

YHS BAND HANDBOOK 2009-2010

Dear YHS Band Parents and Students,

Welcome to another fun, music-filled year! Please take time to read this handbook so that you will understand the expectations and procedures of the YHS band program. Your performing ensemble is a regular part of your academic schedule and therefore has requirements and evaluations much like your other classes. Familiarizing yourself with our class policies will ensure that you have a successful (and fun!) experience.

Expectations

For a student to participate in any band ensemble at Yorktown High School, they must:

- Attend rehearsals
- Attend lessons
- Attend all performances of their ensemble
- Work toward the improvement of the ensemble during rehearsals
- Follow instructions of the director
- Complete the assigned work (both written and/or performance)

Students are expected to participate regularly in all facets of the band program-- rehearsals, concerts, and lessons. **We are a team**; our success will depend on the combined effort and responsibility of everyone in the band!

A student's grade will directly reflect his/her effort and attitude, the quality of performance (based on individual ability), and the completion of the assigned work. Grades are numerical and are part of the student's overall grade point average.

YHS Band Grading System

Your quarterly grade will be determined as follows:

Category	Points
Group Lessons <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Lesson Attendance○ Performance Evaluations○ Did you practice??	50
Attendance / Class Participation <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Prompt and regular attendance○ Classroom Behavior○ Daily Materials○ Positive Attitude!	25
Written Assignments	20
Extra Credit	5

*** The Band Final Exam will count as 20% of the student's total grade for the year ***

YHS Band Grading Rubric:

Earning a good grade is possible for everyone! Simply be responsible, respectful, try hard to improve, attend class, lessons and concerts, demonstrate a positive attitude and actively contribute to our musical team. Doing all of the above will not only ensure your success, but also make band fun!

How to earn a D (Poor) in Band:

1. Use pen (instead of pencil)
2. Talk during rehearsal
3. Rarely practice your instrument
4. Rarely complete written assignments
5. Rarely attend lessons
6. Decide not to have a lesson notebook

How to earn a C (Average) in Band:

1. Sometimes remember to bring a pencil to class
2. Sometimes remember to stop talking during rehearsal
3. Sometimes practice your instrument
4. Sometimes complete written assignments
5. Sometimes remember to come to lessons
6. Have a disorganized lesson notebook that you sometimes bring to lessons

How to earn a B (Excellent) in Band:

1. Frequently remember to bring a pencil to class
2. Frequently remember to pay attention during rehearsal
3. Frequently practice your instrument
4. Frequently complete written assignments
5. Frequently remember to attend lessons
6. Have a semi-organized notebook that you frequently remember to bring to lessons

How to earn an A (Superior) in Band:

1. Always have a pencil
2. Always pay attention during class
3. Always make time to practice your instrument
4. Always complete written assignments
5. Always remember to come to lessons
6. Have an organized lesson notebook that you bring to every lesson

How to earn an A+ in Band:

In addition to earning an “A”, one point will be added to your quarter grade each time you:

1. Play in Pep Band
2. Practice during a free period
3. Help organize equipment or music
4. Help set up for rehearsals
5. Volunteer to help out at a band event
6. Design a concert program
7. Write a review of any concert you attend (see Ms. K for a worksheet)
8. Form a chamber group and perform for the community
9. Usher at a Chorus or Orchestra concert
10. Participate in the NYSSMA Solo Festival (this will add **5 points** to your 3rd quarter grade!)
11. Play in Jazz Band (this will add **5 points** to your quarter grade!)
12. Play in the Pit for the musical (this will add **5 points** to your 3rd quarter grade!)
13. Enact any other ideas you may have that will improve our YHS Band program!

Performance Evaluations

We all know that “practice makes perfect!” To help in their quest for musical improvement, students will be given a playing assignment for homework at each lesson. These assignments will cover the basics of music (including scales, arpeggios, thirds, rhythm studies, technical exercises, etudes and solos). Grading factors will include; the student’s effort to practice and improve, accuracy of pitch and rhythm, correctness of articulation and dynamics, quality of tone, accuracy of intonation and musicality of phrasing.

