

**OREGON CITY
HIGH SCHOOL
BAND PROGRAM
HANDBOOK**



2015-2016

"STRIVING FOR EXCELLENCE THROUGH DEDICATION."

**Oregon City High School
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OREGON CITY HIGH SCHOOL BANDS 2015-2016

Dana Henson, Director of Bands



August 12, 2015

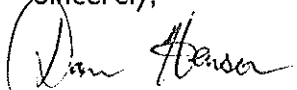
Dear Parents and Students,

Welcome to the Oregon City High School Band Program. As a member of the Oregon City High School Band Program, you belong to one of the finest, most active organizations the high school has to offer. Because of the size and number of activities offered to our band students, there have been many rules and regulations that have evolved to ensure the success and safety of all students in the program.

This handbook has been developed to help students and parents alike understand policies, rules, regulations, and expectations of the comprehensive Oregon City Band Program. It is essential that all parents and students read through the entire handbook. Students will be held accountable for the information presented in this handbook. This handbook should be kept as a reference.

The following information will be an invaluable aid to you in making your time at OCHS successful. The key to having a premier band program is a common vision. With this our program can attain levels of artistry and musicianship that are only found in the finest band programs across the United States. The skills and work ethic developed in the band program will help to prepare you for your future years as a student musician, member of the workforce, and as a human being.

Sincerely,



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Band Program Philosophy

Music Education is a primary means by which any educational institution can transmit to its students the cultural heritage of society. Music transcends barriers of ethnic background, socio-economic status, language, and even literacy in its power to reach the depths of the human soul. Experiences with music develop a student's ability to make value judgments, to function logically as well as intuitively, and to utilize one's innate creativity. Participation in performance organizations encourages initiative and leadership in the students, stimulates goal-oriented thought processes, creates an appreciation and respect for the efforts of others, and assists students to develop a sense of responsibility to themselves, the organization, and our community.

We recognize that few high school musicians chose to make music a career. However, the mental discipline and thought processes required in the study of music are applicable in all fields of endeavor. Creating well-rounded individuals who have a deep understanding for the arts in society, performing varied repertoire, and developing successful young adults are our main objectives.

Our Mission Statement, "*Striving For Excellence Through Dedication.*" guides our program every day. We sincerely hope that our students will carry these ideals far beyond their four years in the OCHS Band Program.

Band Program Goals

The primary goal of all band classes at Oregon City High School is to heighten each student's aesthetic awareness through the musical art. While there are many ancillary objectives that are also set for the students, using sound as a means to communicate the feelings embodied in a musical work is always the ultimate focus.

Dedication and maturity are required to develop this unique human ability. Dedication because the skills needed to recreate music are both numerous and complex. Maturity because, once the technical skills are learned, a musician must be patient and open minded in order to understand and then communicate the intent of a composer.

Many people go their entire lives without being aware of the power that art has to offer them. We believe that high school students are capable of delving into the meaning of music as art. We also believe there is no better way to accomplish that than to develop the ability to perform- to take the creation of an artist and bring it back to life.

At the high school level we develop and expand on the skills learned in middle school. Using these finely tuned skills we challenge the students to recreate meaningful music and to listen critically to ourselves and others as we perform. We emphasize the inappropriateness of expressing a value judgment on a particular work or performance unless one can articulate the reasons for his or her opinion and demonstrate an alternative. Criticism that is unsupported and non-constructive will not and should not be taken seriously by others.

"It is in Apple's DNA that technology alone is not enough - it's technology married with liberal arts, married with the humanities, that yields us the results that make our hearts sing." – Steve Jobs, Apple

Objectives

- 1) To develop a life-long appreciation for music and continuation of musical activities.
- 2) To develop performing groups that are consistently a source of pride for the individual, the school, and the community by performing only the best repertoire.
- 3) To develop musical experiences that enhance student's overall educational experiences.
- 4) To provide a suitable background in music instruction for those students who elect to continue the study of music after graduation.
- 5) To develop successful, well-rounded, young adults who possess the critical thinking skills necessary in our ever-changing world.

National Standards for Music Education

- 1) Students will sing, alone and with others, a varied repertoire of music.
- 2) Students will perform on instruments, alone and with others, a varied repertoire of music.
- 3) Students will improvise melodies, variations and accompaniments.
- 4) Students will compose and arrange music within specific guidelines.
- 5) Students will read and notate music.
- 6) Students will listen to, analyze, and describe music.
- 7) Students will evaluate music and music performances.
- 8) Students will understand relationships between music, the other arts, and disciplines outside the arts.
- 9) Students will understand music in relation to history and culture.

Standards will be addressed through our repertoire during the full academic year.

"When I hear people asking how do we fix the education system, I tell them we need to do the opposite of what is happening, cutting budgets by cutting music programs... Nothing could be stupider than removing the ability for the left and right brains to function. Ask a CEO what they are looking for in an employee and they say they need people who understand teamwork, people who are disciplined, people who understand the big picture. You know what they need? They need musicians." – Mike Huckabee, Former Governor of Arkansas, Presidential Candidate

Your Commitment to the Band Program

Members of our program participate in a number of activities and start with differing levels of abilities. The biggest question we ask of any member of the performing groups offered at OCHS, is will you make the commitment of time and dedication to your peers? For all school activities and coursework, the faculty and administration work together to make sure that students have the opportunities to participate in multiple interests. However, non-school activities, appointments, and other conflicts must not interfere with a student's commitment to band, to the other band members, and to the rehearsal/performance schedule given to you at the beginning of the year. It is worth it!

The band follows a regular rehearsal schedule; any changes are announced as far in advance as possible. This allows students to plan activities and other obligations around the schedule.

Punctuality will serve you well in any endeavor. Arrive in advance of the beginning of rehearsal. "To be early is to be on time, to be on time is to be late, to be late is unacceptable." It is essential that we make efficient use of the rehearsal time. This can only happen when every band member is present and working to improve. Band members who miss rehearsal cannot improve, and the other band members around them have a less effective rehearsal due to any absence. We all depend on each other to be present both mentally and physically in order for us to achieve the level of proficiency for which the OCHS Band is recognized.

Research has shown that being involved with and performing music makes a tremendous impact on a student's intellectual growth. For these benefits to be fully derived the student has to be able to perform music. The higher level of performance attained, the more beneficial the student's experience. Research shows that music helps students in all of their additional academic courses and that there is a direct correlation to success being amplified for students who are in multiple facets of our comprehensive program.

Because of this valuable connection between music and academic performance, band is a four-year commitment. The curriculum dictates that students participate in band year-round through participation in Marching Band and a Spring Concert Ensemble or through the full year Concert Ensemble program. Jazz and Chamber Ensembles are available as a co-requisite course. Unlike other academic areas music is not an academic pursuit that you can learn and master in one or two years. Music is a lifetime activity in which the learning process never ends. Each year a student is in the program they will learn new things and become better at their instrument. It is at the highest levels of playing (junior and senior years) that students can make the most connections between band and other academic classes.

"The life of the arts, far from being an interruption, a distraction, in the life of the nation, is close to the center of a nation's purpose - and is a test to the quality of a nation's civilization." – John F. Kennedy, Former U.S. President

Course Descriptions

The OCHS Band Program is year-round and comprehensive. Students must be participating in their assigned ensemble every trimester in order to be eligible for the following courses.

Concert Band (listed as Concert Band T-1, T-2, T-3)

Prerequisite: None

Meeting Time: Full Year - Traditional School Day

Class Description: Open to all students 9-12. This class will concentrate on developing skills acquired in middle school and in teaching beginning instrumentalists' fundamental playing skills. Advancement and application of basic skills such as music notation and recognition, tone production, rhythmic proficiency, intonation, technical ability, sight reading, as well as preparation and performances of grade II and III band literature will be covered.

Course Requirements: This ensemble will perform on several concert programs throughout the year. Students are encouraged to audition for placement into more advanced ensembles at the beginning of each trimester. Members will also be required to fundraise to allow the Band Boosters to continue to provide exceptional music experiences (Scrip/Grocery cards, etc...).

Honors Wind Symphony (Listed Honors Wind T-1,T-2,T-3)

Prerequisite: Successful completion (grade of C- or better for all trimesters) in previous ensembles (Marching Band, Symphonic Band or Concert Band), or instructor approval. In addition to the preceding, all students must pass a successful audition as it relates to the standards on the audition rubric.

