child have read and understand the handbook. If you have any additional questions, please feel free to contact me anytime.

That's it for now. I would like to close with something my college band director used to say at the start of every year, "We're glad you're here!"

God Bless,

Mike

Mike McGuire  
Band Director  
Transfiguration Catholic School

**P.S. Band starts the second week of school on Tuesday, September 10<sup>th</sup>.**

## QUICK REVIEW SHEET

**START DAY:** TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 10<sup>th</sup> at 7:45am with Black & Gold Band!

**CONTACT INFORMATION** Mr. McGuire's email: [mmcguire@transfigurationmn.org](mailto:mmcguire@transfigurationmn.org)  
School Office: 651-501-2220

**BAND TUITION COST:** \$500.00 for the year paid through TADS; ½ in fall and ½ in spring

**CONCERT DATES:** 2 fall and 2 spring concerts. Dates announced later in September.

**CONCERT DRESS:**

*Boys:* white button-down shirt (tucked in) with collar, black pants, black socks, and black dress shoes

*Girls:* white shirt, black skirt (knee-length or longer) or pants, and black dress shoes

*Pep rallies/field trips:* band t-shirt, jeans, white/black socks, and athletic or dress shoes.

**MEETING TIMES**

Beginning Band: 3:30 to 4:30pm T TH

Black & Gold Band: 7:45 to 8:45am T TH

One ½ Hour Lesson: 7:45-8:15am M, W, or F  
8:15-8:45am M, W, or F  
3:30-4:00pm M, W, or F  
4:00-4:30pm M, W, or F

**INCLEMENT WEATHER**

Delayed opening: Morning band times are cancelled.

Early dismissal: Afternoon band times are cancelled.

Concert cancellation: If school is closed for the day then the concert will be canceled.  
If evening weather prohibits a concert than an announcement/email will be made.

## **BAND TUITION COST**

The cost for the 2019-2020 school year is \$500.00. The \$500.00 tuition goes towards the following:

- \$100.00 non-refundable deposit
- music materials
- music software
- band t-shirt
- lessons
- band rehearsals
- possible field trip
- guest speakers
- band director's salary

	<b>Deposit</b>	<b>Fall Payment</b>	<b>Spring Payment</b>
<b>Payment date:</b>	September	November	February
<b>Amount:</b>	\$100.00	\$200.00	\$200.00

Tuition for the band program will be billed through TADS. Refunds are not given for students who do not finish a semester of band.

## PERFORMANCES

### Performance dates

There will be four ½ hour concerts for the year. Two will be in the fall and two will be in the spring. At the time of this printing the actual dates have not been finalized but you will be notified within the month of September of the actual dates. The concert dates should be approximately October 22<sup>nd</sup>, December 18<sup>th</sup>, March 3<sup>rd</sup>, and May 21<sup>st</sup>. These dates are not final.

### Concert dress

Proper concert appearance helps players have a successful performance. This year there will be required dress for all concerts.

*Boys:* white button-down shirt (tucked in) with collar, black pants, black socks, and black shoes

*Girls:* white shirt, black skirt or pants, and black shoes

For any pep rallies and field trips the dress will be band t-shirt, jeans, white/black socks, and athletic or dress shoes.

### Inclement weather

Delayed opening:	Morning band and morning lessons will be cancelled.
Early dismissal:	Afternoon band and afternoon lessons will be cancelled.
Concert cancellation:	An announcement will be made at the end of the day and/or via school email to parents on the day of cancellation. If school is closed for the day then the concert will be canceled. There will be a back-up day placed in the schedule to accommodate any weather cancellations.

