



High Meadows

Band Parent Handbook

Director:
Jimmy West

<http://my.highmeadows.org>

HMS Band Mission Statement

We, the members of the High Meadows Band, proudly dedicate ourselves to fulfilling our artistic potential. In the spirit of our founding members, we represent our band program in a positive way as we achieve the **Highest Musical Standards** while acquiring life skills in an enjoyable, productive environment.

BAND VALUES

COMMITMENT

“Success is not measured by what we start, but rather by what we complete.”

Joining the band is a YEARLONG commitment.

In band, every student is expected to play an entire composition from beginning to end. Even though there may be errors in the performance, you would not see an individual simply stop and put their instrument away. The important qualities of tenacity and persistence establish habits for a positive and productive way of living. Success breeds success in every avenue of life. Therefore, a successful and well-trained musician will tackle life with the knowledge of “what it takes to get there,” and the wisdom of “what it brings to life.”

ATTITUDE IS THE KEY

The key to individual and group success and achievement in any quality organization is the ATTITUDE of its' individual members. The willingness to cooperate with the directors, clinicians, and other students involved in the program while working toward the group and individual self-improvement goals are essential. There will be times when students will be asked to place the needs of the group above personal wants and desires. At those times, the individual dedication and willingness to make sacrifices are an important part of a student's commitment to the band program and fosters personal life-learning skills.

GOAL OF THE HIGH MEADOWS BAND PROGRAM

To develop PRIDE in each individual, and throughout the entire program.

Perseverance
Respect
Integrity
Discipline
Excellence

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RESPONSIBILITY TO THE PROGRAM

MEMBERS' RESPONSIBILITY TO THE BAND

Every student should check the band website regularly.

Beginning Band and Advanced Band are part of the daily school curriculum, and student progress will be assessed each term on the narrative report.

- Every student is expected to strive towards personal improvement on his or her chosen instrument through daily practice.
- Every member of the band program assumes certain responsibilities simply by being a student in band class. Unlike your other classes, everything you do affects every other person in the ensemble, as well as how the community perceives the group.
- It is expected that all of the students enrolled in a band class attend ALL concerts.
 - When an individual misses a performance, it has the potential to have an extremely devastating effect on a band's performance due to their missing part. It is similar to a quarterback missing a football game or a championship game.
- Excused absences are defined as:
 - Personal illness or family emergency.
 - Death in the family.
 - Mandatory High Meadows School event.

A note from a parent/guardian is required for any absences as soon as it is known the band member will be missing the event.

PARENTS' RESPONSIBILITY TO THE BAND

Every parent should check the band website regularly.

Beginning and Advanced Band are part of the daily school curriculum, and student progress will be assessed each term on the narrative report.

- It is the responsibility of every parent and guardian to see that the policies outlined in this handbook are followed.
- Each parent is responsible for their child's attendance at all band performances.
 - If a student must miss a concert due to illness or family emergency, an email from the parent or guardian should be sent to the Directors as soon as possible.
- Anytime an instrument is taken to the repair shop, please email the Directors letting them know how long your child will be without their instrument.
- Brass players should still bring their mouthpieces to school and buzz all their music to continue muscle development and maintain endurance while their instrument is in the repair shop.
- Encourage and monitor your student's progress on their instrument.

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ENHANCING THE MUSICAL EXPERIENCE

BENEFITS OF PARTICIPATION

For Your Child

- *Problem Solving
- *Teamwork
- *Goal-setting
- *Concentration
- *Poise
- *Self-Expression
- *Coordination
- *Memory Skills
- *Self-Confidence

For Your Family

- * Music event attendance
- * Family music making
- * A sense of accomplishment and pride for the family

HOW YOU FIT IN

Band is a class during the school day for all members, and will be assessed each term on the narrative report.

Parent support is an essential element in your child's success with music study.

SCHEDULE PRACTICE TIMES.

Music achievement requires effort over a period of time. You can help your child by:

- Providing a quiet place for practice.
- Remaining nearby during practice times as often as possible.
- Scheduling a consistent, daily time for practice.
- Praising your child's efforts and achievements.
- Making sure your child's instrument is always in working condition.

CONCERT POLICY

ATTENDANCE POLICY

ALL CONCERT PERFORMANCES ARE MANDATORY.

There are three excuses for missing a performance:

1. Personal illness or family emergency,
2. Death in the family,
3. Mandatory school event.

Every student is a vital member of the team effort, and an absence not only affects the person missing but everyone in the band. Each individual contributes to the overall performance of the band. When one part is missing, it can sometimes have a negative impact on the band's performance.

Enclosed in this handbook are all concert and rehearsal dates for the entire school year. Please enter them into your calendar.

CONCERT ETIQUETTE

Because performance is a major objective of any band program, concert etiquette is an essential element of all concerts, whether you are the performer or the listener. Concert etiquette should be learned and practiced at every concert and event.