Meeting Time: Full Year - Traditional School Day

Class Description: Open to all students 10-12 by audition. This is the premier Concert Ensemble of the Oregon City High School Band Program and is modeled after the renowned Eastman Wind Ensemble. This prestigious ensemble has earned a reputation for musical excellence in the state of Oregon and strives to be recognized on the National level. This advanced level class focuses on mastery of individual and ensemble playing skills and an added emphasis on performance. This ensemble will play literature at grade V (advanced high school) and VI (College) levels. Performance evaluations and self-assessments help students in this ensemble in preparing for successful participation in community, college, and professional groups. This ensemble is typically comprised of upperclassmen and advanced sophomores.

Course Requirements: Members of this ensemble are required to perform on several concert programs, concert festivals, contests, and trips. Members will also be required to fundraise to allow the Band Boosters to continue to provide exceptional music experiences (Scrip/Grocery cards, etc...). Students in the Wind Symphony are required to attend any additional rehearsals outside of the school day, including sectionals.

Symphonic Band (Listed Symphonic Band T-1,T-2,T-3)

Prerequisite: Successful completion (grade of C- or better for all semesters) in previous band ensembles (Marching Band, Symphonic Band, Wind Symphony), or instructor approval. In addition to the preceding, all students must pass a successful audition as it relates to the standards on the audition rubric.

Meeting Time: Full Year - Traditional School Day

Description: Open to all students 9-12 by audition. This intermediate level class focuses on mastery of individual and ensemble playing skills. This ensemble will play literature at grade III (average high school) and IV (advanced high school) levels. Playing tests, performance evaluations and self-assessments help students to prepare for successful participation in Wind Symphony.

Course Requirements: Members of this ensemble are required to perform on several concert programs, concert festivals, contests, and trips. Members will also be required to fundraise to allow the Band Boosters to continue to provide exceptional music experiences (Scrip/Grocery cards, etc...). Students in the Wind Symphony are required to attend all additional rehearsals outside of the school day, including sectionals. All students must also attend the annual Symphonic Band Camp held in the third quarter of the school year.

Scarlet Brigade Marching Ensemble (Winds or Percussion/Guard)

Prerequisite: Successful completion (grade of C- or better for all semesters) in previous band ensembles or instructor approval.

Co-requisite: Students must also be registered for a Concert Ensemble for the full year.

Meeting Time: First and Third Trimesters – Tuesday and Thursday evenings 6:30 to 8:30

Class Description: Open to students in grades 9-12. The Scarlet Brigade has earned a reputation for playing beautiful symphonic sounds set to innovative movement. Maintaining this tradition of excellence requires a high degree of dedication, effort, and pride on the part of each person involved. Approximately five staff instructors work collectively to give students the best musical experience possible. Skills acquired in marching band help prepare students for the rigors of concert ensembles that follow the marching season. Preparation and performance of the world's finest music will be covered. Testing of drill and music will help students in this ensemble in preparing for successful participation in all band ensembles offered at Oregon City High School. All students are encouraged to participate in the Scarlet Brigade. Cooperation and flexibility with all activities and sports is a priority to the directors and staff of the marching band.

Course Requirements: Members of this ensemble are required to perform at varsity football games, contests, out-of-state trips, and various local activities. Students enrolled in Marching Band are required to register for the Marching Band Full Ensemble period and the appropriate section of either Winds or Percussion/Guard. Students will receive class credit for and are required to attend all rehearsals and sectionals outside of the school day. All members enrolled in the Scarlet Brigade Marching Band are expected to attend the summer band camp and other summer activities.

Band camp is an essential team building activity in which students will not only learn the fundamentals of marching and music; they will also learn about each other and the tremendous amount of dedication and cooperation it takes to have a superior marching band. The camaraderie and friendships made in camp will set the tone for the entire school year. This is not an optional event. Many of our band families plan their summer travels with our schedule in mind, please join them so that all students can have the opportunity to maximize success.

The district mandated class fee pays for only a fraction of the true cost of the complete band program. On average, our program provides over \$1,000 of additional instructional experiences per student. For this reason fees and fundraising are vital to success of the program and the experience of the student.

A fee schedule and financial policy for marching band will be/has been handed out at the Annual Spring Meeting. Please ask for copies or go to www.ocbandparent.org to procure these materials. No student will be denied a place in the band because of financial hardship. These matters will be handled confidentially on a case by case basis.

Color Guard (Guard/Percussion)

Co-requisite: Students must register for all appropriate marching band sections in order to be a member of the Color Guard as well as have instructor approval.

Meeting Time: First, Second, and Third Trimesters

Description: Open to all students in grades 9-12. No prior experience is needed. This performance group combines the elements of dance and movement in coordinated effort with the winds and percussion. Students will learn the basics of flag, rifle and saber work, as well as dance and body movement. The color guard will perform as part of the Scarlet Brigade during all practices and performances during the marching season. Members are expected to attend all extra rehearsals.

Guard members are members of the marching band and have the same fees. Guard members will also be expected to pay for half of their uniform, the cost of shoes, and the flag bag.

Jazz Ensemble II (listed as Jazz Band – T-1, T-2, T-3)

Co-requisite: Participation in concert ensembles.

Meeting Time: Full year – Early Bird

Class Description: Open to students in grades 9-12. This class will work on both developing skills acquired in middle school and beginning improvisation. Jazz is a true American art form that helps students to gain confidence in playing through ensemble performance and soloing (improvisation). Advancement and application of basic skills such as music notation and recognition, tone production, rhythmic proficiency, intonation, technical ability, sight reading, improvisation, as well as preparation and performances of the finest beginning to intermediate jazz ensemble music will be covered. Evaluations, listening, and performing will help students in this ensemble in preparing for successful participation in Jazz Ensemble I.

Class requirements: This ensemble will perform on several concert programs. A limited amount of extra rehearsals will be called. Standard jazz ensemble instrumentation will be used in this class; trumpets, trombones, saxes, and rhythm section. Students who play non-traditional jazz ensemble instruments are invited to join the ensemble, but must independently learn a traditional jazz instrument. All students are expected to immerse themselves in the culture of jazz. Extensive listening is expected. You may listen to jazz through Pandora, Spotify, and any other means available.

Jazz Ensemble I (listed as Jazz Band – T-1, T-2, T-3)

Co-requisite: Participation in concert ensembles. In addition to the preceding, all students must pass a successful live audition as it relates to the standards on the audition rubric.

Meeting Time: Full year – Early Bird

Class Description: Open to students in grades 9-12. This is the premier Jazz Ensemble of the Oregon City High School Band Program. This prestigious ensemble has earned a reputation for musical excellence in the state of Oregon and is fast becoming one of the top jazz ensembles in the state. This advanced level class focuses on mastery of individual and ensemble playing skills and an added emphasis on performance. Preparation and performance of the finest grade III, IV, and V literature will be covered. Performance evaluations and self-assessments help students in this ensemble in preparing for successful participation in community, college and professional groups.

Course Requirements: This ensemble will perform on several concert programs and concert festivals. There will be out-of-school time required for rehearsals and performances. Instrumentation in Jazz Ensemble I may be limited to five trumpets, five trombones, six saxophones, and rhythm section. Members of the saxophone section may be exposed to doubling (flute, clarinet, bass clarinet). All students are expected to immerse themselves in the

culture of jazz. All students are expected to immerse themselves in the culture of jazz. Extensive listening is expected. You may listen to jazz through Pandora, Spotify, and any other means available.

Jazz Ensemble Assignments/Rehearsal Schedule:

During the first two weeks of Trimester I, we will meet together to develop basic skills and hold a short audition process. At the conclusion of week two, live auditions will be held with local music professionals. Students will then be placed in the appropriate ensemble. The Jazz Ensembles will meet everyday from 6:30 am to 7:30 am.

Extra-curricular Ensembles

Winter Guard

Pre-requisite: Successful completion of fall color guard or instructor approval. In addition to the preceding, all students must pass a successful live audition as it relates to the standards on the audition rubric.

Description: Open to students in grades 9-12. The Oregon City High School Winter Guards are an extra-curricular activity that is overseen by the instructors of the Scarlet Brigade Colorguard. The winter program may consist of multiple groups that will be determined by ability level. All members of the Winter Guards will be expected to pay for the full cost of their uniform, shoes and a participation fee. Members will also be required to fund raise regularly and participate in Band Booster fundraisers such as Scrip/Grocery Cards. Members are expected to attend all rehearsals and performances.

Percussion Ensemble

Description: Open to students in grades 9-12. This ensemble is comprised of students in the Wind Symphony, Symphonic Band, and Concert Band percussion sections.

