



CLASS ENSEMBLE HANDBOOK

Teacher Contact Information

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General Information

Concert Band, Symphonic Band, Percussion Ensemble, and Advanced Percussion Ensemble are performance based classes. Study will be focused around quality repertoire to develop student technique, creativity, and overall musicianship. Students will perform a variety of music at multiple concerts and events throughout the year. They are also expected to put in time on their instruments outside of class.

Required Materials

- Instrument

- Large instruments (tenor and bari saxes, bass clarinets, bassoons, French Horns, baritones, tubas, and percussion equipment) can be provided by the school. Students **MUST** take care of the equipment! They can take them home to practice as they please. When they are at school, school instruments are to be LOCKED in the assigned locker/room when not in use. Failure to follow these guidelines could result in repair bills or loss of instrument use. **It is HIGHLY recommended that students purchase their own mouthpieces – reach out to Conrad Music Service.**
- ***Percussionists MUST OWN a set of sticks/mallets*** for the various instruments they will be playing. The Innovative Percussion FP3 College Primer Mallet Pack is highly recommended and is only \$200. It includes 4 Medium Vibe Mallets, 4 Medium Marimba Mallets, Xylo/Bells Mallets, Brilliant Xylo/Bells Mallets, General Timpani Mallets, Hickory Concert Snare Sticks, and a Mallet Bag (everything you'll need for all 4 years of playing!) At a minimum, students need 4 marimba mallets, a pair of vibe mallets, a pair of bell mallets, and a pair of sticks.

- Folder/Binder

- Empty Conrad Music folders are available in the band room – there is a drawer full of them. Binders work best!

- Music

- Will be passed out each concert cycle. NEVER DISPOSE OF MUSIC UNTIL TOLD TO DO SO. Sometimes we will play a piece again for another occasion.

- Pencil

- REQUIRED AT ALL REHEARSALS!!!!!! Don't come to class without a pencil!!!

- Computer with Microphone

- To be used at home or during EDGE to record assignments.

- ALL BLACK dressy concert attire

- Boys – black dress shoes, black dress pants (no shorts or jeans), black shirt (with collar and buttons). Black jackets and ties are optional.
- Girls – black dress shoes (no flip-flops), black dress pants or long black skirt (no shorts, jeans, or short skirts), black shirt (no spaghetti straps)

Grading

Concert Band & Symphonic Ban

Music Potential Grade	20%
Playing Assignments/Practice Logs	25%
Seating/Repertoire Tests	25%
Performances	30%
Total:	100%

Percussion Ensemble & Advanced Percussion Ensemble

Music Potential Grade	30%
Playing Assignments/Practice Logs	35%
Performances	35%
Total:	100%

Music Potential Points

The “Music Potential Grade” involves students playing outside of class and/or expanding their musical knowledge. They get points for participating in other ensembles, practicing, auditioning for prestigious groups, going to concerts, preparing solos & ensembles, taking lessons, completing music theory packets, helping middle schoolers, etc. Symphonic Band & Advanced Percussion Ensemble students need **900** points and Concert Band & Percussion Ensemble Students need **400** points. Students can reach their point totals however they prefer. A list of how to earn points is included. Points are not due until the end of the year. However, students should start collecting points early!

Students can earn bonus points for going over the requirement. Every 50 extra points = 5 bonus points attached to their weekly playing assignments (up to 50 points.)

Practice Logs

Generally, each month, students will have a practice goal they must hit. These are minutes students can accumulate during EDGE time as well as before or after class (just not during class time or other official rehearsal time.) Students must record their minutes via a digital log and turn them in each month for a grade.

Playing Assignments & Seating Tests

SmartMusic will be used for weekly playing tests, seating/repertoire tests, and general practice. Each student’s subscription is purchased by the school. Students will create a log-in ID and password within in the first couple weeks of school. SmartMusic can be accessed through any computer or device with Internet access. If a student does not have Internet access at home, they’re allowed to use the computers in the band room, band office, or practice room before/after school or during EDGE times to complete their assignments. (Band room hours are posted on the door.)

ALL ASSIGNMENTS MUST BE SUBMITTED VIA SMARTMUSIC. Not only does the school spend a lot of money to give students access, but this software is an AMAZING tool that will help you become a better musician. It is suggested that students purchase an exterior microphone (the Kjos instrumental mic is recommended and only \$10.) Other microphones will work, but exterior mics are most accurate.

Seating Tests must be turned in by the due date to be considered for chairs. They can and should be retaken as many times a student desires up until the concert where we first perform the piece. Grades will change, but chairs will not until the next seating test. Weekly assignments are due by midnight Saturday after being assigned. Students who turn them in on time, but do not receive an A, will have the assignment reassigned are allowed to continue working.

