

HASTINGS HIGH SCHOOL BAND HANDBOOK

Much of the most referenced information regarding the HHS Band Program is listed throughout the band website. Please take time to navigate throughout the various sections of the website.

The following information is not located elsewhere on the band website, and is important information for every member of the program.

"We are what we repeatedly do. Excellence, then, is not an act, but a habit." -Aristotle

Philosophy of the HHS Band

The aim of the Hastings High School Band Program is to create an environment that enhances creativity, develops musical sensitivity, builds music performance skills, nurtures social development and ensures student success.

Students will be challenged to create music of many styles, cultures and backgrounds. We provide the opportunity for students to develop discerning musical tastes and strive to instill a lifelong desire to appreciate quality music. As human beings, we are receptive to musical sounds. Sensitivity to self, others and our environment helps define our humanity. Music and the arts are uniquely positioned to promote sensitivity and enrich our lives. Students will develop a high level of musical performance aptitude and independent music performance skills. We provide an environment to enhance personal and group pride, responsibility, feelings of self-worth, social skills, camaraderie and community service. As successful experiences are necessary to create the opportunity for continued learning, we will always strive to create a positive and nurturing climate.

Parents have the opportunity to support their children's musical development by attending concerts, encouraging individual practice, volunteering to assist with music events, and/or becoming active members of the HHS Band Boosters.

"Music and rhythm find their way into the secret places of the soul." -Plato

Curricular Goals

As a result of participation in any HHS band, students will:

1. Develop musical performance skills including: characteristic tone production, technique, rhythmic accuracy, correct posture, breath support, proper embouchure, correct fingerings, intonation and articulation.
2. Stylistically interpret and perform music of diverse styles, cultures and backgrounds.
3. Recognize and interpret the vocabulary of music and music notation.
4. Demonstrate a basic proficiency in music theory, music history and, when appropriate, stylistic improvisational skills.
5. Develop the ability to aesthetically perceive and affectively respond to music.
6. Develop the knowledge to analyze and critique music and musical performance.
7. Develop and demonstrate independent musicianship skills.

Band Expectations

1. Be Prompt, Prepared and Organized

- Be in the classroom when the bell rings.
- Be in your seat ready to play by the time the director steps on the podium.
- Bring your instrument, folder, pencil, reeds etc. to band class every day.

2. Respect Yourself, Others, and Property

- Be respectful.
- Play only your instrument!
- Store your instrument, case and music only on designated shelves or cubbies.

- No food, gum, pop etc. is allowed in the band room. (Water is permissible.)

3. Be Verbally Considerate

- Observe the podium rule.

4. Strive for your Best Achievement

- "I can" is greater than IQ.

*"The difference between success and failure is your attitude.
Never give less than your best!"*

Co-Curricular Eligibility

All students must be registered for a curricular band at HHS to participate in any of the co-curricular band offerings. These include, but are not limited to, Marching Band, Jazz Ensemble, Pep Band, Solo and Ensemble Contest, Chamber Ensembles, Honor Bands (MBDA, All State, etc...). The only exceptions to this requirement are for Guitarist or Bass Guitarists in Jazz Ensemble (non-concert band instruments), Color Guard or Honor Guard in Marching Band, and accompanists for Solo and Ensemble Contest. **Band is a full year course and students must be registered for the entire year in a curricular band.**

Instrument Storage Area

To ensure the safety of your instruments:

- Write your name on your instrument case label.
- All instruments will be assigned a cubby in the band room.
- Have your instrument make, model and serial number recorded at home and listed on an insurance policy. (The school district is not responsible for insurance coverage on personal instruments.)
- Prior to leaving the band room, be sure that all of your music and equipment is put back in its place.

Minnesota State H.S. League Rules & Eligibility

All athletes, musicians and performing arts students in the state of Minnesota are required to abide by the MSHSL eligibility rules for MSHSL events (festivals and contests). HHS music students must meet the requirements under Category II - Fine Arts Activities. (See MSHSL.org for more details). All HHS music students must complete and sign a MSHSL eligibility contract, if participating in MSHSL events.

Instrument Repair

A representative from a variety of repair shops visits the school weekly. Please notify your band director to arrange a repair or inspection. Before sending in an instrument for repair, the following information is needed: student's name, parent's name, address & telephone number. The repair store will bill you directly. Repairs usually take approximately one to two weeks.

"People with goals succeed because they know where they're going." -Earl Nightingale

Helpful Practice Hints

Effective practice requires routine, discipline and attention to detail. The following tips will help maximize practice effectiveness and efficiency. Being prepared for rehearsals and lessons by practicing regularly will ensure a successful experience. Almost always, performance anxiety is related to lack of preparation.

