

Haines Middle School

**6th and 8th Grade
Band
Handbook**

2007-2008

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Fall Semester**

Principal's Message

Music exists in our culture because it provides an aesthetic experience which is unlike any other. No other art form can duplicate the kind of perception which results from expressing oneself through musical performance. The person who plays in a musical organization is paving the way for future musical enjoyment, whether it be listening or performing.

Haines Middle School Instrumental Music members enjoy involvement in a school organization that provides immediate identity and purpose. Band members are involved in concerts, school assemblies, trips and social programs, and are an essential ingredient of school spirit at Haines. Group performances and rehearsals are part of the students' academic responsibilities. The Haines' Instrumental Music Groups promote and encourage academic excellence.

The Haines Middle School music program's reputation for excellence is due to the high level of expectation by the directors, the students, the school administration and the parents. Over 60% of all Haines students are involved in the Haines music program.

Due to the high caliber of music students we all expect excellence, not only in performance musically, but also excellence in character and citizenship. Your support as a parent in your child's music education is encouraged and greatly appreciated.

Mr. Charlie Kyle
Haines Middle School

Forward

The benefits of band extend far beyond the mastery and understanding of musical technique. The study of music provides students with the opportunity to achieve personal and group goals. Although participation in band provides such non-musical benefits as learning to work together, building a sense of responsibility, and feeling a sense of accomplishment in doing something well, the primary purpose of the instrumental music program is that of making MUSIC together. Therefore, MUSIC will be the most important ingredient of the Haines Middle School instrumental music program. It is important that all members put forth their personal best and see themselves as important contributors to the overall success of the band. The benefits gained by participation are in direct proportion to the effort put into the program.

The following pages contain guidelines for Band members which have been formulated for the purpose of maintaining an instrumental music program in which each member, the entire school, and the community may take pride.

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I. Program

A. Objectives and Responsibilities

1. The class objectives for each group at their appropriate levels are:
 - to teach proper playing habits
 - to teach the fundamentals of music
 - to advance the student's skill development on their instrument
 - to explain proper instrument care
 - to provide a time for detailed rehearsal of music for performance.

The objectives are met through the study and/or performance of quality music of a variety of styles.

2. The students responsibilities are:
 - to practice the music and lesson material on a regular basis
 - have the necessary equipment at each rehearsal
(i.e. instrument, music, and a pencil)
 - to be at and on time for each rehearsal and performance
 - to have the highest standards of behavior
 - to come to class with a positive attitude
3. The parental responsibilities are:
 - to provide a quiet space for practice
 - to provide appropriate material (a working instrument, books, reeds, valve oil, etc.)
 - to provide support by encouraging practicing and attending concerts
4. The teachers responsibilities are:
 - to provide a safe and encouraging atmosphere where students are comfortable about exploring the incredible world of music and the performing arts
 - to be prepared each day to rehearse the music and technical exercises as efficiently as our limited time allows
 - to communicate as often as possible with the parents with information and progress of the students in band

When the objectives are met with the responsibilities fulfilled the result is a wonderful educational experience for the student.

B. Structure

1. Ensembles during the day

6th Grade Bands- open to all 6th graders with a basic skill level on a band instrument

The 6th Grade Bands has two required performances during the year (see grading policy section C):

Thursday, November 15, 2007 at 6:30 PM

Thursday, May 15, 2008 at 7:00 PM

The performances are held in the **Haines Gym**.

There are two 6th Grade bands. The 4A Band class is during period 4A (10:54 - 11:19 AM). The 4B band class is during period 4B (11:22- 11:47). Each student also receives a 25 minute small group lesson once a week. Weekly playing quizzes and written worksheets are given during this small group lesson time as well as a final end of the quarter playing tests. Attendance at the lesson is essential for the students progress, as well as for a good portion of their grade. Therefore if a student misses a lesson, it is important that the student make up the lesson as soon after the missed lesson as possible. This can be done before or after school or if there is an open slot during the school day. Students who take private lessons with an adult professional instructor outside of school are excluded from the lesson schedule. **The students who are in private lessons have fewer opportunities for graded assignments. They still have the Note Speller book assignments, the practice journal entries and end of the quarter playing tests to monitor their progress. The private teacher should make sure that the quarter test is prepared properly.** Those students can do their playing tests before or after school or during a mutually agreed on time during the school day.

