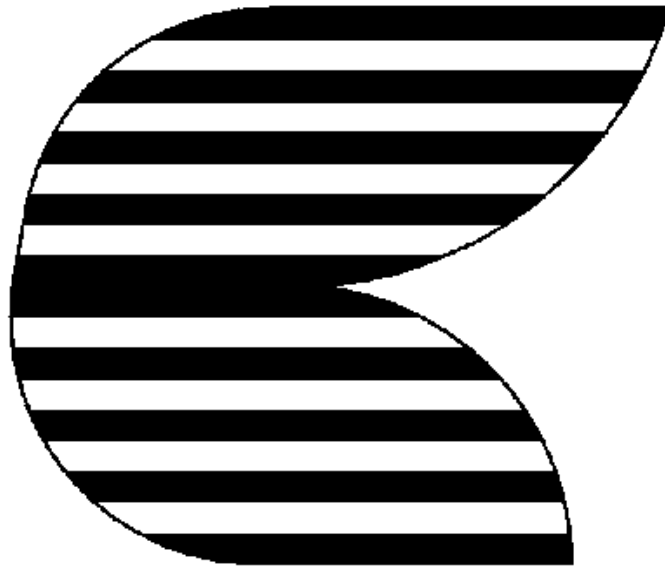


Concord High School



Band Handbook

Spring Semester, 2010

"A Tradition of Excellence is never inherited, it is earned"



January 25, 2010

Dear Students and Parents,

Can you believe the school year is half over? The first semester was a great success, and we are looking forward to even better music and music making this semester. In this Handbook you will find policies, procedures, expectations, and other general information for the band program. Even if you are an experienced band member or parent, please review the policies in this handbook.

If you have not taken a look, the website was re-designed and now has information, forms, and schedules for all the ensembles that are part of our program. While periodically I will send home detailed information concerning concerts and up-coming events, the most up-to-date information will be available on-line. Check www.concordhsband.com regularly for these updates and new information. The Band Boosters also have email lists that send home new information.

Everyone needs to return the form attached to the back of this Handbook, signed by both student and parent. The form is due on or before Tuesday, February 2. Returning the form will be counted as part of each student's grade.

Also due on February 2 will be the \$10 band fee. This fee pays for several things that benefit the band, including music, instrument repairs, and registration to the South Central District Band Festival.

As we go through this semester, we will face registration for next year. Did you know it is possible to take band every semester, and have room for other electives? I can help with scheduling and registration. I have several samples available and would be happy to share them with you and the future members of this band program.

If ever you have questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me at the school.

Musically,

Doug Morin
Director of Bands
Concord High School



Expectations

Every student in band at Concord High School is expected to:

- **Listen!** (In all definitions of the word)
- **Respect.** Treat the instruments, equipment, materials, and people in the band room with Behave in a proper manner.
- **Participate** in rehearsals in constructive ways.
- Follow the school rules at all times.
- Put everything in writing to the director.
- Be on time. Early is on time and ‘on time’ is late.
- Have all needed materials for every rehearsal (see list under Supplies).
- Follow the Director’s instructions.
- Improve, and remember what we cover in class.
- Practice outside of rehearsal and learn your part.
- Keep your instrument clean and in good working order.
- Not converse during rehearsal.
- Not have gum, food, or drink in the band room.
- Not use profanity, be it in general or directed toward a person.
- Use only equipment that has been assigned to them.

“A Tradition of Excellence is never inherited, it is earned.” You must your accolades. What you have accomplished in the past should be a stepping stone to your accomplishments in the future.

Recourse for not meeting expectations

In most cases, this procedure will be followed. Repeat or severe cases will skip steps as seen fit by the Director.

1. General warning to class or section.
2. Specific warning to offender(s).
3. Reduction of Participation grade and conference with student.
4. Phone call home. Possible assignment of extra work or duties.
5. Removal of offender(s) from classroom. Reduction in participation grade. Referral to the office.

Other measures are possible, and are assigned based on each situation. The Director reserves the right to assign physical exertion (such as for profanity), to remove students from extra curricular activities, and others as merited by the situation.

“If you break it, you bought it.” Students are expected to pay for the repair or replacement of damaged or destroyed materials, including music, even if it was accidental.



