

John Hersey High School

2008-2009 Band Program Handbook

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Philosophy

The John Hersey High School Band Program has played an important role in the academic lives of our students since the school opened in 1968. The band has represented the school and community at such famous venues as the Rose Bowl Parade, the Orange Bowl Parade, the Cotton Bowl Parade and MidWest International Band and Orchestra Clinic. Recent accolades include two invitations and performances at the National Concert Band Festival and an unprecedented eight consecutive invitations and performances at the Illinois Superstate Concert Band Festival. Last December our Symphonic Band was one of five featured high school bands from across the nation invited to perform at the MidWest Band and Orchestra Clinic. Their performance inspired a standing ovation which led to our invitation to perform in the French Riviera next summer. Offering full academic credit in a variety of ensembles, band teaches crucial life skills such as discipline, confidence and leadership. Band is part of the school curriculum because it realizes three of the most important aims in the formal education of our students: the development of hand, head and heart. The development of these aspects is the cornerstone of the American educational system and is essential to the physical (hand), technical (head) and emotional, and social (heart) growth of our students. Band is also a part of our curriculum because of the unique, expressive symbol system (language) that it represents. The importance of understanding this means of expression warrants band, and other music instruction, as an essential part of the school's course offerings.

In the John Hersey High School Bands, our curriculum encompasses not only achievement in musical performance, but also understanding classic works of music as well as very basic composition concepts. The Symphonic, Concert and Cadet Bands are the core of the program. All students must participate in one of these three ensembles in order to participate in any other ensembles offered. All Freshman are immediately placed in the Cadet Band (except for percussionists) at the beginning of the year and can move to Symphonic Band through an audition process that begins in November.

In addition to the curricular portion of this offering, the band plays an important role in the community and in the school by performing at community events, at school functions and at athletic events. These performances are opportunities to showcase the talent of our students and program to a public who may not attend a concert. Students should understand the importance of these extra school performances as a necessary service to community and school. These performances are an extension of the classroom and they are also reflected in the student's grade, as explained in the Music Department Grading Policy.

It is the intention of the John Hersey School Band Program that every student will have at least two opportunities to participate in a major tour (at least three nights) during their four years of high school. These tours provide exciting opportunities for music performances while challenging students to adapt to a variety of cultural, political and social settings. Previous trips have included Europe, the Bahamas, New York City, Indianapolis, Washington D.C and Disney World.

John Hersey High School Music Department Grading Policies

The following grading policy will be in effect for the school year and represents a general policy for the Music Department at John Hersey High School, including all instrumental and vocal ensembles. Each musical ensemble will define the policies further to meet specific expectations. The following policies have been approved by all music program directors and JHHS administration.

Habits of Work (40%)

"Habits of work" is a broad idea that encompasses such criteria as daily preparedness and responsibility. Students are expected to make daily improvements in their abilities and work habits. Musical ensembles will define this area further to meet specific expectations unique to their ensemble. An unexcused absence from a rehearsal (during school or outside of regular school hours) will affect this portion of the semester grade.

Testing (30%)

Regular testing will take place in each ensemble as prescribed by its director.

Performances (30%)

This portion of the student's grade is based on attendance. It is expected that every student be prepared both technically and mentally for each performance. The primary focus of daily rehearsals is to prepare for performances. Therefore, the penalty for an unexcused absence from a performance will be significant and appropriate. Each musical organization's performance is judged by our school, community, our families and, in some cases, judges. One person's absence affects the entire ensemble's performance. You will have a schedule of events well in advance; take care of problems before they happen!!

Unexcused absence from a performance - loss of 30% of grade

Excused Absences

In order for an absence from a rehearsal or performance to be excused, a note or phone call from a guardian must be received, reviewed and approved by the director as soon as the student knows of the conflict. In the case of an unavoidable emergency, a note or phone call must be received on the student's first day back to school or rehearsal. Notification as early as possible allows the ensemble to make adjustments so that every other student, and the program, is not affected. You will have a schedule of events well in advance; take care of problems before they happen!! Jobs will not be excused. The only excuses that will be accepted after performances will be those involving unavoidable emergencies and sickness.