Written Assignments and Quizzes

Students may be asked occasionally to express on paper some of the topics we have been studying in class. These exercises allow students to develop and demonstrate with words, their knowledge and understanding of music. (Vocabulary, key signatures and scales, time signatures and rhythms, music history, form and compositional techniques, composers and their music, etc.)

Concert Performances

We are a team and our concerts are the big game! Therefore, **participation in concerts is required.** Students are expected to participate in all performances unless they are ill (absent from school) or excused by the director. Potential conflicts with jobs, games, family activities, etc. can be avoided with careful planning. A copy of our concert schedule is included in the back of this handbook. Achieving our most successful performance requires the contributions of every member of our musical team!

Rehearsals

As with any competent sports team, effective and focused daily practice is a must, and every student’s regular attendance and active participation is necessary for our progress. The following are some common-sense guidelines for our daily class meetings:

- 1. Report to the band room on time.**
- 2. Set up the equipment and materials you will need for rehearsal. Our daily drills and music will be listed in order on the whiteboard. YOU WILL NEED A PENCIL.**
- 3. Use your pre-class time wisely! This is a great opportunity to warm up those musical muscles and work on your lesson assignment for the week.**
- 4. We all want to get better! Respect our class time together by focusing on the task at hand.**
- 5. As your musical coach, my job is to make you the best musician you can be. Be positive and try your best to improve and respond to musical suggestions.**
- 6. After rehearsal, put away your stuff!**

Seating

Just as any sports team needs to have balanced playing positions on the field, our musical team will perform and sound best when we are balanced. Every musical part is important and makes an valuable contribution to the success of the group. Seating in band is determined by an audition which takes place before each concert, and is at the director’s discretion. Factors considered in seating include: a student’s audition preparation, tone quality, intonation, playing range, technical facility, and musicianship. All instruments and all parts are needed to produce a beautiful and balanced ensemble sound. ****Remember, we are all members of a big team. ALL PARTS ARE IMPORTANT!****

Lessons

Lessons are an integral part of our musical progress and are scheduled weekly on a rotating basis. A copy of the lesson schedule will be posted on yhsbands.com and on the bulletin boards in the band room and hallway. If you would like your own personal copy for your locker, fridge (or to wallpaper your room!) they are available from Ms. Kluga. As a further memory aid, students will receive an e-mail reminder the day before each lesson, and the daily lesson schedule will be featured on the YHS morning announcements.

Lesson Policy

1. All band students are expected to attend a weekly small group lesson at the scheduled time.
 - a. Don't worry - it's easy to remember! Students will be assigned to a lesson-group which will meet the same day every week. The period of the lesson will rotate.
2. In addition to their instrument, band music and assignments, each student is required to bring the following materials to each lesson:
 - a. 3 ring lesson binder with 8 dividers - used to record assignments and store material.
 - b. Pencil
3. Be sure you know your stuff! This is your chance to show me that you are actively contributing to the improvement of our musical team - you will be graded on your preparation.
4. Be responsible! YHS requires students to tell their classroom teacher **3 days in advance** that they will be missing class due to a band lesson.
 - a. Sometimes a student will have a test or lab that their teacher cannot make-up after school. In this case, the student should communicate with me in advance to schedule a lesson make-up.
 - b. Sometimes a student will have one class that they are struggling in and cannot miss. Please communicate this with me in advance and we can discuss how to proceed.
 - c. In both of the above cases it is the student's responsibility to keep up with the lesson material and schedule and attend a make up lesson within one week. After a week, if a make-up has not been arranged, a zero (0) will be recorded and averaged with the other lesson grades for the marking period.
5. At the end of each quarter, the student's lowest lesson grade will be dropped. Therefore, students may miss one lesson each quarter without penalty.
6. **Be respectful of our time together. If a student repeatedly forgets to attend lessons (despite all of the memory aids above!), does not communicate with me and is not prepared, make up lessons will not be granted.**

Homework

Any competent musician (or athlete) must spend extra time developing and refining his/her skills. The student's individual musical ability as well as the degree of excellence of our ensemble (team) is a result of the time and effort devoted to home practice. Students are expected to practice assigned lesson material (it will make you better, I promise!). Although effective practice times vary from student to student, to ensure a successful experience as a member of the YHS Band program, **students should practice at least 30 minutes a day, 5 days a week.**

Extra Help

I am always happy to help! If a student would like extra musical guidance, they should contact me to schedule an appointment after school. Information about private lesson teachers is also available.

