

Stark County Home School Band Handbook 2017 –2018

SCHSB MISSION:

To provide home-schooled students with the opportunity to learn and develop musical skills and practices in a positive environment with other students who share a common interest.

LOCATION:

The SCHSB rehearses at the Champion Event Center located at 340 Mississippi Street SE, North Canton, OH 44720. (1 block east of Cleveland Avenue)

PERFORMING ENSEMBLES

The SCHSB has groups available to accommodate musicians of many different levels from beginners to accomplished players.

Beginning Band: Our entry level ensemble, this ensemble is for students who have little or no musical background and are looking to learn to play a brass, woodwind, or percussion instrument.

Intermediate Band: This ensemble places emphasis on the continued development and reinforcement of basic musical skills. We will build upon the accomplishments achieved in the Beginning Band class and work to increase facility and knowledge of our instruments. Students who participate in this ensemble must have successfully completed our Beginning Band program or have demonstrated the ability to perform at expected levels by audition.

Advanced (Concert) Band: This ensemble focuses on the development of higher level skills and musical expression through the performance of a wide range of modern and classic band literature. Students who participate in this ensemble must have successfully completed our Intermediate Band Program (usually two years) or have demonstrated the ability to perform at expected levels by audition.

2017 – 2018 REHEARSAL SCHEDULE

CHANGES FROM 2016

TUESDAY

Intermediate Band: 1:30 – 2:20
Advanced Band: 2:30 – 3:30
Beginning Band: 3:40 – 4:30

THURSDAY

Intermediate Band: 12:30 – 1:20
Advanced Band: 1:30 – 2:30
Beginning Band: 2:40 – 3:30

We have been notified of a recurring events scheduled at the Champion Events Center. The above schedule allows us to operate and avoid conflict with these events.

TUITION

The SCHSB collects a modest tuition to cover the instructional and facilities costs incurred throughout the semester. The program operates on a semester schedule. Two semesters (Fall & Spring) constitute one academic year. Each semester you will have the choice of paying for the entire term at once or dividing the cost up into four monthly payments. If you choose to make monthly payments, the first payment should be made by the first full band meeting. Each following payment will be expected by the 10th of each month.

2016-17 TUITION RATES

\$170 per semester / \$42.50 monthly - Standard Tuition
\$110 per semester / \$27.50 monthly - Second student from same family
\$ 70 per semester / \$17.50 monthly - Third, Forth, etc., student from same family

We ask that you make all payments made by check be made payable to Brad & Julie Connair. All cash payments should be submitted in a sealed envelope with the students name(s) clearly printed on the outside.

Please remit a **Late payment fee of \$10.00 with any payment made after the 10th day or 2nd rehearsal of each month which ever falls later.**

We ask that families commit to band for the entire semester and participate in the ending concert. Each registered student will be considered an active member of the band and his/her family will be responsible for all monthly payments for the current semester. If for some unforeseen reason you need to withdraw from the band program, please contact the Director before you withdraw.

REQUIRED MATERIALS

INSTRUMENT: Each student is responsible for providing their own quality instrument and maintaining it to proper playing condition. Please see the director for assistance in choosing or acquiring instruments.

SUPPLIES: Students will need to provide the appropriate lubricants, cleaning supplies and accessories for their specific instrument. Failure to properly maintain your instrument on a daily basis can lead to decreased performance and physical damage to your instrument. Most music stores sell a basic **care kit** containing these supplies. Students are also expected to have a portable **folding wire music** stand to be used during rehearsals and home practice as stands are not provided by the venue. Advanced players may wish or be asked to include additional tools such as a tuner, metronome, mutes, sticks and mallets in their band supply kit.

LESSON BOOK: Students will be asked to provide the appropriate lesson book specific to their selected instrument. The required lesson books are:

Beginning Band: Essential Elements 2000 Book 1
Intermediate Band: Essential Elements 2000 Book (1) & 2
Advanced (Concert) Band: Foundations for a Superior Performance

STUDENT EXPECTATIONS

BEHAVIOR

Students are expected to be respectful, follow instruction, and try their best at all times.

CLASSROOM ATTIRE

Out of respect for each other we ask that everyone agree to be modestly dressed when coming to band. Casual clothing is great for rehearsals. However, please avoid wearing clothing that will be distracting to others. This may include: Scoop necklines and backs, bare midriffs, off shoulders or bare shoulders, sagging pants, and short shorts and skirts.