* Percentages above will be adjusted to incorporate Final Exam grades each semester.

2009-2010 Schedule

Attendance

Please examine the enclosed calendar carefully to avoid conflicts. Work schedules, other non-school activities, and family trips must not interfere with the schedule. Students that enroll in other school activities such as athletics, choir, drama, etc. need to plan ahead to resolve unavoidable conflicts. **Ask to receive a complete semester calendar from all of your activities so that you can have the maximum amount of time to work out potential conflicts.** The Director of Bands will work together with other teachers, coaches, directors of various activities to work out conflicts. Each student will be given every opportunity to participate in other activities. Other groups, organizations or businesses that may change schedules or make demands of students on short notice should not interfere with the JHHS Band long term plans. Similarly, any short notice changes in the Band schedule should not affect other activities' long term plans. Non-school sponsored activities, teams, organizations, jobs MUST NOT CONFLICT WITH THE PERFORMANCE SCHEDULE OF THE BAND.

Discipline

Discipline is a quality that must come from within the individual. Because of this fact, each student is responsible for his or her own actions as a member of the JHHS Band. Any student who shows an inability to work effectively in class may be re-assigned to another non-music class at the discretion of the Director.

The Band is governed by School Board policies anytime we are together for any band function whether it involves all students or only one. The General Release form that you sign at the end of this handbook will be in effect throughout the year for trips related to Band. Any student that violates school rules while with the JHHS Band will be subject to all official school disciplinary action. ***In addition***, those students will be subject to dismissal and will not continue to perform or travel with the band.

Rehearsal Etiquette

All members will be present in their seats or in "block band" (marching band) at the designated time for rehearsal. This simple procedure involves each member arriving 10 minutes before the scheduled after-school rehearsal time. They should assemble equipment and music, take their place in the rehearsal setup and perform their personal warm-up or work on "trouble spots" in the music to be rehearsed. During regular class, five minutes will be allotted to assemble equipment, find their spot and go through their personal warmup.

All talking and warm-up should cease when the Director steps on the podium. During the rehearsal you will be expected to give your undivided attention and cooperation to the Director. When rehearsing of individual sections takes place, all other sections should sit quietly and listen to instructions being given to that section. Stops happen to advise individuals and sections on problems that are heard during the rehearsal. Unnecessary talking cuts down on the effectiveness of the rehearsal and it wastes all of our valuable time. Pencils are required at each rehearsal.

Percussion Expectations

1. If you do not have a part to play during a band rehearsal, sit quietly out of the way of those that are playing.
2. Each item has a storage area and should be in that location when not in use.
3. Use the proper equipment for the proper instrument.
4. If something is broken or missing, advise the Director immediately so that the problem can be fixed.
5. Big equipment can be left out after rehearsal, all other equipment is to be put away before leaving the band hall.
6. Under no circumstances is any item of percussion equipment to be removed from the premises.
7. Percussion students are expected to own their own set of mallets and equipment, as described below. These items will be bulk ordered in the Fall for any percussionists that are interested in participating at that time.

Band Newsletter

Each and every student should receive the band newsletter every month during the regular school year, except December. This newsletter contains important information from the Director of Bands as well as from our booster organization, the Hersey Instrumental Association. Most importantly, **any changes from the original schedule will be indicated in this newsletter. Students are responsible for any schedules printed in the newsletter.** If the newsletter is not being received, it is the student's responsibility to notify the Director, so that address changes can be made. Extra copies of the newsletter will be available in the band hall. In addition, if an email address is provided, the Director's portion of the newsletter will be sent home via email, as well.

Pep Band

The Pep Band plays a vital role to promoting school spirit, good sportsmanship, and a sense of pride in the community. The Pep Band will perform at 8-9 boys and girls basketball teams from November through February. A "core" group will be assembled of students wishing to perform at all home games. In the event that all instruments and parts are represented by the core group, all "Non-core" students will be required to commit to two basketball games of their choice. If all instruments and parts are not represented by the "core" group, all other "non-core" students will be required to commit to 3-4 games. This component of the Band Program is an important part of each student's commitment. Members are expected to wear the appropriate band T-shirt for all performances.

