



McCormick Junior High Instrumental Music Handbook 2011-2012

Welcome back for the 2011-2012 school year. We are looking forward to working with all of you again. I hope everyone is ready for an exciting educational experience. The following pages contain concert dates, classroom expectations, discipline policies, grading procedures, and rules for the year. This handbook is written for the benefit of the student and his/her parent, so please read it carefully. Refer back to it during the year if needed. Please ask questions if there is something that you do not understand.

All of the information presented in this handbook is also available at the following website: <http://hurontigerband.com>

Course Information

Band 7

Band 8

Teacher Contact Information

Directors: Mrs. Christina Scherley

christina_scherley@huron-city.k12.oh.us

Mr. Adam Ladd

adam_ladd@huron-city.k12.oh.us

419-433-1234 ext. 2013

Course Pre-Requisites

Open to all students who have completed the band course for the previous year.

Course Description

The McCormick Middle School band program is made up of students who have the desire to continue their music education beyond elementary band. The McCormick Bands enable students to not only widen their knowledge in music, but also their performance experiences. These experiences include marching with the high school band, numerous concerts, and small and large group contests.

Learning Objectives/ Outcomes

- Students will continue to develop instrument specific skills, building upon the foundation set forth in previous years.
- Students will develop “ensemble awareness,” understanding their role in the large group, including but not limited to tone production, intonation, blend, and balance.

Required Materials

On a daily basis, all students are required to provide:

- instrument
- Method book: *Essential Elements 2000, Book 1 & 2*
- sheet music as distributed by directors
- a pencil with eraser

Each instrument also has its own specific needs.

Clarinet, Saxophone, Bassoon, and Oboe:

- At least** two quality reeds at all times.
 - Clarinet: *Vandoren V-12* or *Mitchell Lurie* (3)
 - Saxophone: *Hemke* (3)
 - Oboe/ bassoon: *Gower* medium

Trumpet, French Horn, Trombone, and Tuba:

- Valve/ slide oil
- Tuning slide grease

Percussion:

- Vic Firth SD 1 snare sticks
- Vic Firth M14 mallets

Performance Dates

- Script Huron Practice –September 19th and 22nd
- Script Huron Performance –Friday, September 23rd
- Winter Concert (Grades 6th-7th)- Monday, December 5th
- Winter Concert (8th Grade & Huron High School)-Wednesday, December 7th
- Mid-Winter Concert (6th and 7th Grades)- Tuesday, February 28th
- Mid-Winter Concert (8th grade and HHS)- Thursday, March 1st
- Solo and Ensemble Contest- Saturday, April 21st (optional)
- Large Group Contest- Friday or Saturday May 18th or 19th
- Spring Concert- Thursday, May 24th

Attendance at all performances is **MANDATORY!** If a student misses a performance his/her grade will be reduced by **3 letter grades**. The only exception to this policy is in the event of extenuating circumstances (death in family, illness)

Performance Attire

Required dress is as follows for band concerts and performances:

Males

- White collared shirt, tie, black dress pants, black socks, black dress shoes

Females

- White dress shirt, black skirt or dress pants, black dress shoes

Students will be expected to dress appropriately for all performances. Excessive makeup, outrageous hair-styles, or unnatural hair colors are not appropriate for concerts.

Classroom Rules

1. Please be respectful towards the teacher, your fellow students, and all materials used in the classroom.
2. Be PREPARED for class. Please bring your instrument, music, pencil, and agenda to class everyday. (Preparation is a part of your grade).
3. Please be in your seat and ready to play within 2 minutes of the class bell.
4. When the teacher is on the podium, **all conversation must stop**.
5. Please act appropriately in the classroom. Do not slide down the bannister, run, etc.
6. Do not bring food, drink, or gum into the classroom.
7. When the group is done rehearsing, please put your instrument away quickly and return to your seat. Do not leave your seat until the teacher dismisses you.
8. All of the rules set forth in the student handbook apply.

Discipline Policy

The following disciplinary action will take place in the event that a student does not obey the rules of the classroom.

First Offense: A verbal warning will be issued.

Second Offense: A detention will be issued.

Third Offense: A detention will be issued and the parent will be contacted.

Fourth Offense: Classroom removal

If the behavior continues, the above actions will be taken and additionally, a conference will be scheduled between the student, parent, teacher, and administration. At any time, the teacher reserves the right to issue a detention, contact a parent, or remove a student from the classroom, depending on the severity of the offense.

