

Band Handbook 2014-2015

Aims and Objectives: Create high standards of excellence through **Quality Performances**, Learn to **Appreciate** quality music regardless of its origin, Learn **High Levels** of self-discipline, responsibility and cooperation, Learn what it takes to **Enrich** one's life through the **Art of Music**.

Band/Choir Member: It is the responsibility of all members to be punctual to all rehearsals and performances. Come with a positive attitude, a willingness to learn and to work as a team.

Music Instructor: It will be my responsibility to also be punctual, come with a positive attitude and to work as a team. I will also, to the best of my ability, teach all aspects of music to every member of the band/choir.

Section Leader: The section leader is the primary spokesperson for the entire section. He/she is responsible for assisting the director by encouraging optimal performance and rehearsal standards. Section leaders are chosen by ability, attitude, and conduct. This individual would be 1st chair, 1st part. 1st chair 2nd part would be the "second in command" in the section and 1st chair 3rd part would be third in command. This ensures a well balanced band.

Band/Choir Room: This room **Must** be kept clean and organized at all times. This makes it easier to start rehearsals on time and a clean and organized room helps keep the pride, attitude, and confidence up.

School Instruments: These will be available to students upon request. There will be a nominal fee required of all students issued a school owned instrument to cover cleaning and repair costs. This includes percussion. There will be a checkout form that will be filled out and filed in the director's office. If an instrument is in need of repair contact the director immediately. Instrument rental booths from nearby music stores will be present at open house due to the low number of school owned instruments available. More information can be given on open house night.

Music: Each student will be given a numbered folder that they will be able to use for all rehearsals and performances. Each student is responsible for this folder and its contents. Any destruction of original parts the student will be financially responsible for replacing.

Concert Band: Each student is to come to rehearsal with their instrument in good working condition, a pencil, and a positive attitude. This group would perform in at least 2 concerts per year, more may be added at the director's discretion.

Pep Band: This group will perform at all home football and basketball games. This group will also perform at a certain number of home volleyball games. Every student in this group will be expected to be there for every performance.

Choir: Each student in this group is to come to rehearsal on time with a pencil and positive attitude. Students will be expected to bring a pencil and a positive attitude.

Rehearsals: Factors that contribute

1. Promptness of attendance
2. All equipment necessary for the rehearsal
3. Avoiding talking – except to discuss the music at hand
4. Proper posture for your instrument
5. No chewing gum or candy
6. No beverages other than water which must be in a closed container
7. Proper storage of equipment
8. 100% attention to director and music

Lessons: All 5-8 band students will be required to take lessons each week from Mrs. Backstrom. They will be 15 minutes and the student will be pulled from a class to attend. Lesson cards will be sent home each week to be signed by the parent. Lessons are for a grade!

Performances: Attendance is required at **All** public performances. Exceptions will be at the discretion of the director on an individual basis with at least 2 days notice prior to performance. Job situations will need to be arranged so that you will participate at each performance. **Dress code** at performances for high school students is concert black (unless otherwise notated). Please no jeans, t-shirts, tennis shoes, etc.

Grading: Grading is a way to measure your success in a given subject. Band is a subject that has many objective and subjective areas of judgment. An attempt is being made to combine the best of each area and allow the grades earned to reflect your best attempts.

Grades will be calculated based on the following:

40% Participation - includes being prepared for class, having all necessary materials, practicing music outside of class (homework!), and following classroom expectations.

20% Weekly Work - includes turning in short sentences each week about what the student is doing well and what they need to improve on (classroom "tweets"!). Also, once a semester, the student will be required to write a paragraph on a piece of music that they are performing. *Includes lessons

40% Performance - includes all performances throughout the year (formal and informal), this class is based on the principle of performance and it is essential that the students attend performances.

*Informal performances are generally limited to pep band and students must inform the director 2 days in advance in they cannot attend.

MUSIC

is a moral law. It gives

SOUL

to the universe,

WINGS

to the mind,

FLIGHT

to the imagination,

and charm and gaiety to

LIFE

and to everything.

-Plato

Calendar of Events:

September:

5 – FB Game
9 – VB Game
16 – VB Game
18 – VB Game
23 - VB Game
25 - VB Game
26 - Menno Band Day
30 - Coronation

October:

3 – Homecoming (Parade/FB Game)
9 – Parent/Teacher Conferences (2:30-8:00pm)
16 – VB Game
20 – VB Game
23 - All-State Choir Extravaganza
24 – VB Game
28 – FB First Round Playoffs
31 - All-State Choir

November:

1 – All State Choir...Sioux Falls, SD

December:

**16 – JH/HS Winter Music Concert
(report times TBA)**

January:

8 – GBB Game
13 – GBB Game
15 – GBB Game
22 – GBB Game

February:

2 – JH/HS Pops Concert
5 – GBB Game
9 – GBB Game
11 – Vocal Solo/Ensemble Contest
12 – GBB Game
26 – Parent/Teacher Conferences (2:30-8:00pm)
27 - GBB District 9 Tournament

March:

4 – Instrumental Solo/Ensemble Contest
26-28– All-State Band...Sioux Falls, SD

April:

1 – Large Group Contest

May:

**12 – JH/HS Spring Music Concert
(report times TBA)**

This schedule is subject to change at any time throughout the year. All report times will be given to the students at the beginning of each week (in case of changes or if not listed). **Report times are a half hour before the game begins!**

Acknowledgement Form

I have read and understand the Music Handbook and will do my best to follow the expectations and come to class with a positive attitude.

Student

Date

Parent

Date

*Please have this last page signed and returned by Friday, August 22nd.