

Dear Parents of 2014-2015 Students,

Welcome to the Troy High School Band Program! As you will soon see, this experience is not limited to the playing or exploration of music; it intrinsically fulfills and changes lives forever. It is with great enthusiasm and anticipation that we embark on this musical journey together.

A course handbook is provided to inform parents and students of the policies, procedures, opportunities and expectations established for high school band membership. The handbook may be found on the Troy High School Band website at www.troycoltbands.org, under "Class Syllabus". It contains information for students enrolled in marching band, colorguard, symphonic band, concert band, campus band, and jazz band. Please review this information with your child. It will enhance the musical education and development of each student, guaranteeing a satisfying and stimulating musical experience.

During the course of the school year, information will be made available on private lesson teachers, concerts, festivals, workshops, clinics, outside performances, summer camp programs, scholarships, opportunities in college for both music and non-music majors, and more. Any inquiry related to enhancing your student's musical experience will gladly be answered.

Also, please take time to become involved with your student's musical experience by monitoring progress and encouraging practice. You have provided your child a very valuable opportunity, that of being a performer, which allows a unique avenue of expression through music experiences. Your attendance at culminating performances is the greatest show of support you have to offer.

I encourage you to maintain communication with me regarding your student's participation in band. A phone call will eliminate a potential misunderstanding or confusion in most situations. Please leave a message on my voice mail if I'm not available at 248-823-2794 or email me at bnutting2@troy.k12.mi.us.

Towards Musical Excellence,

Brian P. Nutting
Director of Bands
Troy High School

Troy High School Bands Performing Ensembles Course Syllabus 2014-15

- Campus Band
- Colorguard
- Concert Band
- Jazz Ensemble
- Marching Band
- Symphonic Band

Brian P. Nutting
Director of Bands

Kathleen L. Griffith
Assistant Director

TROY HIGH SCHOOL BANDS

Brian P. Nutting, Director

Marching Band

The Troy High Marching Band is comprised of *all members* of the Concert and Symphonic Band members during the first ten weeks or so of school. Because the band learns all music and drill at band camp, attendance is mandatory. Season performances include varsity football games, parades, marching invitationals and the MSBOA Marching Band Festival in October. The marching band rehearses during class and Mondays after school, 2:30-5pm.

Summer Sectionals

Summer sectionals run weekly (beginning in mid-June) and are held as designated by student section leaders. A schedule of these times is printed and distributed yearly prior to the close of the school year. It is understood that families often schedule vacations during these months and students are excused for this purpose. ***Students are responsible, however, to communicate all absences to section leaders in advance.*** When a student is *not* on vacation, it is expected that they be in attendance at all sectionals. In addition, each instrument section will have two sectionals with Mr. Nutting the week immediately preceding camp.

Band Camp

Each year during the month of August, band members assemble for a weeklong band camp. This is necessary and essential to adequately prepare for the marching season. ***Attendance is critical for the duration of camp.*** Dates for band camp are announced by the close of the school year so that families can make arrangements to clear these dates.

Following the marching band season, each student (including percussionist) will continue as a member of either the Symphonic or Concert Band. Chair placement auditions will be held toward the end of the marching band season. The grade from this audition comprises 20% of the first marking period grade. During the school year, students will not be given the opportunity to challenge into or re-audition for placement into the Symphonic Band except as rare openings occur (at the discretion of the director).

Symphonic Band

The Symphonic Band is comprised of students in grades 9 – 12. It is a balanced instrumental ensemble providing students the opportunity to perform advanced repertoire exploring various idioms and periods of music. *Private instruction is recommended for all students in the ensemble.* Performances include a Winter Collage Concert, Festival Concert, MSBOA District and State Band Festivals, All-City Concert, Spring Concert, Spring Trip and other performances at community and school functions. All students are members of the Marching Band.

In addition, all Symphonic Band students are *highly encouraged to participate in district solo and ensemble festival.* Extra credit will be given for participation in community youth bands (such as Michigan Youth Band, Metropolitan Youth Symphony, Zenith Brass Ensemble, Oakland Community College Youth Band, South Oakland Community Band etc.) and attendance at other university or professional band concerts (i.e. Detroit Concert Winds). The director may remove Symphonic Band members who do not fulfill musical or rehearsal/performance obligations of the ensemble.

