

Hortonville Middle School BAND MANUAL

IMPORTANT DATES FOR 2016-2017

Monday, September 12, 2016: Weekly Lessons Begin

(The lesson schedule will be posted for students and given to classroom teachers no later than September 8th.)

Tuesday, December 6, 2016: Band Concert in the HHS Auditorium

Thursday, January 12, 2017: Combined HMS/HHS Pep Band (7th/8th graders only)

Saturday, March 4, 2017: Solo/Ensemble at Seymour (7th/8th graders, optional)

Friday, March 10, 2017: Band Concert in the HHS Auditorium

Tuesday, May 9, 2017: HMS/GMS Band-O-Rama performance in the HHS Fieldhouse

Welcome to the 2016-2017 school year!

We hope that you and your family had a wonderful summer. Contained in the following pages is everything students and parents need to know about middle school band. After reading, please sign this page and return it to your band director by **Friday, September 9, 2016**.

Thank you!

I, _____ have read and discussed this band manual with my parent,
(student name)

_____. I understand the expectations and agree to follow them.
(parent signature)

Hortonville Area School District

Music Mission Statement

The mission of the Hortonville Community School Music Program is to serve the needs of all students by providing experiences and opportunities which prepare them for producing and consuming the arts in a global society.

Music Boosters

The primary function of the Music Boosters organization is to promote music in our schools. This volunteer group of parents and friends provides assistance to all HASD directors with their contributions of time, fundraiser money, and moral support. New faces are always welcome at Music Booster meetings.

If you are interested in working with this group, or simply want more information about them, please ask your child's director.

Contact Information for Mr. Manley & Mrs. Juhl

Mr. Manley

HMS Phone Number: 920-779-7922, Ext. 27129

Email Address: larrymanley@hasd.org



Class website: www.hasd.org/faculty/LarryManley

Mrs. Juhl

HMS Phone Number: 920-779-7922, Ext. 27122

Email Address: stacyjuhl@hasd.org



Class website: www.hasd.org/faculty/StacyJuhl. On Mrs. Juhl's website, you can find a lot of class information including recordings of our concert songs, instrument care information, note-naming practice, and a link to the HMS Band YouTube Channel.

CLASSROOM BEHAVIOR EXPECTATIONS

1. Be respectful of others' learning.
2. Arrive on time, be seated quickly, and follow the posted agenda.
3. Follow directions the first time without argument.
4. Keep hands, feet, and instrument to yourself.
5. Maintain appropriate instrument volume. (*no blasting, honking, or pounding*)

GRADING

In band class, our focus is on **mastery of essential musical knowledge and instrumental performance skills**. Each quarter, students will be assessed on weekly skills checks, scales, concert music, vocabulary knowledge, and concert performance skills. **Students may re-take any assessment that does not earn a proficient score by making arrangements with their band director.**

For performance skills, we use rubrics to assess each student's work. The four proficiency levels are:

4 - WOW!	3 - GOT IT	2 – ALMOST	1 - NOT YET
<p>I can perform ("check off") my concert song(s) and scale(s) PERFECTLY.</p> <p>I can identify, define, and perform the learning target(s) of the assigned playing test musically and with no mistakes.</p> <p>I consistently demonstrate proper posture, hand position, breathing and/or sticking technique.</p>	<p>I can perform ("check off") my concert song(s) and scale(s) with only a few small mistakes.</p> <p>I can identify, define, and perform the learning target(s) of the assigned playing test.</p> <p>I consistently demonstrate proper posture, hand position, breathing and/or sticking technique.</p>	<p>I can perform ("check off") my concert song(s) and scale(s) but with frequent mistakes.</p> <p>I can identify and define the learning target(s) of the assigned playing test, but cannot consistently perform it accurately.</p> <p>I need reminders to consistently demonstrate proper posture, hand position, breathing and/or sticking technique.</p>	<p>I cannot perform my concert song(s) and scale(s) without frequent errors and/or stopping.</p> <p>I cannot identify, define, or perform the learning target(s) of the assigned playing test.</p> <p>I need repeated reminders to consistently demonstrate proper posture, hand position, breathing and/or sticking technique.</p>

Concerts are a summative activity and students are expected to be at all scheduled performances. If some *highly unusual* circumstance prevents a student from performing with the group, a written note or E-mail needs to be sent at least two weeks before the performance. If a student is ill the day of a performance, please contact the band director via phone or E-mail as soon as possible.

Performing with a group in a concert setting is an essential standard in band class. Therefore, **students who miss the concert for any reason MUST complete a performance-based make-up assignment.** The make-up assignment will be as follows:

Together with at least one other person, prepare 20-30 minutes of music and arrange to perform somewhere in the community (nursing home, senior center, day care, youth group, your church, etc...). Help in finding or preparing the music is available from your band director—just ask. Videotape your performance and submit it to your director.