Percussion Ensemble is a co-curricular activity designed to challenge and enable percussionists to expand their skills in mallets, concert percussion, and world percussion. Percussion Ensemble begins after marching season concludes. This ensemble will perform at school concerts and at various other venues. Membership in Percussion Ensemble is limited to students whose primary instrument is percussion and/or piano.

Description: The Oregon City High School Percussion Ensemble is a co-curricular activity provided by the Oregon City High School Band Boosters. All members of the Percussion Ensemble will be expected to pay for individual sticks and mallets. Members will also be required to fund raise. Members are expected to attend all rehearsals and performances.

Course Syllabus and Grading Policies

The Oregon City High School Band program will provide students the opportunity to heighten their aesthetic awareness through instrumental performing arts. While there are many ancillary objectives that are also set for the students, using sound as a means to communicate the feelings embodied in a musical work is always the ultimate focus. Students will be exposed to elements of individual and ensemble performance through participation in regular rehearsals and performances of Concert Band, Symphonic Band, Wind Symphony, Jazz Ensembles, Marching Band and Pep Band, as well as smaller "chamber" ensembles. Students will be exposed to the language of music in these various ensembles through rehearsals, concerts, recordings, written theory, projects, and listening assignments.

The nature of instrumental music education encourages students to continually strive for excellence. Courses within the OCHS Band program are designed to simultaneously advance students' technical proficiency on their instrument as well as broaden their musical understanding through the music being performed.

EXPECTATIONS

All OCHS Band students are expected to practice outside of class, attend class on time, actively participate in rehearsal, come prepared for rehearsal (individual practice, bringing all need materials, etc...), and attend all scheduled performances. Lost (defined as, not present at the time of rehearsal) music will be subject to a fine of \$3/piece. Fines will be assessed anytime music is not in class. All members of our program should be familiar with the OCHS Band Handbook and follow all policies and the Code of Conduct.

ATTENDANCE POLICY

As a performing ensemble, each and every student plays a critical role in the success of the entire group. Therefore, attendance at all rehearsals and performances is required. Missing a performance will result in the lowering of the student's grade, and excessive absenteeism from rehearsal, willful defiance, or malicious damage to OCHS Band equipment may result in the student's removal from the program at any time.

EVALUATION

Grades in all band coursework are earned by the student, through the evaluation of student performance in several areas, including but not limited to:

- Skills Assessments (performance or written)
- Class Participation
- Performance and Critique

All individual performance-based evaluations (scales, exercises, play tests, etc) may be re-taken until the student is satisfied with his/her grade. Music Assessment rubrics (see appendix B) are used as a guide for student achievement. Any student may continue to work on improving performance level while improving his/her grade in any of our coursework.

The band directors take their jobs very seriously. The band as an organization provides a medium through which student's progress academically, musically, and socially. Musicianship, attitude, attendance, punctuality, conduct, and a desire for excellence are absolutely expected from each member of the Oregon City High School Band. Individual practice and preparation are essential. No other discipline in education requires the high level of achievement from all participants, as does musical performance. Through the level of commitment required, we hope to better prepare our students for the responsibilities encountered throughout their lives.

Marching Band Policies

Marching season incorporates all of the specific skills learned in the large ensembles and uses the same grading criteria as outlined above.

In addition to having their instrument, music, and pencil at all rehearsals, students must also have their completed dot books on their person at all times in order to earn a satisfactory grade for marching band.

Memorization of music and drill is essential to having an outstanding marching band. Memorization will be assessed by directors, instructors, and section leaders throughout the marching season. Section leaders individually test members for accuracy in notes and rhythms

for music memorization and counts, dots (coordinates), and body movements for marching memorization.

Each member is expected to have all necessary equipment in working order for practice and performance. Not having the proper attire or materials is not a satisfactory reason for having a poor rehearsal. Refer to Appendix A for a list of safety requirements for attire and non-music related materials in relation to marching band.

Marching rehearsals are almost never cancelled due to inclement weather. We will rehearse outdoors in the rain, if it is just drizzle or intermittent light rain. In the event of steady rain or snow, we will rehearse indoors and go out at the first opportunity. In the event of a severe weather conditions, practice will be cancelled and students will be contacted through the Facebook Group and through text messages from section leaders.

Rehearsal Etiquette

The Directors, Staff, and Student Leadership Team have set high expectations for the musical and behavioral discipline of the Scarlet Brigade. Horseplay, throwing ice or water, spitting, swearing, and other such activities will not be permitted. When a member crosses into the performance area, it is all business. Our default position is "rest" facing forward while looking at the Director or Instructor who is currently overseeing rehearsal. Dot books, music, pencils, and etc...will be on each member at all times.

Audition Procedures

Placement and seating for Wind Symphony and Symphonic Band are earned by audition only. Auditions are held during the third trimester for the following year. Auditions will be held as blind auditions for a panel of judges.

- All students must audition. Do not worry if you cannot play all materials, we want to hear what you CAN do.
- The adjudicators will place students in numerical order by ability.
- Students will sign-up for an audition time in the Band Hall. You must make your audition on time, or you will forfeit your audition. You will be placed by default.
- There will be no additional audition date(s). These recording sessions will be recorded by the band directors, and then listened to by the adjudicators to determine placement.

Audition Content

The audition is divided into 3 sections: SCALES, PREPARED ETUDES and SIGHT READING. Please prepare as much as you can to show what knowledge you have acquired.

SCALES

Student shall select the keys and play one of each of the following:

- One major scale, 2 octaves, in 16th notes with the Qtr. = 112.
- One harmonic minor scale, 2 octaves, in 8th notes with the Qtr. = 120.
- Chromatic scale, 2 octaves, in 8th notes with the Qtr. = 80.

Students should practice their scales with their metronome (there's an app for that).

PREPARED ETUDES

The music for the prepared etudes is typically the same music that is required for WIBC Honor Band. There will be two etudes, one technical etude and one lyrical etude. Percussion students

will have etudes for mallets, timpani, and snare. Students will be evaluated on Tone Quality, Intonation, Hand/Finger Technique, Tonguing Technique, Articulation, Dynamics, Accuracy of Rhythm, Pulse, and Overall Musicianship.

SIGHT READING

Students will be evaluated on Tone Quality, Intonation, Hand/Finger Technique, Tonguing Technique, Articulation, Dynamics, Accuracy of Rhythm, Pulse and Overall Musicianship. The director will give you the sight-reading piece and provide you with the metronome marking. You will have a short time to scan the piece with a metronome playing. After you scan the director will tell you to begin. It is imperative that you push through the sight-reading piece even if you make mistakes.

** Once the Symphonic Band and Wind Symphony are filled and instrumentation is balanced, students with lower auditions scores will be placed in Concert Band.*

Audition results will be posted in the Band Hall. **All results are final and not up for discussion.** It is the student's responsibility to contact their counselor immediately to get placed in the right class.

Chair Challenge Procedures

The purpose of the chair placement challenge is to recognize student growth over time and provide a healthy avenue of competition. Ask a Director for a form if you plan to challenge.

- The challenge form must be submitted to the Director one week prior to the challenge.
- Each student involved in a challenge must perform his/her own excerpt choice, the opponent's excerpt choice, scales, and sight-reading chosen by the Director. Student music choices must be from the current set of concert music.
- Challenges can only apply to the musician one chair away.
- A defender must accept the challenge or forfeit the chair.
- The challenge will be proctored by the Director in a live audition outside of class time.
- Results will be known and effective immediately following the challenge.
- No challenges will be held 2 weeks prior to a performance.
- Ties will favor the musician who already holds the chair.
- If a challenger wins then the two will switch chairs.
- The Director reserves the right to deny any challenge proposal at any time.

Code of Conduct

An organization with class, mature members, and pride, will not permit any acts of disrespect.

Any student, no matter how accomplished musically or otherwise, may be removed from the Oregon City High School Band Program due to behavior or breaking of any of the rules in this handbook.

- All school rules and policies (including **OCHS Dress Code**) are in effect at all band functions.
- Profanity is unacceptable in our program. Disciplinary action will be taken.

