

STUDENT/PARENT BAND HANDBOOK: 2014-2015
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I. The Philosophy and Goals of the Band program:

In order to assist band members and parents in understanding areas of responsibility, this statement of Philosophy is herein set forth. Becoming familiar with this Philosophy will enable each individual to make the most of the opportunity to be a member of the band program, thus becoming a better person and a better musician.

We firmly believe each student should improve through regular practice. When the student has lost the will to improve him or herself to make a better contribution to the band, he or she is wasting the time and efforts of fellow members and the community by continuing in the program. The happiest student is one who improves through regular habits of practice and daily progress.

Each member of the band must develop a high sense of purpose toward a common goal (quality performance) and be willing to work hard in order to achieve that goal. Responsibility is the focus behind any level of achievement within this program. We intend to conduct ourselves in a manner that will facilitate the learning of all students and help each one develop a sense of common purpose and positive responsibility toward the other members of the band.

II. The Objectives of the Band Program:

1. To teach music by its actual performance.
2. To develop performance skills on the various wind and percussion instruments.
3. To provide for the musical needs of the school and the community.
4. To acquaint the students with music theory/history and how history and musical composition relate to students' lives and musical experiences.
5. To provide all students with the opportunity for worthy use of their time, a means for self-expression, and a healthy social experience.
6. To foster responsible citizenship, critical thinking, effective communication, and life-long learning within each student.

III. Calendar of Events, 2014-2015:

1. December 4: Christmas Band and Choir Concert: Grades 6 to 12 Band
2. December 10: Festival Of Lessons and Carols: Grades 11 & 12 Band
3. April 29: Upper School Concert: Grades 9 to 12 Band
4. May 7: Lower/Middle School Concert: Grades 5 to 8 Band
5. May 27: Baccalaureate Service: Grades 8 to 11 Band

IV. The Band Curriculum:

1. **The Upper School Advanced Band (Grades 11 & 12): Mrs. Davis**

The Upper School Advanced Band is comprised of Grades 11 & 12 students who are already equipped with good performance skills, knowledge of fingerings and scales, the rudiments of music and sight-reading, and are able to play music at a technical difficulty level of Grades 3 & 4 Band music. Advanced Band students learn a wider range of scales and techniques, as well as explore many musical styles. Playing and Performance assessments are conducted regularly.

2. The Upper School Intermediate Band (Grades 9 & 10): Mrs. Davis

The Upper School Intermediate Band is comprised of Grades 9 & 10 students who are quickly developing good performance skills, bettering their knowledge of fingerings, scales & technique, and are becoming able to use the rudiments of music and sight-reading effectively. Grades 9 & 10 students are able to play music at a technical difficulty level of Grade 2½ to possibly Grade 4 Band music and are given the opportunity to explore many musical styles. Playing, Performance, and Written assessments are conducted regularly.

3. The Upper School Beginner Band (Grades 9 & 10): Mr. Justiniano

The Upper School Beginner Band is comprised of Grades 9 & 10 students without previous experience in playing wind or percussion instruments and possibly experienced band students who decide to play a new instrument. Class is held at the same time as the Upper School Intermediate Band, and great effort is required on both the parts of the student and the teacher in order to achieve the level required for performance with the Intermediate Band. As a result, one after school extra-help session each week is required of all Beginner Band students. Playing, Performance, and Written assessments are conducted regularly.

4. The Grade 8 Continuing Band (4th year of band participation): Mrs. Davis

The Grades 8 Continuing Band is comprised of Grade 8 students who have acquired essential performance skills, a knowledge of their fingerings and scales, and the ability to use the essential rudiments of music and sight-reading in order to play music at a technical difficulty level of Grades 1½ to 2½ Band music. Playing, Performance, and Written assessments are conducted regularly.

5. The Grade 8 Beginner Band: Mr. Justiniano

The Grade 8 Beginner Band is comprised of Grade 8 students without previous experience in playing wind or percussion instruments and possibly returning band students who decide to play a new instrument. Class is held at the same time as the Grade 8 Continuing Band, and great effort is required on both the parts of the student and the teacher in order to achieve the level required for performance with the Grade 8 Continuing Band. In fact, all Grade 8 Beginner Band students will be required to reach the level of the Continuing Band class by the end of the first semester. Any student who is not able to achieve this goal will need to choose a different elective for the second semester. Playing, Performance, and Written assessments are conducted regularly.