Uniforms

Band students at John Hersey High School represent the entire school and community when performing at games, concerts and festivals. The overall appearance of our Band members communicates the level of pride that we take in our program, school and community. It is crucial that uniforms for all ensembles reflect this pride.

JHHS Marching Band Uniform

The JHHS Marching Huskie uniform will be kept in the JHHS Band Hall. In addition to the school uniform provided, students will need to furnish the following parts:

1. Black shoes that should be purchased from the Hersey Instrumental Association at cost. Everyone will wear the same matching uniform shoe.
2. Black socks will be furnished by the student. No patterns; all black.
3. Black gloves that can be purchased from the Hersey Instrumental Association at cost. Flute and clarinet players should cut finger tips to gain appropriate control of their instruments.

Also, the following guidelines should be followed in wearing the uniform:

1. Absolutely no jewelry or makeup should be worn by boys or girls, including earrings.
2. Absolutely no makeup, including fingernail polish. Drill team will wear face makeup.
3. Hats are to be worn with the front brim directly over the eye brows.
4. The entire uniform is to be worn at all times, unless directed by Mr. C.

A cleaning fee of \$6-\$12 will be assessed each student for a uniform cleaning during marching season. Cleaning of marching uniforms will be organized and processed by the Hersey Instrumental Association.

JHHS Concert and Symphonic Band Uniform

Students in the Symphonic Band and Concert Band will wear formal concert clothes at all home concerts, contests and festivals. The school will provide a tuxedo to boys and uniform dress to girls. Each student will need to furnish:

1. A white tux shirt with wing collar for boys
2. A medium (2") black bow tie for boys
3. Boys - Black dress shoes and black dress socks (no patterns)
4. Girls - Uniform dress shoes will be purchased through HIA.
5. Girls - black hose

Band Classes

Symphonic Band

This ensemble is the top performing group comprised of students who have shown superior performance abilities. This ensemble will perform at top state and national music festivals and will work with outstanding professional musicians who are asked to guest conduct. This group combines with the Concert Band, Percussion Ensemble, and Drill Team to form the Marching Huskies during Football season through the beginning of October. After Marching Band, Symphonic Band performances occur 4-6 times from November through May. 100% of the students in this ensemble study privately, and most participate in Solo/Ensemble, and audition for District Band. In the event that the music calls for additional attention, sectionals may be called outside of class time.

Concert Band

This ensemble has two purposes. The first is to provide an outlet for students who have not reached an advanced level of performance and have no intention of reaching that level, but enjoy participating in music and playing their instrument. The other purpose is to serve as a training band for those students interested in eventually reaching an ability level allowing them to audition into Symphonic Band. This group combines with the Symphonic Band, Percussion Ensemble, and Drill Team to form the Marching Huskies during Football season. After Marching Band, performances occur 3-4 times from November through May. 75-80% of students in Concert Band study privately and participate in Solo/Ensemble. In the chance that the music calls for additional attention, a few sectionals may be called before school.

Cadet Band

ALL FRESHMAN SHOULD BE ENROLLED IN CADET BAND. This ensemble rehearses and performs with the Concert Band and will occasionally rehearse and perform separately. The purposes and commitments of this ensemble are identical to the Concert Band, as described above.

Percussion Ensemble

All percussion students should be enrolled in "Instrumental Ensemble", as it is stated in the Curriculum Guide. This class, because of the lunch hour placement, allows students to move between rehearsing with the band to which they are assigned and working separately in the Cabana Steel Club (steel drum band) and/or Percussion Ensemble. They also are part of the "Marching Huskies" in the Fall.

Marching Huskies

The Marching Huskies provide entertainment for all home Football games and are competitive, as well. 5-8 marching band performances occur from August through October. At least one of these performances will happen on a university campus. This ensemble begins rehearsing at four to six non-mandatory rehearsals in June prior to the Fall season. Mandatory band camp begins two weeks prior to the first day of school. Once school begins, all students will practice one evening a week to avoid conflict with athletic practice. "Shared spots" may be assigned to some students based on conflicts with rehearsals or performance struggles or may be a result of instrumentation constraints. Students sharing spots alternate marching the same coordinates in rehearsals and performances.

