

HCCS MUSIC DEPARTMENT

BAND HANDBOOK

INTRODUCTION

Dear Parents/Guardians,

I would like to welcome you to the Honey Creek Band program. I am very happy that your student has made the decision to join the band. Band can be a fun and rewarding experience throughout your child's life, not just in school.

This handbook will serve for members of the Honey Creek Community School Bands, known as the Firebird Band (5th grade) and Phoenix Fire Band (6th-8th grade). This handbook contains some important information including important **dates, rules, grading policies, expected behavior, concert requirements, band goals, and much more!**

Thank you for the support of your child's musical involvement and growth. Learning to play an instrument is not easy, but the rewards of the hard work and dedication make it well worth the effort. Your help, involvement, and enthusiasm are VERY important to your child's success. Please continue to support your child in this path and you will all see the wonderful rewards for years to come.

Please feel free to contact me at any time with questions, comments, or concerns. We want this to be a positive experience for every child in the program. My email address is gklink@hc.wash.k12.mi.us, and the band website can be found at musicccs.weebly.com.

Garry K. Klink
HCCS Music Teacher and Band Director

GENERAL INFO AND GOALS

Honey Creek Community School band is committed to excellence. By joining the band you have committed to the pursuit of excellence through musical performance.

Group Goal - Learn about music through the **study of ensemble performance**. This includes the discipline of practice, history of the pieces, and much more!

Individual Goal - prepare each student so they feels confident enough to **advance to the next level** of playing, be that beginner to middle school band, middle school to high school band. We will accomplish these goals through regular rehearsals and practice in class.

Individually, each student is responsible for his/her own success as a musician and must take it upon his/her own self to set and meet their goals. Unlike other classes and subjects, the desired level of success in music depends on **practice outside of class time**.

CLASSROOM RULES

- The following is a list of classroom rules that ALL students are expected to follow.
 - No talking or playing out of turn when the directors are working.
 - No food, gum, or drinks (other than water) in the band room.
 - Appropriate use of electronic devices for instrument tuning is allowed
 - Follow the Honey Creek Band's Core Values
 - Respect Yourself and Others
 - Strive for excellence in all we do
 - Pride in Yourself and the Band

GOLD AND SILVER STAND

The Gold and Silver Stands are for the Phoenix Fire Band and Firebird Band respectively. The stand will be award by student nomination at the beginning of the week and chosen by the band director. Students must fill out a nomination form and state why they are nominating the student for the stand. Students may sign their name to the stand in permanent marker at the end of the week. Additionally, the director will chose the student who exemplifies excellence in music to use the stand for the concert.

CLASSROOM PROCEDURES

- Be Prepared - Not having these could result in loss of participation points
 - On time
 - Music/book
 - Pencil
 - Instrument
 - Supplies (reeds, sticks, valve oil, etc)
- Classroom Management
 - Rest position
 - Ready for class with all music and materials and in assigned seat
 - Instrument out and ready to play, typically across lap
 - Can be practicing or talking softly with others from their seat
 - Ready Position - Conductor steps on podium
 - Talking stops
 - Instrument goes to Ready (for most, it's on a knee)
 - Focus attention on conductor
 - Playing Position - Conductor's hands and baton go up
 - Instrument ready to play
- Restroom and Drinks
 - Please use the restroom before or after class.
 - Please bring a non-spillable water bottle to class.
 - Raise your hand to ask to leave the classroom
 - Excessive use can result in loss of participation points.
- Practice
 - See GOOGLE CLASSROOM AND WEEKLY PRACTICE TEST section
- Extra Credit
 - Can be earned by:
 - Taking Private Lessons
 - Learning A New Instrument
 - Performing in a music ensemble outside of school
 - Attending a concert (in which you are not a participant)
 - And more! If you have an idea for extra credit, see the director!

HAVE FUN

GRADING POLICY

- Daily Participation
 - Makes up 20% of the final grade
 - Prepared for Class with all Materials
 - Daily Participation in rehearsal
- Tests and Quizzes
 - Makes up 30% of the final grade
 - Completed weekly playing tests
 - Completed any written assignments and quizzes
- Performance
 - Makes up 50% of the final grade
 - Proper attire for concert
 - Concert attendance

BAND BUCKS

Students in the Firebird Band can earn Band Bucks for exemplary behavior, positive attitude, excellence in performance, etc. This is at the discretion of the director to award these. They are directly equivalent to Study Bucks in your Base Class.

(Example: 5 Band Bucks = 5 Study Bucks)

HOW CAN PARENTS HELP?