- Any band member possessing or using any controlled substances, which include tobacco and alcohol, during any band function is subject to immediate removal from the organization, referral to school authorities, and if applicable, the appropriate law enforcement agency.
 - Band members will not play on or play with the equipment of others. This practice can lead to potential damage and a general lack of respect for the property of others.
 - All band members are expected to follow the instructions of any teacher, staff member, chaperone, or Leadership Team member, without question unless the instructions are a violation of civil law or moral standards. Failure to do so is *insubordination*.
 - Destructive and inconsiderate activity will not be tolerated, whether it be something seemingly innocent or more overt.
 - All students must travel to and from off-campus performances in district owned vehicles. If you wish to ride home from an event with your parents, you must be signed out, in person, at the conclusion of the event, and you will be removed from the bus roster. Students will be released only to parents or guardians. In town rehearsals, small ensemble performances, and honor bands are exceptions to this rule. Please be aware of this policy, it is for your protection as well as the protection of others.
 - Sexual harassment of any form will not be tolerated in our band program. Sexual harassment includes all unwanted, uninvited and non-reciprocal sexual attention as well as the creation of intimidating, hostile or offensive school or work environment. Harassment *can* include: Sexually suggestive looks or gestures, Sexual jokes, pictures or teasing, Pressures for dates or sex, Sexually demeaning comments, Deliberate touching, cornering or pinching, Attempts to kiss or fondle, Threats, demands, or suggestions that favors will be granted in exchange for sex or tolerance for sexual advances. Demeaning comments regarding sexual orientation, Public displays of affection. **PDA is sexual harassment!**
- NOTE: Please respect people's personal space because it differs for everyone.*
If you feel you have been harassed contact the directors so the appropriate action can be taken.
- Any time there is a critical incident involving band members versus any other group/individual, or any incident involving police or other authorities, the directors are to be notified immediately.
 - Any injury that occurs during a band-function should be reported to the director, head chaperone, and health volunteer without delay.
 - **NEVER WALK ALONE** at any band contest, festival, trip or other function, band members should move from place to place in a group (three or more people). Do not go off by yourself, especially after dark. To leave the site, you must have permission from the director.
 - Be considerate to all other performing groups. Always be a respectful, attentive, and positive audience. We expect the same of our peers.
 - Non-Band Members are not allowed to sit with the band while at any performance venue, this includes football and basketball games.

- When the Oregon City High School Band “falls in” to march to or from any location, there is to be absolutely no talking. When we march in formation, we are observed by the public and by other bands, and our tradition of success demands that you exhibit the highest level of personal and ensemble discipline at all times. You are “performing” whenever you are in public wearing our uniform or any clothing featuring the “Pioneer Shield”, whether you are getting off the bus, marching to the stadium, or on break. Do not embarrass yourself or our program by acting in an immature manner.

- All members are responsible for keeping our Band Hall organized. Attendance will be taken and members will not be dismissed until all areas used are cleared by our Leadership Team.

- Kindness and courtesy are one of the marks of our program say Please and Thank You.

- If you think someone might ask “Why did you do that?”, Do Not Do It.

Students who break rules either on a trip or at school do so selfishly and without thinking of the results to them or the effect it could have on classmates and the entire band. In an outstanding ensemble, every participant has a crucial and exacting role to play. If a person is missing due for any reason, they place an additional burden on every other member in the ensemble and it can have disastrous effects on the success of the performance.

Uniform Etiquette

The OCHS Band Uniform and any apparel bearing the “Pioneer Crest” are a great source of pride to us. Your actions while in any type of OCHS uniform, reflects upon on our band, school, and community.

- Absolutely NO food, gum or drinks other than water AT ANY TIME while you are in your uniform.

- Do not touch, hide, or alter another members uniform.

- The uniform is either on or off...never in-between (unless specified by the Director to be in “half uniform”). The uniform will be worn properly at all times.

- No baseball hats, tennis shoes, bright nail polish, jewelry, etc. while in uniform.

- Students (male or female) with hair that extends below the collar of the jacket will be asked to have their hair appropriately put up with hairpins, a hairnet, etc., while in uniform.

- No swearing, running, horseplay, or “public displays of affection” while in uniform.

- The uniform consists of black bib pants, jacket, black shoes, tall black socks, black gloves, shako with plume, band t-shirt, and thin shorts under bibs. No exceptions.

- All uniform issues should be reported to the chaperones and/or uniform coordinator.

- Personal items should not be put into your uniform bag. All students need a backpack or shoulder bag for personal items on performance days.

- Students will be charged full replacement cost for any uniform materials that are lost.

Travel Expectations

As a member of the OCHS Bands, you will have many opportunities to travel with your ensemble. These trips will range from a one day “up and back” concert to full trips of a week or more. Our primary goal for trips is to provide an educational and musical experience, both for the audience and ourselves. Our “Code of Conduct” applies, in addition to these specific rules.

1. NO DRUGS, NO SMOKING, NO DRINKING.
2. No females in male’s rooms, no males in female’s rooms for any reason.

3. No staying out or leaving rooms after bed check is complete.
4. Respect other's property (hotel, bus, restaurant, suitcases, backpacks, etc.).
5. All school and civil rules are in effect for the duration of the trip.
6. Follow all instructions of directors, staff, and chaperones, and treat them with respect.
7. Students must stay in designated groups.
8. If given "free time," students must follow the times given by directors or chaperones.
9. OCHS Band "Code of Conduct" applies at all times.

Any other activities which are perceived as being unbeneficial to the individual or group will be dealt with by the directors or chaperones.

Consequences

A student caught violating any rules marked above can be immediately removed from the trip and sent home at their parent's expense. In addition, students will receive a failing grade for the activity/competition, and will be subject to the punishment specified by the OCHS Administration. In serious cases a grade of W/F (withdraw fail) will be given for the trimester. The student will not be allowed to participate in band for the remainder of their time at OCHS.

Bus Expectations

Much time will be spent traveling on buses. For the health, safety, and comfort for all participants, the following rules have been established in addition to our "Code of Conduct":

1. Be early for all departures.
2. Do as the bus driver asks when on the bus.
3. Do not switch or change buses without director's permission.
4. No unnecessary moving around on the bus. No standing on seats, sitting on back's of arms or seats on the bus.
5. Keep heads and limbs, etc., inside the bus at all times.
6. iPods and other personal players (headphones only) are allowed on the bus, but for your own hearing, the volume level should not be loud enough to be heard by others.
7. Leave non-essential valuables at home.
8. Be Clean and Neat. Leadership Team will be responsible for doing a final bus check.
9. **Students will not be allowed to share blankets/covers on the bus.**
10. **Everyone** is expected to help load and unload equipment.

Student Concerns

Besides musical goals, the directors and staff wish to instill many life skills in our students. Problem solving and communication are two life skills that we believe are paramount for student success in the world of work. We ask that students be able to communicate with one another, the directors, and with fellow students in order to solve problems themselves. We believe that high school students are capable of this and should be held responsible for learning this necessary life skill. Below are some steps to follow to help students solve problems or concerns.

1. Recognize the problem
2. Approach the person you have a concern with, and let them know the problem you see happening.
3. Find a compromise with the person and set a plan to be followed by both of you.

4. If the person you are trying to compromise with refuses to cooperate or is hostile towards your requests, consult the directors or an adult (teacher, counselor, parent) to help you solve the problem.

Misunderstandings are more often than not easily solved if the student would communicate with the person they are having a problem with and develop a plan to solve the problem.

Discipline Process

Students who habitually break any rules in this handbook will be subject to the following discipline process:

1st and 2nd Offense- Deduction in grade points and/or possible referral. During marching season – self-policed physical discipline (i.e. push-ups, laps, etc...).

3rd Offense- Deduction in grade points, parent contact, and disciplinary action – possible referral. During marching season – self-policed physical discipline (i.e. 20 push-ups, two laps, etc...).

4th Offense- Deduction in grade points and student/parent/teacher/administration conference which could result in removal from class or band program (W/F on report card). Above discipline still applies.

Depending on the severity of the offense, the Directors reserve the right to remove any student from the program (W/F on grade report card).

Summer Band Camp

Summer Band Camp is mandatory for all members of the Scarlet Brigade and typically takes place at the third week of August. Band Camp is when we come together as a band and begin really putting the show together. Check the band calendar for this year's band camp dates and times. Each morning, the band focuses on movement, marching, and drill. Instrumental instructors are brought in for musical sectionals in the afternoon and there are fun activities for bonding and band spirit each evening. All portions are required and many of our member families plan their summer travel with this in mind. Please refer Appendix A for health and safety requirements.

Summer Rehearsals

Summer rehearsals will be led by marching band staff and are scheduled months in advance to help you to avoid conflicts. Check the band calendar for this year's band camp dates and times. In order to secure a "dot" for the marching show you must attend as many of these rehearsals as possible. Leadership Team members should avoid permissible reasons to miss any of these rehearsals are: family vacation (excused before hand) or a family emergency.

