

# YHS BAND HANDBOOK 2023-2024



Ms. Kluga ~ Director

“to inspire character through the  
magic of building community”

# YHS BAND HANDBOOK 2023-2024

Dear YHS Band Parents and Students,

Welcome to the 2023-2024 school 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, with requirements much like your other classes. Familiarizing yourself with our class policies will ensure that you have a successful (and fun!) experience.

**\*\*Please make particular note of our concert and event dates listed at the end of this packet\*\***

## Expectations

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

- Attend and be timely to rehearsals and lessons. Before the bell rings students should be seated with their instrument and music, ready to play.
- Attend and be timely for all performances of their ensemble
- Actively and respectfully work toward the improvement of their ensemble during rehearsals
- Follow the instructions of the Director
- Complete assignments in a timely manner

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 our combined effort and responsibility!

## YHS Band Grading System

A student's grade will reflect their effort and attitude, the quality of performance (based on individual ability), and the completion of assignments. Grades are part of the student's overall GPA.

Your quarterly grade will be determined as follows:

<b>Category</b>	<b>Points</b>
<b>Group Lessons and Activities</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Lesson Attendance</li><li>○ Performance Evaluations (Homework)</li><li>○ Written Assignments</li></ul>	<b>50</b>
<b>Class Participation</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Prompt and regular attendance</li><li>○ Active participation in class activities</li><li>○ Required Daily Materials</li><li>○ <b>**Attendance at Concerts is required**</b></li></ul>	<b>45</b>
<b>Extra Credit</b>	<b>5</b>

Earning an excellent grade is possible for everyone! Be an active contributor to our **musical team**; be responsible, respectful, try your best, and attend class/lessons/concerts. Doing all of the above will not only ensure your success, but also make band fun!

## **YHS Band Grading System (continued)**

### **EXTRA CREDIT - How to earn an A+ in Band (5 points needed per quarter)**

In addition to the requirements listed above, one point is added to your quarter grade each time you:

1. Play in Pep Band
2. Practice during a free period, or attend or lead a guided practice session
3. Help organize equipment or music, or set up for rehearsals
4. Volunteer at a band, orchestra, or choir event
5. Design a concert program
6. Write a review of any concert you attend (see Ms. K for a worksheet)
7. Form a chamber group & perform for the community (add **5 points** to your quarter grade!)
8. Participate in the NYSSMA Solo Festival (add **5 points** to your 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter grade!)
9. Play in Jazz Band (add **5 points** to your quarter grade!)
10. Play in the Pit for the musical (add **5 points** to your 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter grade!)
11. Enact any other ideas you may have that will improve our YHS Band program!

### **Honors Credit**

In addition to the regular course requirements, students are able to receive honors credit for Concert Band or Wind Ensemble by preparing and performing a level 5 or 6 solo before a NYSSMA adjudicator at the regularly scheduled Zone 11 Up-County NYSSMA Solo and Ensemble Festival. To receive honors credit and level I weighting, the student must earn a score of **95 or above on a level 6** solo/ensemble, or a score of **97 or above on a level 5** solo/ensemble.

### **Performance Evaluations / Weekly Lesson Homework**

We all know that “practice makes perfect!” To aid 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, rhythms, 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 all 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. Our concert dates are listed at the end of this packet. Achieving our most successful performance requires the contributions of every member of our **musical team!**

### **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. Please help your student understand that *no matter what part they are assigned, they are an invaluable member of our musical team.* All parts are needed to produce a beautiful and balanced ensemble sound, and strong players are needed on every part! In band, no player ever sits on the bench!

## Lessons

Lessons are an integral part of our musical progress and are scheduled weekly on a rotating basis. The monthly lesson schedule is **thoroughly communicated**: posted on YHS Band Dashboard, on our classroom bulletin boards, reviewed weekly in class, and students receive an e-mail and text reminder 3 days before each lesson, and again the morning of their lesson. Xerox copies of the lesson calendar are available.

## Lesson Policy

1. All band students are expected to attend a weekly small group lesson at the scheduled time. Students are assigned to a lesson-group, the period of the lesson will rotate.
2. In addition to their instrument, music and assignments, each student is also required to bring:
  - a. **A pencil.**
  - b. **Any necessary musical accessories (reeds, reed guard, cleaning supplies, etc.).**
3. Be sure you know your assignment! You will be graded on your preparation.
4. Be responsible! YHS requires students to tell their classroom teacher **3 days in advance** when missing class due to a music lesson.
  - a. Sometimes a student will have a test or lab that cannot be made-up after school.
  - b. Sometimes a student will have one class that they are struggling in and cannot miss.
  - c. In both cases, please communicate with me in advance! It is your responsibility to keep up with the lesson material and schedule a make-up. You have a week to make up the work with me, after that 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 lowest lesson grade will be dropped. Therefore, students may miss one lesson each quarter without penalty.