Private Lessons

Want to take your musicianship to the next level? The Yorktown area is fortunate to have access to many skilled private lesson instructors. Private lessons are a wonderful way to improve your musical confidence and really master your instrument. While band rehearsals and group lessons can develop basic instrument knowledge, ensemble skills and musicianship, there is no substitute for the benefits offered through private lessons. Please see the list below for teacher information, or speak with Ms. Kluga.

Private Lesson Teachers

Jennifer Flynn		Flute	jflynn@yorktown.org
Marjorie Hone	591-6851	Flute	mhone@erols.com
Marianne Lepre-Nolan	277-7712	Flute	
Jennifer Pyne	921-1486	Flute	jennypyne@aol.com
Rebecca Quigley	739-1927	Flute	rebeccaquigleyflute.com
Mary Ellen Shepley	699-3549	Flute	
Susan De Camp	232-6994	Oboe	
Alan Hollander	699-7363	Oboe	gordetoboe@aol.com
Carey Winans	845-551-9045	Oboe	
Janet Grice	693-0892	Bassoon	jangrice@yahoo.com
Seth Baer	516-972-1504	Bassoon	sethbaer@hotmail.com
Daniel Salvi	962-5022	Clarinet	clarindan@aol.com
Sue Forman	243-0165	Clarinet/Sax	
Joey Berkley	666-8401	Sax	
Ed Herko	762-2455	Sax	
Allison Shapiro	845-883-9723	Sax	
Ed Xiques	845-526-2689	Sax (Jazz)	
Gene Benson	277-8727	Trumpet	
Peter Blume	682-3292	Trumpet	
Brian Kearns	739-7351	Trumpet	
Chris Melito	276-3932	Trumpet	
Karen Froehlich	739-2718	Horn	
Peter Reit	248-0366	Horn	
Amanda Rimm-Hewitt	917-363-2138	Trombone	
Robert Stattel	968-8407	Trombone	rodstaple@aol.com
Allan Goidel	302-7334	Trombone	
Fred Snyder	769-4462	Trombone/Tuba	
Robert LaPorta	834-6248	Euphonium	robert.laporta@verizon.net
Richard Williams	833-2782	Euphonium	rgtrombone@aol.com
Joshua Mandel	591-8855, 261-1212	Tuba/Euph.	justjoshin@earthlink.net
Scott Rimm-Hewitt	917-363-2138	Tuba	scottrimmhewitt@yahoo.com
Ellen Alexander	245-9630	Percussion	
John Arrucci	845-225-0356	Percussion/Theory	
Alan Frenel	245-4190	Percussion	
Jack Evans	232-8946	Percussion	revjackzen@optonline.net
Philip Greiss	528-7190	Percussion	
Gary Schwartz	845-528-1612	Percussion	
Bramson's Music	666-3308	All Instruments	

Supplies

The stuff you need to keep your instrument in working order and the tools to help you succeed musically! These supplies are part of the daily class materials and are available at area music stores.

EVERYONE: 3-ring binder, 8 dividers, pencil and **metronome**
Recommended metronomes: Korg MA30 or Matrix MR800

Flute: Tuning rod, cleaning swab (a soft piece of cloth works well)

Oboe: At least 2 working reeds, silk swab, cork grease

Clarinet: Reed guard, 1 box of Van Doren or Mitchel Lurie reeds, cleaning swab

Alto Sax: Reed guard, 1 box of Van Doren or La Voz reeds

Trumpet: Valve oil, mouthpiece brush, snake

French Horn: Valve oil, snake

Trombone: Water bottle (a plant spray bottle will do), slide crème, mouthpiece brush, snake

Baritone: Valve oil, towel or small pillow

Tuba: Valve oil

SECTION LEADERS: You must own a tuner and bring it to class.