Attitude

Those who have pride in themselves will generally project a positive attitude.

Those who have a positive attitude, regardless of their individual skills, will always have a place in the Oregon City High School Band Program. Regardless of your ability, if your attitude is not positive, and if you are not doing your personal best to make the group successful, you should not be a part of this band. In fact, students who do not project an attitude that is positive and cooperative will be given the opportunity to change their personal perspective or thereby choose to leave the band the band program.

Characteristics of a positive attitude generally include a cheerful outlook towards rehearsals and performances, cooperation in the preparation and maintenance of equipment and facilities, and an eagerness to do what is necessary to be successful.

In short the ideal band member is one who is always willing to give their best for the good of the organization.

Concerts, Concert Attire, and Concert Procedures

Students, directors, and staff have put in numerous hours to prepare for concerts and it is important that we recognize this tremendous effort. Concerts are the culmination of all our hard work and dedication.

Music is a performing art. Because of this, performance and preparation of music are two of the focuses of the band program. Performing for an audience gives us valuable feedback about our progress as individuals, ensembles, and as a program. Performances are viewed as major tests: a performance is a learning experience that cannot be duplicated in a rehearsal hall or practice room; the level of concentration required in a public performance assists each student in developing an insight into their own level of performance; a performance is an important evaluation tool, allowing comparison of a student's performance in relation to classroom objectives presented and with past performances.

In Appendix C is a calendar with the dates of all concerts and performances. We also maintain an online calendar on www.ocbandparent.org and post two months of calendar on the band info board (located in the entryway to the Band Hall). Please mark these dates on your calendar. We ask that families plan ahead and avoid scheduling vacations or major medical work on or right before performance dates.

Absences from performances are only excused in certain cases.

Emergency Reasons:

1. serious illness
2. hospitalization of student or family member
3. death in the family

Other Acceptable Reasons:

1. religious holiday
2. conflict with school activity that cannot be missed.

Other reasons for absence must be approved by the director.

All absences must be pre-approved in writing by the directors at least two weeks before the day of the concert, except in cases of emergency as mentioned above. In cases of emergency a doctor's or parent's note must be given to the directors in order to have it deemed excused. Students will be required to submit make-up assignments.

AN UNEXCUSED ABSENCE OF A PERFORMANCE WILL MOST LIKELY RESULT IN A SUBSTANTIALLY LOWER GRADE FOR THE TRIMESTER.

Concert Attire

Concert Band Concert Attire

Men: Dress slacks (black tux pants), white tux shirt, black bow tie, black vest (black tux jacket for Honors only), black dress shoes, and long black socks. Hair must be groomed and not fashioned in a way to draw attention to an individual and away from the ensemble.

Women: Long black band dress, (black dress pants and black dress blouse for percussion section only), black socks or pantyhose, and black shoes. Hair must be groomed and not fashioned in a way to draw attention to an individual and away from the ensemble.

Our stage sits at audience eye level. **With the height of our stage it is unacceptable for women to wear any skirt that does not at least cover the knees.** Any ladies wearing such attire the day of a concert will be asked to change into something more appropriate, or be dismissed from the concert with a resulting grade of "0" for the concert. This rule is in effect for your protection.

Concert Band, Symphonic Band, and Wind Symphony

Men: Tuxes need to be purchased in the Fall.

Women: Dresses need to be purchased in the Fall.

In the fall, gentlemen will be measured for tuxedos and will need to be purchased by the end of September. Sign-up sheets will be posted in the band room for these fittings by our uniform parents. It is the responsibility of the student to sign-up and have their concert attire fitted. Our uniform committee is extremely busy, and neither they, nor the directors will tolerate students waiting until the last minute to have their concert attire fitted. Once the student is fitted, (if you are ordering through the school) payment must be received in full before the order is placed. It is the responsibility of the student to follow these instructions. Students choosing not to purchase through the school must make sure they have the proper concert attire by the November concert. Failure to have the appropriate attire for the concert will result in a "0" for the concert.

Students must wear black dress shoes (NO SNEAKERS) and men need to wear long black dress socks. Ankle socks, even though they may be black, are not acceptable concert attire. Socks with a logo or with any other design on them are not acceptable. Please plan accordingly.

Jazz Ensembles

Members of Jazz Ensemble I and II will wear all black, including black socks and black shoes (not tennis shoes). In addition to wearing "concert black", gentlemen in Jazz I will wear red neckties and gentlemen in Jazz II will wear white neckties.

Concert Attire Rules

1. Have your attire fitted in a timely fashion on assigned fitting days.
2. Arrive to concerts early to make sure you have enough time in case of a uniform emergency (missing button, broken zipper; etc...)
3. Do not eat or drink while wearing your concert attire (water is acceptable)
4. Leave all parts of your attire on while in public (ties, vests, etc...)
5. Be careful moving equipment while your concert attire is worn.

Concert Procedures

All ensemble members will be required to move all equipment before and after performances. A student Logistics Manager will coordinate activities. Volunteer Student Ushers will handout programs and assist our guests. A concert flow chart will be posted in the band hall and by the stage doors to keep performers organized.

Band members are expected to be in the band room (or other designated area) with equipment ready at the time designated by the director.

The directors will be around before the concert to help students warm-up and organize. Approximately ten minutes before the start of the concert, all students are to move to the

auditorium. Before leaving for the auditorium check to make sure that you have all instruments, music, books, mutes and reeds. Students will sit together by ensemble on stage right of the hall.

When it is your turn to perform, enter the stage by going around the back of the concert hall using the stairs on stage left (house right). When you are finished with your performance, exit the stage on the stage right stairs (audience left), and return to the designated seating to watch the remainder of the concert.

It is important for all students to watch their friends and peers perform. **Every performer enjoys playing for a full audience, and it is important that you support your friends and peers by staying for the entire concert. Please display appropriate concert etiquette (see below) at all times. This especially includes keeping all talking to an absolute minimum.**

Concert Etiquette-A Polite Request

While you never want to leave a concert performance, emergencies do sometimes occur. If at all possible, wait to exit the auditorium until between songs. It is distracting to the performers and fellow audience members to have people moving in and out. Talking, whispering, or playing with your phone during a performance keeps others in the audience from both hearing and enjoying the performance. Such activities can also distract the performers, interfering with their concentration.

When young children attend formal concerts, they learn to be good audience participants. Crying, chattering and otherwise noisy children, however, should be taken from the performance immediately and should return when such behavior does not recur.

It is very important for students to acknowledge praise from family and community members in a mature fashion, even if you felt your or the group's performance was not exceptional. People who praise your performance are not doing so to patronize you. If someone praises your efforts thank them in a polite non-sarcastic manner. These audience members may have been sincerely moved by your performance and if you react to their praises in a negative or pessimistic way it will destroy their experience and leave a negative message in their thoughts.

No horseplay will be tolerated before, during, or after any performance.

Competitive Philosophy

Competitions, contests, festivals, and other adjudicated activities are important features of the Oregon City High School Band Program. Through these activities we obtain valuable feedback about our progress as individuals and as a program.

At Oregon City High School, our aim is to never to beat others, rather our focus is to always be the best that we can be. We compete only with ourselves and with achieving our own lofty goals. Although we shall never "live or die" by any judge's or any panel's opinion of our performance, it is important that we learn the value of giving maximum effort and standing by the results as our best possible effort.

Performances are filled with emotion. Because of the time, work, and discipline required to produce performances, we develop a great camaraderie within the organization. We share hardship, discomfort, fatigue, heat, chilling cold, long bus rides, tears, success, and joy.

Along with these emotions, high levels of tension come as well. This often causes students to react immaturely. We learn to avoid these normal pitfalls and channel our energy and attention toward the goal of performance excellence and the ultimate success that will follow.

All members of the Oregon City High School Band Program will stand with Silent Pride as scores are announced and graciously accept the results regardless of outcome. We show our appreciation and respect for those who have earned the right to score ahead of us and gracefully accept our own successes. Many of our competitors will not understand that we are able to congratulate those who are ahead of us and appreciate their performance. Those are the people that will not ever know the true reason for participating in competition, but will mistakenly equate winning with coming in first. We will come in first when we deserve it based on our performance. Until then, we know "winning" is in the heart of every individual having endured hardships, taken the chance of competing, and done their personal best in the pursuit of excellence.