6. The Grade 7 Continuing Band (3rd year of band participation): Mr. Justiniano

The Grades 7 Continuing Band is comprised of Grade 7 students who have some basic performance skills, a knowledge of the most common fingerings and scales, and the ability to use the essential rudiments of music and sight-reading in order to play music at a technical difficulty level of Grades 1½ to 2 Band music. Playing, Performance, and Written assessments are conducted regularly.

7. The Grades 7 Beginner Band: Mrs. Davis

The Grade 7 Beginner Band is comprised of Grade 7 students without previous experience in playing wind or percussion instruments and possibly returning band students who decide to learn a new

instrument. Class is held at the same time as the Grade 7 Continuing Band and basic instrument knowledge and performance skills are the main learning goals of the class. Playing, Performance, and Written assessments are conducted regularly.

8. The Grade 6 Continuing and Beginner Bands: Mr. Justiniano & Mrs. Davis

The Grade 6 Continuing and Beginner Band is where each student's Middle School instrumental music program starts. Basic instrumental knowledge and performance are the main goals of this class. Beginners are required to attend after school extra-help sessions once a week. The goal is for the beginners to catch up with the continuing members of the band by the end of the 1st semester.

9. The Grade 5 Beginner Band: Mrs. Davis

The Grade 5 Beginner Band is where each student's instrumental music program starts. Students in Grade 5 Beginner Band begin by choosing one of the following instruments to focus their efforts on for at least one year: flute, clarinet, alto saxophone, trumpet, trombone, bass guitar, or the percussion section. Each student learns to hold, produce a sound on, and care for his/her respective instrument. By the end of Grade 5, each student should be able to play many different notes and rhythm patterns, at least 30 short tunes, and recognize basic music symbols in the pieces they play. After one year of instruction in Grade 5, the students who excel are encouraged to try different instruments some time during their Middle School years in order to add diversity and depth to the sound of the band. These instruments include: bass clarinet, tenor saxophone, baritone saxophone, French horn, baritone euphonium, tuba, and the double bass.

V. Grading and Expected Behavior:

As mentioned previously, practice outside of class time is greatly encouraged and highly necessary for continued progress on any instrument and for the overall success of the band. Because practice time is so necessary, it is a required part of every student's band grade. The discipline of practice is one that will transfer to other areas of life and helps to develop every student's good life habits. Students can accomplish their outside practice time in many ways: they can come to the band room after school and practice alone or with peers or with a teacher helping if the proper arrangements have been made ahead of time. They can also practice at home either alone or with peers. Private lessons are highly recommended and the band teachers can help with arranging these with outside professionals if requested. Private instruction makes any student's musical progress much faster.

Another big part of the band grade is consistent and positive class participation on the part of the student. This includes: getting to class on time, bringing the necessary materials (band book, folder, and instrument), listening to and following instructions, following the band room rules, using proper posture while playing, and willingness to help out with set-up and tear-down for Band concerts. Students who choose opposite behaviors to those mentioned above (tardiness, forgetting or losing band materials, talking excessively during class time, ignoring the band room rules, using poor posture, and refusing to help out during band concert preparation) will receive penalties to their grade. A final note about materials: all band students check out a band book from the library and are responsible for returning this book to the library at the end of the school year; all band students also receive many copies of sheet music throughout the year and these must be kept organized in a folder and then returned to the band teacher when each piece is finished being used; all sheet music is the property of the school.

Finally, playing and performance are the goal of every band, and these are a large part of every band student's grade. Many playing tests and a few written tests will be given throughout the school year, and rehearsals and performances are also part of each student's overall assessment grade. Missing

rehearsals or performances will greatly affect a student's band grade. Below are the grading percentages used at each grade level:

Upper School Beginner, Intermediate, and Advanced Bands (Grades 9, 10, 11, 12): Mrs. Davis & Mr. Justiniano: 2014-2015

*30% Daily Band grade:

3 points for being on time to class

7 points for bringing instrument or drumsticks and Band folder to class

and for keeping his/her area clean

TOTAL: 10 points per Band class

*20% Attitude & Effort grade for:

*consistent effort in class—participation in activities & following directions

*using proper posture while playing his/her instrument

*willingness to help with set up/tear down for Band concerts

*ability to follow the Band Room Rules

*evidence of practice outside of class time

*40% for Written/Playing Tests and Rehearsals/Performance scores.