## Homework

Any competent musician (or athlete) spends time developing and refining their skills. Students are expected to practice assigned lesson material. Individual musical ability, and the excellence of our musical team, is a result of the time and effort devoted to home practice.

### **To practice successfully you will need:**

- 30 minutes.
- A *quiet space* free from distraction (turn off phone notifications). Be present in the moment!
- A *metronome* that you turn on and try to follow.
- A *pencil* to circle accidentals, dynamics and any tricky spots.
- Your *fingering chart or other reference materials* to help you answer questions.
- A *music stand* and *correct posture* to create good breathing and good sound.
- Use daily practice as a break from your other academic studies. Enjoy the art of making music!

## 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. Additionally, our upperclassmen band students offer weekly guided practice sessions. 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.

Holly Bernitt-Saks	980-8059	Flute	holly.bernitt@gmail.com
Rachel Bidwell	845-406-2628	Flute	Rachel.bidwell@gmail.com
Jennifer Flynn		Flute	jflynn@yorktown.org
Marjorie Hone	591-6851	Flute	mhone@erols.com
Marianne Lepre-Nolan	277-7712	Flute	
Jennifer Pyne	686-2688	Flute	JennyPyne@gmail.com
Rebecca Quigley	739-1927	Flute	rebeccaquigleyflute.com
Victoria Vespucci		Flute	vvespucci@yorktown.org
Amy Richter	845-424-8308	Oboe	arichter@henhudschools.org
Troy Messenger	827-8201	Oboe	
Gina Serafin	962-0361	Oboe	musicbyserafin@aol.com
Tiffany Radovich	845-225-4515	Oboe	tiffany@radovichanddean.com
Dannielle McBryan	724-992-8610	Oboe	Danniellembryan@gmail.com
Janet Grice	693-0892	Bassoon	jangrice@yahoo.com
Gilbert Dejean	212-569-9385	Bassoon	
Diane Fedora	914-271-4375	Bassoon	dfedora@verizon.net
Briana Lehman	(West Point Musician)	Bassoon	briana.lehman@gmail.com
Daniel Salvi	962-5022	Clarinet	clarindan@aol.com
Lisa Sable	980-3875	Clarinet	
Sue Forman	243-0165	Clarinet/Sax	
Kristen Mather de Andrade (West Point musician)		Clarinet	kristen@kristenmather.com
Joey Berkley	666-8401	Sax	
Ed Herko	762-2455	Sax	
Allison Shapiro	845-883-9723	Sax	
Ben Acrish	914-456-2369	Trumpet	bcacrish@yahoo.com
Chris Melito	276-3932	Trumpet	
Bill Owens (West Point musician)		Trumpet	Trump135@gmail.com
Micah Sprague	(845) 628-4289	Horn	micahsprague@yahoo.com
Steven Shertz	(914) 505-0232	Horn	sshorn2@hotmail.com
Kyle Kayler	845-228-4167	Horn	klkayler@gmail.com
Amanda Rimm-Hewitt	917-363-1799	Trombone	arimmhewitt@yahoo.com
Allan Goidel	302-7334	Trombone	goidela@ardsleyschools.org
Walter Barret	914-318-6619	Trombone	waltrtrombone@me.com
Kevin Quigley	739-1927	Trombone	
Declan Wilcox		Trombone/Euph/Tuba	declanwilcox@gmail.com
Bijan Daneshvar	845-926-0136	Euphonium	bdaneshvar6@gmail.com
Robert LaPorta	834-6248	Euphonium	robert.laporta@verizon.net
Richard Williams	833-2782	Euphonium	rgtrombone@aol.com
Scott Rimm-Hewitt	917-363-2138	Tuba	scottrimmhewitt@yahoo.com
John Arrucci	845-225-0356	Percussion/Theory	
David Bergman	(West Point Musician)	Percussion	david.bergman@usma.edu
Elena Bonomo		Percussion	embdrumsofficial@gmail.com
Simon Boyar		Percussion	www.simonboyardrumschool.com
Philip Greiss	528-7190	Percussion	

## Supplies

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

Ardley Music	693-6639	www.ardsleymusic.com
Music and Arts Centers	241-0689	www.musicarts.com
Radovich and Dean	845-225-4515	www.radovichanddean.com
Sam Ash	949-8448	www.samashmusic.com

## **ALL BAND MEMBERS:**

- Metronome and tuner. (The TONAL ENERGY APP (\$3.99) is available for both iPhone and Android).
- A pencil. Put a few in your case so you always have them!
- Folding Music Stand.