Success in our band program is realizing the goals we have set for ourselves, and having tremendous pride in the work ethic and dedication it took for us to achieve those goals. **No trophy, plaque or certificate can ever replace the feeling of earned accomplishment.**

The band's image is based on each individual. Our public reputation is based on our appearance, our musicianship, our actions, and our projection of pride and organization. **It is the responsibility of each member to insure that we present the best possible image at all times.**

Instrument and Equipment Care

School-Owned Instruments:

Wind or percussion students requiring the use of a school-owned instrument will be issued an instrument for use throughout the school year. For sanitary reasons: students must own reeds, mouthpieces, etc...

Woodwind and brass instruments are available free of charge. The family is responsible for any damage that occurs during the school year to the instrument. Any damage must be reported to the director immediately and the instrument must be taken to a repair shop listed below.

Percussion students are charged a fee of **\$50/year** (payable to OCHS Band) for use of all percussion equipment, and the purchase and replacement of drums heads and specialty mallets. Just as wind players must own reeds/mouthpieces, percussionists must own basic implements.

Do not handle another Band student's instrument or equipment. Any student found to have mistreated, damaged, or destroyed facilities, equipment, or instruments will be held responsible for necessary repairs. "If you break it...you buy it."

Students/parents/guardians are responsible for taking the instrument in at the end of the year for an end of the year cleaning, maintenance, and repair (usually ranging in price from \$50-\$120) to an approved repair shop. Please budget about \$10 a month for repair expenses. Students may use money earned through fundraising to pay for this expense.

Instrument Upgrades

By high school, students who are still playing on their beginner instruments may want to consider the purchase of upgraded components or a professional or upper-level intermediate instrument. Better quality instruments will enable students to learn more quickly and with greater ease.

Beginning instruments are intended for beginners. They are specifically made with the **wear and tear and cost of the beginner in mind**. Because of this, big sacrifices in sound and materials are sacrificed. Top-of-the-line instruments are specifically made with the **sound of the instrument in mind**. Because of this, manufacturers want the best possible materials and construction to make the best sounding instrument possible, no matter the cost. The instruments listed below are recommended by the directors and staff of the Oregon City High School Band Department. These instruments are all top quality and with proper care will last for a lifetime.

Flute:	Powell, Haynes, Yamaha Models-300 Series or Higher
Oboe:	Intermediate-Fox Model 333 or 300 Professional-Yamaha YOB-831, Loree Standard or AK Model
Bassoon:	Intermediate-Schreiber WS5013 Professional-Fox Model II, Puchner, Schreiber- WS 5131
Clarinet:	Intermediate-Buffett E-11 Professional-Buffett R-13
Alto Sax:	Intermediate-Yamaha 32 or 52 Professional-Selmer Super Action 80 (Series II, III or I), Selmer Mark VI Yamaha Proline Models
Trumpet:	Bach Stradivarius 180 (37 ML Bell), Yamaha Zeno Models
Horn:	Conn 8D, Holton H-279, Yamaha 667D
Trombone:	Bach 42 Open Wrap, Getzen 1036F, Conn 88H
Euphonium:	Willson 2950S, Besson 2051, Besson 900 Series
Tuba:	Perantucci PT-1, PT-605

More Affordable Upgrades: All student line horns can vastly improved by making upgrades to smaller items such mouthpieces, necks, barrels, ligatures, and head joints. All students should upgrade mouthpieces (and ligatures for woodwinds) in high school. Please consult the directors for information on getting these items as soon as possible.

As with any instrument concern, we recommend that students and parents consult with the directors or private instructor before any instrument purchase.

Private Lessons

It is no secret that one of the ways the Oregon City High School Band Program has become an outstanding program in the state of Oregon is because of private lessons. We are always setting high expectations for our students and our program and our goal is to have 90% of the Wind Symphony in lessons. That level of dedication will create a nationally renowned program.

Private lessons are the key to developing and maintaining the quality of our band program. Students who study their instruments privately with a master musician show rapid improvement in individual musicianship. As these students improve, their excitement towards practicing increases, and they become strong contributors to the overall success of the band program. The good attitude and skill development is truly contagious. Private lessons also reduce frustration

because a good lesson teacher is able to meet the student at their level, wherever it may be, to help them reach their full potential. Lessons are for everyone, not just those that plan on making music their career.

The directors will assist you, if needed, in selecting a private instructor. **The key to satisfactory results from private instruction is to start as soon as possible....SO START NOW.**

Practice Methods

“Practice is where you learn your part. Rehearsal is where you learn everyone else’s part.”

How to: The Paper Clip Method

Follow these steps for rapid improvement!

1. Start with 3 paper clips on one side of your music stand
2. Isolate the section, scale, etc., that you are going to work on, and find a tempo that you can play that section without mistakes. This may be extremely slow, and that’s OK! Again, it’s about repeated, accurate repetitions at a high level of performance.
3. Start the metronome.
4. Each time you perform the excerpt correctly, with a mature, characteristic tone and no mistakes, move 1 paper clip to the other side of the stand.
5. When all three paper clips have moved to the other side of the stand...increase the tempo on your metronome by a few clicks (example: from 72 bpm to 80 bpm).
6. Perform the excerpt again 3 times, moving the clips to the other side of the stand after each successful performance.
7. Repeat steps 3-6 until you are at performance tempo!

HERE’S THE CATCH: if you make a mistake, stop, reset your paper clips, and reset the metronome to your last successful tempo.

While this may seem like it takes forever, you will see huge improvements very quickly, because you are now focusing on accurate repetitions, rather than just playing through something regardless of how it sounds.

What: Have a Plan!

Just like Directors have a rehearsal plan, you must have a plan to improve.

1. Have a Purpose - “What Do I want to accomplish?”
2. Have an Ideal - “How do I want to sound?”
3. Have a Diagnosis - “What am I doing well? What needs Improvement?”
4. Have a Solution - “What techniques do I know that can solve the problem?”
5. Create a Habit - “Am I committed to making the necessary corrections?”

Practice Tips:

- Practice small segments of music at a time – perfecting a portion of your music is more productive than simply playing through all of your music.
- Increase your standards for that segment – practice to perfect every aspect of the music.
- Differentiate your practice techniques – perform each segment in several different ways (subdivided, on one pitch, on the mouthpiece, all slurred, all articulated, as written, etc.)
- Use a metronome and a tuner
- Record your practicing – Be your own best teacher. Ask yourself critical listening questions.

Tips for Supportive Parents:

- Help your student find a quiet, distraction-free place to practice.
- Ask your student questions about what they are practicing.
- Get students enrolled in private lessons.
- Do not discourage students or ask them not to practice. If it sounds good, they're not doing the right things.

Band Awards and Lettering

The band program has several awards that are set to reward student achievement in various areas. All members who satisfactorily complete the full school year in band will be recognized. These awards reward accomplishment and achievement in the band program.

Band Letter The band letter represents the tremendous effort, time, and dedication a student invests in the Pioneer Scarlet Brigade and Pep Band. The letter rewards students for the efforts spent in the ensemble that are not graded in the classroom.

The key element in any lettering program is that a student must spend extra time and effort to earn a letter. This includes an amount of time spent fund raising for the good of the organization. A letter that is granted merely for participating in the class lessens the value and meaning of the letter to all who receive the award.

*If you miss band camp or any performances, (ie games, parades) you must meet with your section leader and a drum major to work out a "make-up" time. This may include an extra rehearsal, showing up to an early practice, scheduling a make-up day with others who have absences, participating in an additional performance, or any other option that is worked out with your section leader and drum major. Once a "make-up" has been agreed on, the drum major will let Mr. Henson know of the time and attendance will be taken to make sure the student gets credit for the make-up.

See the "Application for Band Lettering" (appendix E).

John Philip Sousa Award For 50 years, thousands of high schools have honored their top band students with the John Phillip Sousa Award. The pinnacle of achievement in a high school band program, the Sousa Award recognizes outstanding dedication and superior musicianship, qualities that all directors seek to instill in all students. Only one student per year will receive the Sousa Award. To be eligible a student must be in band all four years, be a senior, and have served as a section leader in an ensemble. In the spring, the Wind Symphony will vote by secret ballot to elect the winner of the Sousa Award. The recipient of the award will receive a desk piece, certificate, and lapel pin to be presented at the final concert.

Louis Armstrong Jazz Award Louis Armstrong introduced listeners around the world to jazz with his outstanding playing and enthusiasm for the art form. The student displaying these same qualities in the area of jazz will be awarded the Armstrong Award. Students in the Jazz Program will make an advisory vote for the Senior who they feel most embodies this award. The recipient of the award will receive a desk piece, certificate, and lapel pin to be presented at the final concert.

