

Scranton Public School
7-12 Music Handbook
2023-24

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Band/Choir Goals & Objectives

Students will have the opportunity to:

- Develop good vocal and/or instrumental technique
- Develop skills to read music, vocal or instrumental, and be able to sing or play their part with relative ease
- Identify and observe basic music markings such as time signature, dynamics, tempo, key signatures, expression, etc.
- Develop the ability to follow your own part within the ensemble as a whole
- Work with others as an ensemble to create and perform music
- Develop an understanding of the history behind various musical pieces, their composers, and musical time periods
- Identify meaning of a text in vocal music or interpret the meaning and emotion in instrumental music
- Express themselves through musical performance, creativity, and composition
- Be exposed to a variety of musical styles and genres
- Gain a better understanding and appreciation for music in all its forms

Classroom Conduct

Membership in an ensemble takes dedication, preparation, hard work, and equal participation and contribution from every member. In order for us to be successful as an ensemble and as musicians, there are some rules and expectations that I have of my students to make the most of our time together and to make rehearsals run smoothly and efficiently.

-Show up to rehearsal prepared and on time

- Make sure you have everything you need when you come to class. This includes music, instruments, pencils (**NO PENS**) to mark your music, etc.

-Show respect for the director, your classmates, and the equipment and materials you are provided

- I am the director so please respect my opinions, the opinions and questions of your classmates and peers (this classroom is a safe space), and the materials provided to you, including music (**NO PENS**), the piano, chairs, music stands, risers, folders, etc.

-Do your part

- Our ensembles depend on each and every member to do their part. Come to rehearsal prepared, and don't be afraid to work on things outside of class if need be.

I know that students are involved in many other activities besides mine, and understand that there will be missed class time because of this. That being said, doing your part on your own to make up for a missed rehearsal would be greatly appreciated, not only by me, but by your fellow ensemble members, and even your audiences that come to performances! Come ready to give your best effort, learn, and make music!

-Raise your hand to speak or speak only when asked

-Our success depends on the effectiveness of our rehearsals so keeping interruptions to a minimum will help us to accomplish more.

-Have fun!

-Music is a wonderful experience! I look forward to sharing it with you!

If at any point, there are problems with the classroom rules or student behavior, they will be dealt with in an appropriate manner. Student success and achievement in the classroom depends on their effort and behavior. Their grades will reflect as such. Please see the **Grading** section for an outline of how daily class points are earned and what is expected of students.

Concert & Performance Procedures

Concert Attire

HS/JH Band & Choir

-Typically, concert attire for JH and HS will be concert black. This means all black from pants/bottoms to tops, and even shoes and socks. If for some reason concert attire would be different, for example, Ugly Sweaters for Christmas, brighter colors for spring, etc., students will be notified ahead of time, and attire should align with the guidelines and examples as follows:

-Dress pants with no holes or rips. Jeans and leggings are not acceptable concert attire.

-Dresses and skirts **MUST** be of appropriate length, approved by Mrs. Conlon. Knee-length or longer is preferred. I have extra concert blacks in storage if I think that your outfit/length is not appropriate.

-Dress shirts should preferably have no large logos. Tops should have an appropriate neckline. No spaghetti straps.

-Dress shoes and dark colored socks. No tennis shoes. Heels are acceptable as long as you can walk and stand comfortably and gracefully in them. If not, flats are a great option.

-Hair should not get in the way of your singing or view of the director during performances.

Swing Choir (Grades 9-12)

-For the Swing Choir concert, members are allowed to wear jeans, no rips or tears. We will have Swing Choir t-shirts made for you to wear. Please wear closed-toed shoes that you will be able to do choreography in. No flip

flops or sandals. Any other props or costume pieces that will be needed for the show will be decided upon at a later time.

Concert Etiquette

Students will be expected to behave appropriately when they attend concerts and performances, both as performers and as audience members. We will discuss proper concert etiquette in class, so students should be able to conduct themselves accordingly. Typically, I will be in front of an ensemble directing, so I expect that students can hold themselves accountable for their behavior when not on stage. I encourage parents to lead by example and hold their students accountable as well.