*10% for the Semester Exam (Christmas & Spring Concerts)

TOTAL: 100%

Middle School Beginner and Continuing Bands (Grades 6, 7, 8): Mrs. Davis & Mr. Justiniano: 2014-2015

*20% Daily Band grade:

3 points for being on time to class

7 points for bringing instrument or drumsticks and Band folder to class

and for keeping his/her area clean

TOTAL: 10 points per Band class

*20% Attitude & Effort grade for:

*consistent effort in class—participation in activities & following directions

*using proper posture while playing his/her instrument

*willingness to help with set up/tear down for Band concerts

*ability to follow the Band Room Rules

*20% for Practice Time: a practice record will be given to each Band student for recording their practice, which must be signed by a parent or guardian each week:

Grades 6, 7, & 8 students must practice at least 100 minutes per week.

*30% for Written/Playing Tests and Rehearsals/Performance scores.

*10% for the Semester Exam (Christmas & Spring Concerts)

TOTAL: 100%

Grade 5 Beginner Band: Mrs. Davis: 2014-2015

*30% Daily Band grade:

3 points for being on time to class

7 points for bringing instrument or drumsticks and Band folder to class
and for keeping his/her area clean

TOTAL: 10 points per Band class

*20% Attitude & Effort grade for:

*consistent effort in class—participation in activities & following directions

*using proper posture while playing his/her instrument

*willingness to help with set up/tear down for Band concerts

*ability to follow the Band Room Rules

*20% for Practice Time: a practice record will be given to each Band student for recording their practice, which must be signed by a parent or guardian each week:

Grade 5 beginning students must practice at least 75 minutes per week.

*30% for Written/Playing Tests and Rehearsals/Performance scores.

TOTAL: 100%

VI. Playing Test Rubric: 20 possible points

Below is the rubric used for every playing test in band class, applicable to all levels of music:

Category	4 points	3 points	2 points	1 point
Notes/ Intonation	All of the notes played correctly and in tune	Most of the notes played correctly and in tune	Half of the notes played correctly and in tune	Less than half of the notes played correctly and in tune
Beat/ Rhythm/ Tempo (ritardando/ rallentando, a tempo, accelerando, etc.)	All of the rhythms played correctly and consistent with the conductor's tempo	Most of the rhythms played correctly and mostly consistent with the conductor's tempo	Half of the rhythms played correctly and partly consistent with the conductor's tempo	Less than half of the rhythms played correctly and hardly consistent with the conductor's tempo
Posture/ Embouchure/ Holding position		Correct posture, embouchure, and holding position used throughout the entire quiz/test	Correct posture, embouchure, and holding position used throughout most of the quiz/test	Correct posture, embouchure, and holding position used throughout half or less than half of the quiz/test
Articulation (tonguing, slurring, staccato, marcato, tenuto, accent, etc.)/ Interpretation (piece description markings & expressive qualities required)		Correct articulation and stylistic interpretation used throughout the entire quiz/test	Correct articulation and stylistic interpretation used throughout most of the quiz/test	Correct articulation and stylistic interpretation used throughout half or less than half of the quiz/test
Dynamics (pp , p , mp , mf , f , ff , crescendo, decrescendo, etc.)/ Tone Quality (a warm quality consistent with the instrument)		Correct dynamics and good tone quality used throughout the entire quiz/test	Correct dynamics acceptable tone quality used through at least half of the quiz/test	Incorrect dynamics and poor tone quality (a fuzzy, bright, or breathy sound) used throughout most of the quiz/test
Breathing/Phrasing		Controlled, silent, & deep breaths with apparent phrase structure used throughout the entire quiz/test	Controlled, silent, & deep breaths with apparent phrase structure used through at least half of the quiz/test	Shallow, loud, or random breathing with excessive shoulder movement and no apparent phrase structure used throughout most of the quiz/test

VII. Concert Dress Expectations:

A concert is a **formal presentation!** We ask your support in providing your son or daughter with the appropriate attire. It is important that the performing students look uniform and elegant.