Required Rehearsal & Performance Schedule

All dates are on the calendar. Required performances are filled in BLACK with white font and required rehearsals are filled in GRAY with white font. Make sure you check if it's for CB (Concert Band), SB (Symphonic Band), PE (Percussion Ensemble), or APE (Advanced Percussion Ensemble.)

Performances are what we work towards – they are the culmination of everything we do. **Students are not allowed to miss a performance!** Extra-curriculars, sports, work, and homework are NOT excuses to miss a performance (there's only 4-5 a year.) In case of emergency, Mrs. B must be contacted as soon as possible.

All full band performances include a required after school rehearsal before the concert. This after school rehearsal is the only opportunity for the winds and the percussion to practice together before the performance. Students ARE excused from the after-school rehearsal in the event that it conflicts with another extra-curricular activity they are involved in. However, they MUST let Mrs. B know at least 24 hours in advance that they will be missing. Work, homework, appointments, etc. are NOT excused. Percussionists must let Mrs. B know they cannot attend the rehearsal BEFORE parts are assigned!

ALL performances, except for State Concert Festival, are at North Oldham HS. Exact Dates can be found on the calendar.

November – Fall Concert

Concert Band, Symphonic Band, Percussion Ensemble, & Advanced Percussion Ensemble. Requires after school rehearsal.

December – Winter Concert

Concert Band, Symphonic Band, Percussion Ensemble, & Advanced Percussion Ensemble. Requires after school rehearsal. This concert is shared with the middle school bands.

February – Chamber Concert

Concert Band, Symphonic Band, Percussion Ensemble, Advanced Percussion Ensemble, & Jazz Band. NO after school rehearsal required. This is a performance of pieces students will be playing at Solo & Ensemble Festival.

March – Solo & Ensemble Festival, Festival Preview, & District Festival

Solo & Ensemble Festival

Concert Band, Symphonic Band, Percussion Ensemble, & Advanced Percussion Ensemble. NO after school rehearsal required. This is an all-day event and student performances can generally be scheduled around any unavoidable conflicts. However, DO NOT plan an out-of-town trip this weekend!!

Festival Preview Concert

Concert Band, Symphonic Band, Percussion Ensemble, & Advanced Percussion Ensemble. Requires after school rehearsal. This concert is shared with the middle school bands.

District Concert Festival

Concert Band, Symphonic Band, Percussion Ensemble, & Advanced Percussion Ensemble. No additional after-school rehearsal required. CB & PE should be during the school day, with SB & APE shortly after school. We are hosting this event and will need volunteers to help run the event.

May – State Concert Festival & Prism Concerts

Prism Concerts

Concert Band, Percussion Ensemble, Symphonic Band, Advanced Percussion Ensemble, Jazz Band, & Winter Guard. Requires after school rehearsal.

State Concert Festival

Concert Band, Symphonic Band, Percussion Ensemble, & Advanced Percussion Ensemble (pending qualification). No additional after school rehearsal required.

May/June – Graduation

Concert Band, Symphonic Band, & Advanced Percussion Ensemble. NO after school rehearsal required.

This date is not set until the end of March – because of that, if an unavoidable conflict arises, an alternate assignment is available. Depending on how much rehearsal time is available at the end of the school year, there may or may not be an after-school rehearsal for this event.

Volunteer Performances/Groups

There are several other opportunities for students to perform and further their music education. These are all worth Music Potential Points (except for the spring trip.)

Spring Trip (March)

Every year the bands take a trip that involves a performance in a truly unique venue. The bands have performed in Walt Disney World, Universal Studios, Chicago, Atlanta, St. Louis, and New Orleans in recent years. This trip is voluntary and paid for by the students though there are some fundraisers that help offset the cost. All students are encouraged to attend and financial assistance is available. More information about the spring trip is available at a parent meeting in the fall.

Marching Band (July-October)

Our marching band is comprised of students 8-12 that would like to develop their musicianship further out on the marching field with an added visual element. The marching band performs at all the home football games and various competitions throughout the fall season. Sign-ups are in March for the following year.

Basketball Pep Band (November-March)

The pep band performs at around 8 home basketball games and all basketball tournament games (boys and girls.) They play current pop tunes and favorite oldies to entertain the crowd between game action.