Concert Band

The Concert Band is comprised of students in grades 9 – 12. Class lessons include daily warm-up/scale drills, technical exercises, sight-reading drills, theory work and rehearsal of appropriate level band literature. Performances include the Winter Collage Concert, Festival Concert, MSBOA District and State Band Festivals and the Spring Concert. All students are members of the Marching Band. All students are *highly encouraged to participate in district solo and ensemble festival.*

Campus Band

The Campus Band is comprised of students in grades 9 – 12. Class instruction includes the development of rhythmic reading skills, optimal tone production and musicianship skills. Upper classmen may elect to play a secondary instrument in this ensemble. Performances include the Winter Collage Concert, Festival Concert, Spring Concert and potentially MSBOA District Band Festival.

Challenges

There are no challenges. However, periodic and unannounced performance examinations may effect the chair placement of student musicians within an ensemble.

Orchestra

Principal players from the Symphonic Bands rehearse with the Symphony Orchestra during band class on Tuesdays and Thursdays. They perform on designated concerts and at M.S.B.O.A District Festival.

Jazz Band

Jazz Band is available to interested students who play saxophone, trumpet, trombone or rhythm section instruments and is taken for credit. *Membership is by audition.* In addition to learning and performing in the jazz idiom, improvisation is also explored and developed. Jazz Band meets daily during the school day. Performances include (but are not limited to) the Winter Collage Concert, Festival Concert, Colt Celebration, State Jazz Festival, All-City Concert and the Spring Concert.

I. Guiding Operational Principles

Attendance

Attendance records are kept for all sectionals, rehearsals, and performances. Each unexcused absence from a sectional or rehearsal will result in a 5% lessening of the student's grade (A to A-, B+ to B. etc.). An unexcused absence from a performance is a more serious offense that could lead to suspension from future activities or performances. **Absences will be determined "excused" at the discretion of the director.** It is possible to be granted an excused absence: however, **it is expected that arrangements be finalized well in advance of the date of the necessary absence. Requests for excused absences must be submitted *in writing*. STUDENTS SHOULD NOT EXPECT TO BE EXCUSED FROM PERFORMANCES.**

Since band is a performance-oriented class, and most concerts and performances occur in the evening or weekends, time outside the school day is required. By enrolling in band, you have committed to a team and have a responsibility to be in attendance. The band can only rehearse or perform at its best when all members are present. *There will be no circumstance under which students will be excused from a band rehearsal or performance for work or extracurricular activity.* Attendance at all rehearsals and performances is vitally important. The band functions together as a unit, and any time a given student is absent, it diminishes the results obtained by all other band members. All members are equally important.

Grading

Band grades are not given; they are earned. Whether in Campus, Concert, Symphonic Band or Jazz Ensemble the grade reflects your level of preparation. This includes evidence of practice and improvement, participation in performances, rehearsal discipline, effort, care and respect for equipment and instruments, written and playing tests, attendance and achievement of musical performance goals.

Grading Rubric

Students who receive a high grade, or an “A”, will have earned at least 90% on their playing tests and will have displayed the following:

- Perfect attendance (at out-of-school rehearsals and performances)
- Evidence of consistent and regular practice
- Exemplary rehearsal discipline and participation
- Consistent preparedness for class
- Punctuality
- Demonstration of improved playing and marching skills
- Knowledge of instrument and music studied/marching drills and positions

Students receiving a “B” will have earned 80-89% on their playing tests satisfied the above expectations but with minor deficiencies in classroom preparedness, discipline and /or playing skills or playing tests.

Students receiving a “C” will have earned 70-79% on their playing test and displayed the following:

- Shown evidence of occasional practice
- Shown minimal improvement in playing and marching skills
- Submitted incomplete assignments
- Demonstrate inconsistency in classroom preparedness, punctuality, discipline or exhibit disruptive behavior

Students receiving a “D” or “E” will have scored less than 69% on their playing test with no further effort to retest. They will have demonstrated a lack of interest in or understanding of the procedures and requirements of the class as stated above. They will have been absent from performances or will not have completed playing tests. These students would also have exhibited rehearsal discipline that is disruptive or apathetic, preventing the band from being successful.