National School Marching Band Award recognizes outstanding contributions on the field. It honors the musical contributions and dedication of student leaders whose example inspires others. Directors and Staff Members of the Scarlet Brigade will select the Senior who they feel most embodies this award. The recipient of the award will receive an engraved wall plaque at the final concert.

Other Merit Awards

Other awards such as Most Improved Musician, Director's Award, Drum Major, Pep Band Director, and others will be selected by the director and awarded at the final concert.

Individual Musician Opportunities

Honor bands and Solo and Ensemble recitals are an important part of student growth and achievement while in high school. These bands give students an opportunity to see and hear the level of other students on their instruments. This gives students a “real world” gauge as to their level on their instrument. The skills learned in these types of musical experiences carry over into the full band experience and help to improve the quality of our band’s performance.

All State Band

This band is the pinnacle of achievement for a high school band member. The 120 member All-State Symphonic Band is comprised of the best individuals in the state of Oregon. Sectionals with University of Oregon faculty, staff, and students, rehearsals with the finest wind conductors in the world, a collage concert, ensembles concert, and the culminating Sunday student concert highlight the many educational activities of the All-State Band Weekend. All-State Weekend is usually held the third weekend in January.

Students audition for the band in early October. Audition materials will be available for students on the first day of school. It is highly recommended that students study their audition with a private instructor in order to have the best audition possible.

All-State Jazz Band

This band is the pinnacle of achievement for a high school jazz band member. The 20 member All-State Jazz Band is comprised of the best individuals in the state of Oregon. Members of the ensemble rehearse and perform at the Hult Center in Eugene during the Oregon Music Educators Conference.

Students rehearse with top jazz directors from around the world and perform at the final concert on Saturday afternoon. The All-State Jazz Band is usually held the third weekend in January.

Students audition for the band in October. Audition materials will be available for students at the beginning of the school year. It is highly recommended that students study their audition with a private instructor in order to have the best audition possible.

OMEA District 13 Honor Band

The Honor Band is held in the newly renovated Camp Withycombe band hall in Clackamas, Oregon. This 80 member band is comprised of some of the best individuals in the area. This is considered to be one of the most selective and musical honor bands in the region of Oregon City.

Master classes, rehearsals with the one of the worlds finest wind conductors, a concert by members of the 238th Oregon National Guard Band, and the culminating Sunday concert, highlight this honor band’s activities. The honor band is open by director approval. This honor band is usually held during the second weekend in February.

WIBC (Western International Band Clinic)

This Honor Band is open to 9th-12th grade students. Auditions will be held in early October and material will be available the first week of school or on the website, www.bandworld.org. There are 4 honor bands of 120+ students from around the Northwest. The WIBC weekend is held

the weekend before Thanksgiving. Students wishing to audition, should see Mr. Henson during the first week of school to obtain audition material.

Solo and Ensemble

All students are encouraged to work on an appropriate solo for the league solo contest held in late February. Students wishing to compete at the state level must also participate in the district solo contest held in early March. The league contest is free and is a “warm-up” opportunity for students competing at the district level. Students are encouraged to begin working up an accompanied solo early in the year and meet with a private instructor throughout the year if they would want to be eligible for the state contest held the first weekend in May.

All students in the Honors Wind Symphony must submit an audition for at least one of the aforementioned ensembles in the fall and participate in the league solo contest in February.

Summer Music Camps

There are a number of high quality music camps, both in and out of state. Information about these camps will be posted by the directors as materials are received. Attending camps is highly encouraged for any musician who wants to improve their individual and ensemble skills or for student leaders in the Scarlet Brigade.

Drum Majors are required to attend the Scott Reese Leadership Camp during the summer.

OCHS Band Boosters

Every parent, student, and staff member of the Oregon City High School Band is a member of the Band Boosters. The OCHS Band Boosters will promote ways and means of providing for the needs of the Oregon City High School band program. The Band Booster Board will hold open meetings to discuss fundraising, communication, band needs, calendar, trips, and all other information as it relates to the Oregon City High School Bands.

The OCHS Band Boosters primary function as a non-profit organization (through Oregon City School District), is to support the needs of the students in the OCHS Band Program. This includes all facets of the program including, but not limited to, the marching band, concert ensembles, jazz ensembles, percussion ensembles, and winter ensembles.

Parents are strongly encouraged to take part in the OCHS Band Booster Organization. There are small and large jobs to fit your availability.

Fund-Raising

There are many major fund-raisers sponsored by the OCHS band boosters organization every year. The funds raised from these activities are vital to the operation of the total band program as they provide transportation, food, uniforms, instructors, drill, music arranging, entry fees, etc.. The required funding per student in the OCHS Band Program is roughly \$1,000. The school district is only able to provide about 3% of this amount. Without these fund-raisers the quality of equipment, the number of staff members, and overall quality of education would suffer.

Please check the band website, www.ocbandparent.org and attend OCHS Band Booster meetings to get involved with fundraising. We have jobs for parents to help with fundraisers throughout the school year. Get involved now!

Student Leadership Team

The Leadership Team will not only serve as student level instructors, but also as mentors. This includes a middle school mentoring program. This includes being an exemplary role model, planning social activities, teaching middle school sectionals, attending concerts, helping with homework, and any other activities deemed useful to our members and prospective members.

Our Leadership hierarchy creates an avenue for efficient communication. If you have a question or a conflict, need help with a part or need a ride to rehearsal, your Section Leader will probably have the answer. Most questions or concerns can be taken care of by following the diagram below.

Student Flow of Communication

Band Members → Section Leaders → Drum Majors → Director

Band Members make up the majority of our membership. They are leaders in their actions, as we don't believe a title is required to lead.

Section Leaders are responsible for coordinating individual sections, helping the staff assess student performance, and maintaining a productive atmosphere during rehearsal. Section Leaders coordinate times outside of the full band rehearsal for sectionals as well as for social events so to help everyone get to know each other.

Drum Majors are the student conductors of the Marching Band. The Drum Majors are given the responsibility of leading their peers in performance, rehearsal, and through their

representation of the Band program on and off of the field. The Drum Majors are usually the first line of communication between the Director and the students during each rehearsal.

Our Leadership Team is a large factor in our success. Student leaders sign an additional contract that holds them to the highest of standards. Students not upholding the standards will be asked to resign or be removed from the Leadership Team if deemed necessary by the directors.

Student Aides

Any students who are in the band program and have an open block are invited to sign up to be a band aide (or register for an additional ensemble). Aides are a tremendous help to the director, helping with such activities as picking up, filing library music, field set up (marching season), and other general tasks.

Communication

"I didn't know" is never an acceptable excuse.

The Director will make every effort to communicate effectively to students and parents. Changes to our schedules do occur and it's important for all families to receive information in a timely manner. We use the following outlets to communicate and we ask you to find whichever ways meet your needs.

Band Website: www.ocbandparent.org.

Bookmark this page and check it often. Link the calendar to your smart phone ASAP!

Remind 101 Text Messaging:

Students will be encouraged to sign up for this free service at the beginning of band camp. The Drum Majors will send out reminders as they apply to Band Business only!

Facebook:

"Like" the "OCHS Band Boosters" on Facebook for updates, photos, videos, and articles about music education. You may post here as long as the comments are always respectful.

Group Email Updates:

The Band Boosters and the Director communicate a lot of information through this list. The title of the email will let you know what ensemble families need to read the information, so that you do not get overwhelmed. This is the best way to get the bulk of our information. Students and parents who provide us with their email address will be placed on this list.

Subscribe by going to www.ocbandparent.org and "Click Here to Sign Up for our Newsletter".

Director Contact Information:

Email: dana.henson@orecity.k12.or.us (most reliable contact)

Office Phone: 503-785-8816 School Phone: 503-785-8900

***A request from the Director**

If you have my personal cell number, please do not share it or use it to contact me in regards to band business. This is to be used in emergency situations when we are on a band trip. Texting me to find out schedules, dates, or where your student needs to be is not an appropriate use of technology. If you ask me something on my phone, I will not have a record of if and will most likely forget. Please use my school email to communicate questions/concerns about your student.

Handbook Agreement

This handbook contains a wealth of information that will help both students and parents successfully navigate and participation in the OCHS Band Program. It is important to refer back to this information often as students complete their four years of band at OCHS. The experience will be incredibly rewarding because of our uncompromising high standards for achievement.

The Director reserves the right to change information in the handbook if a situation warrants.

Understand that violations of the handbook "Code of Conduct" and Expectations may result in being removed from the program, financial consequences, or disciplinary action.