Jazz Band (November-May)

The jazz band is for students wishing to further their music education in the area of jazz. It is comprised of a rhythm section (drum set, bass, guitar, and piano), saxophones, trumpets, and trombones. Students that do not play these instruments are welcome to learn one to join. The jazz band performs at the Chamber Concert, the Prism Concert, and occasionally at the Holiday Concert.

Musical Pit Orchestra (January-April)

The pit orchestra performs as part of the musical. This activity puts students in a professional atmosphere and students rehearse and perform all parts of the original musical books.

All-District/All-State

Students can audition in November to be a part of the prestigious KMEA District 5 All-District Bands & the KMEA All-State Bands. These are some of the highest honors a high school musician can achieve and all students are encouraged to audition. Audition music is available at the start of the school year and students can receive Music Potential Points for just auditioning as well as making the ensembles. There is also an All-District Jazz Band students can audition for.

College Honor Bands

Students can participate in various college honor ensembles by being nominated by their band directors and selected for participation by the host ensemble director. We have participated at UofL, NKU, and WKU over the years.

Private Lessons

ALL STUDENTS are HIGHLY ENCOURAGED to take private lessons. They are not just for the struggling musician, nor just for the advanced musician – they are for ALL musicians of ALL levels. Private lessons offer students individualized instruction that will help them reach new heights on their instruments.

Private lessons are the only way that certain instrument specific techniques can be mastered, such as vibrato, double and triple tonguing, altissimo playing, etc. and these techniques are essential to being the best we can be. The more students in private lessons, the better ensembles we will have. It is very difficult to receive a top chair or place into the top ensemble without private lessons.

We consistently have about 50% of our students taking lessons, and we need to get that number higher!! My goal is to get at least 70% of our students studying privately!!! A list of instructors is included. Every student I know who studies privately ENJOYS IT and becomes a stronger musician because of it!

Rehearsal Expectations

Students not abiding by these expectations could be removed from rehearsal or a performance without opportunity of making up the points. A referral could go to the principal or a contact made to the parent depending on the infraction.

Be present and be on time.

- Students receive 3 minutes from the class bell to get their equipment set up and get a drink. There is no excuse for students to not be in their chair, with their instrument, music, and pencil on time. We have a limited amount of class time and must use it efficiently.

Be prepared for rehearsal.

- Know all your music – practice outside of rehearsal! Success takes time, including individual time put in outside full-group rehearsal. We are in class to REHEARSE as a group, not practice as individuals. Practice at home!
- Be certain equipment is always in good working order. If there's a problem, let a staff member know so they can fix it properly. Please do NOT try to fix equipment yourself!

Be actively and intently involved in the rehearsal.

- Your only focus during rehearsal should be the objectives the ensemble is trying to achieve. No one in this ensemble is ever perfect in performance – work hard and constantly push yourself further. There is to be no unnecessary talking or cell phone/tablet use. If a staff member is working with a small group of students, you

need to stay alert so you are ready when called upon. An instruction that has to be given twice robs the group of rehearsal time and focus. Don't rob us all because you are not paying attention.

The proper attitude during rehearsal affects the value of that rehearsal.

- Be cooperative. Even if you don't understand the purpose of a rehearsal activity, have confidence that your staff has your best interests in mind and execute as you are asked – do not question or talk back.
- Offer encouragement to your peers instead of criticism. It takes a lot of pats on the back to erase the sting of a kick in the pants. Do NOT complain if someone is messing up – HELP THEM. Be a friend, not a dictator!

As a performing ensemble, every single member of our band is important. To be successful, we must work together at all times. These expectations are in place to ensure that your hours of hard work pay off. It takes EVERYONE'S full participation to put on a great concert – giving any less than 110% effort is disrespectful to your teammates.

Parent Expectations

Volunteering – Parent volunteers are a constant necessity to a successful band program. Parents are used to sell tickets, chaperone, transport equipment, help fundraise, etc. There will be opportunities for you to sign up and help the band. We realize that parents have various schedules that may prevent them from helping in certain capacities, but there are several options and you should be able to find a role that works for you. This group cannot be successful without the amazing support of our parents. Please help in any and all ways you can! Here is our SignUp link for this year: <http://signup.com/go/vSkfdzE>

JOIN THE BAND APP!



**RECEIVE REMINDERS ABOUT REHEARSALS, ASSIGNMENTS DUE,
PICTURES/VIDEO FROM PERFORMANCES, HAND-OUTS & VARIOUS UPDATES.
MESSAGE OTHER MEMBERS AND STAFF AS NEEDED! QUICK ACCESS TO
INFORMATION!!**

CONCERT ENSEMBLES: <https://band.us/n/a5af7399o0jfo>

(PARENTS & STUDENTS)