

Estelline Music Programs



*Band and Chorus
Handbook 2023-2024*

Music is a universal language meant to be used in public or private performance that any person can participate in. Music speaks to the soul, embeds powerful memories, feeling, and emotions into the conscious and subconscious, and allows for personal artistic expression. Studies have shown improved test scores and concentration for students involved in their school's music program. Music does not discriminate on the basis of appearance, cultural background, economic status, or gender.

Our performing ensembles will have the opportunity to play at school functions, attend festivals, audition for honor groups, and become part of a close-knit music community. The following pages contain guidelines for these ensembles to ensure that students are kept safe and are able to reach their full abilities.

****Please read the following pages carefully with your family and then sign, detach, and return the last page of this packet to acknowledge your support and understanding of the stated policies and procedures.****

We are very excited for this school year. It will be a year of new and exciting experiences. Go Redhawks!

Mrs. Emily Johnson
5-12 Band Director

Mrs. Chris Watt
MS and HS Choir Director
K-5 General/Vocal Music

Music Department Goals

- *Making music with others who share similar characteristics; a passion for music, the desire to learn and the willingness to work hard to achieve this.
- *Create a safe, positive learning environment for students to grow as musicians and as a team.
- *Provide students the opportunity to participate in many types of musical experiences, such as individual, small group, and large ensembles.
- *Positively representing Estelline and Hendricks High Schools and the communities through excellent public performances and participating/interaction/behavior when not performing.
- *Using ensemble rehearsal time and individuals' time responsibly to allow for all participants to enjoy their experience and not waste time.
- *Be respectful musicians by taking care of instruments/equipment and keeping rehearsal and storage spaces clean to allow for extended use of these.

Performance Policies

All concerts and contest events are MANDATORY. Concert performances are like final exams for music. They are an opportunity for students to showcase what they have been working on. We need all members of the groups to be there to support each other and contribute to the success of the ensemble.

All concerts are scheduled and put on the school calendar at the beginning of the year. Students and parents/guardians will be notified at minimum 1 week in advance of call time.

**In the event you are unable to be at the performance, please notify the director immediately with a note from parents/guardians. Work is not an excuse. All students not in attendance of the concert will receive an alternative assignment. Excused absences will receive full credit, Unexcused absences will receive 75% credit. If nothing is turned in from excused absences, the student will receive 50% credit. If nothing is turned from unexcused absences, the students will not receive any points for the concert.

**Personal Electronic Devices WILL NOT enter the performing space. You should leave it in your band locker/folder slot or with a parent/guardian. If either director sees a personal electronic, we will confiscate it and you can have it back after the concert is over.

Personal Electronic Devices

During band and choir rehearsal, there should be no Personal Electronics. Students will put their phone in a special designated area during rehearsals. During concerts, personal electronics should be left in the student's band locker or with a parent/guardian. There will be NO electronic use during the concert. If you want pictures taken, ask a parent/guardian or a friend not in music. Students who do not follow this policy will have a progressive consequence as listed in the Estelline MS/HS Policy Handbook.

Concert Etiquette

Students and Parents should not leave during songs, but wait for clapping. Only reenter during clapping. There should be no talking. Respect the groups that are performing.

Audience members will be polite, respectful and encouraging to the group performing. Audience members should stay for the entire part (K-5 or 6-12) and only leave at the completion of the concert or during intermission.

Concert Dress

Students are expected to dress up for all performances. No jeans, shorts or t-shirts are preferred. If you need help purchasing nice clothes, please contact Mrs. Johnson or Mrs. Watt.

Students should wear nice, clean shoes. Dresses and skirts should be around knee length. Tops should cover all of the stomach and chest. Straps need to be at least 3 fingers wide, or wear a jacket/sweater. Boys should wear dress pants and a collared shirt.

Food/Pop/Gum

Food/pop/gum is strictly prohibited from the band/choir room. A clear bottle with water will be allowed in the room. Anyone with food/pop/gum in the room will lose daily points. The 3rd time a student violates this policy in a quarter, the student will start receiving detention with the possibility of having your final grade lowered one letter grade.

Band Program

Band Daily Expectations

Students should have their instrument, music and computer with them every band class. Students should not have any food or gum coming into class aside from water bottles.

Band Grades

Daily: Students will receive up to 5 points each day for participation.

Concerts: Students will receive 100 points for concerts.

Lessons: All students will be required to complete lessons as assignments for the course. 5th grade lessons will be weekly. All others will have lesson due dates on Planbook.

Online/In Class Work: Any other work will be given point totals based on what is asked to be done. It is the responsibility of students to ask Mrs. Johnson for assignments if they are absent from class.

Band Participation

Students in grades 6-8 may register for band any year. 5th grade students are all required to participate in band. Beginning band students will choose their instrument with the recommendation from the director and discussion with parents/guardians.