ALL 6TH GRADERS ARE HIGHLY ENCOURAGED TO GET A METRONOME. PLAYING TESTS WILL BE GRADED USING THE METRONOME MARKING OF QUARTER NOTE = 80 OR SPECIFIED BY THE TEACHER.

Playing tests and daily work assignments for each quarter:

1st quarter-Final playing Test:

- Bb concert and chromatic scales
- #13 in Book II

Daily Work assignments due by the end of the quarter:

- Belwin Note Speller Lessons 1-6 due
- 8 Weekly practice journal entries

2nd quarter- Final playing Test:

F and Bb concert and chromatic scales

- #31 in Book II

Daily Work assignments due by the end of the quarter:

- Belwin Note Speller Lessons 7-13 due
- 8 Weekly practice journal entries

3rd quarter- Final playing Test:

- F, Bb and Eb concert scales and chromatic scales
- #61 in Book II

Daily Work assignments due by the end of the quarter:

- Belwin Note Speller Lessons 14-20 due
- 8 Weekly practice journal entries

4th quarter- Final playing Test:

- F, Bb, Eb, and Ab Concert scales and chromatic scales
- #86, 89, **or** 91 in Book II

Daily Work assignments due by the end of the quarter:

- Belwin Note Speller Lessons 21-26 due
- 8 Weekly practice journal entries

8th Grade Band- open to all 8th graders with a 3rd year and above skill level on a band instrument

The 8th Grade band has **three** required concerts (see grading policy section C):

Thursday, November 15, 2007 at 8:00 PM

Thursday, February 21, 2008 at 7:30 PM at STC North HS

Thursday, May 15, 2008 at 7:00 PM

8th grade band class is during period 6A (12:46 - 1:14 PM). Students not in private lessons will also be given a large group sectional that will meet for a full period once every other week on a rotating schedule. The objective of this sectional time is to introduce to the students the more advanced playing techniques that private lesson students are already getting during their weekly private sessions. End of the quarter playing tests will be given during the sectional times. Missed sectionals should be made up as soon as possible as to not fall too far behind the other students. Students who are in private lessons will still need to play end of quarter playing tests as part of their grade. The tests can be done before or after school or at a mutually agreed upon time during school (i.e. during a sectional time). The 8th grade band also participates in one off site clinic. Tentatively the clinic is at Northwestern University in Evanston IL this year with Dr. Farris. The students will write a short reflection paper. The field trip is penciled in for Friday February 1, 2008 but the date and location are not in stone yet.

Final playing tests for each quarter:

1st quarter-

1. • Chair placement audition (if applicable)
2. • D,G,C, F, Bb, Eb, Ab, and Db concert and chromatic scales
• correctly sight read a rhythm using quarter notes, quarter rests, and eighth notes
• a specified etude

2nd quarter-

1. • A,D, G,C, F, Bb, Eb, Ab, and Db concert and chromatic scales

• correctly sight read a rhythm using quarter notes, quarter rests, eighth notes and rests
• a specified etude

3rd quarter-

1. • B,A,D,G,C, F, Bb, Eb, Ab, and Db concert and chromatic scales
• correctly sight read a rhythm using quarter notes, quarter rests, eighth notes and rests, and sixteenth notes
• a specified etude

4th quarter-

1. • all 12 Major Scales

2. Ensembles Outside of the Regular School Day:

Jazz Ensemble

Jazz ensemble is our top Jazz Band at Haines. It is open by audition to any student who plays a Jazz Band instrument. Students must be already part of the school concert band to participate in any of the Jazz Bands. The only exceptions to this are students who play Jazz instruments not found in a concert band such as Bass, Guitar and piano.

Jazz Ensemble rehearses before school on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 7:00 - 8:10 AM. Due to the **extensive performing** of this ensemble, students interested in Jazz Ensemble must be willing to commit to regular rehearsal attendance and extra practice of the Jazz music.

Jazz Lab Band

Jazz Lab Bands are groups intended to provide a place to introduce and expand students' Jazz understanding and abilities of Jazz music. The group is open to 7th and 8th grade students who are already in the school concert band unless they play piano, bass or guitar. The Jazz Lab Band meets on Wednesdays from 7:00-8:10 AM. The band will have multiple performances throughout the year.

