

Hugo A. Owens Middle School



2019-2020
Band Handbook

Matthew S. Phillips and Laura C. Paquette
Band Teachers
www.hugoowensband.org

A. Hugo Owens Middle School Band Classes

- a. **6th Grade Band:** The 6th Grade, or beginning band, is an ensemble for the beginning instrumentalist. You need no musical experience or background to join. Even if you were in strings in 5th grade, you may join. The instruments offered in this ensemble are Flute, Clarinet, Trumpet, Trombone, and Alto Saxophone. Percussion is also offered, however students who wish to play percussion must first play a primary wind instrument. Usually in October, percussion help sessions will be available for interested members. Auditions are held after these help sessions to determine which students will transfer.
- b. **7th Grade Band:** The 7th grade band is the first opportunity for the student to involve themselves more into the band program. In order to be in this ensemble, a student must successfully complete band in the 6th grade, and not have a history of recurring discipline problems. The 7th grade has an increased level of musicianship, as well as increased playing opportunities through district band, band performance assessment, and other concerts. 7th grade band students also have an opportunity to participate in our extra-curricular ensembles, such as our Honors Jazz Ensemble.
- c. **8th Grade Band:** The 8th grade band serves as preparation for the increased demands of a high school ensemble. Advancing from 7th grade band literature, the 8th grade band will be able to perform at various local venues as well as take part in concerts not available to 7th graders. By 8th grade, the band will have a more “colorful” instrumentation. This includes oboe, bassoon, French horn, baritone or euphonium, tenor saxophone, baritone saxophone, and tuba. To be in the 8th grade band, a student must successfully complete 6th and 7th grade band with no recurring discipline problems.

B. Hugo Owens Middle School Extracurricular Ensembles

- a. **Honors Jazz Ensemble:** Hugo Owens has a Jazz Band that meets two mornings per week, not to interfere with other groups and sports. The group is made up of 7th and 8th grade saxophones, trumpets, trombones, and drum set/percussion. There will also be piano, and bass. Students who play other instruments, such as flute or clarinet, are also welcome to join. Students must have an A in band, have parent permission, and transportation to participate.

C. Classroom Expectations

- a. Students will come to class each day both mentally and materially prepared to succeed. This includes having an optimistic, open mind, as well as having the proper materials needed for the band classroom.
- b. Students will respect the feelings, property, and educational experience of themselves, the teacher, the school, and of their fellow classmates.
- c. Students will raise their hand and wait to be recognized before talking, playing, or responding during classroom activities.
- d. Students will be expected to act as young adults, in a mature fashion. This

includes taking responsibility for your own actions and following school wide policies and guidelines.

- e. Students will ENJOY learning about music and developing their technical skill. The students will take these concepts and ideals learned in the band classroom and use them in their daily life.

Classroom EXPECTATIONS	Band Classroom Procedures/Routines			
	Arrival	Warm Up/Independent Practice	Ensemble Rehearsal	Dismissal
	Teaching = Tell + Show + Practice + Feedback + Re-teach			
I am safe	1. Walk at an appropriate pace to class. 2. Proceed to the instrument room without running or horseplay.	1. I put my instrument together carefully, giving adequate space to my neighbor. 2. I complete my written warm up without horseplay.	1. I remain seated and engaged in instruction 2. With permission, I walk to the bathroom, pencil sharpener, etc.	1. I carefully pack up my instrument at my seat, giving adequate space to my neighbor. 2. I line up for dismissal on the 3 rd tile. 3. I exit the classroom on the 3 rd tile, at a walking pace.
I am respectful	1. I enter the classroom quietly, as to not cause a distraction. 2. I get my instrument and materials without interacting with other students.	1. I complete my written warm up and put my instrument together quietly. 2. I patiently and quietly await further instruction when finished.	1. I raise my hand and wait to be recognized before playing, responding, or asking a question. 2. I play when appropriate. 3. I am quiet and listen to instruction and feedback.	1. I put my instrument in my cubby without interacting with the other students. 2. I line up quietly on the 3 rd tile for dismissal.
I am responsible	1. I arrive to class on time, with all materials required to succeed. 2. I obtain all equipment from the	1. I complete my written warm up to the best of my ability and store it in my folder. 2. I check the	1. I actively participate in rehearsal and instruction. 2. I raise my hand and ask questions if I don't understand.	1. I pack my instrument away properly, performing all required daily maintenance on my instrument. 2. I return for my materials at the end of the day to complete my