- Select a place and time that will be free of interruptions or distractions.
- Have practice objectives in mind. Plan how you will meet your objectives.
- Set high standards.
- Check posture often; practice in front of a mirror.
- Establish a warm-up routine and stick to it - every time!
- Develop technical facility slowly and accurately. Speed without control is counterproductive.
- Use a metronome.

- Memorize scales and arpeggios in every key signature.
- Practice appropriate exercises, etudes and method book materials, but also choose “fun” music.
- Learn your instrument’s intonation tendencies. Test your ability to correct intonation problems by using a tuner.

“Use the talents you possess, for the woods would be very silent if no birds sang except the best.”

Band Boosters

All band parents/guardians and community members who are interested in supporting the HHS Band program are encouraged to be a part of the Band Boosters organization. The purpose of the booster organization is to maintain enthusiasm for band events, support fund raising activities and assist the band directors with band events. If you are interested in participating in the Band Boosters organization, please contact the band directors.

Band Trips

Every other year, 10th through 12th grade band students in any HHS band have the option to participate in a spring break music performance tour. This is an exciting activity that allows students to share their music in a different part of the world, travel with friends, and explore new and interesting places. Fundraising for this activity can begin when a band student enters high school. (Click the “**Fundraising**” button for more information).

Band Trip Fundraisers

Fundraising for band trips is an optional event for HHS band students. Typically, the band participates in two or three fundraisers per school year. Money earned through these fundraisers is deposited in a HHS school activity account in the student’s name. **MONEY IN THIS ACCOUNT CAN ONLY BE USED FOR BAND TRIPS AND PRE-APPROVED BAND-RELATED EXPENSES.** If a student does not participate in the band trip, money will be kept in that account for siblings. If there are no siblings, then the money will become part of the Band Boosters general fund and be used to support the HHS band program as determined by the Band Boosters board members.

“There is no short cut to a place worth going.” - Beverly Sills

Rental of School-Owned Instruments

I.S.D. #200 owns an inventory of essential band instruments that most students do not personally own. These instruments include:

TUBA
FRENCH HORN
BARITONE SAX
BASS CLARINET
PERCUSSION
BARITONE/EUPHONIUM
BASSOON
OBOE
TENOR SAX

According to district policy, the following fees shall be collected for students who play district-owned instruments in I.S.D. 200:

Grades 9-12, percussion maintenance fee of \$30/year.

Grades 9-12, school-owned instrument rent fee of \$55/year.

Rental Forms are distributed by WEEK #1 of SEMESTER 1, with full payment expected by the end of the second week of SEMESTER 1.

Checks should be made out to "Hastings High School".

Required Materials & Supplies

Students are required to purchase materials & supplies as listed on the "HHS Band Supply List" and "HHS Lesson Book List" located in the "Forms" section of the band website.

Consult your lesson teacher to verify the correct lesson book to be purchased if needed.

Many reputable music dealers throughout the Twin Cities sell band materials and supplies. Some of these include Schmitt Music (Burnsville or Edina Galleria), Eckroth Music (White Bear Lake) and Groth Music (Bloomington). For your convenience, a representative from Eckroth Music delivers orders and supplies to our school every week. Orders must be paid in full at time of delivery. Order forms are available in the front of the band room. The HHS band department has a limited supply of items on hand for emergency situations. Each month Eckroth has a special on various supplies. Students playing reed instruments are especially encouraged to take advantage of the reed special. (The reed specials usually occur at the beginning of the school year.)

Band Letter

Students who participate in band above and beyond the required expectations have the opportunity to earn a band letter. Exact criteria may vary slightly from year to year. The appropriate form will be available in the Spring.

Chair Challenges

Sometimes students play much better or worse during an audition than they might normally play. Or, perhaps a student might progress more or less quickly during the year than other students. If a student believes that chair placement from the audition does not accurately reflect his/her current ability, a chair challenge may be requested.

- A chair challenge may not be requested immediately after auditions in the fall.
- A student may only challenge the student one chair above their current chair in the same band.
- Scheduling of a challenge is subject to approval of the director of the performing ensemble.
- A challenge that results in changing chairs may not realize that change until after the next scheduled performance.

Chair Challenge forms are located in the "Forms" section of the website.

"If I were not a physicist, I would probably be a musician. I often think in music. I live my daydreams in music. I see my life in terms of music. ... I get most joy in life out of music." - Albert Einstein