6th Grade Jazz Band

6th Grade Jazz Band is a group intended to provide a place to introduce students to Jazz music. The group is open to students who are already in the school concert band unless they play piano, bass or guitar. The 6th Grade Jazz Band meets on Monday mornings from 7:30 - 8:15 AM. The only performance this band will have is on May 1st at our Spring Jazz Concert

Small Group Ensembles

We have a number of small groups that practice once a week for approximately 30 minutes and perform periodically throughout the year. These groups would include Percussion Ensembles, Brass Quintets, Woodwind Quintets, Clarinet Choirs and Flute Choirs to name just a few. These are not required groups, just opportunities for students to have more opportunities to play.

C. Grading

Students will receive a grade on their report card at the end of each quarter that counts toward their overall academic G.P.A.

I. **Final Writing Assignment or Attendance at the Performance is 50% of final quarter grade**

***The largest portion of the grade is the concert music we work on in class. To show if a student has grasped the content of the class we have a final writing assignment and individual performance of the material (concert music). As an alternative to doing the paper and playing their concert music for us individually they can substitute their attendance at the “ required “ concerts.

This is only for the 2nd, 3rd and 4th quarters.

II. **Daily Grades** from quizzes and lessons **25%** of final quarter grade Each short worksheet, writing assignment or lesson playing test is averaged to get this final score.

III. **Final Playing Tests** are **25%** of the final quarter grade.

Final Average:

100%-90=A

89%-80=B

79%-70=C

69%-60=D

59% lower=F

EXTRA CREDIT

Extra credit towards the Daily Grades area is **ALWAYS** available by attending a classical or jazz concert and turning in a program (signed by the parent and student).

Extra credit counts toward the daily grade portion of the student’s final grade only.

We live in a very active arts community. Students are encouraged to attend concerts such as:

Chicago Symphony Orchestra or Elgin Symphony Orchestra

Concerts held at:

The Norris Cultural Arts Center, College of Dupage, Elgin Community College or Northern Illinois University

Great chamber concerts held at:

Fermi Lab or area Churches

The local newspapers will provide the details.

D. Dress Requirements for Concerts

1. Concert Bands

- Ladies- White top and Dark skirt or pants
- Guys- White collared shirt (tie optional) and Dark pants

All students should be in dark socks and shoes. Please avoid jeans and gym shoes.

2. Jazz Ensemble and Jazz Lab

Jeans and Jazz t-shirts (more information to follow)

3. 6th Grade Jazz Band

Jeans, white collared shirt, crazy tie

II. General Information

A. Attendance

For a performance group to be successful, each member is an integral part of the whole. Your commitment in attendance and preparation is necessary for the success of our organization. Attendance is required at all rehearsals and performances. Any conflicts should be discussed with the director in advance.

B. Discipline

All large organizations such as band can only function properly with well disciplined participants. Band is not a mandatory subject, and it is assumed that all student's are **willing participants**. It is the students responsibility to adhere to all rules set forth by the school as well as the director.

Proper behavior at all rehearsals and performances is also of the uppermost importance. The actions of one member is a reflection upon all members of the group and the school community. Only the highest standards of behavior, performance, and appearance are acceptable.

C. Practicing

In addition to the regularly scheduled school rehearsals it is **crucial** for each student to practice at home. Please be aware that practice rooms are available for student use both before and after school. Just as students need a quiet study area for math homework, an appropriate environment for music practice is needed; a quiet area with a music stand and appropriate equipment is a must for a successful rehearsal. I don't have a number of minutes of practice time a week. What I have found to be the crucial element with successful musicians is **daily, efficient** practice. We will spend a substantial amount of time discussing what an efficient practice session should look and feel like. Bottom line is that the instrument should come home everyday, be played for at least a short amount of time, and most importantly it should progressively sound better.

D. Challenges

The challenge system allows students in the band to advance in their individual sections. **Challenges are not part of the grading procedure**. A student chooses to initiate a challenge. The challenges will be offered to the students on a limited basis. We remind parents and students to keep a healthy perspective on the purpose of our challenge system. The emphasis is on individual improvement and overall group performance. We discourage a highly competitive atmosphere at this level of music instruction. Our philosophy for implementing this into the program is a very positive one. Students who practice and improve throughout the year should be rewarded for that improvement. Challenges are only conducted in late October and March due to our concert schedule. Students may choose to re-audition in January. The challenge system will be explained in class.