	instrument room on the first trip.	rehearsal plan, and make sure that I have the needed music and books on my stand.	3. I mark in musical reminders and changes with my pencil.	at-home practicing requirement.
--	------------------------------------	---	--	---------------------------------

D. Required Classroom Materials

- a. School-Provided Method Book (Standards of Excellence, Essential Technique, Sound Innovations, Essential Elements, etc.)
- b. School-Provided HOMS Warm Up Book
- c. School-Provided Provided Folder for music, practice sheets, warm ups, information sheets, and returned papers.
- d. Instrument and case.
- e. Pencil – have a mechanical band pencil that never leaves your case or folder.
- f. Instrument name tag: Protect your investment. Putting a tag on your instrument prevents mix-up, theft, and loss.
- g. Instrument and Instrument Specific Materials
 - i. Flute: tuning rod, cleaning cloth
 - ii. Clarinet: 10 pack of reeds (2 ½ Mitchell Lurie or D’Addario Reserve for 6th Grade, 3 or 3.5 (kid/brand dependant) Mitchell Lurie, Vandoren, or D’Addario Reserve for 7th and 8th Grade), cork grease, reed case, Hite Premier mouthpiece, Rovner ligature.
 - iii. Alto Sax: 10 pack of reeds (2 ½ Rico Royal or D’Addario Reserve for 6th Grade, 2.5 Vandoren or 3 D’Addario Reserve for 7th and 8th Grade), cork grease, neck strap, Hite Premier Mouthpiece, Rovner Ligature, and swab.
 - iv. Trumpet: Valve oil (Al Cass FAST), tuning slide grease, cleaning cloth, flexible cleaning brush, mouthpiece brush.
 - v. Trombone: Slide oil, cleaning cloth, flexible cleaning brush, and mouthpiece brush
 - vi. Percussion: Mallets for Bells and/or Xylophone, Vic Firth SD1 drumsticks (drum set or marching sticks are not appropriate), Practice pad (HQ, Remo, Real Feel, Vic Firth, Xymox, Pro Mark, etc.), and stick bag.

E. Loaner Instruments

- a. Through donations, HOMS has a limited number of loaner instruments to keep students participating when their instrument is in need of repair. These instruments are not meant for permanent use, rather, to prevent the loss of instructional time.
- b. In order to be able to use one of the loaner instruments, a note from a parent is required to verify that the instrument is in the shop.
- c. Students must use their own mouthpiece on the school-owned loaners.

- d. Loaner instruments may not be used for longer than one week, and the instrument may not be taken home.

F. At Home Materials and Optional Resources

- a. Metronome: all students should practice with a metronome, whether it be store bought, or online. www.metronomeonline.com You can also download any number of metronome apps for smartphones for free.
- b. Tuner (optional): this helps students keep good intonation habits in their playing. You can usually find metronome/tuner combos from you local music store. For iPod and Smartphones, the Tonal Energy App is wonderful, costing only \$3.99 to download.
- c. Smartmusic (optional): Smartmusic is performance assessment software that is a great resource to young music students. You purchase a very inexpensive subscription, and have access to thousands of band titles and method books in their system. Students can play their exercises at any tempo, hear accompaniments, and can send recordings to the teacher. Smartmusic also includes a metronome and tuner. Find out more at www.smartmusic.com

