

2009-2010

MASON HIGH SCHOOL

**SYMPHONIC BAND
HANDBOOK**

www.masonbands.com

SYMPHONIC BAND HANDBOOK 2009-2010 SCHOOL YEAR

INTRODUCTION

Since the first performances of wind bands in the United States around 1792, the musical function of Concert Bands has drastically changed. Due to the development of instrumental music programs in secondary schools and the growing repertory of serious wind literature, we now have the opportunity to expand our own individual talents and group performance levels higher than ever before. With this in mind, it is essential that we stress **MUSICAL GROWTH** as the first and primary goal in our approach to Symphonic Band at Mason High School.

Daily classrooms will involve musical fundamentals, sight-reading, chamber music, preparation of Concert Band literature, and Marching Band literature. All band members will need to prepare accordingly for the demands set before them. **INDIVIDUAL PRACTICE TIME** will become necessary in order to accomplish successful rehearsals **TOGETHER!**

The individual and group achievements this year will be directly related to the quality of daily preparation; **PRACTICE** your part, **WORK TOGETHER**, and constantly **SET HIGHER GOALS!**

PHILOSOPHY OF MUSIC EDUCATION

Music is a fundamental piece of the human experience. This makes music education a necessary endeavor to ensure that the whole child is being educated.

To this end, it is the philosophy of the Mason High School Band Program to educate, to the fullest extent, every child enrolled in band. This shall include skill development, cognitive understanding, and aesthetic appreciation for all forms of music from all cultures.

The primary objective of the Mason High School Band Program is to develop the performance, rehearsal and personal practice skills of each student. Students are expected to have a **good work ethic, show consistent progress, and develop goal setting/ achieving skills.**

Public performance is viewed as a useful tool to help students achieve success in band. Mason High School band students are provided concert and jazz band performance opportunities, plus experience in small ensembles and solos.

CLASSROOM PROCEDURES

- 1) Report to class promptly and prepare for rehearsal. To receive full classroom performance credit, students must have their instrument, proper accessory equipment (such as two working reeds, valve oil, mallets and/or sticks), pencil, music, tuner, and anything else deemed essential by the directors.
- 2) Warm-up intelligently, at a moderate dynamic level and with maturity. Respect the rights and needs of the other band members.
- 3) Four minutes after the tardy bell rings, you should be in your seat, with all music and equipment ready to rehearse.
- 4) (All members must be in the performance facility by tardy bell.)
- 5) When the conductor steps onto the podium, everyone should cease what they are doing, be quiet, and listen to the directions for the start of the rehearsal. All announcements will be given at the beginning of each class.
- 6) Individual conversations and interruptions during rehearsals are not conducive to our primary goal of **MUSICAL GROWTH**. If you have a question or would like to say something, please raise your hand and you will have opportunity to express yourself.
- 7) Take time after rehearsals to give your instrument and the music proper care. Neatness and cleanliness are essential in our organization. Please take pride in your facility and make sure everything is in its proper place.

CLASSROOM BEHAVIOR RULES

- 1) Be on time to class.
- 2) Sit in your assigned seat.
- 3) No gum or food permitted in the performance facilities any time.
- 4) No classroom disruptions during rehearsal time.
- 5) Take care of classroom materials and our facilities.
- 6) Students must have instrument, proper accessory equipment, red pencil, and music for every day of rehearsal.

BREAKING OF THE RULES

- 1) Verbal warning.
- 2) Detention with a student/teacher conference. (All detentions will be served in the band room for one half hour. Students and parents will be notified at least 24 hours in advance.)
- 3) Detention and personal contact with the student's parents.
- 4) Detention and parent/teacher conference. The director may have another music teacher or principal involved in the conference.
- 5) Discipline administration now takes over.

SEVERE CLAUSE – A STUDENT MAY BE SENT TO THE OFFICE IF THE DIRECTOR FEELS IT IS NECESSARY.

FOLLOWING THE RULES

- 1) Enjoyable and fun rehearsal.
- 2) Praise.
- 3) Rewarding concerts and contests.
- 4) An assertive, responsible, and disciplined group.
- 5) Rewarding outside musical experiences.

GRADING

With **MUSICAL GROWTH** as our primary goal, two areas of importance surface when evaluating individual band members.