E. Activities

1. Concerts

Concerts provide the way for students to show what they have been working toward in class. They are the end result for having performing classes like band. Students depend on each other to play their assigned part so that the music is performed the way it was intended. Attendance at concerts should not be taken lightly. The 6th grade band has two required concerts and the 7th and 8th grade bands have three required concerts a year. Students are expected to stay for

the entire concert, as they are assessed for their concert etiquette as well as their performance. Please see attached performance calendar.

2. Solo & Ensemble contest

Band members are encouraged to participate in the district's middle school Solo & Ensemble Contest. Contestants perform selected pieces for judges and are awarded medals at the conclusion of the contest. Students may choose to perform in a solo and/or they may choose to be a part of a small ensemble. Students performing a solo **must have an piano accompanist** if the piece calls for it. Solo participants are responsible for securing their own accompanist but we do try to furnish a list of piano accompanists if you don't know one in your area. It is recommended that 7th and 8th grade contestants study privately. The private teachers and/or your director can recommend suitable music literature. A participation fee will be assessed to Solo & Ensemble contestants. Solo and Ensemble Contest will be held Friday evening, March 7, 2008, at St. Charles East High School.

3. IMEA All-District Band and Jazz Band

Select 7th & 8th Grade Band and Jazz Band students are eligible to audition for these district honor groups. Our district includes the Western Suburbs south through Bollingbrook. If chosen, the musician participates in the District Music Festival on November 3, 2007 for Concert Band and December 1, 2007 for Jazz.

F. Private lessons

Every student has large group rehearsals each day. However, no instructional time can be spent giving individual assistance. Consequently, it is extremely important that you consider private lessons for your child. Your director has a current list of recommended teachers in the area. As many enthusiastic and **successful** music students already know, PRIVATE LESSONS ARE ESSENTIAL and are the way to go to become a better player and get more fun out of playing! One-on-one attention will allow the student to work on problem areas which may get overlooked in a group situation. Students studying privately should participate in Solo & Ensemble Contest. (**See attached Private Teacher List**).

G. Instrument Care

1. School-Owned Instruments

Haines Middle School owns a limited number of musical instruments. Large instruments such as tubas, bass clarinets, etc... are available for a rental fee of \$50 per person, per year. Checks should be made payable to Haines Middle School. Any student that checks out a school-owned instrument is responsible for its care, safety, and repair as if it were his or her own instrument. Repair of school-owned instruments should be handled through the music teacher. **At no time should a student or parent attempt to repair a school-owned instrument!**

Because the school-owned instruments are very expensive it is

recommended that an insurance policy be taken out for the value of the instrument. A reputable insurance company can provide more information.

2. Instrument Repair

Very minor repairs can be done by the director or private teacher; however it is recommended that instruments receive professional treatment by a trained repair technician. An area music company representative visits the school once a week and can pick-up and deliver instruments for repair. Refer to the “useful telephone numbers” page for additional repair company options.

3. Name Tags

For security reasons **all instruments** are required to have a name tag on the outside of the case at all times. Identification on the inside of the case is also a good precaution. We also recommend that students record the serial number from their instrument and keep it at home in case of theft.

4. Instrument Upgrade

The director or private teacher may suggest that a better instrument will enable the student to do better work. The matter of a step-up instrument should become a subject of family discussion and consideration. The private teacher and director can help in selecting an appropriate instrument and recommending a reputable music company. Quinlan and Fabish provides an opportunity for students in the St. Charles School District to try out and possibly purchase step-up instruments. Just see Mr. Swenson and ask about the free instrument trial.

H. Lockers

1. Locker Assignments and Locks

The Haines Middle School Band room is equipped with lockers for instruments to be stored in. Clarinet, Oboe Trumpet and Alto Saxophone players have a locker assigned to them to use. They may keep their instrument, music folder and lunch in their locker. It is encouraged that students get a lock to secure their instrument. **ONLY LOCKS PROVIDED THROUGH HAINES MAY BE USED!!!!** Since the front office has all the the combinations the lockers can be accessed in case of a forgotten combination or some other situation.

