

7th/8th Grade Band Handbook

2018--2019

Welcome to band! We are excited to have you as a member of our band family. This handbook is intended to help you get a better understanding of the procedures of our band program. Students are challenged to grow musically both individually and as an ensemble. They are strongly encouraged to achieve their highest potential through guided rehearsals and individual practice. In order for this to occur, students must respect the band guidelines outlined in this handbook. All music classes are year-long commitments.

Performance Information

Attendance is **mandatory** at all performances. **Concert attire is black bottom, white top, dark shoes.**

Please mark these dates on your calendar.

Thursday, November 87th/8th gr. Band Concert.....HMS Auditorium..... 7pm
Friday, November 16.....7th gr. Exchange Concert.....Redwing MS..... school day
Thursday, February 7.....8th gr. Spotlight Extravaganza.....HMS Cafeteria..... 6 pm
Monday, March 25 All District Band Concert.....HHS Field House..... 7 pm
Thursday, May 30 7th/8th gr. Band Concert.....HMS Auditorium.....:7:30 pm

Please visit www.hastingsbands.org for more details

Rehearsal Expectations

- **Be on time and in your chair for warm ups**
 - Begins promptly 2 minutes after arrival bell
 - Take care of all personal needs before class (drink, restroom, etc.)
- **Be respectful at all times**
 - Realize that you are a member of a team and everything you do in rehearsal effects the rest of the ensemble
 - No individual has the right to disrupt the learning process of others
- **Have your materials at every rehearsal**
 - Instrument/supplies
 - Music Folder
 - Pencil
- **Come to class ready to learn/work**
 - Display positive rehearsal etiquette at all times (self-control of socialization)
 - Strive to improve every day

Consequences

1. Warning
2. Loss of rehearsal points/classroom detention and parents contacted
3. Referral to administration/parents contacted again

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Grades: A student's grade in band is a balanced reflection of musical achievement, technical skill on their instrument, band lesson attendance and positive rehearsal etiquette.

Band Lessons (25% of grade): Lessons are a fundamental part of a student's musical development. Each student will be required to attend 4 lessons per semester. Lessons are 15 minutes in length and are worth 50 points each. Students must bring their 3 ring band binder, lesson book and instrument to **each** lesson in order to get full credit for that lesson. Half credit will be given if materials are forgotten. Students must spend enough time practicing their lesson assignments so that there is noticeable progress.

Performance and Written Assessments (20% of grade): Students will be asked to complete a variety of written and performance assessments throughout the year. Points and format will vary depending on the concept being assessed.

Performance Attendance (20% of grade): The ensemble is like one big musical instrument. When ANY member of the ensemble is absent from a performance, it is like a piece of the instrument is missing. For this reason, even one missing musician can cause the performance to suffer. Therefore, it is **MANDATORY** that all students attend and participate in ALL performances given by their ensemble.

We have made a huge effort to schedule our performances around other school events that we know about. Occasionally, a conflict with another school activity may still arise. If you discover that one of your other school activities conflicts with a concert, it is your responsibility to immediately notify all parties involved in an effort to resolve the issue. Quite often, you will find that we have run into the same situation in previous years and can give you guidance. An **unexcused** absence from a concert will negatively impact the students overall semester grade.

Class Citizenship/Rehearsal Etiquette (35% of grade): This portion of the grade requires the student to develop their focus and self-control. Band is a participatory class so every student is expected to be **positively** involved in all aspects of rehearsal. Disruptive and disrespectful behavior cannot be permitted in our rehearsals because it hinders the growth of the **entire** ensemble. Therefore, all students need to understand the importance of being an active participant (team player) and remain focused during rehearsal. There will be some down time in between songs when students can let down and socialize, however, it is crucial that students refrain from socializing while we are rehearsing a song.

Students are also expected to strive to demonstrate proper playing technique, good posture and proper instrument and hand position at every rehearsal. Practice is a band student's homework. Just as in any other class, there should be some time allocated to practicing your instrument outside of class time. I fully understand that it is often very difficult to get into an "at home" practice routine. However, one of the best ways to compensate for that lost time is to work hard during rehearsal so you can take advantage of the instruction and continued repetition that happens at every rehearsal.

It is important that all instruments are in good playing condition. The student must notify the director immediately if their instrument is in need of repair so it can be taken care of. This will allow us to attempt to find a loaner instrument while the student's instrument is being repaired.

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