- 1) **CLASSROOM PERFORMANCE** - musical performance in class, promptness, daily preparation, respect for facility, attitude and discipline (30% of total grade).
- 2) **CONCERT PERFORMANCE** – attendance at and performance in all required concerts and rehearsals (30% of total grade).
 - Concert Performances.
 - Solo & Ensemble Adjudicated Event (First chair players must take a solo and all students are encouraged to take a solo and/or an ensemble)
 - O.M.E.A. District Performance.
 - Pep Band Performances- **A Minimum of Two is Required**
 - Memorial Day Parade. (marching band members only in Green and White)
 - Sectional and Dress Rehearsals.
- 3) **PERFORMANCE TESTING** - Testing of wind music-fundamentals of music (written, and aural) (30% of total grade).
 - Scale Jury-major scales up to seven flats and seven sharps, quarter note equals 120 beats per minute using rhythm pattern(s) established by the band directors.
 - Testing of wind music-fundamentals of music (written and aural).

****60%** of your total grade will be a combination of performance opportunities and by how well you play your Concert, Solo and Ensemble, and contest literature. **PLEASE NOTE:** You must receive a grade of a “B” or better on all of your music. In addition, if a performance or rehearsal is missed without director approval, your grade will be affected based on the percentage designated. In rare occasions, a written musical assignment might be assigned to replace a performance or rehearsal that was missed as a result of an excused absence. Unexcused absences will not be granted an opportunity for makeup work

- 4) **SEMESTER EXAM** - Playing/Written Final (10% of total grade)

CONCERT ATTENDANCE

Concert attendance is mandatory. All members are expected to play in all scheduled performances dressed in proper concert attire (see Concert Attire). Students are to arrive at the performance venue at least forty-five minutes before the concert starts to tune and warm up.

Performance attendance is equal to 30% of a student's grade in band. An unexcused absence from a performance will result in a failing grade for that portion of their average. Absences are unexcused except in emergency cases or personal illness. Any school activity conflict must be worked out between the advisors (including the band director), student and parents at least three weeks in advance. The student has the responsibility to inform the band director immediately when the conflict is discovered.

In the event of an excused absence, the student may receive the full 30% performance grade credit by bringing in a letter (in emergency/illness cases) upon their return to school, signed by the student's parents explaining the reason for their absence. The director may call for further verification. In addition, students with excused absences must attend a professional or collegiate concert and write a 2-3 page paper on their observations to receive full credit. Just as a student who is sick the day of a major test is allowed to make up the test, so is a student who is absent the day of a performance. For unexcused absences no make-up opportunity is given.

Sectionals/Ensemble Rehearsals

As to be expected with any ensemble, time commitments outside of the regularly scheduled school day are vital to success of the group. Students will be expected to attend scheduled sectionals for their instrument only. These sectionals will be given in a very specific schedule depending upon which pieces of music need work at a particular time. Ample notice will be given to students regarding their attendance responsibilities. Full ensemble rehearsals will be conducted in the weeks before a performance. **These will be graded. Work will not be an excused absence.**

SEATING AND CHALLENGES

Through the scheduled music testing sessions in class, any student may move up or down within each section according to how well they perform their music. All testing will be done by the directors with results posted the day after the students play. Should anyone wish to schedule a music challenge, he/she should contact the director and schedule a time during trimester testing weeks. **PLEASE NOTE:** Students who opt to challenge in this manner must have a current

grade of “B” or better in order to qualify. Challenges will involve sight-reading and/or Symphonic Band literature.

PERFORMANCE DRESS

WOMEN- Concert dress (purchased from boosters - \$65.00)
Pearls (purchased from boosters - \$10.00)
Tan or black hose
Solid black shoes

MEN- Tuxedo (rented from boosters - \$35)
Tux shirt (purchased from the band boosters \$15)
Solid black socks
Solid black dress shoes

SCHEDULED PERFORMANCES AND REHEARSALS

(All dates are subject to change. We will do our best to give updates with changes with sufficient notice)

