

Ireton Christian School
Band Hand Book 2011-2012

Welcome

Welcome to the 5th-8th Grade Band at Ireton Christian School! You are part of an ensemble that will give you a wonderful opportunity to develop and share your God-given talents. What a privilege it is for all of us as a band to use the gifts God has given to us to give Him glory and praise and to serve His purposes in this world! Every note we play every performance we give, every interaction we have with each other – all that we do in this class is a part of God's kingdom rule and will. We have been placed here in this class together for a definite purpose, so we can be excited to fulfill that purpose together this year.

Goals

As a Band we will strive to meet the following goals:

1. To demonstrate appropriate posture for good sound and breath control
2. To respond sensitively to gestures of the conductor.
3. To interpret correctly what is on the printed page
4. To learn how to function as a group, where variety, balance, and harmony, both in music and among the band members, are essential for success.
5. To improve in our musicianship through diligent practice and meaningful rehearsals!
6. To represent our Lord faithfully in all that we do.

Procedures

1. Be in the room promptly at the start of class. Be in your assigned seat with your instrument and music ready to begin rehearsal.
2. Check the board for rehearsal order/notes or for special instructions.
3. Use your pencil to call attention to markings in the music and to write down instructions from your conductor.
4. Follow instructions the first time they are given, and give your best effort at all times.
5. Gum and candy are NOT allowed in any rehearsal or performance situation.

Grading Policies for Band/ Practice Requirement

Band grades are based on work ethic and participation during rehearsals and concerts, attendance at lessons, practice times met and signed, and growth in playing ability.

Students are required to practice a minimum of 100 minutes a week. Each student will receive a practice record at their first lesson which will be checked at their lessons each week. Practice records need to be signed each week in order for credit to be given. Minutes practiced above and beyond will be kept in a “bank” and able to be used in future weeks. Students can count any time they perform for a nursing home, church etc. as practice time. Students can also earn 100 bank minutes if they attend a concert and turn in a signed program! Please practice carefully and spend your after school hours wisely.

*The following grading scale applies to practice minutes only.

100 Minutes = A

80 Minutes = B

60 Minutes = C

40 Minutes = D

30 Minutes and Below = F

Concert Dress

Concert dress consists of black pants/skirt, white shirt/blouse, and black dress shoes. The idea of concert dress is to look as uniform as possible, so avoid clothes that draw attention, e.g. shiny or shimmering fabric, trendy styles, etc. The best fabric is a poly/cotton blend (or something similar) that has a “flat” finish. The white shirt/blouse needs to have a collar of some sort. This uniform need not cost much money if you don’t want it to – check second-hand stores, clearance sales, or any other means you need.

Band Music

Each student will be assigned a folder with music. You will be responsible for the music in that folder as well as the condition of that folder. Any damage to music will result in the students being charged for the replacement value.

Do you have the necessary supplies?

Please check and make sure you have the necessary supplies for your instrument. Most of the supplies are kept on hand at school and can be purchased during your lesson or before/after school. Please do not ask me for supplies during band unless it is an absolute emergency. I will be placing an order for supplies soon, please let me know soon if there is anything you need. Here are the supplies each instrument requires:

Flute: lint-free cleaning cloth and rod

Clarinet & Saxophone: 3 good reeds at all times in a reed protector, cork grease, cleaning swab.

Trumpet & Baritone: valve oil, tuning slide grease, mouthpieces brush, and snake brush.

French Horn: rotary valve oil, tuning slide grease, mouthpiece and snake brush.

Trombones: slide lubricant, mouthpiece brush.

Calendar Performance Dates

Please transfer these REQUIRED concert dates to your family calendar!

Thursday	December 8	Fall Musical	7:00
Friday	April 27	Spring Concert	7:00
	Spring	Solo Ensemble Night	TBD

Other opportunities:

Middle School Honor Band: Auditions for honor band are held in Storm Lake on Saturday October 16. Student entries are due by September 18. If you are selected to participate in the band the Honor Band Festival is Saturday November 6 at 6:00 PM.

Interscholastic Solo/Ensemble usually takes place sometime in April. Students are encouraged to prepare a solo or an ensemble for this festival. Solo/Ensemble is a great way to receive advice and feedback from an expert singer. Sign up in January.

Please sign and return to Mrs. Miller by Friday September 2, 2011.

_____ I play piano and would be willing to help accompany for solo ensemble night.

Parent Signature: _____ Student Signature: _____

Date: _____