PRACTICE TIME

Each student is expected to practice at home outside of rehearsal. As they are members of a performance group, they are not only responsible to themselves and their parents for their personal progress but also to the rest of the band. Progress of the entire band will suffer if even one student is not learning his/her music at home. In extreme cases, the director may have to ask the student to not play in a concert if he or she is not prepared.

PRACTICE GUIDES: Beginning students should expect to practice a minimum of six days a week for 15-20 minutes each day. This time should not include assembly and set-up of their instrument and music. As students progress they will be expected to extend their practice time to a minimum of 30 minutes per day. It is not unusual for serious students to practice seven days per week for an hour or more each day.

CONCERTS

At the conclusion of each semester the SCHSB will host an evening concert. Attendance of all members is expected at the concert. We encourage all parents, grandparents, friends, aunts, uncles, brothers, sisters, neighbors, and anyone who loves music to attend. Our concerts are FREE to everyone. Following the concert it has become tradition for the band parents to host a lovely reception for all to enjoy. Please see the current band operating calendar for concert dates and times.

CONCERT ATTIRE

For concerts, the band wears "concert black." Students may each choose whatever styles they wish as long as their clothes are basically black. Girls may wear a black dress, or a skirt or slacks with a black top. Boys may wear a black polo shirt or dress shirt with black slacks. If boys have a black suit or sport coat, they may wear a white shirt with it and a dark tie. At the Christmas concert, a red tie or scarf is permissible, and even encouraged!

EXTRA EVENTS

From time to time, students or ensembles may be asked or invited to participate in other events outside our normal rehearsal and concert schedule. These events may include performing at local churches or nursing homes, with honors band, or participation in events such as Solo & Ensemble contest. Annual events will be listed in the current band operating calendar; others will be announced as information becomes available.

OUTSIDE CONCERT ATTENDANCE: EXTRA PRACTICE CREDIT

Band students are encouraged to attend live performances whenever possible, especially if they will see and hear advanced bands, orchestras, or solo instrumentalists. This gives them an idea of what really good players should sound like. If they are never exposed to advanced performances of their own instrument, they have nothing to which they can compare their own playing ability and no goal set in their minds and hearts.

LISTENING TO MUSIC

Music students will learn music better the more they listen to it. Families who listen to and sing along with music will find that their children advance on their instrument more quickly than those who do not. Listen to music recordings with your children whenever possible. Clap and sing with them. Dance and play music games with them, even if it is just marching to the music. Check with your local library to see if they have any recordings of someone playing the instrument your child is learning or of concert bands or orchestras. Listen and sing to music when you are traveling in your automobile. It can be anything that your children enjoy and of which you approve. You are developing your children's musical skills each time you do so.

ESSENTIAL ELEMENTS INTERACTIVE

Essential Elements Interactive is a FREE online resource for users of the Essential Elements Lesson Book Series. We will have a master account set-up and provide all students with usernames and log-in id's. This system will allow us to post lesson assignment, supplemental materials, and communications. It will also allow students to practice their exercises with a virtual band allowing for immediate recognition of proper notes and rhythms as well as provide the parents with a reference for what they should expect their child to be performing. It will also allow students to post recorded performances of their work as well as keep a log of their practice minutes.

INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

WE ARE GUESTS OF THE BLUECOATS

Through partnering with the Bluecoats Drum & Bugle Corp. we are able to secure use of a rehearsal space at a reduced rate. It is, however our responsibility to make sure that we take good care of their property.

- A. PARKING: Parents & Students can park in any space located outside the event center not designated for special purpose use.
- B. At times we may be the only occupants of the building and the building may not be unlocked or open if you arrive early. Please make sure that Mr. Connair is on property prior to dropping your student off for rehearsal and that your child has successfully entered the building prior to your departure. You are always welcome to stay on property or sit in on any rehearsal.
- C. Students and children not participating in the current class must be supervised at all times. Parents should not leave students unattended. If you, the parent, have to leave the area, make sure you have another parent knowingly supervising your children. If you bring younger children then they must remain with you. All students/children must stay in the rehearsal room or in the reception area immediately outside the room.
- D. Before leaving each day, check to make sure your students have their music, lesson books, instrument, and any jackets or clothing with them. In addition students will be asked to assist with returning chairs and other room equipment back to its original configuration.

