

Middle School Band Handbook



2009-2010 School Year

Allison Haley – Middle School Director

Molly Epperson – High School Director

Pam Dantzler-Principal

Robert Brittingham- Assistant Principal

Chrissy Easterly- Assistant Principal

Please keep the attached packet and sign and
return only the last page before August 24th3 .

Concert Dates:

We are still setting up concert dates for the middle school bands. These should hopefully be out within the first month of class. A concert schedule will be sent home as soon as possible. Please contact Mrs. Haley at 893-3535 ext. 321 with any further questions about these dates. You may also contact Mrs. Haley by email at Parker_A@hcde.org. NOTE: this email will soon change, so please be mindful of any updates.

Concert attire:

All bands will wear a white collared dress shirt (with sleeves down to their elbows at least) and black dress pants with black dress socks and black dress shoes. Shoes and all school apparel must fall under the qualifications of the East Hamilton School dress code.

Fees:

Band fees for the year will be **\$50.00**. These fees will be due on **August 28th**. Please make checks payable to *East Hamilton School*. Please contact Mrs. Haley with any questions concerning band fees.

-Band fees are necessary in order to provide our students with the best music education possible. Fees will provide our band with the opportunity for travel, for clinicians and experts to work with our band, and any other supplies that can add to the development of our musicians and music program (software, media, commissioned music, etc).

Grading Procedure :

Grading for this year will be made up of the following elements:

1. Daily Participation: Students are responsible to come to class every day with necessary materials and good attitude.

Materials Needed for every Rehearsal:

- Instrument and Supplies (refer to Instrument Checklist on page 6 below)
 - Bring note of explanation if your instrument is being repaired signed by a parent.
- Method/Warm up and Music in folder ó every student *must* bring his/her own music to class.
- **Pencil**
- Good Attitude

Daily Participation - 5 possible points per day

* 5 points if present, prepared (with all materials), and follows rules

* -3 points for lack of necessary materials (reeds, music, instrument, pencil, etc.)

* -5 points if behavioral problems are caused

* -5 points for unexcused absence

2. Play tests – Students will be assessed regularly on their individual playing. This test will be over material rehearsed in class and students will have ample time to prepare for the test. Play tests also provide a good environment for each student to receive individual feedback from the instructor.

- If a student is unprepared for a play test, he/she will be given an Æ (Incomplete) and have one week to set up an appointment to make up the test.

3. Concert Attendance: Band is a performance class and students must attend all concerts. Schedules are very busy, so please mark your calendar as soon as you get these dates. The concert schedule is given to you at the beginning of the year to provide parents with enough time to clear the calendar. Unexcused absence at a concert will result in the student's grade being dropped 2 letter grades. *Family Emergency* or *Severe illness* with the proper documentation is the only way an absence may be excused.

4.) Home Practice Logs: Practicing at home is vital to the development of every musician. When you practice at home, you reinforce the instruction you receive at school. The overall quality of the band is directly related to how much time is spent at home practicing.

Practice Logs will be handed out the first day of class. Students are to record the date, assigned practice material, and amount of time practiced every day. Students are required to make a daily log of this material and then turn it in the following Monday with parents initials. Ex: A student will keep a record of the material practiced from August 16th (Sunday) to August 22nd (Saturday). Parents will sign verifying that the practice log is correct and the student will turn it in on August 24th for the previous week.

The standard for home practice will be fifteen minutes per day, five days per week.

Following is a suggested time-table for daily practice that will make your practice time more structured and enjoyable:

3 min ó Warm up with long tones, lip slurs (brass), fundamentals

7 min ó Practice band music ó only work on stuff that's hard!

5 min ó Play whatever you want for fun!

Rehearsals:

When participating in a rehearsal at East Hamilton Middle School, it is expected that you are on time, prepared, and with the correct attitude. Being on time means that you must be in your chair, have your instrument assembled, and have a pencil and music out and ready. I will make occasional pencil checks that could weigh into your grade. It is

necessary for each student to have his/her instrument and music at each rehearsal. The following items are not allowed during band rehearsal:

Gum

food

drink

Private Lessons:

The best way your child can improve on his/her instrument is to enroll in private lessons. Private Lessons are strongly encouraged as students are able to get regular **one-on-one instruction** from an *expert* on his/her particular instrument. A list of private teachers will soon be available to band students. Please note that there is typically a separate charge for private lessons, which is up to the discretions of the private teacher.

Music Software:

For those interested in music programs for their home computer, here are a few that might be of interest.

Finale Notepad: This is a free version of this expensive program. This program introduces you to the technological world of music notation and composition. Website: www.finalemusic.com/notepad/

SmartMusic: This program is a music accompaniment program that is INCREDIBLE!! It features an interactive program that accompanies you as you play a solo. The program also features an assessment tool that shows you what notes you played correctly and incorrectly. When you sign up for SmartMusic, you have access to over 14,000 music files including the method books that East Hamilton uses. Visit their website at: www.smartmusic.com

The cost is a yearly membership fee of \$30.00. More information is on the website and will be sent home.