## **INSTRUMENT SPECIFIC SUPPLIES:**

### **Percussion:**

- Snare drum (or drum pad) and snare drum stand.
- **A bell kit with mallets.** A good option is the CB Percussion 6854 Bell Kit

### **Flute:**

- Cleaning rod.
- Soft cleaning cloth (about a 6" x 6" piece of an old t-shirt will work).

### **Oboe / Bassoon:**

- REEDS: At least **3** quality reeds. Quality reeds can be found at Radovich and Dean (in Carmel) [www.radovichanddean.com](http://www.radovichanddean.com) or on-line at: [hodgeproductsinc.com](http://hodgeproductsinc.com) or [forrestsmusic.com](http://forrestsmusic.com).
- REED CASE: To hold 3 reeds. An old Altoids tin works well, or you can purchase one one-line. Some good options are the **Fox Oboe Reed Case**, or **Fox Bassoon Reed Case**.

### **Clarinet and Alto Sax:**

- REEDS: **1 full box (contains 10 reeds)** of **Van Doren** reeds (strength 2.5 or 3).  
*At YHS, you will learn to rotate reeds. This supply will last you until December.*
- REED CASE: A reed case that holds 4 reeds. An economical option is the **Rico "ReedGard IV."**
- A clarinet swab (inquire if this comes as part of your rental instrument).

### **Bass Clarinet and Tenor/Bari Sax:**

- REEDS: **1 full box (contains 10 reeds)** of **Van Doren\*** reeds (strength 2 or 2.5).  
*At YHS, you will learn to rotate reeds. This supply will last you until December.*
- REED CASE: A reed case that holds 4 reeds. An economical option is the **Rico "ReedGard IV."**

### **Trombone:**

- *Slide-O-Mix Trombone Lubrication System* (contains 1 small bottle and 1 large bottle)
- *Schilke* tuning slide grease
- Mouthpiece cleaning brush
- Spray bottle to keep at home (an old Windex bottle will do). Put only WATER in the spray bottle.

### **Trumpet, Horn, Euphonium and Tuba:**

- *Al Cass* valve oil
- *Schilke* tuning slide grease
- Mouthpiece cleaning brush

## **Concert Dress**

Look sharp! (Not flat ☺). As with an athletic uniform, our professional and unified visual appearance is an important part of every performance. Below are the required components of our concert attire. Failure to adhere to the following expectations may result in a student's inability to participate in our performance.

### **Concert dress for Girls:**

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

### **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 Dress Shoes

## **Band Officers**

Our fearless leaders! Officers are elected each June, 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 musical ability. Specifically, a student must:

- Show a positive attitude towards their peers, director, and towards the music being performed.
- 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, and work to maintain and improve their level of musicianship.
- Demonstrate superior knowledge of major scales (or rudiments), chromatic scale, alternate 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.

## **Jazz Band**

The Jazz Band is a group dedicated to the performance of music in the "Big Band" tradition, and follows standard instrumentation (saxophone, trumpet, trombone, rhythm section). Students learn to play improvised solos and participate in the performance of modern jazz/rock/pop music. The ensemble participates in school concerts, community events, and competitions/festivals. Jazz Band will meet one evening a week to rehearse.

Students selected to be in Jazz Band are making a commitment to our musical team for the entire year.

**Prerequisites:** By audition only. Enrollment in WE, CB, Orchestra, Choir, or Chorus

## **Memorial Day Marching Band**

In support of our servicemen and women, 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 also 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 varsity football games. Decked out in our green and white finest, we have a blast performing exciting music and cheering on our Huskers! 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! (Performances dates listed on calendar below).

## **YHS BAND REGISTRATION**

Parents and students, please register on our website. This system is Ms. Kluga's primary method of distributing information regarding band assignments, updates, and events.

- \* **New YHS Band Students** – please register at **register.yhsbands.com**. Respond to the activation notifications received by text and e-mail.
  
- \* **Returning YHS Band Students** – please log in to your Dashboard account at **my.yhsbands.com** to confirm your information. Use the first part of your @yorktown.org address to log in. (ex. if your address is [john.smith@yorktown.org](mailto:john.smith@yorktown.org), use “john.smith” as your log in). Click on your name in the upper right of the screen and then click “Edit Contact Info.” Respond to the activation notifications listed.