Recommended tuners: Korg CA30, Seiko SAT500

Concert Dress

Look sharp! (Not flat ☺). Our professional and unified visual appearance is an important part of each performance. Below you will find the required components of our concert attire; hopefully some items are already part of your student's wardrobe and all are available at your local department store.

Unfortunately, failure to adhere to the following expectations may result in a student's inability to participate in the concert performance.

Concert dress for Girls:

- Black pants or LONG black skirt
- Black Blouse-- longish sleeves (no sleeveless shirts or spaghetti straps please)
- Black Shoes (NO flip-flops)

Concert dress for Boys:

- Black Pants
- Black Shirts--long-sleeved
- Black Socks (please no White Sox; great team, but on the concert stage they look so silly!)
- Black Shoes

Band Officers

Our fearless leaders! Officers are elected each year, act as liaisons to the director, organize special functions, and help with daily band activities. Band Officers must be "every day" participants in band, be in good standing in lessons, and are expected to demonstrate leadership in every aspect of student life. In rare instances, officers may be replaced if they consistently fail to act responsibly.

Wind Ensemble

Similar to the expectations of a Varsity sport, to be eligible for our top musical ensemble students must demonstrate a high level of dedication and mature musical ability. Specifically, a student must:

- Show a positive attitude towards their peers, director, and towards the music being performed.
- Maintain and improve their level of musicianship.
- Attend all lessons.
- Be present at all performances throughout the year.
- Be a leader and team player within their section and performing ensemble.
- Be able to perform all music worked on in the ensemble.
- Complete all assignments on time.
- Demonstrate superior knowledge of all major scales (or rudiments), arpeggios, chromatic scale and alternate/chromatic fingerings.
- Successfully complete the YHS Wind Ensemble audition on a NYSSMA level 4, 5 or 6 solo.
- These students should also participate in the NYSSMA Solo Festival on a grade 4, 5, or 6 solo.

Festival Trip

As the premiere band at YHS, earning a seat in Wind Ensemble is a musical honor. Due to the small and select nature of this group, every part is extremely important. Members of the Wind Ensemble are all invaluable players on a musical team, and are expected to make every effort to attend the Spring Festival Trip.

Jazz Band

The Jazz Band is a group dedicated to the performance of music in the “big band” tradition. Students learn to play improvised solos, as well as participate in the performance of modern jazz/rock/pop music arranged especially for the jazz ensemble medium. The ensemble participates in school concerts, community events, and competitions/festivals.

Prerequisite: By audition only

Enrollment in Wind Ensemble, Concert Band, Orchestra, Choir, Chorus

Marching Band

In support of our troops, Veterans and community, the YHS Marching Band performs each year in the Yorktown Memorial Day Parade. All band members are required to attend. Of course, I realize that this is a big family barbeque weekend. For students who have family obligations and are unable to attend the parade, please bring a parent note in advance.

Pep Band

The YHS Pep Band provides entertainment and inspiration at home and away varsity football games. Decked out in our green and white finest, we have a blast performing exciting music and cheering on the Huskers to victory! Not only is this a fun, positive, and safe weekend activity, but students also get free game admission, *and* **earn one point on their quarter average** each time they attend! What more could you ask for?? Please see the schedule below and mark your calendars now!

Game Date	Call Time	Game Time	Visitor	Home
Fri - 9/11	5:30 PM	7:00 PM	HARRISON HS	@ YORKTOWN HS
Thu - 9/17	5:30 PM	7:00 PM	PEEKSKILL HS	@ YORKTOWN HS
Fri - 9/25	5:00 PM	7:00 PM	YORKTOWN HS	@ HENDRICK HUDSON HS
Fri - 10/2	5:00 PM	7:00 PM	YORKTOWN HS	@ SOMERS HS
<i><u>Fri - 10/9</u></i>	<i><u>5:30 PM</u></i>	<i><u>7:00 PM</u></i>	<i><u>WALTER PANAS HS @ YHS HOMECOMING!!!!</u></i>	
Fri - 10/16	5:00 PM	7:00 PM	YORKTOWN HS	@ LAKELAND HS

***All Pep Band call times are subject to change based on rehearsal schedule and bus availability.*

YHSBANDS.COM

As parents and students in our band program, we ask that you please register at our site. We will use your contact information to keep you and your student updated throughout the year regarding band events, lesson assignments, schedules and concerts. We want every student to be informed and experience success, please help us communicate with you!