## ENSEMBLES AND LESSONS

- Beginning Band:** Beginning band students learn the basics of music reading, playing an instrument, and playing in a group. Students are expected to practice what they learn at home for approximately 20 minutes a day for four to five days out of the week.
- Black & Gold Band:** This group is for students who have demonstrated competence on their instrument and can play separate parts from other players. Students in this group are expected to practice approximately 20 minutes a day for five to six days out of the week.
- Jazz Band:** This group is for students who are interested in improvisation and jazz, have competence on their instrument, and can play separate parts from other players. If there are enough students interested, jazz band will start this Spring.
- Small Ensembles:** Small ensemble includes a small group of students who want to learn how to play in a small group setting like a quartet which requires the ability to learn how to play a part different from other players. Small ensembles can feature a group of the same instruments or a group of different instruments playing together. This will require students to practice together outside of normal band times. If there are enough students interested, small ensembles will start in the Spring.
- Lessons:** Lessons are for an individual student or a small group of two to four students on the same instrument. Lessons allow for focus on the specific needs of the individual student.

## ENSEMBLE AND LESSON MEETING TIMES

Beginning Band:	3:30 to 4:30pm T TH
Black & Gold Band:	7:45 to 8:45am T TH
½ Hour Lessons:	7:45-8:15am 8:15-8:45am M, W, or F 3:30-4:00pm 4:00-4:30pm M, W, or F

## WHAT TO BRING

- Yourself
- Instrument and instrument case (make sure to label)
- Music Folder (make sure to label) with all your music
- Pencil
- Reed instruments: at least two good reeds, cork grease, cleaning swabs
- Brass Instruments: valve oil/slide oil
- Percussion: mallets and drumsticks (a stick bag is helpful), practice pad

## WHAT TO HAVE AT HOME

- All the items from the *What to Bring to Band* section above
- Quiet place to practice
- Music stand
- Metronome
- Access to smart music software
- Cleaning cloth

## EXPECTATIONS

- Show a genuine desire to learn to play your instrument.
- Show proper playing habits at both school and home.
- Show up on time ready to play.
- Take care of your instrument.
- Ask questions if you have any concerns.
- Behave respectfully in lessons, rehearsals, and performances.



## INSTRUMENTS

### How to get a musical instrument

School Inventory: The school has a limited number of instruments available for students to use. Students who were previously assigned one of these instruments last year will have priority in using them for this year.

You already have an Instrument: If you already have an instrument at home please have it checked out by a repair technician at a local music dealer before your child's first lesson. Any repairs should be taken care of before the start of band.

Rent/Lease: A good option is to rent a band instrument with the option of changing instruments if the student decides they would like to try something else. All monies toward renting the instrument can be used for purchasing the instrument later if that is something you would like to do.

Online shopping: Be careful if you online shop from places that are not a music store or instrument manufacturer. What they say you are getting and what you end up with may not be the same thing. Before you bid or buy online, print out all the information about the instrument and I will be happy to research it to see if it is a good deal.

Discount Stores: Stores like Target and Wal-Mart are not music stores. The instruments may look good, but they are not quality instruments. If damaged, these instruments are unable to be repaired by a technician. If the instrument comes in red, orange, green, blue, purple, or white chances are you do not want to buy it. These instruments will not be allowed in band. Please refer to the list below if you choose to get an instrument on your own.

Choose from the following brands:

FLUTE	CLARINET	SAXOPHONE	BRASS	PERCUSSION
Armstrong	Bundy	Bundy	Bach	Ludwig
Artley	Conn	Conn	Conn	Pearl
Gemeinhart	Evette	Holton	Getzen	Premier
Jupiter	Jupiter	Jupiter	Holton	Slingerland
Selmer	LaBlanc	King	Jupiter	Yamaha
Yamaha	Selmer	Selmer	King	
	Vito	Vito	Yamaha	
	Yamaha	Yamaha		

## Local places to rent/lease/purchase an instrument

This is not an exhaustive list for music stores, but it should give you a variety of places to check out.

### Cadenza Music

St Paul, MN  
(651) 644-3611

### Eckroth Music - Roseville

Roseville, MN  
(800) 543-8255

### Groth Music Company

Bloomington, MN  
(952) 884-4772

### Guitar Center

Oakdale Village Shopping Center  
Oakdale, MN  
(651) 578-0577

### Schmitt Music

Woodbury Village  
Woodbury, MN  
(651) 770-0091

## Instrument Insurance

It is a good idea to carry insurance on privately owned instruments. Usually this can be done as a ride on to your household insurance. The insurance company will need the brand name, model, serial number, and price/replacement cost. The school does not provide insurance for privately owned instruments.