ABSENCES

Priority should be given in your schedule for rehearsal attendance. Students who do not attend rehearsals regularly hurt not only their own musical growth, but also effect the development of the students around them. If a student must be absent for rehearsal for any reason, please call or send a quick e-mail to the director before the missed rehearsal so that they will be aware of the situation.

CANCELLATIONS

Occasionally we may need to cancel band due to bad weather or other unavoidable circumstances. If it becomes necessary to cancel band due to weather, we will notify you through e-mail & Facebook update by 10AM the day of the canceled rehearsal. Please make sure we have an accurate e-mail address for your family, and check it any time you have questions about closings. If you do not have access to e-mail or do not check it regularly, make sure we are aware of this so that we can contact you by telephone. Band Boosters can volunteer to be in charge of notifying others of these situations as they occur.

PRINTED CONCERT PROGRAMS

Programs are printed for each concert. Please take advantage of these programs by picking one up as you enter the concert area so that you can follow along as the performance proceeds. Take them home with you. These are good souvenirs for your children (their names are listed) and are also good formal records to keep in order to prove their participation in the Home School Band. Send one to relatives!

BAND BOOSTERS

From time to time parents will have the opportunity to help in the operation of the band program or social events. Each year we will work to set up committees to help with special projects and tasks that need done for the band. If you have a specific area with which you can assist, please notate it on your child's registration form.

PARENT OBSERVATIONS

Parents are welcome and encouraged to observe band rehearsals at any time. However, if you have younger children with you they must be able to sit quietly and observe without disturbing the band rehearsal.

QUESTIONS

Should you have any questions or need to discuss any band matter, please feel free to contact either of us:

Brad Connair

Cell: 330-352-4805

e-mail: brad@taylorband.com,

Julie Connair

Cell: 330-958-2908

e-mail: theconnairs@yahoo.com

We ask that you please not call the Champion Events Center for information.

STARK COUNTY HOME SCHOOL BAND INDIVIDUAL PRACTICE GUIDE

- A. To develop good practicing habits, try to establish a regular time each day dedicated to playing your instrument. A half hour of practice per session is a good average at first, but as students become more advanced their practice time should increase. It will generally take about five minutes to put a horn together and get music set up and another five minutes to clean the instrument and put it away.
- B. Every practice time should be recorded on a chart, initialed by a parent, and brought to each Tuesday's rehearsal. Recorded practice time does not include the time required to assemble the instrument or to clean and case it at the end of practice. It does not include class time spent at Malone.
- C. **Special awards will be given at the end of the year to students who faithfully put in the required practice time and for those who exceed in practice time.**
- D. It is essential that each practice begin with sufficient warm-up, doing long tones first and then scales and exercises. A good warm-up sets the tone for a good practice session.
- E. All students should blow warm air through their horn a few times before playing it, especially if the instrument has been out in the cold.

EXTRA CREDIT

Whenever band students attend such a concert or recital, they may write that time on their practice calendar and turn in a copy of the printed program for extra practice credit. Malone University has several such performances each school year that are free to the public. Some may be listed on the band calendar that is with this handbook. When you learn of other opportunities to hear live music free, share it with us.

CARING FOR YOUR INSTRUMENT

- A. Woodwind Instruments should be protected at all times from extremes of cold and heat. Never leave your instrument in a parked car during the winter months and never store your instrument near a stove or other heat source, because extremes can cause the pads to deteriorate quickly (or fall out) and the wood in wooden instruments to crack. Use your swab to dry the inside of the instrument immediately after rehearsal or practice and then store the swab outside the case. Always gently warm the instrument before playing by blowing your breath through it for a minute or so. Assemble and disassemble the instrument the same careful way every time. Keep the case clean by regularly vacuuming or brushing it out.
- B. Brass Instruments should be warmed with the breath before playing. The condensation that accumulates inside should be emptied immediately after playing and fingerprints should be wiped off the instrument's finish before it is stored in the case. Once every two to three months, brass instruments need a bath; your director will tell you in class how to do this. Keep the case clean by regularly vacuuming or brushing it out.
- C. Percussion Instruments need only to be treated with respect and kept clean. Respect the fragile nature of snares and the snare head. Fold the drum stand carefully. Handle the mallet instruments carefully so as not to damage the mounts for the bars, etc. Latch cases securely before picking them up. Replace any broken part immediately. Keep the sticks looking new through careful use. Use with care and respect any school equipment assigned to you.