The success of a performing ensemble is dependent upon participation, dedication and commitment by all members. Band is more than just music! Practice is the “homework”, rehearsals are tests, and performances are final exams. More importantly, whereas individual test scores in an academic class have no bearing on the outcome of other students in that class, missing rehearsals or performances in band lessens the overall success of the entire band performance.

Office and Facilities

The phone in the band room and music office is for emergency use only by students, with permission. Students should notify parents in advance as to the expected time activities conclude.

Rehearsals

Punctuality and preparedness are critical to the success of all ensembles. All students are expected to have a pencil, their own copy of music (or drill) and supplies (i.e. mutes, mallets, etc.) at rehearsal. Woodwind players should always have a minimum of two spare reeds; brass players should always have valve or slide oil and appropriate mutes.

Students will be assigned an instrument storage locker – please keep instruments secured at all times. Avoid leaving personal possessions or valuables in the music room and secure what must be brought to class. Folders are not to be left on music stands, chairs, on the floor, etc. Please use the music folio storage cabinets for concert and jazz music. It is sometimes necessary to access your music folder in your absence. As the folders and music are the responsibility of the individual, students will be charged for lost music.

General Conduct

We believe that positive, respectful relationships are the key to our success. The following qualities characterize the model band member:

Responsibility

Effort, Enthusiasm

Self-Discipline

Positive Attitude, Pride and Passion

Enthusiasm, Energy

Cooperation, Compassion

Trustworthiness

Academic Misconduct

All policies and procedures outlined in the Troy High School Code of Conduct apply to band students at all times. In addition, all guidelines and expectations established for travel will be strictly enforced with violations resulting in dismissal from the band program.

Disciplinary Procedures

In order for any band to run smoothly and efficiently, discipline must be both strict and fair. The interest of the organization must come first. To insure fair treatment, the following policy will apply to all individuals with regard to discipline:

- 1) Any act of misconduct or violation of band policies will result in a director-student conference. The director will point out the violation to the student, explaining this point of view and statements from this handbook relative to the incident. It would be possible here to successfully resolve the problem.
- 2) If the same student commits a second offense (not necessarily the same offense), a conference with the students' parents, the director and the student will result. It would be possible here to resolve the problem.
- 3) If problems persist, dismissal from the band may occur.

II. Uniforms

Each band member is issued a marching and concert uniform by the Troy School District. The uniforms have been professionally dry cleaned prior to distribution. The complete uniform must be worn at all performances.

Concert Uniform:

- Men -** Concert black tuxedo jacket
Concert black tuxedo trousers
Concert black cummerbund
Concert black tie
Students must supply: Black dress socks
White, wing-tip tux shirt
Black dress shoes
- Women -** Dress
Student must supply: Black dress shoes (closed toe)
Black nylons

Marching Uniform:

- Fall -** Marching jacket with baldric
Black marching pant
Marching hat
Gauntlets
Plume
Beret (tuba players only)
Raincoat
Garment bag
Purchased through Band Boosters
Black marching shoe (provided for a fee)
Black marching gloves (provided for a fee)
Students must supply: Solid black, crew length socks
Plain white T-shirt
- Summer -** Summer shirt
Black marching shoe (same as fall shoe)
Students must supply:
Solid black pants (provided for a fee)
Solid black, crew length socks

- Colorguard*-** Black marching pants
Flag bag
Purchased through Band Boosters
Black colorguard shoes
Colorguard gloves

*There are additional costs for the halftime/competition uniform

Each uniform is assigned for the year. It should be worn properly and with dignity. A yearly dry-cleaning fee is assessed for the uniforms. The music department is

responsible for providing each student with a proper fitting uniform, in performance condition and dry-cleaned.