Marching band, pep band, contest, and concert events (including graduation ceremony) are all included in the high school band curriculum and cannot be separated from the course. High school band students must take part in all of these units. Students in middle school band will be required to participate in concert events. 6th-8th grade band students will have the opportunity to play in pep band, marching band, and graduation ceremony if suitable. Students and parents are expected to communicate conflicts at the time of receiving the schedule. Work is not an excuse. Any event missed will require a make-up assignment.

Pep Band: Students in grades 9-12 are expected to play at all scheduled pep band performances. Students in 6-8 are welcome to play as well. Students playing varsity that day are not required to play pep band. Students who play Junior Varsity or lower and do not dress for Varsity are still expected to play pep band. Pep band performances earn up to 15 points each.

Band lessons will count towards your overall grade. Lesson due dates will be communicated to students in class as well as posted on Planbook as an assignment. Students are responsible for remembering lesson times.

Band Lettering Requirements:

Each year students can accumulate points by attending events put forth by the band program. A student can earn a letter in band after acquiring 200 points. After lettering, a student will earn a bar. Points are as follows:

- 50: Performing a solo at s/e contest
- 25: Performing in an ensemble at s/e contest
- 50: Perfect attendance for performances
- 75: Auditioning for All-State Band
- 50: Participating in All-State Band
- 25: Chosen for Marching Band Drum Major
- 25: Earning an A in band (per semester)
- 25: Any other musical activities - playing at nursing home, piano lessons, playing at church, etc.

Band Instrument Rental

A student can rent a school owned instrument if available. 5th grade students are given the first opportunity to rent, as the course is required for them.

Parents/Guardians will need to fill out contract of rental - including all percussion students. Cost is \$30.00 for the year. Contract and payment are due by the end of the second week of school.

Students may also rent from music stores.

Percussion students will need a bell kit and drum pad at home and are required to pay the rental fee to use school instruments during the day.

Any damages caused to rental instruments during the time it is rented out to a student will be charged to the student's parents/guardians. The rental fee may cover up to \$30.00 of damages before payments are required.

Band Music

Students will purchase their own lesson book for the beginning of 5th grade. We will use the Essential Elements for band series. These can be purchased with your band instrument rental or online. All other music for class will be copies from the director and are yours to bring to every band class, write on in pencil and return when finished.

Lockers and Folders

All students in band will be assigned an instrument locker and folder place in the room. Lockers should not be used for music. All students will be given a folder to keep all music in.

Marching Band

Uniforms

All students in high school band will be assigned a Marching Band Uniform. Uniforms will be hung up correctly and put in a garment bag when not in use. Shakos, shoes, gloves, and other pieces of uniforms will NOT go in the garment bag. This will help keep the uniforms cleaner. Students also need to have tall black socks and a black shirt to go underneath the band jacket.

Marching Band Shoes will be purchased by the student at the beginning of their Marching Band experience. If students need to buy new shoes, please contact the director.

Each uniform is \$350.00. Students will take care of their uniform. Any lost or damaged pieces will be charged to the student.

The school will have uniforms dry cleaned. DO NOT wash your uniform.

Color Guard Uniforms

All Color Guard students will be assigned a uniform and flag. These must be taken care of properly. DO NOT wash your uniform. Color Guard participants need to purchase their own black tennis shoes. These should be as black as possible.

Choir Program

Choir Daily Attendance

You must be in your seat, ready to sing at the bell or you will be counted tardy. Three unexcused absences from rehearsals will lower the semester grade by one letter grade. The 1st will result in a meeting with the director. The 2nd will be a notification to parents. The 3rd will result in a parent/teacher conference and lowered grade. All public performances are absolutely mandatory

Choir Grading Policy

Students will be graded on a point system. These will be combined to determine a student's grade for each grading period.

Daily Grade – 5 points

These are earned by being prepared by having your music and participating in rehearsals. Your effort and participation will be judged by the director and points will be lost for talking during rehearsal or lack of effort/poor participation.

Vocal Lessons – 5 points

Students will be required to attend up to 8 lessons during both semesters, up to sixteen lessons for the whole year. Students will schedule a weekly time during Mrs. Watt's available time during the school day, or before/after school. Each lesson is 15 minutes or less, and is worth 5 points toward their grade. Students will work on proper singing technique as an individual or small group lesson.

Concerts/Contests - 100 points

All required choir concerts and other choral ensembles will have attendance taken, and students will earn points on positive participation, on-time arrival and representation of the school's music program.

Written Assignments – Points vary per assignment

Students will have assignments based on South Dakota Fine Arts Music Standards. Most assignments will be posted on the Choir's Google Classroom. Students will have adequate time in class to complete assignments.