Grading Policy

Grades will be calculated using the following criteria:

Concert/ Performance Attendance = 40%

Daily Participation and Preparation = 30%

Check-Offs and Written Assignments = 30%

To get full credit for daily participation, each student must participate in class (play your instrument, answer questions, etc.), and be prepared for class with an instrument, music, and a pencil. If you forget any of these items, your grade will be lowered.

Check-Offs

The Huron Band program uses a system of “check-offs” to monitor/grade student’s progress on their instrument. Several times throughout the quarter, students will be assigned specific exercises from their method book and/or excerpts from their concert music that will be performed for a grade. The student must play the assigned exercise without any mistakes in order to “check-off” that exercise. Once a song is passed the student receives full credit for the assignment. If a student fails to pass the assignment on the first try, he or she can make up the missed points by playing the assignment correctly at any point during quarter for full credit. The check-off system is designed to encourage students to keep practicing and improve their playing rather than simply allowing them to give up after a poor test performance.

Check-Off Advice / Words of Wisdom

- It will be the student's responsibility to record in their method book and/or agenda which exercises have been assigned and whether or not they have been successfully "check-off."
- The amount of time available in class for making up missed check-offs will vary week to week. Therefore, students should not count on having time to make up a large amount of missed check-offs at the end of the quarter.
- **DON'T FALL BEHIND!!** Practice the check-off as soon as it is assigned and be ready to play it perfectly on the day it is due.

School Owned Instruments

Any student using a school owned instrument will complete an instrument check out form at the beginning of each school year. The student will then use that specific instrument for the remainder of the school year. Some instruments may be used by multiple students. In these cases, the student will be required to "sign out" the instrument to take home and return it the following day. (Do not sign out an instrument for Tuesday night, and not return it until Thursday.) All students are required to supply his/ her own mouthpiece, reeds, etc.

Smart Music

Intro to SmartMusic: SmartMusic is a new, exciting way to practice and perform! This excerpt from the SmartMusic website explains more:

This interactive, computer-based practice system helps students get better faster, and makes practicing more fun! With amazing accompaniments for more than 30,000 titles, challenging exercises, and the ability to record personal CD's, SmartMusic is the future of music learning.

The Huron Bands will be using SmartMusic this year to help students practice and continue to improve their skills. While the purchase of this software is **not required**, it is highly encouraged, as all method book check-offs and many of the full-band concert pieces that we will play this year are available to be practiced with SmartMusic.

Benefits of SmartMusic: SmartMusic provides students a way to make practicing more fun! By bringing the sounds of the bandroom to the computer at home (SmartMusic plays all of the other instrument parts), students can practice along with "the band" any time they want. By practicing with SmartMusic, students have a greater understanding of how their parts fit in with the whole.

SmartMusic also has the ability to record and grade students on certain playing assignments. These assignments are posted automatically to the teacher's online gradebook. Giving students instant feedback and assessment at home makes their time more productive, prevents them from practicing a part incorrectly, and provides constant encouragement.

The SmartMusic software includes over 30,000 accompaniments and over 50,000 exercises and scales. This is the largest musical library in the world, right at the tip of your fingers!

Cost of SmartMusic

STARTUP COST & 1ST YEAR OF USE

\$49.95-\$84.95

SmartMusic has an annual subscription cost of \$36 per student license. In addition, it is necessary to purchase a small clip-on SmartMusic microphone, at a cost of \$19.95.

Computers which do not have a microphone input jack (most Mac's do not have one) will require the purchase of a USB Microphone Adapter, at a cost of \$35.

2ND YEAR OF USE AND BEYOND

\$36 Annual Subscription Fee

*SmartMusic is an exceptional value. It contains a tuner, a metronome, the ability to record, the ability to accompany, and thousands upon thousands of exercises and scales, at a small fraction of the price. For example, the average metronome alone costs \$30!

How to Get SmartMusic

You can sign up for SmartMusic today by going to:

<http://www.smartmusic.com>

Check it out, and begin having more fun practicing!

Band Signature Sheet

I have read and understand all of the information stated in this handbook. I agree to comply with all of the policies and procedures as they have been set forth.

Print Student's Name

Parent Signature

Date

Student Signature

Date

Parents, please circle your preferred method of communication:

Email Phone

Preferred email address or phone number: _____

*Please detach this form from the handbook and return by Tuesday, August 30th, 2011 . It is worth 5 points if turned in on time! One point is deducted for each day it is late.