G. Daily Classroom Procedures

- a. Students may store their instruments in their assigned band room (at their own risk) in the morning (before homeroom, depending on class assignment) and pick it up in the afternoon, after school (before bus dismissal). Students are required to take their instrument home each day, unless they practiced during that morning's open practice time. Periodically, Mr. Phillips and Ms. Paquette will check cubbies to make sure that practice sheets are honest and accurate. Abuse of the instrument room could/will result in loss of storage privileges.
- b. Get your instrument case first, upon entry into the room. Complete your written warm up (turned in once per week) that you will hand in each week, then, assemble your instrument. This should take no more than two minutes.
- c. Always come to class with ALL necessary instrument-appropriate class materials (instrument, pencil, reeds, mutes, music, folder, etc.).
- d. Every student in the Hugo Owens Band program is expected to practice their instrument at home. Students are expected to work both in and out of class to improve their playing ability. This will ensure your preparedness for rehearsal time, performances, and playing tests. Typical practice should be a minimum of 20 minutes per session, 5 nights per week. In addition the band room will be open in the morning for students who wish to complete their practice requirement before school.

H. Grading, Weighting, and Grading Policies: (In alignment with mandated CPS Guidelines).

All Band Classes:

- a. Assessments: 40%

- i. Weekly Participation Grade
 - ii. Long Term Projects (Smart Goal Assessments, Auditions, etc.)
 - b. Practice: 20%
 - i. Weekly Sight Reading Grade
 - ii. Classwork
 - c. Quizzes - 30%
 - i. Concerts
 - ii. Playing Quizzes
 - d. Homework - 10%
 - i. Practice Sheet - turned in each Monday
 - ii. Daily Written Warm Up - turned in each Friday
 - iii. Other Assigned Homework.

I. Concerts

- a. Concert attendance is a graded component of the class and is mandatory. See attached letter from the CPS curriculum office. Since music is performance art, it is necessary for anyone in music education to perform to receive the full experience. Students will attend all concerts with administrative approval. Concerts will be announced multiple weeks in advance. Because the community only perceives the band through performances, it is extremely important that every member play, in order to gain support and add to their musical experience.
- b. Concert grades will be based on Dress, Audience Etiquette and Participation, Punctuality, and Performance.
- c. Concert Attire:
 - i. 6th, 7th and 8th Grade: Solid black dress pants (no black jeans), solid black socks, completely black dress shoes (No athletic shoes.), and the Hugo Owens Band Polo shirt.
 - ii. We must strive to have the most professional group possible. This includes performance and appearance. Please help me maintain the integrity of the group.
- d. Reasons to be excused from a concert: please see attached Chesapeake Public School Concert Attendance Policy.

J. Mustang Bucks

- a. Students can obtain Mustang Bucks as a reward for good behavior and performance. Mustang Bucks can be cashed in for candy, extra tries on playing tests, homework passes, and many other prizes/privileges. Students earn a mustang buck for a full credit week, earning a 100 on their practice sheet, participation, and daily written warm up.

K. Hugo Owens Middle School Band Website

The Hugo Owens Middle School Band runs a website at www.hugoowensband.org. This website provides all up-to-date information regarding band matters. Since the website covers band events and performances, occasionally pictures are posted. By Chesapeake policy, we

must have parent permission to post pictures on the web. By signing this handbook's agreement form, you consent that the Owens Band Program may post band pictures from concerts, etc. of your child on hugoowensband.org. If you do not wish for your child to be pictured in the coverage of events, please notate your wish for your student not to be pictured on the handbook agreement form.

For more information, visit us at www.hugoowensband.org or contact either Mr. Phillips or Ms. Paquette at

Hugo Owens Middle School
1997 Horseback Run
Chesapeake, VA 23323
(757)-558-5382
Matthew.Phillips@cpschools.com
Laura.Paquette@cpschools.com

HOMS Band Events 2019-2020

We strive to NEVER change band dates, however, if one needs to be changed due to a school conflict or administrative request, parents will be notified, in writing, well in advance, in order to plan.

Hugo Owens Concerts: Hugo Owens Auditorium. All Performances will begin at 7:00 p.m.