Some friendly reminders:

- Please stay for the entirety of the concert. It is important to support fellow musicians and ensembles other than our own. Seeing other people perform also helps in developing our own musical growth!
- Refrain from using cell phones during performances. This includes texting, social media, and games.
- Remain quiet and refrain from talking during songs.
- Wait to enter or exit the performance space until the song is over.
- Applaud and show your support for all of our musicians after their performance.

Concert & Performance Dates

Monday, October 9th, 7 PM- JH/HS Fall Concert (7-12 Band & Choir)

Monday, October 16th- Choirfest @ Belfield (9-12 Choir Only)

Monday, December 18th, 7 PM- JH/HS Christmas Concert (7-12 Band & Choir)

Tuesday, March 12th- Region 10 Instrumental Festival @ Dickinson Trinity (9-12 Band Only)

Thursday, April 4th- Region 10 Vocal Festival @ Dickinson Trinity (9-12 Choir Only)

Saturday, April 20th, 7 PM- Swing Choir Concert (9-12 Band & Choir)

Saturday, May 4th, State Music Festival (9-12 State Qualifying Band & Choir Students Only)

Friday, May 10th- Band Night Parade in Bismarck (7-12 Band Only)

Monday, May 13th, 7 PM- JH/HS Spring Concert (7-12 Band & Choir)

Sunday, May 19th- Graduation @ 4:00 PM (7-12 Band & Choir)

-Please refer to the school calendar located on the school website (<https://www.scranton.k12.nd.us/>) for all updated concerts and events. I will also post updates and announcements for concerts and events on the music department facebook page. Be sure to give us a follow! Scranton Music Department on facebook.

-Call time for concerts will typically be 30 minutes before the performance starts, unless otherwise stated by me. You will be notified of any changes in a timely manner.

-There is a chance that JH students may be asked to perform with the HS in some of their events. If this happens, notice will be given in a timely manner.

If for some reason, your child is not able to attend one of the **mandatory** performance dates, you must let me know **AS SOON AS POSSIBLE**. Students receive grades for each of these performances, so I need time to prepare an alternative assignment for your child. Unexcused absences from concerts and performances will result in loss of points.

-Pep Band performances at games will be a requirement again this year. We currently have 5 dates on our pep band list for this year (Most home games in Scranton, excluding Saturdays, double headers, & Christmas Break). If a game is added or removed from this list, I will let students know as soon as possible. Students will receive 10 points per game that they play pep band for. If students are on the floor playing in the game, they will be excused and exempt from that grade. Unexcused absences will receive a zero in the grade book. I will allow students one unexcused absence "free pass" if they do not show up. I understand that students have other things going on, so if they cannot be at pep band for another legitimate reason, all they need to do is let me know ahead of time. Communication is key.

-There will be opportunities for students to audition for and participate in extra festivals and music activities as the year goes on. These extra events are completely voluntary but are great opportunities for students to grow in their musicianship! Mrs. Conlon will let students know of audition and performance dates and deadlines as they arise.

Grading

Grades will be based on accumulated points throughout the year. These points include:

Attendance/Participation points: 5 pts per day

Participation- 1 pt

Behavior & Respect- 2 pts

Posture- 1 pt

Warmup Activities & Daily Reflections- 1 pt

Formative Assessments (supplemental assignments, quizzes, etc.): Pts dependent on the assignment

Playing tests: Based on a 5 pt rubric

Semesterly individual lessons: 25 pts each

Performance points: 50 pts per concert/performance

Pep Band Performances: 10 pts per performance

***There will be extra credit opportunities for students who attend concerts other than their own. These can include community/area concerts, collegiate concerts, or professional concerts. Concerts must be cleared with Mrs. Conlon beforehand in order to receive points. 5 pts per concert will be awarded, if the concert program is turned in to Mrs. Conlon with a parent signature on it.**

Parents, please read through this document in its entirety WITH your musicians and make sure that you both understand the expectations. If you have **ANY** questions regarding the handbook or otherwise, do not hesitate to contact me!

I look forward to making music with your students again!

-Mrs. Conlon