Upper School students wear all black attire. Girls may wear a black dress, a black skirt or black dress pants and a black blouse; boys must wear black dress pants and a black collared shirt.

Middle and Lower School students wear black and white attire. Girls must wear a black skirt or black dress pants with a white blouse; boys must wear black dress pants and a white collared shirt.

For all students, NO t-shirts, logos, writing, pictures, shorts, spaghetti straps, mini-skirts, or jeans are allowed. In addition to this, all students must wear black shoes (school shoes are fine); NO sports/running shoes are allowed. Finally, all girls' skirts must cover their knees when they sit on stage.

Please refer to the "Calendar of Events" and take the time to buy the appropriate clothing early so that your child(ren) are well-prepared. Any clothing that falls outside of the requirements listed above is not acceptable and will result in your child(ren) not being allowed to perform in the concert.

VIII. Renting an Instrument from the school:

Each student who rents a school-owned instrument is completely responsible for the care of the instrument. A fee will be charged for its use either for half a year or for an entire year, depending on the length of use. The fee also depends on the age of the instrument. This fee will go toward any general repair work caused by normal wear and tear and toward buying new instruments for the band. If an instrument is damaged due to negligence, the student is responsible for the entire cost of the repair. An "Instrument Rental and Responsibility Contract" must be filled out and signed by both a parent or guardian and the student who is using the instrument. Students who have been in band previously are given priority for the use of school-owned instruments. Below is the list of rental prices for the 2014-2015 school year:

1. Like New Instrument (used for 0 to 3 years).....Php4500.00 per school year
2. Used Instrument (used for 4 to 6 years).....Php3500.00 per school year
3. Old Instrument (used for 7 or more years).....Php2500.00 per school year
4. All percussion students will buy their own drumsticks. Percussion students will not need to pay a rental fee but will check out either a drum pad or a xylophone to take home for practice, and must sign for it in case of loss.

IX. Buying an Instrument: on you own or through the school:

1. On your own:

Though the school has a good number of musical instruments to loan, we still encourage students and parents to invest in their own musical instrument. The quality of the musical instrument that you buy greatly affects your child's learning and improvement. Here is a list of the brands on the local market that we recommend:

Flute	Armstrong Yamaha
Oboe	Renard Yamaha
Clarinet	Armstrong Buffet (high-end) Selmer Yamaha
Saxophone	Jupiter Selmer Yamaha
Trumpet	Bach Conn King Yamaha
Trombone	Conn King Yamaha
Drumsticks	Vic Firth Zildjian

Here are a few places where musical instruments are available:

YAMAHA Music Stores	Gil Puyat Ave., Makati City SM Megamall, Mandaluyong, Metro Manila
JB Music	SM Mall of Asia, Pasay, Metro Manila SM North Edsa, Quezon City Trinoma mall, Quezon City SM Pampanga, San Fernando

2. Through the school:

Another option for buying a musical instrument is through the school. Every January, the band teachers place their orders for musical instruments and supplies needed for the next school year. These instruments and supplies come from a school supplier in the U.S.A. and are generally much cheaper for good quality than what is available locally. If you know what instrument you want to buy, you can place your order through Mrs. Davis and pay through the cashier.

X. Band Supplies Price List: 2014-2015

Rico Bb Clarinet reeds.....	Php50
Vandoren Bb Clarinet reeds.....	Php85
Rico Bass Clarinet reeds.....	Php85
Rico Alto Sax reeds.....	Php80
Rico Tenor Sax reeds.....	Php95
Rico Bari Sax reeds.....	Php95
Rico Royal Bari Sax reeds.....	Php150
Oboe reeds.....	Php400
All synthetic (plastic) reeds.....	Php675
Cork grease.....	Php80
Mouthpiece brushes.....	Php105
Bb Clarinet weighted handkerchief swabs.....	Php210
Saxophone cleaning swabs.....	Php125
Valve& Rotor oil (Al Cass Fast Oil).....	Php175
Slide oil.....	Php85
Trumpet/Trombone/French horn cleaning snakes.....	Php210