III. Calendar

Wed.-Fri. August 15-17	Incoming 6th Grade Band Orientation Session
Friday, September 28	8th Band at STC North Football Game 5PM
Saturday, October 13	IMEA Band Auditions @ Monroe M.S.
Thursday October 25	Fall Jazz Concert @7:30 in the Haines Cafeteria 7/8 Jazz Lab, Jazz Ensemble and Combo
Saturday, November 3	IMEA Festival @ TBA
Thursday, November 15	6 th Grade Bands Concert <u>6:30</u> p.m. at Haines
Thursday, November 15	7 th and 8 th Grade Bands <u>8:00</u> p.m. at Haines
Saturday, December 1	IMEA Jazz Festival at TBA H.S.
Thursday, January ??	Tri-Cities Jazz Coffeehouse. Jazz Ensemble with Geneva and Batavia @ Geneva North, 7:30 pm
Saturday, January 19	Jazz Ensemble to IWU Jazz Festival (All Day)
Thursday, February 7	Jazz Cafe 7:30 @ Haines Cafeteria- Hurricane Singers, Jazz Ensemble Jazz Lab and Combo
Tuesday, February 12	Jazz Ensemble @ STC North with North H.S. Jazz Workshop and special guests
Thursday, February 21	7th and 8th Band with STC North Wind
Ensemble	@ STC North 7:00 pm
Friday, March 7	Band Solo and Ensemble Festival 4-9 pm
Week of April 14-18	Instrument Demonstration concerts
Thursday, May 1	Jazz Concert 7:30 pm
Thursday, May 15	6 th , 7 th and 8 th Band Concert 7:30 p.m.

IV. Recommended Equipment

Tuner/Metronome

Sabine MT-9000

Mouthpieces:

Tuba	Conn-Helleberg 7B
Baritone & Trombone	Bach 6 1/2 AL
Horn	Schilke 30 or 31
Trumpet	Bach 5C
Sax	Selmer CS80 C*
Clarinet	Larry Combs LC 3
	Vandoren (Use on Buffet R13's only)
	Vandoren Ligature (use with LC 3 or Vandoren mouthpiece)

Reeds:

Oboe & Bassoon	Any Quality hand-made reeds such as from Edmund Nielsen Co. 833-5676
Clarinet & Sax	Vandoren 2 1/2 Strength

Percussion:

Each percussionist must own and use a Zildjian (of other good quality) stick-bag containing :

- Snare Drum Sticks SD2 (or other quality snare sticks)
- Vic Firth T-3 Staccato Timpani Mallets
- Hard Mallets - Musser M404
- Soft Mallets - Balter 103B
- Zildjian (or other quality) stick bag.

Quinlan and Fabish is a quality store to get these items. Also a good place to get the equipment is through Jeff King at Woodside Percussion (847)464-5001.

V. Communication

Communication is a key ingredient of a student's success. I encourage you if you have any questions or concerns please don't hesitate to call me at (630) 587-7217 or email me at erik.swenson@d303.org. John Blank directs our 7th grade bands and can be contacted at the same phone number or can be emailed at john.blank@d303.org.

Web Site

We have a Haines Music website:
<http://www.hainesmusic.org>

We try to update the website often with everything we hand out to the kids.

Useful Telephone Numbers (all use the 630 area code unless otherwise noted)

Mr. Erik Swenson	587-7217
Mr. John Blank	587-7217
St. Charles East High School Music Dept.	377-4797
St. Charles North High School Music Dept.	443-5680
Quinlin & Fabish Music Co., Burr Ridge, IL (Instruments, Music, Accessories, and repair)	654-4111
Roger's Music, Dekalb, IL (Instrument Repair)(pick up and drop off with Full Staff Music)	815-756-7440
Edmund Nielsen, Villa Park, IL (Oboe & Bassoon Accessories)	833-5676
Full Staff Music Co., St. Charles, IL (Private lessons and Accessories)	513-7117
Woodside Percussion (percussion lessons and supplies)	847-464-5001
PM Music (Instruments, Music, Accessories, and repair)	978--9927

VIII. Response Form

Please sign and return the bottom of this page.

I have read the Instrumental Music Handbook, including the drop policy in the regular student hand book and understand the expectations and responsibilities listed above.

signed _____
(Student)

signed _____
(Parent)