Students are financially responsible for the issued uniform(s) and for return items in the same condition issued. Minor repairs needed during the course of the year are the responsibility of the parent and student (i.e., broken zippers, buttons, hems and seams). The repairs are to be completed by a qualified seamstress. **All uniforms are stored at school in assigned uniform cabinets.** All uniforms must be properly hung and stored. The Troy School District will assess fees for all damaged ruined, torn or missing parts. Dry cleaning during the school year may be necessary, although it is not necessary to return the uniform freshly cleaned at the end of the school year.

III. School Owned Instruments

Any member using school owned equipment is expected to care for and properly maintain the equipment. If the instrument has a case, it should be completely latched. **PLEASE NOTE:** The student must pay for any damage incurred other than normal wear. This includes, but is not limited to dents, scratches, chipped mouthpieces, lost parts or screws, broken drumheads, bent rims and other hardware, and bent ligatures. **Any student using a school owned instrument must complete an Instrument Loan Agreement (including marching percussion).**

Percussionists are expected to maintain and care for all school owned percussion instruments and mallets. All percussionists should practice preventative maintenance. If you see something wrong with an instrument, please point it out to the director.

Campus, Concert and Symphonic Band percussionists must supply their own stick bag complete with one pair of a) concert snare sticks, b) tympani mallets and c) keyboard mallets.

Percussionists must properly store all school-owned equipment at the end of every rehearsal. The student must pay for broken drumheads and or mallets. At the end of each quarter, the director will indicate any fines the student owes.

IV. Practice Rooms

Practice rooms are designed for practice use only. They should be kept clean for the use of all students. These rooms will be monitored and students using them will be held accountable for their condition. If you find any damage, report it immediately. Failure to adhere to these rules will result in revoked practice room privileges. .

V. Community Service

Students may earn community service and National Honor Society points by volunteering band library assistance, giving private lessons, performing in chamber ensembles for community functions, etc.

VI. Music Awards

A chenille music letter and various band ribbons are presented to students who volunteer services to the school music program in addition to fulfilling those requirements of the daily ensemble class. Senior awards include (but are not limited to) the following:

John Philip Sousa Band Award

This award is presented each year to an outstanding senior band member who displays superior musicianship, merit, leadership, dependability, loyalty, cooperation, and other positive qualities of conduct. The senior band member receives a lapel pin, a certificate, and a marble desk piece with medallion. The student's name is placed on a plaque permanently displayed in the band room.

Patrick Gilmore Band Award

This award is a runner-up to the John Philip Sousa Award honoring the same qualities of musicianship and dedication. The recipient receives a plaque and the student's name is placed on a plaque permanently displayed in the band room.

Louis Armstrong Jazz Band Award

This award is presented to the outstanding senior jazz musician. The recipient receives a marble desk piece with medallion, a lapel pin, and a certificate. The student's name is placed on a wall plaque permanently displayed in the band room.

Woody Herman Jazz Band Award

This award recognizes an additional outstanding individual of the jazz ensemble. This award is the runner-up to the Lois Armstrong Award. The recipient receives a plaque and the student's name is placed on a separate plaque permanently displayed in the band room.

Most Improved Musician

National School Marching Award

Outstanding Musician Award

Spirit Award

Colt Award

This award is presented to an outstanding marching band student who exemplifies the highest qualities of leadership, loyalty and represented in the Troy Colt Marching Band.

M.S.B.O.A. Performance Opportunities

The Michigan School Band and Orchestra Association (M.S.B.O.A.) sponsors all district and state festivals. These festivals allow students the opportunity to perform for professional music adjudicators. The adjudicators listen, comment verbally on tape and critique in writing. These adjudications are later returned to the director and shared with students who review areas of strength and weakness in performance.

The performance is issued a rating on a scale of "I" or First Division, through a "V" or Fifth Division. A Division I rating represents an excellent level of performance and musicianship for the event being judged. A Division V rating represents an unsatisfactory performance.

M.S.B.O.A rehearsal and performance dates are communicated via the Troy Colt Bands Newsletter and the Troy High School Band website at www.troycoltbands.org.

M.S.B.O.A. Marching Band Festival

The Troy High Colt Marching Band participates in the MSBOA District Marching Band Festival. This is an adjudicated event with each band receiving an overall rating.