Jazz Ensemble I

Jazz Ensembles provide students with an outlet to explore the history and performance of the jazz idiom, America's "Classical Music". Jazz Ensemble I is a select top performance group that will participate in festivals throughout the State of Illinois and the Midwest. Approximately 3-6 performances will occur throughout the school year. This ensemble meets daily as a class, and students receive graduation credit for their participation. Every interested student must be a member of the Symphonic Band, Concert or Cadet Bands, except for guitar players.

Jazz Ensemble II

Jazz Ensemble II will provide students with an opportunity to perform Jazz music and, if desired, allow them to improve skills with the intention of eventually moving to Jazz Ensemble I. This ensemble is a full year ensemble and students receive graduation credit for their participation. They will rehearse one day a week in the Fall and Spring. During the "competitive season" they will rehearse (usually) on Tuesday and Thursday after school, 3:00-4:30. Every interested student must be a member of the Symphonic Band or Concert Band, except for guitar players.

Pep Band

A volunteer core group of 30-40 students will represent the band program at 7-9 basketball games (December through February). In addition, all students in band will sign up to perform at two basketball games of their choice within the three month basketball season.

Student Fundraising

Students will be asked to participate in fundraising throughout the year. The majority of profits from most fundraisers will be deposited into the student's "account" which can be used to pay for trips. This student account will be managed by the Hersey Instrumental Association Treasurer. **PROFITS FROM ALL FUNDRAISERS ARE VITAL TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE BAND PROGRAM!** The portion of profits designated to HIA are used to fund the Band Awards Banquet, scholarships, clinicians, trip chaperones, the monthly newsletter and misc. equipment. **In addition, each student will be asked to contribute at least one advertisement to the Chicagoland Band Festival program book. 20-40% of all ad revenue is given to the student's account.**

Recommended Instrument/Accessories List

It is recommended that high school students do not use their "beginning band" instrument past the 8th grade. Those instruments are designed for smaller bodies and are built to withstand the physical abuse that young students may inflict on them. Better quality instruments enable all students to learn more quickly and with greater ease. They are a necessity for each student to reach their full potential. The instruments and accessories listed below are recommended:

Flute: Yamaha 581, 581H
Oboe: Loree
Bassoon: Fox or Renard
Clarinet: Buffet R-13, Van Doren M13 Mouthpiece, Rovner Dark Ligature, Van Doren reeds
Saxophones: Selmer SA-80, Larry Teal mouthpiece
Trumpet: Bach Stradivarius 180S (43 bell), 3C mouthpiece or larger
French Horn: Conn 10D or Holton H181
Trombone: Bach 42BO, Bach 61/2AL or 3C Mouthpiece
Percussion: Stick bag with snare sticks, assorted mallets and pitch pipe

Supplies

All students should have the following supplies/accessories for their instrument:

Brass: A quality metal Straight Mute (trpt, tbn), and cup mute (trpt, tbn, fh) , cleaning cloth, cleaning snake, mouthpiece brush, valve oil or slide cream, tuner and metronome
Woodwinds: Cleaning cloth, swabs, 6 or more good reeds at all times (keep a good reed separated for performances!), tuner and metronome
Percussion: Snare sticks, timpani mallets, xylophone mallets, stick bag (all brands and types to be specified in the Fall)

Use of School Owned Instruments

A limited number of the more expensive instruments are owned by School District 214 for the purpose of balancing instrumentation and maintaining performing bands. All normal maintenance and repair costs will be borne by the school district. **However, in the event of negligence on the student's part (in the opinion of the Director of Bands), a bill will be sent to the student/parents and they will be asked to cover the expense.** Such repairs as dents, misalignment of keys due to improper care, etc., will be covered by the student.

Band Letter Point Credit

Students will have the opportunity to earn a letter utilizing the following system:

Awards:

Letter/Bar: 30 pts.

Trophy: 40 points in one year

-Students must complete an entire year in band.

-Points are cumulative.

-Point sheet is filed each year by Mr. C

-5 points will be subtracted for failure to attend concert performance for any reason.