We believe that students will receive much more than a Music Education through our program. The expectations are in place to help students to grow and mature. The policies exist to allow all students to get the most out of their experience in a safe and caring environment.

We expect families to meet financial obligations as outlined in the financial agreement. Payment plans and scholarships are available for those in need. Please fill out the scholarship/hardship application form and contact the Director with any concerns.

Please sign and return this page to document your understanding and willingness to adhere to the policies in place.

We, the undersigned, have read and understand the conduct and financial expectations of the OCHS Band Program Handbook. We will uphold our responsibilities.

Student Signature

Parent/Guardian Signature

Student Printed Name

Parent/Guardian Printed Name

Appendix A

Health and Safety for Marching Band

Marching band is a physically demanding activity. A high level of physical fitness is required, not only to perform the show, but to keep members safe during the rigorous practice schedule.

All members of the ensemble will comply with the following measures. If your instructors have additional requests honor those as well.

Parents: Please go over the information with your student and help make sure they follow through so that we can be safe and productive at every rehearsal.

Students: The following items are for **your safety and comfort**. Please comply and help all members of the band remember to follow these guidelines.

I. Proper Attire

1. Footwear - **Athletic shoes (or drill masters)** will be worn for rehearsals ("casual shoes" such as Chuck Taylor's are NOT athletic shoes because they lack the needed support.) Socks should be worn at all times. Sandals of any kind present a safety hazard to students and staff. Members will not be allowed on the field in sandals.
2. Tops - **School appropriate t-shirts or tank tops** should be worn for rehearsals. This allows for the greatest freedom of movement and eliminates visual distractions. During hot rehearsals, it is recommended that light colors are worn.
3. Bottoms - **Athletic shorts/pants** should be worn for rehearsals. This allows for the greatest freedom of movement. Denim should never be worn for marching rehearsals.

II. Heat Safety

1. Hydration - Bring a **water jug** (1/3 a gallon or larger is advised), labeled with your name, to all rehearsals. Drink water on all breaks, even if you do not feel thirsty.
2. Sun care - **Sunblock** should be applied before going outside and throughout the day. **Lip balm** with SPF should be applied as well. **Hats** and **Sunglasses** are also advised. Seek shade and rest when possible.

III. Conditioning

Increasing the level of activity and healthy diet prior to any band camps reduces the likelihood of injuries or sickness.

1. Stretch - Go through our stretch routine on your own.
2. Get Active - Find ways to build your endurance and fitness level. Some of the band leadership works together on this so join in on the fun! Another good place to start is a free online program called the "Couch to 5K".
3. Eat Healthy - You will be burning a lot of calories and you need to fuel your body. Eat a variety of healthy food, especially the options provided by our boosters.

Remember: start slow, watch for your body's warning signs, be proactive.

Appendix B

Individual Performance Assessment Rubric

Name: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____

Criterion	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
<i>Tone Quality</i> - The performer displays a full, mature, and well-developed tone that is characteristic of the instrument. Vibrato is present (if appropriate) and the tone adds to the professionalism of the performance										
<i>Rhythmic Accuracy & Pulse Control</i> - The performance demonstrates a control of pulse, and all rhythms are achieved accurately.										
<i>Style & Musicianship</i> - dynamic shaping and musical nuance are present throughout the performance. Articulations are achieved with clarity, and are appropriate for the style of the										
<i>Overall Performance</i> - The performance displays an overall sense of refinement, preparation, and maturity. Technical passages are accomplished with fluency, and lyrical passages display a sense of musical nuance and maturity.										
TOTAL										/40

Comments:

Appendix C

Glossary of Marching Band Terms

The following list of terms is a small sample of terms that maybe new to you as a member of the high school band program.

- Attention** - A command given to bring the band to attention in a uniform way.
- The Box** - The elevated zone where the Director usually give instruction. In Competition, the area where they off field judges sit.
- Caption Head** - The staff member appointed to be in charge of a particular area of the band.
- Dismissal** - At the conclusion of rehearsal and performance the Drum Majors lead "Dismissal". This is a powerful statement of what we stand for and must be performed by all members.
- Dot** - A member's individual coordinate during a set.
- Dot (Drill) Book** - Each member will create a Dot Book from a set of spiral bound note cards. This holds a wealth of information about the music and visual elements of the performance.
- Dress** - A command given to check down the line, especially in parade blocks.
- Drill** - The term for all movement on the field.
- Drillmasters** - Shoes that are worn for all performances and sports park rehearsals.
- Drum Captain/JR Drum Major** - Student Leadership that oversees percussion sections.
- Drum Major** - The highest level of student leadership and field conductors. Serves as a link between students and staff.
- Full Uniform** - When all pieces of the uniform are worn. Do not eat, drink (other than water), make crude statements, show affection, or run in full uniform.
- Guard Captain** - Student Leadership that oversees color guard.
- Half Uniform** - When instructed by the Leadership Team, members do not wear shakos or jackets.
- Rehearsal Etiquette** - Our members are dedicated to having the most focused and efficient rehearsals possible. There is absolutely no room for talking, horseplay, or sitting on the field. When members cross the front or back sideline, there is silent, attentive focus.
- Rest** - Our default position on the field that allows members to be comfortable while maintaining focus and uniformity.
- Section Leader** - Student Leadership that handles most member issues.
- Set** - A command that is given to bring members back to a pre-determined position. Also what we call each stationary page of drill.
- Shako** - The correct term for the headwear of our marching uniform.
- Show Shirt** - Each season the Scarlet Brigade members receive a t-shirt with the show logo on the front. This shirt is worn for various events and also under uniforms at every performance.
- Silent Pride** - When receiving recognition, the OCHS Bands maintain a silent, professional demeanor. This shows respect for all ensembles that have put hard work into performance.
- Tech** - A visual or instrumental instructor who collaborates with the caption heads.

Appendix D

There are many factors that go into building your resume for life after high school. You are able to take band all four years, but you must make it a priority.

Admission as a freshman into most universities is primarily based upon a combination of grades earned in specific high-school courses, class standing, high school curriculum, grades, choice of college major, and standardized test scores (SAT or ACT). Other factors taken into consideration include extraordinary personal circumstances, special talents, outstanding extracurricular activities, and evidence of leadership.

Colleges encourage all students to challenge themselves in the classroom. Taking challenging courses in high school prepares a student for the rigors of college classes and also helps develop consistent study habits. Students may have many or limited options for AP courses and not all students are able to fill their schedules with AP courses due to a number of factors. These include, but are not limited to, school size, personal interests, and scheduling issues. There is no "set" number of advanced courses that universities are looking for to grant admission. Rather, they want to see that the student has succeeded in their own academic environment, is well rounded, and shows the ability to commit to a course of study.

Please check with your counselor during your first trimester of each year to make sure you are on track to graduate.

***SAT and ACT tests**

We have run into issues in the past with students being signed up for SAT and ACT tests during band performances. Parents, please do your best to communicate with your student about when to sign up for these tests to avoid any conflicts. The band calendar will be out the first week of school. As a good rule, please make sure you are keeping up to date on the band calendar throughout the year. Also, try to avoid the following SAT tests as they often conflict with band related activities: October, May and June SAT dates will most likely conflict with band related events. Please try to schedule around these when signing up for these tests.

Appendix G
 Band Lettering Form
 (Available in the Band Office and Online)

Name _____

Student ID number _____

How many times have you lettered in Band (including this time) _____

Oregon City High School Band Letter
(65 points required for eligibility to be added up in late May)

OCHS Concerts/Festivals/Contests (100% attendance=15pts.) _____

Drum Major/JR Drum Major (10pts.) _____

Concerts seen outside OCHS (2pts. each/include program or review) _____

All-State/All Northwest/WIBC honor band audition (5pts.) _____

Selection to perform with the above *honor* groups (10pts.) _____

League "All-Star Sight Reading Band" (5pts.) _____

Mt. Hood Conference Solo Contest (5pts.) _____

District 13 Solo & Ensemble Contest (solo=5pts./ensemble=3pts.) _____

Receiving a I or I- rating at solo contest (5pts.) _____

District winner/placer or selected to perform at State Solo Contest or alternate (10pts.) _____

Marching Band Camp (100% attendance=5pts.) _____

Basketball Band (100% games=15pts.) _____

Spring Marching Band (100% attendance) _____

Private Lessons (10pts. get studio teacher's signature) _____

Outside Ensembles (8pts. PYP, MYS, Church, etc...) _____

Attended UofO or similar week long band camp summer (5pts) _____

Cooperation and overall attitude (0-10, leave blank) _____

POINTS EARNED _____