

Oregon City High School Band Program Handbook



2016-2017

"Striving for Excellence through Dedication."

**Oregon City High School
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Oregon City High School Bands 2016-2017

Dana Henson, Director of Bands



August 31, 2016

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 our 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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Table of Contents

Philosophy and Goals	Page 4
Objectives and Standards	Page 5
Your Commitment	Page 6
Course Syllabus and Grading Policy	Page 7
Audition Procedures	Page 8
Code of Conduct	Page 9
Travel Expectations	Page 11
Bus Expectations	Page 11
Student Concerns and Discipline	Page 12
Attitude	Page 12
Concerts/Concert Attire/Procedures	Pages 13-15
Band Awards	Page 16
Individual Musician Opportunities	Page 17
Band Boosters	Page 19
Fundraising	Page 19
Communication	Page 20

Appendices

Sample Performance Assessment Rubrics	A
General Education Scheduling Assistance	B
Sample Application for Band Lettering	C

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 in a broad sense, society.

We recognize that few high school musicians choose to make music a career. However, the mental discipline and thought processes required in the study of music are applicable in all fields of study. 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. Please be present!

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 and success for which the OCHS Band is recognized.

Research shows 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 also 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 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 Syllabus and Grading Policies

The Oregon City High School Band program will provide students the opportunity to heighten each 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 Ensemble, 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. Students in Concert and Symphonic band who are not members of the Pioneer Scarlet Brigade Marching Band **must** attend 2 home football games during the fall and 3 home basketball games during the winter to earn full credit for the trimester. All music will be rehearsed in class before games. Please see the band calendar for these dates.

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 Oregon City School District equipment **WILL** result in the student’s removal from the program.

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) maybe re-taken until the student is satisfied with his/her grade. Music Assessment rubrics (see appendix A) are used 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 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.

Audition Procedures

Placement and seating for Wind Ensemble are earned by audition only. Auditions are held during May after the Spring Marching Band Trip. Jazz Band Auditions are held during the third week of school in September.

- All current 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).

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 on of each of the following:

- One major scale, 2 octaves, in 8th notes with the Qtr. = 120.
- One harmonic minor scale, 2 octaves, in 8th notes with the Qtr. = 100.
- 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 All-State 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 Ensemble are filled and instrumentation is balanced, students with lower auditions scores will be place in Concert Band. No student will be cut-out of the band program based on their audition.*

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 for the following school year. (This does not apply to Jazz Band).

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 or jazz 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. All students must sign and agree to the Activities Code of Conduct (Appendix F).
- 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 their own 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, and 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 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.

- 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".

- Social Media is a powerful tool. Please remember that negative posts directed at anyone will not be tolerated. You will have one warning and then you will be removed from the OCHS Band Program if the behavior continues.

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.

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 be separated by gender after dusk and before sunrise.**
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).

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 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 parents 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 and Symphonic Band Concert Attire

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

Wind Ensemble Concert Attire

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

In the fall, gentlemen will be measured for tuxedos and will need to be purchased by the end of September. Order sheets will be available in the band room and on the band website. If you need assistance in finding concert attire, please talk to our uniform moms or to Mr. Henson.

Failure to have the appropriate attire for the concert will result in a zero for the concert.

Students must wear black dress shoes (NO SNEAKERS) and men need to wear black dress socks.

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”, gentle 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

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.

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.

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!

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! Please see the website for instructions on how to sign up.

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 it and will most likely forget. Please use my school email to communicate questions/concerns about your student.

Appendix A Individual Performance Assessment Rubric

Name: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____

Criterion	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Tone Quality - 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										
Rhythmic Accuracy & Pulse Control - The performance demonstrates a control of pulse, and all rhythms are achieved accurately.										
Style & Musicianship - dynamic shaping and musical nuance are present throughout the performance. Articulations are achieved with clarity, and are appropriate for the style of the										
Overall Performance - 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 B **General Education Scheduling Assistance**

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 C
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=15pts.) _____

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