## Taking care of your instrument

All the band instruments are VERY DELICATE, especially the woodwind instruments. DO NOT attempt to repair anything by yourself and DO NOT FORCE any joints together. It is very easy for some parts to bend or break causing even more damage to a band instrument. Please play it safe and let me know or take it to a repair location. Below are some general and specific care instructions.

### *FOR ALL INSTRUMENTS:*

Wipe your instrument down carefully every day. Keep your instrument case clean. Remember that you are responsible for all repairs.

If you think something is wrong with your instrument let me check it first before you take it to the repair shop.

### *FLUTE:*

Be sure to wipe out the flute after playing. Use a cleaning rod and handkerchief to wipe out the three individual parts. DO NOT use paper towels. Paper towels can get stuck in the flute and are difficult to get out. Do not let the flute get near water. It is not waterproof and water damage can result.

### *OBOE/CLARINET/SAXOPHONE:*

These instruments need cork grease. On the oboe it is applied to the two joint corks. On the clarinet cork grease is applied to all four cork joints. For the saxophone the grease is applied only to the cork next to the mouthpiece.

Swab out these instruments each time you finish playing. Moisture builds up rapidly in these instruments and can allow bacteria and mold to form. It can be very disgusting and unhealthy.

Keep your mouthpiece clean. The mouthpiece can be washed out with lukewarm water. Do not attempt to wash any other part of the instrument. Reeds need to be removed after playing to avoid moisture/bacteria growth on them and the instrument.

Always have at least two good playable reeds. You never know when one might chip and break. When starting out use a 2½ strength reed.

---

*TRUMPET/FRENCH HORN/TROMBONE/BARITONE:*

Mouthpiece – never force into the horn or twist it out if it gets stuck. Stuck mouthpieces need to be removed with a special device to avoid damaging these horns.

Oiling – only use valve oil specific to your instrument for your valves and/or slide. This valve oil can be purchased at a music store.

For the Trumpet, French Horn, and Baritone oil only one valve at a time to avoid getting the valves switched around accidentally. Add a few drops of oil to each valve not less than once a week. DO NOT USE TOO MUCH OIL.

For the trombone add a few drops of oil on the main slide each day. At the end of the week clean off the old oil with a soft cloth and add new oil. Be careful with the slide. It can easily dent and get misaligned.

Finally, on all brass instruments, be sure to empty out your spit. A spit-filled instrument will have a gurgling sound and can cause wear.

*PERCUSSION:*

*Snare:* Keep your snare off when not playing. Do not try to tighten your snare drumhead. This can cause damage and you may need to replace it.

*Bells:* Use only the appropriate mallets for the bells. Other mallets such as a drumstick may cause damage. The bars can damage easily if they are dropped so be careful if you must reset one back in the bell set.

## TIPS FOR PARENTS

1. *Show an interest in your child's band experience.*  
Listen to them play their instrument. Give lots of support.
2. *Encourage good playing habits.*  
Help them practice at a regular time in a quiet place each day. Make sure they have all the things they need for practicing.
3. *Help with instrument care.*  
If there is a problem with the instrument, please let me know.
4. *Help them to be responsible and on time for lessons and band.*
5. *Be patient.*  
Not all the first sounds you child makes on the instrument will sound pretty. I promise it will begin to sound better.
6. *Talk to me whenever you have any questions or concerns.*  
Mr. McGuire's email: [mmcguire@transfigurationmn.org](mailto:mmcguire@transfigurationmn.org)

**Transfiguration Catholic School Band  
Acknowledgement Form**

We have read and studied the contents of the 2019-2020 Transfiguration Catholic School band handbook. We understand the expectations and requirements for the year and agree to follow them to the best of our ability.

---

Student Signature

---

Date

---

Student Signature

---

Date

---

Student Signature

---

Date

---

Parent Signature

---

Date