- There should be no talking or whispering during a band's performance.
- At the conclusion of each selection, the audience should applaud. Shouting is NOT appropriate.
- Do not make negative comments about any group's performance, regardless of your impression.
- Everyone should remain seated during the performance of each selection. If one must leave during a concert, they should quietly exit and return between musical selections.
- You are always expected to conduct yourself as a lady or gentleman at all times. Always remember that you are a representative of your school and the community.
- **REMEMBER, YOU NEVER GET A SECOND CHANCE AT A FIRST IMPRESSION!**

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DEVELOPING MUSICIANSHIP

PRACTICE TIPS

Every student should practice a **MINIMUM** of 10 minutes every day. They should try to practice at the same time every day in a quiet place where there won't be any distractions. Parental support will go a long way to encourage your student while the unusual sounds first emitted from their instrument become more pleasant to the ear over time. Just like anything in life, the more effort a student puts into learning their new instrument, the better they will become.

- Ask your child to show you what they learned in band each day.
- Have your child teach you how to play as they learn themselves.
- See if you can keep up with your child throughout their band career.

Students who are consistent with their practice habits will gain confidence in their abilities as a musician.

PRIVATE LESSONS

It is strongly recommended that all band students study privately on their chosen instrument. The first year is usually the most critical year developmentally, and the extra attention to detail with a specialist on their instrument will enhance your student's potential as a musician. The Directors will always strive to give as much individual attention to each and every student in the band program. However, due to the time constraints and the size of the band program, each individual will not get the attention that is desperately needed in the beginning.

Private lessons will enable your child to excel on their instrument at a faster rate, and keep your student developing at their level. Each and every student that takes private lessons will also improve the overall quality of the band program. The success of every outstanding band program depends on the quality of the players as well as the determination of the band students to go the extra mile. Top school band programs across the state consistently have large numbers of their students studying privately.

As sixth, seventh and eighth graders, your child will have the opportunity to audition for All-State and District Honor Band. Almost every student who makes these ensembles has studied privately since their first years of band.

A suggested list of private instructors is listed on the music department website.

INSTRUMENTS

PRIVATELY OWNED INSTRUMENTS

Band instruments require periodic check-ups and adjustments, just like a car requires routine maintenance. An instrument that needs a “tune-up” can hinder your student’s progress and ability to play music. All cleaning kits have detailed instructions with care and cleaning. Whenever your child is ill, please have the brass students wash their mouthpiece in mouthwash nightly to kill as many germs as possible. Woodwind players who are ill may soak their reeds in mouthwash and clean their mouthpiece each night to kill the germs.

INSTRUMENT SUGGESTIONS AND ACCESSORIES

I recommend using Big Note Music for Rentals. <https://www.bignotemusic.com/>

In general, brand name instruments are always better than off-brand instruments. The instruments being sold at discount stores are not brand name instruments! The purchase of discount store instruments is **Not Acceptable**, as service on them is difficult to find, if you can find it at all.

FLUTE:

A name brand like Yamaha or Gemeinhardt, student model.

CLARINET:

Wood clarinets are better quality than plastic, but a plastic student model clarinet is suitable, especially for beginners.

Recommended Mouthpiece: Vandoren B45 or V-5 or a Selmer C Star

Recommended Ligature: Rovner or Bonade inverted ligature.

Recommended Reeds: 5 Vandoren size 2 ½ reeds and reed guard.

ALTO SAXOPHONE:

Recommended Mouthpiece: Yamaha 4c

Recommended Ligature: Rovner or Bonade inverted ligature.

Recommended Reeds: 5 Vandoren size 2 ½ reeds and reed guard.

Recommended Neck Strap: Upgrade to a padded one.

TRUMPET

Recommended Mouthpiece: Bach 7C, Schilke 16 or equivalent. *Trumpet with a trigger or saddle.

TROMBONE / EUPHONIUM:

Recommended Mouthpiece: Bach 6 ½ AL or equivalent. Slide grease, water bottle

TUBA:

Recommended Mouthpiece: Bach 18 and a mouthpiece pouch.

PERCUSSION:

- includes:
- Snare drum and bell kit
 - All percussionists will need to purchase a drum kit that
 - Drum pad that can be mounted on a stand.

All percussionists will need the following sticks, mallets and accessories:

- Vic Firth SD 1 Drumsticks
- Medium hard rubber mallets or yarn marimba mallets
- Stick bag

It is important that all percussionists write their name in permanent marker on their drumsticks and mallets.

REHEARSALS

EXPECTATIONS

- Every student is expected to bring their instrument to EVERY rehearsal.
- Every student is expected to bring their music binder to EVERY rehearsal.
- Every student is expected to arrive to rehearsal ON TIME and have their instrument assembled and ready for the first downbeat of rehearsal.
- Every student is expected to behave in an attentive and respectful manner during rehearsals.
- Every student is expected to practice daily for a minimum of 10 minutes.

REHEARSAL SCHEDULE

Beginning Band:

- Monday through Friday at 12:05AM, beginning September 26th

Advanced Band will rehearse:

- Monday through Friday at 11:05AM, beginning September 26th

REQUIRED METHOD BOOKS ***New this year***

Beginning BAND

- Essential Elements, Book 1

ADVANCED BAND

- Books are provided

Books can be purchased at a local music store or online on Amazon or at www.jwpepper.com

<http://my.highmeadows.org>