The YHS Band Website is built and maintained by the band's student Webmaster. The purpose of the website is to provide information regarding band events and to serve as a resource for your musical education. Some of the features of the site include:

- Your monthly band lesson schedule
- Sites specific to YOUR instrument
 - Fingering Charts
 - Care and Maintenance
 - International Societies
 - News and Events
- Photo gallery of our band events
- Link to our Facebook page
- Calendar of up-coming band events
- Band Handbook
- Forms
- Sound clips of current selections
- On-Line Metronome
- On-Line Music Dictionary
- Local music store contact info.

Please visit www.yhsbands.com to register!

YHS BAND DATES 09-10

9/25 (Fri.)	Jazz Band Auditions	1:30 – 3pm
October	Music Boosters Citrus Sale	
10/24 (Sat)	Music Boosters Tag Sale	7am – 4pm
11/17 (Tues)	Yorktown Music Faculty Recital	7:00pm
12/8 (Tues)	Winter Band Concert	7:30pm
11/23 +30 (Mon)	8th Grade Orientation	7:00pm
12/10 (Thurs)	Citrus Sale Order Distribution	1:30 – 8pm
1/7 (Thurs)	MESMS 7&8 Band Concert (attend and cheer!)	6:30pm
2/10 (Wed)	Jazz Band “World Tour”	
2/13 (Sat)	YHS Band “Swing Dance” Concert	7:00 pm
2/25 (Thurs)	Movie Night Concert	7:30 pm
4/16-17 (Fri-Sat)	NYSSMA Solo Festival	
4/17-19	WE Festival Trip	
4/27- 30	‘10-‘11 Wind Ensemble Auditions	
5/18 (Tues)	YHS Spring Band Concert	7:30 pm
5/22 (Sat)	Concert Band Hershey Park Festival Trip	
5/19 (Wed)	First Nighters Awards Dinner (Juniors/Seniors only)	7:00pm
5/31 (Mon.)	Memorial Day Parade and Barbeque	
6/10 (Thurs.)	MESMS 7&8 Band Concert (attend and cheer!)	6:30pm
6/26 (Sat)	YHS Graduation @ SUNY Purchase	1:00pm

Music Stores

Ardasley Music	693-6639	www.ardsleymusic.com
Bramson’s Music	381-5205	www.musicarts.com
Music and Arts Centers	381-5205	www.musicarts.com
Rayburn Music	(845) 238-5796	
Sam Ash	949-8448	www.samashmusic.com
Universal Music	(516) 593-8940	

I realize that this is quite an overwhelming bit of information. Please understand that this handbook is not meant to be scary, but simply offers a straight-forward explanation of how you can succeed to the best of your ability. Ultimately, if you come prepared to class, demonstrate responsibility in regards to punctuality, lessons, and homework, and practice showing respect for others, you will experience success! Thank you for taking the time to familiarize yourself with the YHS Band Handbook. If you have any questions, please contact me.

Looking forward to a great and musical year together!

Ms. Kluga
ekluga@yorktown.org
243-8086

YHS BAND COURSE EXPECTATIONS

Student/Parent Response

Please return this sheet to Ms. Kluga by Friday, September 4th.

We have read the YHS Band Handbook, including the course expectations, lesson requirements and grading procedures. We understand the role we need to assume in order to successfully complete the course of study in the band program at Yorktown High School.

Student's Name (Print)

Instrument

Student's Signature

Date

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

Parent/Guardian e-mail

Parent/Guardian Phone #

**** PLEASE ALSO REGISTER YOUR INFORMATION AT YHSBANDS.COM ****

PHOTO RELEASE:

Throughout the year, the YHS Band is photographed at school and community events. These photos are often used by local newspapers in their paper and on-line publications, as well as on the YHS Band website. To give permission for your child's photo to be used, please fill out the photo release form below.

I give permission for my child's photograph to be used in the promotion and advertisement of our band events. The photographs may be used in newspaper articles and/or on the YHS band website.

Student's Name: _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____

Date: _____