Four Points:

9 10 11 12

All-State Wind Player(Band/Orch. /Jazz)

Solo at S/E Festival - I Rating

Private Lessons (at least entire school year)

Three Points

Concert Band Festival - I Rating

Symphonic Band Festival - I Rating

State Marching Festival - I Rating

Jazz Festival - I Rating

Solo at S/E Festival - Excellent Rating

Symphonic Band Member

Color Guard Member

Ensemble at S/E Festival - I Rating

Drum Major

Jazz Ensemble I

Pep Band Core Group

IMEA All-District Wind Player(Band/Orch. /Jazz)

Two Points

Concert Band

Ensemble at S/E Festival - II Rating

Concert Band Festival - II Rating

Symphonic Band Festival - II Rating

State Marching Festival - II Rating

Jazz Festival - II Rating

Jazz Ensemble II

District 214 Honor Band/Orchestra

Allerton Wind Symposium

Pep Band Leader

Musical Pit Orchestra

Band Pres, V.P. and Secretaries

Librarian

Orchestra Winds

Small Ensemble (other than contest)

Section Leader

One Point

Elected Officers(other)

Drum Line

Steel Band

Percussion Ensemble

Director's Points (0-5)

TOTAL

Football Game Etiquette

- 1. STAY INVOLVED IN THE GAME.** It is easy to forget that a football game is actually taking place! When the team scores a touchdown, we will play the school fight song (after the extra point attempt). We will perform pep tunes throughout the game and the drum line will be playing as well.
- 2. Fourth quarter:** The band supports the football team for the entire game. Everyone will be obligated to perform at two fourth quarters during the Fall season. A signup sheet will be posted before the first home game. Students performing in the fourth quarter will report to the stadium immediately after changing out of their marching uniform. They should have their instrument, flip folder and lyre with pep band music when they report.
3. Stay with the band the entire game. Students are to remain in the bleachers, away from the fence.
4. Unless you purchase soda for the entire band, do not have family or friends purchase this or any other concession items until the third quarter.
5. If you need to use the rest room, ask an adult for permission. No abuse of this rule - we need to know where you are at all times.
6. Make sure that you have your flip folder and lyre with you at all games. You will not need them for competitions. You should have pre-game and pep band music in them.
7. **ONLY BAND MEMBERS SIT WITH THE BAND!!!**
8. Throw your garbage away.

Individual Growth Opportunities

One of the important goals of our program is the development to the individual musician to the limit of his/her potential. To assist in reaching this goal, *we strongly recommend participation in the following activities:*

Applied Private Instruction

Excellence and achievement can be directly related to the quality of **individual private instruction**. The achievement of the JHHS Band Program and the students that choose to participate can be directly linked to participation in private lessons. Over 90% of students audition in to Symphonic Band annually study privately and more than half of the Concert Band annually study privately. **Private instruction is offered as enrichment, not remedial instruction**. It is highly encouraged for the complete development of each student's potential, but it is not required. A recommended list of private lesson teachers will be available in the Fall. Most instruments have a private teacher available to them at JHHS. Cost of the private lessons is borne by the individual.

Illinois High School Association Solo and Ensemble Contest

This takes place the first Saturday in March and results in non-competitive ratings and medals. All students taking private lessons should participate in a solo or ensemble. This activity is an IMPORTANT part of our year and is important to the development of individual independence and confidence.

Illinois All-District Band

This activity involves the finest students from schools in the Northwest suburbs and is the first step in advancement to All-State. All students must pass a preliminary audition with the Director before they are allowed to audition for this activity. Only 16 students from each of the 70+ schools involved are allowed to audition. Auditions will occur the second Wednesday in October and the District festival will occur the third Saturday in November. The top chairs from All-District will be selected to participate in All-State and will then audition for placement in either the All-State Band or All-State Honors Band in January.