PRACTICING

There are no shortcuts on the road to success; practicing is an ESSENTIAL part of being in band. All students should be practicing at least five days AND a minimum of 100 minutes per week. The purpose of practicing is:

1. To develop and maintain embouchure—face and lip muscles—strength.
2. To develop and maintain neural connections between the brain and fingers/wrists/arms/etc... which are essential for proficient playing skills.
3. To review concepts and playing skills taught in class and in lessons so that these can be applied to new situations such as playing tests, concert songs, and lesson book or solo literature.

An ideal practice session of 20 minutes would have 5 minutes of warm-up exercises, 10 minutes focused on the weekly lesson assignment, and 5 minutes of “free choice”—music your child wants to play just for fun.

When your child practices, you should hear:

- *Warm-Ups, including long tones, lips slurs, and/or scales*—The purpose of these exercises is to improve tone quality, build range, and master frequently-used finger patterns.
- *Clapping and Counting*—Clapping while counting out rhythms (similar to sounding out words when learning to read) will help with coordination of motor skills and rhythmic understanding.
- *Note-naming*—Students can read lines from the music by saying the note names out loud. That can also be done while fingering the notes being named.
- *Book Assignments, Playing Tests, and/or Concert Songs*—as noted on the practice/grading sheet.

When your child practices, you shouldn't hear:

- *Clowning Around*—Although I encourage students to look ahead and read new music, they shouldn't make obviously poor sounds on their instrument.
- *The Same Song Over and Over Again*—Students like to practice the music they know best. While there's nothing wrong with playing their favorite song at the end of each practice session, the majority of time should be spent mastering NEW skills.
- *Long Periods of Silence*—Note naming, studying vocabulary, and writing rhythms are all acceptable forms of practice; however, students should be playing their instrument MOST of the time.

Even parents with no musical knowledge can still support their child's practice! Do this by

- *Providing a quiet and distraction-free place for your child to practice.* Your child's practice area should have a chair and music stand, their music and instrument, and a pencil.
- *Helping your child establish a daily practice habit.* Spoiler alert—many students do not like practicing. Thank you in advance for your encouragement (gentle or otherwise ☺).
- *Asking questions.* Ask about his/her most recent lesson, how many concert songs have been "checked off", or what is giving him/her trouble right now. You can even let your child teach you music vocabulary terms, how to read notes, or how to count rhythms.
- *Encouraging performances.* Set up times for your child to perform music for you or for other family members and friends. Encourage him/her to show off newly mastered songs and skills.
- *Telling your child how proud you are of his/her hard work.* Practicing can be frustrating sometimes and success will not come instantly. Encourage your child to stick with it. These lessons in persistence and perseverance will last a lifetime!

Instrument Supplies and Prices

Reeds

We strongly encourage all clarinet and saxophone players to purchase a box of reeds through the school whenever that player gets down to three or less reeds. We can get an excellent price from the music store (up to 40% off) because we purchase in large quantities. Students may still purchase reeds “one at a time,” but at regular store prices. Please make checks out to **Hortonville Middle School**.

Clarinet	\$20 per box (10 Mitchell Lurie reeds) -	\$2.50 each individually
Bass Clarinet	\$4 each	
Alto Sax	\$33 per box (10 Vandoren reeds) -	\$3.50 each individually
Tenor Sax	\$23 per box (5 Vandoren reeds) -	\$5 each individually
Bari Sax	\$5 each	
Oboe	\$13 each	

(Some of the following items will need to be ordered - based on student need)

Mouthpieces

Mouthpiece Pouch \$6
Bach 5C Trumpet \$48
Bach Trombone/Baritone \$64
Holton French Horn \$49
Bach Tuba \$77
Rousseau 4R Classic for Alto Sax \$79
Selmer Alto Sax S80 C*--current school price
Selmer Tenor Sax S80 C*--current school price
Selmer Clarinet C85 115--current school price

Lubricants

Leblanc tuning Slide Grease \$2.75
Cork grease \$1.50
Al Cass or “Blue Juice” valve oil \$4.50
SuperSlick Slide Cream \$3
Trombone spray bottle \$2

Cleaning

Saxophone Neck Swab \$3.75
Sax Hanky Swab \$4
Trumpet Snake \$4
Trombone Snake \$4.25
Valve Brush \$4
Brass Mouthpiece brush \$1.50
Woodwind Mouthpiece brush \$1.50
Clarinet Hanky Swab \$3.75
Flute Cleaning Rod \$3.00

Polish Cloths

Silver Polish Cloth \$7

Reedguards

Clarinet Reedguard (4 reeds) \$4.50
Alto Sax Reedguard (4 reeds) \$4.50
Tenor Sax Reedguard (4 reeds) \$4.50
Bari Sax Reedguard (4 reeds) \$4.50

Misc.

Sax or Clarinet Mouthpiece Cushion \$1.50
Clarinet thumb cushion \$1.25
Neotech Neckstrap \$18
Marching Flip Folder \$5
Marching Lyres \$5
Additional windows \$.75 each
Korg TM50 Tuner/Metronome \$30
Wire Folding Music Stand \$11
Band Folder \$.50 each

Books

Standard of Excellence Bk 1 \$6.50
Standard of Excellence Bk 2 \$6.50
Standard of Excellence play-along CD set \$3.50
Rubank Elementary or Intermediate Method \$5
Rubank Advanced Methods \$5.50
The Performing Percussionist Book 1 \$11

CARE OF INSTRUMENTS AND RENTAL AGREEMENT for SCHOOL-OWNED INSTRUMENTS

CARE

As directors, we cannot reinforce the importance of instrument care enough. A band instrument is a large investment, and if cared for properly, it is one that should last the entire time a child is in school and beyond. All students have the ability to prolong the life of their instruments.