- Help select a regular practice time and place for your child.
- Check your child's Google Classroom for important information.
- Encourage your child through positive support. Listen to practice sessions on occasion.
- Everyone will probably require a ton of patience while the beginning musician squeaks, squawks, and moans and groans his/her way through the first several weeks. It will get better! With regular practice those noises will be replaced in no time with the wonderful sounds of music! The rewards are well worth the wait.
- Set aside our concert dates to be sure you and your child can attend.
- Help students care for their instruments (maintenance, keep others from handling/playing, etc.)

GOOGLE CLASSROOM AND WEEKLY PRACTICE TESTS

Classroom communication takes place mainly on Google Classroom. All relevant information will be posted there, as well as assignments, calendars, and documents. Parents will be sent a weekly digest of assignments of students are missing, once they opt in to Google Classroom. Please see the director if you have trouble with accessing Google Classroom.

Additionally, information can be found about band on the HCCS Music Department Website; musicccs.weebly.com and at the school website <http://honeycreekschool.org/music/>. However, Google Classroom will be the most accurate and up to date.

Practice outside of class is both **REQUIRED** and **EXPECTED**. Students are to submit a **weekly performance assessment**. This may be from the Standard of Excellence Book or from the music being studied in class. We do not track minutes practiced, but rather assess on the successful performance of that weeks playing test. It is **recommended** that students practice about **40-90 minutes a week** to have success on these assessments and therefore receive a satisfactory grade in band.

Playing tests are an assessment line item on the students report card. Missed playing tests can be turned in late up to 1 week for full credit, partial credit for 2 weeks late, half credit for 3 weeks late or more. These small assessments are the building blocks to making a better performer, so they must be spread out to have the desired outcome of musical improvement. Cramming them in all at the last minute doesn't do you any good!

***After THOUSANDS of years of civilization,
enlightenment, science, and
advancement, we have discovered that...***

**NO SUBSTITUTE FOR
REGULAR PRACTICE!!!**

BAND OFFICER DESCRIPTIONS

Band officers are elected to serve in leadership roles in the band, assist with administrative duties, and provide feedback to the director. They are elected at the beginning of the year.

President.

- Organizes the Band Council officers.
- Assists other officers in their duties and functions.
- Takes the lead role in planning Band extracurricular events (Lock-ins, Bandsgiving, etc).
- Assists the directors when necessary in non-musical aspects of the student activities.
- Serves as liaison with counterparts from other schools.
- Serves as liaison with officers of other clubs and activities campus.
- Organizes student volunteers for various activities as necessary.

Vice President

- Assists the president and directors.
- Serves in the president's role in the absence of the president.
- Organizes Mentor program so 5th grade students have a Band Buddy
- Organizes the end of year Banquet and Awards Ceremony
- Serves on or chairs committees as needed.
- Assists the director and/or president as needed.

Secretary

- Keeps official minutes of all officer/staff meetings.
- Takes attendance at rehearsals (Pencil, Music, Instrument)
- Keep track of study hall attendees.
- Assist directors with the administration of the band website.
- Assists with band correspondence and other clerical duties.
- May assist Band Librarians in the execution of their duties.
- Assists the director and/or president as needed.
- Assists with planning and executing Band Banquet and Awards Ceremony

Librarian

- Responsible for maintain the Music Library Database
- Responsible for having additional copies of pieces ready to borrow by students.
 - Notify the director if new copies are issued
- Distribute Band folders at the beginning of the year
- Collect and refile music at the end of the year
- Assist Executive Officers as needed.
- Could serve on or chair committees as needed.
- Assist director as needed.

HCCS BAND AGREEMENT

Making music is an exciting way to be part of something larger than yourself. Your part of the music is unique and without your voice it can't be as good. When you join a band, you make a pledge to do the best you can to make the whole even greater than the sum of its parts.

HERE'S HOW.

By signing below I am stating the I understand what is required and am willing to put my best effort forward to learn my instrument, perform my part, and create music by -

- Practicing my instrument
- Checking Google Classroom
- Turning in my Weekly Playing Tests
- Being Prepared for class

I will be part of the Band by investing in the community by -

- Respecting Myself and my Property
- Respecting Others and Their Property
- Respecting the Teacher and the School by Trying My Best
- Respecting the Band Room by Taking Care of The Space we Use

As a member of the band, I am committing to a **minimum of two concerts a year**, one in the **winter** and one in the **spring**. These are the music department's Curriculum Celebration and are **required and included in the final class evaluation**.

I acknowledge, as the student, that I have received, read, and understand the information found in the Honey Creek Band Handbook. I agree to follow the rules outlined in the handbook

Student Signature

Date

I acknowledge, as the parent/guardian, that I have received, read, and understand the information found in the Honey Creek Band Handbook. I agree to assist my child in following the rules outlined in the handbook.

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date