Choir Folders

Students will be assigned folders at the beginning of the school year. It is the student's responsibility to keep the folder in good shape, keep your music in your folder, and to make sure you have your folder every day.

Choir Robe Policy and Information

Choir robes will be checked out prior to our first performance and each student will be totally responsible for each and every part checked out to him/her. Each HS student will use their assigned robe and not take another. All robe assignments will be stored on computer and on the lockers. If there is a need to change pieces after robes have been assigned or distributed, you must see me so the information can be changed correctly and we have the correct pieces checked out to you. Each robe is about a \$200 investment. They must be taken care of PROPERLY at all times and are not to be thrown in the back of a bus/car/closet, and not to be left unattended or dumped somewhere. Lost or damaged robes will be sold to you at the current replacement cost. Robes will be properly hung on hangers provided and will be kept in the appropriate locker. Robes will be kept in the choir room at all times except when taken and worn at a performance. The school will dry clean robes periodically. Students will not have any robes cleaned on their own. This allows all robes to stay the same color.

Any time you perform or get in front of a group of people, you are representing your school and yourself. All actions - positive or negative - reflect upon the group and yourself. This should be a positive experience for everyone - participants or audience members. Fowl language, disrespectful behavior, horseplay, alcohol, tobacco, or controlled substances while in uniform or in any public venue will not be tolerated. This also includes negative comments made towards other band/ensembles or people from other schools, as well as comments made about our own group. Please remember to be courteous and respectful to everyone around you. Performing in music ensembles or not.

Lettering in Choir

To earn a letter, a student must accumulate 200 points during their entire career (points will carry over from year to year). Once a student letters in choir for the first time, they will receive the chenille music patch. When that student letters again, they will receive a letter bar. The student must have no unexcused absences from performances to letter. Points are earned for:

- 50: Attendance at all rehearsals, concerts and other events
- Solo/Ensemble contest:
 - 100: receives a 'superior' rating
 - 50: receives an 'excellent' rating
- 100: All State Choir participant
- 10: Singing the national anthem
- 10/concert: Assisting with the Elementary Concert
- 25: Any other musical activities - playing at nursing home, piano lessons, playing at church, etc.

Policy and Information Regarding Different Groups/Festivals

School Concerts

The choir will perform at several public events throughout the year. Each member is responsible for attending all events during the year. A letter will be sent home with the dates of performances throughout the year. School activities are to have precedence over jobs, and with the advance notification of performance dates, I expect every student to be present. Mark your calendars with the dates and ask for them off of work.

Large Group Contest

Large Group Contest is generally held in Watertown during the spring. The entire HS choir is required to perform for this contest. The choir will perform 2-3 pieces and receive a rating based on the performance.

Solo/Ensemble Contest

Students are encouraged to participate, but are not required to. Vocal solos and ensembles will perform at this event for a judges rating. This is during the day generally held in Watertown.

All State Chorus

Students are encouraged and given the opportunity to audition for the South Dakota All-State Chorus. The location changes year to year and Estelline is allowed one quartet. Auditions will be held at the beginning of the school year and members chosen will be announced as soon as possible to allow for participation.

All state chorus participation is extensive and is not to be taken lightly. Those chosen will be expected to attend all outside rehearsals in Watertown as well as any other assigned. Students are expected to memorize all music by the required date. Those selected to attend All State Choir need to remember that ASC is a musically demanding and rewarding experience, and the students will get what they put into it. Students will be given a schedule of rehearsals as well as several option activities may be required for Estelline students for the purpose of music exposure or learning.

National Anthem

We have many home games in football, volleyball, and basketball that require the National Anthem. If you would like to sing the National Anthem, sign up on the sheet for which date you would like to sing. Each time you perform the National Anthem, you receive 5 points towards your choir letter.

Music Trip

Students eligible for the music trip are band and choir participants in grades 9-12. Students must be in band/choir the full year before the trip (exceptions for new students to the school district). Students should be loyal to the band program to continue participation in the band trip for future years.

Students need to pay \$60.00 by April 1st for all four years leading up to the trip. All students are responsible for their payments and must fundraise or pay out of pocket the remaining expenses. If a student quits the band or for any reason cannot attend the trip, the school cannot reimburse them any payments; however, payments made through the payment plan can be used within the district in other ways such as lunch fees and computer protection payments. No money from donations or fundraising can be used in this way. The full amount must be paid for by December of the trip year.

**Please complete and return this form to Mrs. Johnson or Mrs. Watt
by August 25, 2023.**

Student Name:

We have read the contents of the 2023-2024 Music Department Handbook and agree to follow the policies of the Estelline Music Department.

Student/s Signature Parent Signature

Please fill out the following information:

Parent/Guardian Name(s):

Address:

Telephone:

Preferred Email Address:

Preferred form of contact: Telephone Email