Welcome to the Finley Middle School Band Program. Involvement in the performance of music is a valuable experience for many reasons. Through the processes of practice, rehearsal, and performance, students develop self-discipline, enhanced cooperation skills, and an increase in the ability to listen and follow directions. These skills can be carried over into many facets of their lives. It is our hope that your child’s involvement in school music performance will provide him/her with a solid foundation for a lifetime of rewarding musical experiences. The Music Department Handbook has been compiled as a reference for students and parents and will hopefully provide information and insight into the musical development process.

**Grading Criteria for Performing Ensembles**

**Group Lessons:** (40%) Group lessons are a requirement of all instrumental students. These lessons provide students with the opportunity to develop specific techniques through differentiated instruction. Attendance at group lessons is essential to student success both as an individual performer and a member of a performing group. In order to minimize disruption of academic instruction, lessons are scheduled on a rotating basis. Lesson schedules are distributed to students and posted in a central location for referral. The only valid reasons for missing a lesson are legal absence from school or a scheduled exam. It is the student’s responsibility, in consultation with the music teacher, to make up any missed lessons before the next scheduled lesson. **The importance of group lessons cannot be emphasized enough. Please keep in mind that 40% of the secondary music performance grade is derived from group lesson participation and preparation.**

**B. Rehearsals:** (40%) The student will be evaluated on the musicianship and quality of participation demonstrated during class and required after school rehearsals. Students are expected to perform specific parts, define terminology, interpret music as directed, follow the conductor accurately and demonstrate appropriate rehearsal behavior.

**C. Concerts and Performances:** (Concerts 10%, Dress Rehearsals 10%) Students are required to attend all performances and dress rehearsals scheduled for the group(s) in which they are enrolled. Although concert performance is not the entire focus of the rehearsal activities, it is considered to be a culminating event and an important part of the course work. Some performances may be scheduled after the year has begun. These may be concerts by special invitation, festival or adjudication performances. Students and parents will be informed of the specifics of these concerts to allow as much planning time as possible. The audience is a vital part of the concert. Please make every effort to attend your child's concert performances. Also, as a courtesy to all the students, please plan to stay for the entire performance.

**Conduct**

Music folders, instruments, and equipment should be stored in their proper places when not in use. The band room may be used for storage, but it is not a secure area. The district is not responsible for stolen or misplaced personal instruments. Please make sure your instrument case is clearly labeled at all times. Students are expected to treat teachers and fellow students with respect. Talking or playing while the band teacher is rehearsing is prohibited. Eating/chewing gum in class is prohibited.

**Practice**

It is essential that a regular and consistent quality practice routine is established and maintained. Practicing is homework for music class, and must be done on a daily basis in order to ensure success. Set goals for each practice session and always practice with a purpose in mind. Please aim for 100 minutes a week of focused practice. All students should find a well-lit and quiet place for practice in their home. A firm straight-back chair and music stand set at the correct height and position are essential for proper playing.

**School—Owned instruments**

A yearly fee of $40.00 is charged for the use and maintenance of the School-Owned instrument. The $40.00 fee will be waived if you are currently making payments on another school-owned instrument. The District assumes the responsibility only for the cost of repairs that are the result of normal wear and tear for all School-Owned instruments. When repairs are needed, let your teacher know immediately. Please make sure that instrument cases have a labels or name tag.

**Private Instruction**

Each student is encouraged to take private instruction. Private lessons are not remedial help, but they significantly help to develop your child’s talent to its fullest. A list of teachers is available from the Band Directors upon request.
Extracurricular Groups

Symphonic Band — The Symphonic Band is a select group of the top student musicians in both the 7th and 8th grades, accessible through audition only. Symphonic Band accepts all concert band instrumentation. Auditions take place in October. **Symphonic Band Rehearsals will be from 7:00am until 7:55am on Thursdays.**

Jazz Ensemble — The Jazz Ensemble is a select group of the top student musicians in both the 7th and 8th grades, accessible through audition only. Auditions take place in October. The following instruments are encouraged to audition for Jazz Ensemble: saxophone, clarinet, trumpet, trombone, baritone, drum set, mallets, piano, electric or acoustic bass, and guitar. **Jazz Ensemble Rehearsals will be from 7:00am until 7:55am on Wednesdays.**

Concert Information

**Concert Dress—Males**
Black Dress Shirt, Black Dress Pants, Black Shoes and Black Socks

**Concert Dress—Females**
Black Top, Black Skirt (below the knee) or Black Pants and Black Dress shoes

**Marching Attire—both Male and Female (Memorial Day Parade)**
Finley Golf Shirt (white) - to be purchased from the school for $13.00, Khaki shorts, White Sneakers
“Marching Lyre” — available at local music stores for the specific instrument

*Students are responsible for making sure their instrument is in good working order, they have a supply of reeds, valve oil, etc., and that they have all of the required music to be performed.*

Concert Band Activities

**WINTER CONCERT (HHS)**
Thursday - December 17th 2015. 7:30 P.M. *(Dress rehearsal is Monday evening, December 7th, 2015)*

**SPRING CONCERT (HHS)**
Thursday - May 19th 2016. 7:30 P.M. *(Dress rehearsal is Wednesday evening, May 11th, 2016)*

**BLUE DEVIL BAND OPEN HOUSE (HHS) (Mandatory for 8th graders. Parents are encouraged to come)**
Thursday, March 31st 2016. 6 – 9 P.M.

**MEMORIAL DAY PARADE (HHS)**
Monday morning - May 30th 2016. **Time TBA**

Additional Music Activities

**HONORS CONCERT – Symphonic Band and Jazz Ensemble (HHS)**
Thursday - March 10th 2016. 7:30 P.M. HHS Auditorium *(Dress rehearsal is Thursday evening, March 3rd, 2016)*

**DISTRICT WIDE CHAMBER ENSEMBLE CONCERT (FMS)**
Thursday – April 19th 2016 7 P.M. FMS Auditorium

**DISTRICT WIDE BAND FEST (HHS)**
Saturday - April 2nd 2016 HHS Auditorium 8 A.M. – 4 P.M.

**NYSSMA SOLO AND SMALL ENSEMBLE FESTIVAL (HHS)**
Thursday – May 12th 2016. 4 – 9 P.M. HHS

Please check the Finley Middle School Band eBoard for updated lesson schedules and pertinent information regarding our program at escarnato.Huntington.site.eboard.com
**J. Taylor Finley Middle School Band Contract**  
(Please separate this page and return by Friday, September 18th)

Student’s Name ________________________________

Parent(s) or Guardians Name ____________________

Home Phone _____________ Parent’s Cell__________

**Parent’s email address ________________________**

May I include this in a bulk email for communication regarding upcoming events?
Yes ______ No, I’ve already written down all events in my calendar! ______

Instrument ________________________________

Do You (Check one) Own ____ or Rent ____ your instrument?

If you own, Brand _______ Serial # _____________

*Please label your instrument clearly on the outside of the case*

**Memorial Day Parade Polo Shirt:**

Please CIRCLE your child’s shirt size **ADULT**    Sm.    Med.    Lg.    Xl.    **Shirt not needed** ____(I own one)

Please attach a $13.00 check (Made payable to “Finley Music”) for the Finley Band Shirt with this form.

As a member of the J. Taylor Finley Band, I have read and agree to comply with all of the set policies of the Band Information Handbook.

_________________________  ______________________  
Student Signature           Date

As parents or Guardians, we have read and agree to comply with all of the policies and responsibilities of the Band Information Handbook.

_________________________  ______________________  
Parent or Guardian Signature  Date

(Please separate this page and return by **Friday, September 18th**