

INFORMATION ABOUT THE BAND PROGRAM

EXPECTATIONS

- A. Come to rehearsals prepared by practicing at home. Do not use rehearsal time to practice. Recommended practice is at least 30 minutes every day.
- B. Always have your music, pencil, and your instrument in good playing condition.
- C. During rehearsals, refrain from talking, listen and follow directions.
- D. Absolutely no gum! Gum is not permitted in the band room and is not permitted at any time during rehearsals or performances.

REHEARSALS

- A. Attendance is mandatory for all rehearsals (see grading policy).
- B. In the case of rehearsals held outside the regularly scheduled school day, students who cannot attend must submit a note signed by a parent requesting the absence at least 24 hours in advance. Any absence from a rehearsal without a signed absence note and prior approval will be considered an unexcused absence.

CONCERTS and PERFORMANCES

- A. Attendance is mandatory for all concerts and performances (see grading policy).
- B. All band students are required to perform on the winter and spring concerts, the District Band Festival, and Graduation.

UNIFORMS

- A. Marching Band
Uniform rental \$15.00 (Marching uniforms will be stored and kept at school at all times)
- B. Concert Band and Symphonic Band
Boys – Tuxedo Rental \$15.00 (Tuxedos will be kept at home, NOT at school)

Please note: Tuxedos are on loan and are the responsibility of the student. The numbered jacket and pants assigned to the student must be returned at the end of the year, or the student will be responsible for the replacement cost of \$200.00

Tuxedo shirt \$28.00, bow tie/cummerbund \$15.00

Black dress shoes, Black socks

Girls – Black Concert Gown \$65.00 (see order form)

Pearl Necklace \$9.00 (see order form)

Black dress shoes, black hose

- C. Jazz Ensemble
Dress clothes (Ex. Tie, jacket, dress, skirt)

CARE of INSTRUMENTS and MATERIALS

- A. Keep instruments clean and in good repair, especially before a performance.
- B. Notify director of any school instruments that are in need of repair. There is no charge for repairs as a result of normal use. Damaged instruments due to negligence will be repaired at the student's expense.
- C. When not in use, keep your instrument in its case, and in a safe place.
- D. Return all school music in good condition. Students will replace any damaged or lost music.
- E. Every student must have a music stand and a metronome for home practice.
Woodwinds – rotate and play on at least 3 good reeds at all times, store reeds in a hard plastic reed guard, swab, cork grease, and a soft clean cloth.

Brass - valve oil, tuning slide grease, and a soft clean cloth. (Trombones – slide cream and a water bottle).

Percussion – 8” Remo practice pad, Vic Firth General SD-1 drumsticks, a stick/mallet bag with an assortment of mallets (timpani, marimba, vibe, etc.)

FUNDRAISERS

- A. Fundraisers are sponsored by the Music Boosters. Fundraisers are planned throughout the year and all students are encouraged to participate.
- B. A percentage of the money a student raises goes into an individual student trip account. The rest goes to the general music department to cover the expenses of the department and the booster organization. For more information about fundraisers, please contact the Booster President or Ways and Means Chairperson.
- C. Funds in a student’s trip account can only be used for the spring trip. Upon graduation, resignation, or termination from the music department, any money left over in a student’s account will be transferred to the general music department account. Students can transfer money to the account of a sibling currently enrolled in the music program. For more information about trip accounts, contact the director.

GRADES

A. PROGRESS

Grades are based on a student’s individual progress on his or her instrument.

Progress is achieved by regular attendance at all rehearsals and concerts, and daily practice of at least 30 minutes every day.

B. ATTENDANCE

1. Attendance is mandatory for all rehearsals. Absences from rehearsals will inhibit a student’s progress and will affect a student’s music grade. Students legally absent from school on the day of a rehearsal are excused.
2. Please notify the director of any rehearsals you cannot attend as far in advance as possible. The best means of notification are by a written note signed by a parent, e-mail, or a phone call by a parent requesting the student be excused from the rehearsal.
3. No notification of an absence will be considered an unexcused absence. An unexcused absence from a rehearsal will result in a zero to be averaged with the other rehearsals for that marking period.
4. Performances should not be missed for any reason. Some performances carry a considerable amount of weight in the grading process. For example, the District Band Festival is a very important culminating experience for students.
5. Performances include marching performances, football games, parades, concerts, band festivals, graduation, etc. (Solo/Ensemble Festival and the annual trip are optional, but students are encouraged to participate).

ABSENTEE POLICY

- A. Any lawfully absent student will be permitted to make up all assignments missed. The student has only the same number of days for which the student was absent to complete the work. Students who are unlawfully absent are permitted to make up assignments, but will not receive credit.
- B. According to The Howard County Public School System, at the teacher’s discretion a student can be denied credit for a course when lawful and unlawful absences constitute 5% or 9 days of a semester or yearlong course.