Grading

Students' grades (not including Honors Band) are assigned based on the following breakdown:

45% Class participation

33% Concerts

22% Quizzes, playing tests, written work

Note: These percentages are based on a standardized grading system for the entire Arts Department.

Class Participation (5 points a day times number of class days)

Each day a student receives 5 points if they have all needed materials, follow the rules, and meet expectations. Points will be deducted if a student is a discipline problem, do not have needed materials, or fails to meet the expectations.

Concerts

Concerts are the equivalent of a major exam. For the entire ensemble to be successful, everyone must attend. **Unexcused absences for a concert will result in failure for the grading period.**

The Director works with other faculty to find a date that does not interfere with other school activities. Tardiness to a concert will result in a 20 point deduction from the concert grade.

Excused absences can be made up by playing all of the concert music for the Director at a mutually acceptable time for both parties and a written report as assigned by the director. Excused absences must be cleared through the Director at least 2 weeks before the concert. Illness must be accompanied by a doctor's note to be considered excused.

Concert dress for Men is black pants, coat, socks, shoes, and bowtie, with a white collared shirt. Some people buy tuxes, but that is optional. If obtaining a coat is problematic, first try finding a friend in another band that is about the same size. If none can be found, please contact Mr. Morin two weeks in advance of the concert.

Concert dress for Women is a black dress, or black top with black skirt, or black top and black pants, all with neutral colored hose and black shoes. Skirt length should cover the knees when seated. (Remember, a stage is higher than the audience.)

Concert Band performance dates: March 16 (Robinson HS) and May 27.

Wind Ensemble performance dates: March 18 (Robinson HS), March 23 or 24 (Shelby HS), March 26 (Cox Mill HS and UNCC), May 27.

Quizzes, Playing tests, and Written work

Each of these will be assigned by the Director. These are used to evaluate an individual's grasp and retention of concepts covered in class, as well as how they are working at home.

Final exam

At the end of each semester, the Director will give a Final exam to each class that meets during the day. This will cover playing skills, terms, musical concepts, and other material covered during the semester. More information about the exam will be given before the exam. As per school rules, the exam is worth 25 percent of the semester grade.



Ensembles

Concert Band

The Concert Band is for freshmen. They perform two concerts per semester, along with traveling to Festival and possibly other performances. Extra rehearsals are a possibility. This class includes re-enforcement of the basics and moves toward extended musical concepts. A school fee of \$10 will be collected for each semester enrolled. This money is used for attendance at Festival, general upkeep of equipment, facilities, locker use, and music.

Symphonic Band

Colleges like to see a progression of courses on transcripts. This is the course sophomores should register for. It meets at the same time as Wind Ensemble or Concert Band, and has all the same requirements, concerts, and assignments. Extra rehearsals are a possibility. This class covers musical concepts, literature, and materials faster than Concert Band. A school fee of \$10 will be collected for each semester enrolled.

Wind Ensemble

The Wind Ensemble is for upperclassmen and a select group of top instrumentalists. They perform at least two concerts per semester, along with traveling to Festival (in the spring). Extra rehearsals are a possibility. This class moves through musical concepts, literature, and materials quickly. It also covers a broader range of musical components than other classes. A school fee of \$10 will be collected for each semester enrolled.

Auditions for this ensemble happen before class registration. Other factors for membership include behavior, attendance, motivation, and teacher recommendations. Prerequisite – membership for two semesters in a band at Concord and an audition, or director recommendation.

Honors Band A and B

Honors Band is a course code for the most advanced players. These bands meet with the Wind Ensemble. In addition to all of the requirements of the Wind Ensemble, these students have extra requirements outside of class. A complete list of requirements is available upon request from the Director. Honors Band's grades are based on a 5 point scale, instead of the normal 4 point scale. A school fee of \$10 will be collected for each semester enrolled. Specific grading details will be given directly to those enrolled in Honors Band.

Membership in Honors Band for Juniors and Seniors who have been accepted into Wind Ensemble, an 'A' average the previous year, have had outstanding participation, attendance, and behavior, and passed an advanced audition.