- **Winter/Holiday Concerts**
 - 12/4: 8th Grade Band and 8th Grade Orchestra
 - 12/9: 7th Grade Band, 6th and 7th Grade Orchestra
- **6th Grade "Informance":** 2/6: 6th Grade Band
- **Pre-Assessment Concert:** February TBA: 8th Grade Band - may be at HOMS or a neighboring high school
- **Spring Concerts**
 - 4/27: 8th Grade Band and 8th Grade Orchestra
 - 4/28: 7th Grade Band and 7th Grade Orchestra
 - 4/30: 6th Grade Band and 6th Grade Orchestra

District Music Events:

- **District Band Auditions:** Open to all 7th and 8th grade band members. 12/14: Hickory High School.
- **District Band Event:** 7th and 8th grade students that earned a spot through the 12/9 audition. 1/31-2/1: Grassfield High School. Friday and Saturday rehearsal. Saturday afternoon concert after clinic (usually at 2:00 p.m.)
- **VBODA Concert Band Performance Assessment:** 3/6-3/9: Great Bridge High School. Select 8th Grade Band members. Specific performance time is announced in January. HOMS usually, but not always, performs on Thursday or Friday evening, which would be 3/5 or 3/6.
- **7th Grade All-City Chair Placement Auditions:** Spring TBA: Location TBA. 7th Grade All-City Students will audition for chair placement only. 6th Grade Students do not audition at this event.
- **All City Band Event:** April 24: Hickory High School. Select 6th and 7th Grade students. Students qualify for appointment through letter grade, work ethic, and performance in band class. This is a full day of rehearsal, concluding with a Friday evening concert.

Hugo Owens Middle School Band Information Form

Student's name as you would like it to appear in a program. (Please Print)

Parent(s) Name(s) _____

Parent Email Address _____

Home Telephone Number _____

Mother's Cell _____

Father's Cell _____

Instrument Information

Instrument _____

Brand Name _____

Serial Number _____

As a student and a member of this band, I have read this handbook and understand the membership requirements, particularly in regard to study, practice, rehearsals, and concert attendance.

As a member of this band, I will assume the obligations and responsibilities and do my utmost to accomplish the objectives and follow the principles, rules, and regulations.

Student's signature

Date

As parents/guardians of this child, we understand the rules and procedures that our child is expected to follow, and agree to uphold them.

Legibly print parent/guardian's name

Parent/Guardian's signature

Date

Students and Parents BOTH should mark their calendars to avoid conflicts that could affect the student's grade.



TO: Parents of Secondary Music Students

FROM: Anita B. James, Chief Academic Officer *ABJ*
Nancy T. Sweat, Director of Instructional Resources, Services and Technologies *NS*
John B. Chenault, Supervisor of Music Education *JC*

RE: Requirement for Performance Attendance by Secondary Music Students

DATE: September 3, 2019

Music is a performing art. The National Standards for Music Education and the Virginia Music Standards of Learning identify *performance* as a critical component. With this in mind, the Office of Music Education of the Chesapeake Public Schools has developed the curriculum for secondary band, chorus, and orchestra with public performance as a vital element of each course. As part of the requirements for completion of these courses, students are expected to participate in a number of group performances each year.

Performances showcase the skills learned in daily rehearsals and give each student an opportunity to exhibit his or her special musical talent. Concerts, festivals, marching band shows, and other performance activities enhance student, school, and community life. Participation in quality group activities contributes significantly to the development of the student's sense of responsibility, as each ensemble member has an important role in the success of the group.

Accordingly, the administration of Chesapeake Public Schools has developed the following guidelines for grading middle and high school students enrolled in performance based music courses:

1. Students are required to attend any scheduled performance approved by the school principal. Adequate notice (two weeks or longer) of performance dates will be provided.
2. Excuses for an absence must be submitted by the parent in writing and approved by the student's principal or designee and music teacher prior to the performance. In the event of an emergency situation, a written note stating the reason for the unexpected absence must be submitted by the parent for approval by the principal and music teacher on the next school day. Make-up work for an excused absence will be assigned according to the individual school policy.
3. An unexcused absence from a performance will result in the student's grade being lowered for the marking period.
4. An unexcused absence will be determined by the regular school policy concerning attendance.

It is hoped that parents will not only emphasize to the student the importance of performance attendance, but will also support the student by attending as many performances as possible.

JC/ka