M.S.B.O.A. District Solo and Ensemble Festival

This is a requirement for Symphonic Band students and optional, but encouraged, for Concert Band students. A student can enter as a soloist, in an ensemble of up to eight players, or both (no more than three events). Those who enter as soloists must have the piano part played by a hired accompanist (a list will be made available). By entering the festival, you are committing yourself to preparing a solo or ensemble and accepting musical critique to enhance personal musical development. Students who study privately should participate. If you do not study privately, please consult with the director regarding musical selection. A special “mock” festival or practice performance may be held for participants to perform their solo & ensemble event(s) for adjudication and comments prior to the actual festival. Students who receive an “I” at district level qualify for State Solo and Ensemble Festival.

M.S.B.O.A. State Solo and Ensemble Festival

In addition to the solo performance (50%), students must also sight read (25%) and perform assigned scales (25%). Students who enter Proficiency II or III and achieve a high rating (usually in the 90’s) may be nominated for Youth Arts Festival Honors Band or State Concerto candidacy.

M.S.B.O.A. District Band Festival

All members of the Symphonic, Concert and Campus bands are required to participate in the district band festival. The band prepares three musical selections, one selected from a required music list and two of choice, as well as sight-reading. In addition to receiving adjudicated comments, students are provided the opportunity to listen to other high school bands.

M.S.B.O.A. State Band Festival

Upon receiving a 1st Division rating at District Festival, the band is eligible for MSBOA State Festival. The requirements for this festival are the same as those at district festival, but adjudication standards are higher.

M.S.B.O.A. District Honors Band

Each year, directors are asked to *nominate* up to twenty-students (10 underclassmen, 10 upperclassmen) for participation in District Honors Band. Selected students are mailed music and an information packet. The bands rehearse on a Saturday with a final rehearsal and performance on the following Monday (evening) and Tuesday (all day).

VIII. Music Festival Trips

The Symphonic Band participates in an out-of-state music festival performance yearly. These experiences provide exceptional opportunity to perform for the world’s most renowned adjudicators and clinicians. The band has participated in music festivals in Atlanta, New York, Orlando, Chattanooga, Chicago, Cincinnati, London, San Antonio, St. Louis, Virginia Beach and Gatlinburg.

IX. Duties of Leadership

Colorguard

- 1) Comprised of members who have successfully completed an audition (need *not* be a playing member of the band)
- 2) Function with the band at all marching events
- 3) Attend band camp
- 4) Follow all rules and regulations of the band
- 5) Directly responsible to the coach and band director
- 6) Captain(s) attend leadership meetings

Drum Major(s)

- 1) The drum major must be a playing member of the band
- 2) In charge of the band while in stands and at the start of marching rehearsals
- 3) Disseminate instructions to students leaders
- 4) Take attendance in class and at marching events (through section leaders)
- 5) Run rookie clinics
- 6) Set up/take down field equipment with help of assigned members
- 7) Teach marching drill
- 8) Report to director ½ hour early
- 9) Organize pep band for away games and as otherwise needed
- 10) Pull, distribute and collect music for pep band
- 11) Report daily to band director
- 12) Maintains discipline in the band
- 13) Conducts inspection of full band
- 14) Appointed by the director
- 15) Attend band council meetings
- 16) Distribute and oversee bus sign-up

Section Leader (marching season)

- 1) Usually, but not necessarily, first chair – appointed by the director
- 2) Responsible for maintaining discipline in the section
- 3) Check and rehearse marching music
- 4) Schedule music rehearsals with the director's approval
- 5) See that the band room and auditorium are left as found
- 6) Responsible for instructing in areas of technique and musicality
- 7) Not responsible for marching and maneuvering instruction
- 8) Monitor each student's progress
- 9) Test memorization requirements
- 10) Attend leadership meetings

Squad Leader

- 1) Prepare squad by instructing drill
- 2) Maintain discipline in squad
- 3) Work with individuals on marching to maintain squad proficiency as needed
- 4) Inspect squad before final inspection
- 5) Not responsible for music instruction
- 6) Attend leadership meetings
- 7) Appointed by director