Marching Band

The Marching Spiders are a volunteer after school ensemble and the most visible band at Concord High School. They perform at football games, marching band competitions, and parades during the fall. A "Fair Share" of the budget is asked from each student. This may be given either out-of-pocket or by working at the numerous fundraisers available to all students.



Jazz Band

The Jazz Band is a volunteer group which meets after school. This ensemble plays at concerts and “gigs” throughout the community. Rehearsals will start after Marching Band ends and continue through the rest of the year.

Other ensembles (ex Winterguard or Winter Drumline) are possible based on student interest. These will be purely voluntary extra curricular ensembles. The Director will discuss these with the students to determine if enough interest exists to create these ensembles. Some expense may be incurred for some activities.

Other Playing Opportunities

Students are encouraged to seek out other performance venues, including for family, friends, and church. These opportunities are chances for students to advance themselves outside of the classroom. The opportunities are open to all students and include Solo and Ensemble Festival, All-County Auditions, Honor Bands and Clinics, and Private Lessons. Information about the other opportunities will be given out as they come to the Director’s attention.

Supplies

This is a list of supplies that every student should have. All students also need to have their **instrument, pencil and their music.**

Flute – cleaning rod and cloth or swab

Clarinet – 3 extra working reeds, cleaning swab, cork grease

Oboe – 3 extra working reeds, cleaning swab, cork grease

Bassoon – 3 extra working reeds, cleaning swab, cork grease

Alto, Tenor, and Baritone Saxophone – 3 extra working reeds, cleaning swab, cork grease, neck strap

Trumpet – Valve oil, cleaning cloth, tuning slide grease

Horn – Rotor oil, cleaning cloth, tuning slide grease

Trombone – Slide grease or oil, cleaning cloth, tuning slide grease

Euphonium – Valve oil, cleaning cloth, tuning slide grease

Tuba – Valve oil, cleaning cloth, tuning slide grease

Percussion – Snare drum sticks, Medium-hard yarn mallets, timpani mallets

Please keep your instruments in playing condition at all times. If something breaks, tell the Director immediately, so that it may be repaired ASAP.

Instrument storage lockers are available for most instruments. Students need to provide their own combination lock. The combination is to be left with the Director. Large instruments are stored in the storage room or designated spots in the band room. Students who are not currently in a class are not guaranteed a locker.

Band Boosters

Every parent and guardian with a child in a Concord ensemble is already a member of the Band Boosters. The boosters provide physical and financial assistance to the band program. Your help allows us to continue providing high quality experiences for your students.

The Band Boosters meet in the Concord Band Room at the end of each month, so please check the web for updates. Everyone is welcome and encouraged to attend.



Please detach and return this page with your \$10 fee before Tuesday, February 2, 2010. Checks may be made out to Concord High School.

I have received and read the Band Handbook. I will abide by the policies stated above. I will work to be an asset for the Concord Band Program

(Student name, please print)

(Student signature)

(Date)

I have received and read the Band Handbook. I agree that my child shall follow these policies. I understand that my child will be expected to participate in all after school concerts and rehearsals.

(Parent Name)

(Parent signature)

(Date)

I grant permission to the Concord High School Band and Concord High School Band Boosters and its subordinates, to use my and/or my child's name and/or photographs for use in Concord High School Band or Band Boosters publications, such as recruiting brochures, newsletters, and magazines, and to use my name/and or photographs on display boards, and to use my name and/or photographs in electronic versions of the same publications or on the Concord High School Band website or other electronic forms or media.

I hereby waive any right to inspect or approve the finished photographs or printed or electronic matter that may be used in conjunction with them now or in the future, whether that use is known to me or unknown, and I waive any right to royalties or other compensation arising from or related to the use of the photograph.

I hereby agree to release, defend, and hold harmless Concord High School Spider Marching Band and Concord High School Band Boosters and subordinates, including any firm publishing and/or distributing the finished product in whole or in part, whether on paper or via electronic media, from and against any claims, damages or liability arising from or related to the use of the photographs, including but not limited to any misuse, distortion, blurring, alteration, optical illusion or use in composite form, either intentionally or otherwise, that may occur or be produced in taking, processing, reduction or production of the finished product, its publication or distribution.

Parent Signature

Parent Name (printed)

Date