Flutes, Oboes, Clarinets, and Saxophones should swab out their instruments after every use. Clarinets and Saxophones are also encouraged to scrub their mouthpieces with mild soap once per week. The swabbing and scrubbing process will help keep moisture off the pads and will prolong instrument life (plus improve the appearance and smell).

Brass instruments should oil valves/grease slides once a week or as often as needed. These instruments should be completely cleaned in the bathtub once every three months. Students should have a cleaning snake, mouthpiece brush, valve brush, and slide/cork grease to use for the purpose of cleaning. If you do not know the proper cleaning procedure, please ask!

RENTING SCHOOL INSTRUMENTS

Tubas, baritones, and French horns are available for rent through the school. The rental agreement and fee request are as follows:

DEAR PARENT:

Hortonville Middle School is happy to be able to supply your child with a school owned instrument. As with any kind of equipment, maintenance is needed to prolong the life of an instrument and ensure its proper playing condition. Cleaning for one brass instrument can cost up to \$80 per year and repairs cost extra. To help off-set this cost, we ask parents to pay a yearly rental fee.

The annual rental fee will be **\$120 for tubas & \$80 for baritones and French horns**

In addition to the rental fee, mouthpieces will need to be purchased by the students. For those who do not already own a mouthpiece and rubber case, the costs are as follows: **Tuba-\$77; Baritone-\$64; French Horn-\$49**

Please make out checks to "Hortonville Middle School." Rental and mouthpiece fees—along with this page—should be turned in to your director by October 7th. THANK YOU!

\$_____ rental fee + \$_____ mouthpiece purchase (if applicable) = \$_____ total check enclosed

(Parent Name)

(Child's Name/Instrument type)

(Grade)

Solo/Ensemble Participation

Each year a number of band and choir students participate in Solo and Ensemble Festival either on their own or with groups of varying sizes. Solo/Ensemble is open to all 7th & 8th graders. 6th graders may participate with an invitation from one of the band directors.

Solo/Ensemble is an activity ABOVE AND BEYOND the student's regular playing assignments. **It requires extra practice time and a strong commitment.** Music is chosen in collaboration with the band director, following the guidelines laid out by the Wisconsin State Music Association (WSMA). There are several different levels of music difficulty and the director will help his/her students find something that is appropriate for their skill level.

Every participating school is responsible for a number of different fees including entry and medal fees, judge's fees, piano accompanist fees, and WSMA fees. All student participants are asked to help offset this cost. This year, the fees will be as follows:

Participation fee \$8.00 per student per event for solos & small ensembles
\$5.00 per student per event for conductor-led large ensembles
Accompanist fee \$20.00 per event (This fee will be divided among all ensemble members.)

Solo/Ensemble fees are NON-REFUNDABLE after HMS has officially registered for the festival. Registration typically takes place one month before the event.

CHAIR ORDER/PART ASSIGNMENTS

Every student in band is important to the sound of the group. We are a team and are all equally responsible for the outcome of every rehearsal and performance!

Chair placement and part assignment is based upon each child's playing test results and lesson assignments from the previous school year. Throughout the year, the director may move seats, re-arrange assigned parts, and rotate students within the section depending on the demands of each concert song. There are no chair "challenges".

JAZZ BAND

This group is for 6th-8th graders who play saxophone, trombone, trumpet, drum set, guitar, bass guitar, and piano. Jazz Band auditions are before/after school during the second week of September. Interested students may pick up practice materials as soon as school starts. Auditions are "blind"—the director listens to the students with his back turned and does not know who is playing. It is assumed that students who piano, bass, guitar, and drum set are receiving professional instruction outside of HMS.

Jazz Band rehearsals are Wednesday & Friday mornings at 7am. Jazz Band is a co-curricular activity and is affected by the ineligible list.

DRESS CODE

A group that sounds good should also look professional when performing for an audience. Therefore, **students will wear their red, long-sleeved band shirts, black pants, and dark shoes and socks to every performance.** If you need a band shirt, please fill out and return the order form below. *These shirts are worn for all four years of middle school band, so you may want to order a size bigger in order to allow for growth.*

Band Shirt order form

The long-sleeved shirt cost for 2016-2017 is \$15.00. Please fill out the information below and make checks payable to *Hortonville Middle School*.

Available Sizes are Youth L or XL and Adult S, M, L, XL. Sizes tend to run big, but shirts are 100% cotton and do shrink slightly over time. Students are welcome to try on a shirt before buying.

Student Name

Grade

Parent Signature

Size (please circle one): YOUTH L YOUTH XL ADULT S ADULT M ADULT L ADULT XL