December 5, 2009	Honor Band Auditions (Strongly Encouraged)
December 14, 2009	Winter Concert (Select Individuals)
January 8, 2010	Concert Band Camp (Required 5pm-10 pm)
January 9, 2010	Concert Band Camp (Required 10:00-9:00 pm)
January 10, 2010	Concert Band Camp Performance (Required 1:30-3:00)
January 15-17, 2010	OMEA District13 Honor Band (Selected Individuals)
January/February	Sectionals (Required see online schedule)
February 6, 2010	District 13 Solo and Ensemble (Strongly Encouraged)
February 25, 2010	Group and Individual Picture Day (Required 5:00-7:00pm)
February 25, 2010	2nd Trimester Concert (Required 7:00 pm)
March 12-13, 2010	OMEA District Contest (Required Time/Date TBD)
April 29, 2010	Dress Rehearsal (Required 3:00-5:30)
April 30-May 1, 2010	OMEA State Contest (Required Time/Date TBD)
May 14-15, 2010	(Tentative Cedar Point Trip)
May 20, 2010	3 rd Tri Concert (Required 7:00 pm)
May 25, 2010	Memorial Day Parade (Marching Band Only)
May 28-29, 2010	(Tentative Cedar Point Trip)

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

It is the policy of the Mason Music Department to provide information regarding the finances of the performing organization. If there is a problem in meeting any of the commitments explained in this section, please feel free to contact Mr. Jackson at 398-5025 ext. 30272, or Mr. Robert Bass at 398-2798 ext. 30271.

This section of the handbook explains the expenses of being in Instrumental Music during 2nd and 3rd trimesters. Expenses include such things as clinicians, music supplies, award ceremonies as well as contest fees. It is necessary for each student to realize these expenses and be willing to help support their band and the entire instrumental program.

The Mason Booster Organization is a parent booster organization that assists each of the music students in meeting their financial obligations and therefore their success as a student in the Mason Music Program. The purpose of the Booster Organization is to take charge of fund-raisers so that additional finances can be raised to pay for needed items. Those additional monies pay for social events and awards for the students.

BUDGET/FEES

The members of Symphonic Band help support the band budget for the 2007-2008 school year. Each student is responsible to pay \$45.00 plus gentlemen pay a \$35.00 tuxedo rental fee. The budget covers a portion of solo and ensemble, method book, and clinicians. Band fees are invoiced with all other school fees and sent directly to the school, not to the band department.

APPAREL PURCHASES

all apparel is purchased through the Mason Band Boosters

Ladies will purchase a black concert dress for \$65 and pearls for \$10 from the boosters.

Gentlemen will purchase a tuxedo shirt for \$15 from the boosters.

If you already have a concert dress, pearls or tuxedo shirt from previous years of participation you do not have to purchase them again. The boosters will notify each student of a time to be fitted for apparel. Payment must be received before apparel will be distributed.

Private Lessons

Half hour private lessons are offered to band students in the Mason City Schools. Lessons are taught by an outstanding staff of professional performer/teachers, and are scheduled Monday through Friday after school and evenings at either Mason High School, Mason Middle School, or at the instructors' private studio.

The band directors in the Mason City Schools agree private lessons are the most effective way for young musicians to fully develop their performing talents. Private teachers help students develop tone quality, technique, musical style, practice discipline and preparation for solos, playing tests and auditions. The lessons use a combination of explanation and demonstrations while building the student's confidence to enjoy playing in group or solo situations. Private teachers use a variety of materials including solos, exercise books, audition materials, as well as parts from full band arrangements.

Private lessons are also beneficial for students attempting to learn a second instrument. In the Mason Middle and High School bands many of our players have worked to achieve this goal, resulting in opportunities to perform in many types of concert, marching and jazz ensembles plus helping to improve the instrument balance throughout our schools' band program. In addition, students who have fallen behind the performing level of their band and need extra help to catch up find the one-on-one attention of private lessons especially helpful.

The cost of private instruction ranges from \$14.00 to \$16.00 per thirty minute lesson with payments usually made four lessons in advance. Lessons can be started or stopped any time during the school year with makeup lessons given for illness, emergencies, or other excused absences. Lessons are not given during holidays or on days when school is not in session. During the winter lessons are cancelled if school is closed or dismissed early. A few of our teachers continue their lessons in the summer but for the most part private lessons are taught from October through May.

Band students at Mason High School who do want lessons should fill out the bottom of this page and turn it in to the directors at school. A private teacher will call at home to explain more about their lessons and to arrange a day and time.

Students Name: _____ **Grade:** _____

Instrument: _____ **Telephone Number:** _____

Are you taking lessons currently? _____ **If yes, with whom?** _____

Congratulations and welcome to another fantastic year. This page is to confirm that you received the handbook. Any questions or concerns may be directed to Mr. Jackson or Mr. Bass. This Page will also help us gather information.

_____ Please check if you are a parent and are interested in chaperoning events this year.

Student Signature: _____ Date: _____

Parent Signature: _____ Date: _____