John Hersey High School Bands

Information Sheet

Please print

Last Name _____ First Name _____

08-09 Grade _____ Instrument(s) _____

Parent's names _____

Father's Vocation _____ Mother's Vocation _____

Home Mailing Address _____

City _____ Zip _____

Home Phone (____) _____ Father Work Phone (____) _____

Mother Work Phone (____) _____ Parent Cell phone (____) _____

Parent e-mail address _____

Student e-mail address (if different than parent) _____

Private lesson teacher _____

Other anticipated school activities _____

PLEASE READ THE HANDBOOK CAREFULLY BEFORE SIGNING BELOW

"We have read the JHHS Band Handbook and our student has our permission to participate in the Band activities as described in this handbook within the guidelines described. We understand that our student is responsible for all performances and rehearsals as printed in the Band Newsletter."

Parent/Guardian Signature _____

"I have read the JHHS Band Handbook and agree to abide by the policies stated. I realize that failure to follow policies or directions will result in disciplinary action that could lead to dismissal from the JHHS Band. I understand that I am responsible for attending all performances and rehearsals as printed in the Band Newsletter."

Student signature _____

Date of both signatures _____

SIGN AND RETURN THIS FORM AND THE RELEASE FORM. KEEP ALL OTHER PARTS OF THIS HANDBOOK.

General Release

This document will be used for every band event throughout the summer and school year.

(if you have already turned in the 2009-2010 release form,
do not return this portion of the handbook)

Student Name _____ Sex: M F

Phone _____ Age _____

Physician _____ Physician Phone _____

Hospital _____

In case of emergency, attempt will be made to contact a parent at home or at work. In the event that a parent can not be contacted, please list an alternate:

Alternate name _____ Phone _____

Relationship _____

Please list any medical conditions that we should be aware of (i.e. asthmatic, diabetic, epileptic, etc.):

Please list any allergies or allergic reactions to medication: _____

Please list any medications the above student is now taking: _____

Date of most recent tetanus shot: _____

Permission is hereby granted to the attending physician to proceed with any medical or minor surgical treatment, x-ray examinations and immunizations for the above-named student. In the event of an emergency arising out of serious illness, the need for major surgery, or significant accidental injury, I understand that an attempt will be made by the attending physician to contact me in the most expeditious way possible. If said physician is not able to communicate with me, the treatment necessary for the best interest of the above-named student may be given.

Guardian's Signature _____ Date _____

Other Comments or added directions:

Band Fee Form

The band fee covers a variety of different costs not covered by the school budget. Those costs covered by the band fee include:

- Clinicians who work with the students during band camp and throughout the year
- Catered meals at the various marching band competitions
- Snacks during the football games
- Dry cleaning of the marching band uniforms
- A pair of black gloves
- A T-shirt required for each band member that will be occasionally worn as a uniform

Additional Required Items:

For All:

- Marching lyre and flipbook (available at Quinlan & Fabish)
- Black socks
- Chalk*
- Spiral bound index cards*
- Shoestring (or similar) to hang index card book around the neck*
- Marching band shoes @ \$25 (ordered directly from uniform committee – boys can use the same shoes later for concert season)

**These items will be available for purchase in a band camp kit from the HIA. Watch for additional details.*

The items above are required as part of the uniform and equipment needed for marching band. Returning students may also purchase these items as needed.

For Boys:

- Tuxedo shirt
- Black Bow Tie

The above items may be ordered directly from the uniform committee. Every male member of the band is required to wear the concert uniform which consists of a tux (provided by the school), tuxedo shirt, black bow tie and black dress shoes (marching shoes may be used).

For Girls:

- Concert shoes @ \$25 (ordered directly from uniform committee)

Female band members will wear black dresses during concert season (provided by the school) but are required to purchase the shoes.

Additional Items (applicable to all members):

- Dry cleaning cost of band uniform at the end of the year
- Each student will be asked to contribute at least one advertisement to the Chicagoland Band Festival program book (20 to 40 percent of all ad revenue is added to the student's account)
- Items specific to certain instruments (see band handbook for details)

Please note that these fees are non-refundable after June 1.

.....
Student's Name (please print) _____

Parent's Name (please print) _____

Band Fee (Required for all band participants) \$120.00

Please fill out the "Band Uniform/Order Payment Form" and submit a SEPARATE check for these items.

TOTAL \$ _____

I have enclosed Check Number _____ Check Amount \$ _____

Please charge my Student Account \$ _____

Please make check payable to **Hersey Instrumental Association**

Return with registration and release form by Thursday, May 7.