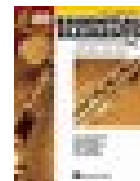
Method Books:

Sixth grade band students are required to purchase a method book. Every student will purchase the method book from the school or from a local music store or online at <http://www.essential-elements-2000.com/>.

We will be using the Yellow Essential Elements Book 1

PlusDVD:

-Make sure you get ðPlus DVDö this comes with DVD CD Rom.



For the seventh and eighth grade we will be using the Red Essential Elements Book 2. This can also be purchased from a local music store or through <http://www.essential-elements-2000.com/>.

Lockers:

All students will be able to have a locker to house their instrument(s), music method books, and mallet/stick bags if you are a percussionist. Please note that East Hamilton band is **NOT** responsible for any privately owned instruments. Therefore, we *highly recommend* bringing a combination lock for your instrument. Students are required to fill out a locker form before storing their instrument in a locker. These will be available the first day of classes.

Instrument Recommendations:

With all the different instruments available today, it is confusing for parents and students to know what instrument is the best option. I have provided some of my recommendations for middle school beginning/intermediate instruments here. **Note:** Please purchase or rent instruments from a music store or dealer! Other stores selling instruments may look the same as other instruments, however; these instruments have low quality parts and in most cases, cannot and will not be repaired by instrument dealers. If you have a used instrument that your child will be playing, please have it inspected by a professional repairman.

Flute: Gemienhardt, Armstrong, Artley, Selmer and Yamaha.

Clarinet: Selmer 1401, Vito, Leblanc, Buffett, Yamaha, Bundy and Armstrong.

Oboe/Bassoon: Selmer, Yamaha, Buffet, Fox

Saxophone: Yamaha, Selmer, Keilwerth, Conn, Bundy

Tenor Sax: Yamaha, Selmer, Keilwerth, Conn, Bundy

Trumpet: Yamaha YTR-2320. Also acceptable are Bach, Holton, Conn, or King.

Trombone: Bach TB-300. Also acceptable are Yamaha, Holton, Conn, or King.

Baritone: Yamaha, Bach, Jupiter

Tuba: Yamaha, Bach, Jupiter

Percussion: Students will need to purchase a Bell Kit. This will include a practice set of bells and a snare drum practice pad with sticks for each. CB, Ludwig, or Pearl are good brands. Most other brands are acceptable.

Instrument Checklists:

All students must have a nametag on their instrument

Brass:

- __ Slide or valve oil (Al Cass ó Fast)
- __ Tuning slide grease (Selmer or Benge)
- __ clean mouthpiece
- __ all slides must work
- __ no dents in valves or casings
- __ no dents in mouthpiece

Percussion: (required)

- __ one pair 5a or 5b concert snare sticks
- __ one pair bell mallets
- __ one stick bag with nametag

Flute:

- __ cleaning rod
- __ cleaning rag
- __ tuning cork in proper position
- __ keys and all pads in good condition

Other Woodwinds:

- __ four good reeds (clarinet/sax)
 - Beginner - #2 1/2 (clarinet and sax)
 - advanced - #3 (clarinet and sax)
- __ two good reeds (oboe/bassoon)
 - Beginner- Fox Medium reeds (or ask Mrs. Haley about handmade reeds!)
- __ cork grease
- __ cloth swab
- __ clean mouthpiece
- __ all keys, pads and corks must be in good conditions

NOTE TO REED MUSICIANS:

Reeds are expensive, so great care should be taken in handling! A great investment is a plastic or metal reed guard which securely holds up to 4 reeds while they are not being used. Reeds are fragile and eventually wear out. When the student has only two good reeds left (or one good reed for oboe and bassoon), more reeds should be purchased so that the student will not be without the most essential item for their instrument. Reeds are available for purchase through the local music stores.

**THANK YOU TO EVERYONE
WELCOME TO THE 2009 -2010
SCHOOL YEAR AT EAST
HAMILTON. GO HURRICANES!**

---Please read, have parents read, sign and return this page to by **August 24th**. *Keep the book as a reference.*

Band Handbook Approval Form

Parent Communication ó I will periodically email parents and students with updates and important information. Please give me the email(s) you want this information sent to.

Parent email: _____

Student Information

Name: _____ Home Phone #: _____

Instrument: _____ Student Email: _____

Brand: _____

Serial # _____

I have read and agree to all information printed in the Band Handbook. I also give consent to have photos or video of my child posted on the band website (names will not be posted). Any questions or concerns have been noted on the back of this form.

Student Signature _____ Date _____

Parent Signature _____ Date _____

I would like to volunteer (if available) in the following area(s)
____provide/help organize after-concert refreshments