## **WWW.YHSBANDS.COM**

Offers helpful info about our program, events, instrument specific links, and my weekly blog post. It also contains links to registration and to your student's personalized “dashboard.”

## **DASHBOARD**

Personalized access to learning materials including: a list of posted homework assignments, homework documents, instrument specific practice aids, professional recordings of our music, class documents, lesson calendars, and more.

## **ONE FINAL NOTE (ha!):**

Please understand that this handbook is meant to offer a detailed explanation of how you can succeed. I am happy to help you in any way I can! Thank you for taking the time to familiarize yourself with how I run the YHS Bands. If you have questions, please contact me.

I'm looking forward to a fun and musical year together!

Ms. Kluga  
Director of Bands  
Yorktown High School  
[ekluga@yorktown.org](mailto:ekluga@yorktown.org)  
243-8050 Ext.22249  
Twitter: @MsKluga and @yhsbands



## YHS BAND CALENDAR 23-24

8/30 (Wed)	22nd Annual Music Dept. Ice Cream Social	6-8pm
9/5 (Tues)	Freshman Welcome Breakfast	8:45-9:20
9/7 (Thurs)	Pep Band Rehearsal #1	1:45-3:00
9/13 (Wed)	Pep Band Rehearsal #2	1:45-3:00
9/14 (Thurs)	Pep Band @ Varsity FB Home Game vs. Mahopac	4:45-9pm
9/17 (Sun)	Band Apple Picking Trip to Wilken's Farm	10am-12
9/20 (Wed)	Jazz Band Auditions	1:30-3:30
9/21 (Thurs)	YHS Back to School Night	7:00pm
	(Band Parent Helpers ~ Event Planning Meeting	6:00pm)
9/22 (Fri)	Pep Band @ Varsity FB Home Game vs. JJCR	5:30-10pm
October	Music Boosters Citrus Sale	
10/6 (Fri)	Pep Band @ HOMECOMING vs. Fox Lane! w/Dinner	5-10pm
10/20 (Fri)	Music Boosters Tag Sale (donation drop-off)	3-7pm
	AND Pep Band @ Varsity FB Home Game vs. Somers	5:30-10pm
10/21 (Sat)	Music Boosters Tag Sale (SALE!)	9am – 2pm
10/31 (Tues)	YHS Band Halloween Costume Contest	
12/12 (Tues)	Winter Band Concert	7:00pm
TBD	Citrus Sale Order Distribution	3:00 – 8pm
12/21 (Thurs)	Winter Concert SNOW DATE	7:00pm
1/6 (Sat)	All County Jazz Band Auditions	10am –2pm
2/7 (Wed)	Jazz Band and Chamber Orchestra "World Tour"	8am-3pm
2/10 (Sat)	YHS Band "Swing Dance" Concert (Snow Date 2/17)	7:00pm
3/27 (Wed)	YCSD District Band Festival (Bandapalooza)	6:00pm
5/3-5 (Fri pm-Sun)	Wind Ensemble Festival Trip TBA	
4/26-27 (Fri-Sat)	Up-County NYSSMA Solo Festival @ Chappaqua HS	
4/23-4/26 (Tues-Fri)	'24-'25 Wind Ensemble Auditions	
TBD	Concert Band Festival Trip	
5/14 (Tues)	YHS Spring Band Concert	7:00 pm
5/27 (Mon)	Memorial Day Parade and Annual YHS Band BBQ	
5/31-6/1 (Fri-Sat)	NYSSMA Piano Festival at Ardsley	
June TBD (Fri)	Jazz Band performs at Relay for Life	Evening

# YHS BAND COURSE EXPECTATIONS

## Student/Parent Response

**\*\* Please return this sheet (digitally, or in person) to Ms. Kluga by Friday, September 15<sup>th</sup> \*\***

*By signing below both parent and student agree that:*

1. We have read the YHS Band Handbook, including the course expectations, lesson requirements and grading procedures. We understand what is required to successfully complete the course of study in the Band program at Yorktown High School.
2. We have newly completed, or updated, our registration information at **register.yhsbands.com**. And, we have responded to the activation notifications received by text and e-mail. We understand that this system is Ms. Kluga's primary method of distributing information regarding assignments, updates, and events.
3. We acknowledge the YHS Band dates listed in this Handbook.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student's Name (Print)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student's Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Guardian Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date