

Academy Band Handbook 2009-2010

The Academy Band Handbook has been written to serve as a guide and resource to the parent and the student. The information contained in this document will answer most commonly asked questions and make students and parents aware of the policies and rules by which the band program is run. If you have any questions please feel free to call the music department at 396-3833 or e-mail Greg Kane at kaneg@canandaiguaschools.org or Tom Davis at davist@canandaiguaschools.org

Course Outline and Curriculum Overview

The goals of this course of study are to:

1. Enjoy music more fully through active ensemble participation.
2. Become more sensitive to the inherent aesthetic qualities of music.
3. Become acquainted with a wide variety of music literature representing all style periods.
4. Develop concepts in musical content, structure, and style.
5. Acquire skills and techniques necessary for effective musical expression.
6. Develop personal discipline necessary to practice effectively and perform sensitively in an ensemble setting.
7. Develop skills in aural analysis and interpretation in the knowledgeable appreciation of music.
8. Foster a lifelong appreciation for active participation in music.

Learning Outcomes

Making Music

All Wind Ensemble and Symphonic Band Members will:

1. Demonstrate good posture, embouchure, breath control, fingering, and similar pertinent performance skills.
2. Play with a clear, resonant, blending, and characteristic tone quality.
3. Play with accurate pitch in relation to themselves and their ensemble.
4. Play with correct phrasing, appropriate expression, style, articulation, dynamics, and balance.
5. Respond sensitively to the gestures of the conductor.
6. Demonstrate advanced skill in reading music.
7. Demonstrate growth in musicianship and artistry.
8. Perform and understand culturally and historically diverse styles of musical.

Understanding Music

All Wind Ensemble and Symphonic Band Members will:

1. Demonstrate their knowledge of music notation and terminology.
2. Demonstrate an understanding of functional harmony and how it relates to ensemble intonation.
3. Discuss the historical and cultural background of the music performed.
4. Describe the form of structure of the music performed.
5. Know the criteria for judging the quality of music.
6. Relate personal performances to world class musical standards.

Valuing Music

All Wind Ensemble and Symphonic Band Members will:

1. Be personally committed to creating a quality ensemble product.
2. Identify and respect quality music and the artistic performance of music.
3. Cultivate a personal aesthetic response to music performed and heard.
4. Enjoy playing in the ensemble!

Wind Ensemble/Symphonic Band Curriculum

Gross Task Analysis

It must be noted that instruction in music including vocal, general and instrumental often does not occur in a sequential order, moving from one objective to the next. Outcomes, as found in the curriculum, are achieved through strategies that coincidentally address more than one stated outcome. This statement can be substantiated upon examination of textbooks, instrumental music method books, band literature, or commonly accepted vocal teaching techniques.

Ensemble Balance

1. Understanding and applying proper ensemble balance.
2. Moving the balance pyramid within the dynamic spectrum.
3. Maintaining ensemble tone quality and shifting dynamics within a variety of "orchestrational" color groupings

Ensemble Intonation

1. Achieving beat-less tuning
2. Tuning within the section
3. Tuning across sections
4. Tonality · Unisons and intervals · Chord qualities · Modulation

Ensemble Precision

1. Meter - (Horizontal)
2. Articulation - (Vertical)
3. Understanding the dynamics of playing within a section of other players and following a "lead player."

Interpretation

1. Notation
2. Expression
3. Diversity

Active Participation (As a Route to Success!)

1. **Understand, meet, and exceed** basic student expectations in rehearsal
Ex.: Department, Instrument Repair, Punctuality, etc...
2. **Warm-up** as a means of activating student concentration and physically preparing to rehearse at your highest ability level.
3. **Contribute** positively and **un-selfishly** to the rehearsal process

Grading

Grading is based on the student musician's growth in three areas: Lesson Progress, Rehearsal department, and Participation. The rubric is found below. Please familiarize yourself with these grading categories.

Lessons (33.3%)

- The student prepares assigned material as prescribed.
- The student learns assigned scales and arpeggios.
- The student consistently develops ranges and tone quality.
- The student prepares with attention to musical detail.
- The student demonstrates musical growth.

Rehearsals (33.3%)

- The student is ready to receive instruction.
- The student contributes positively to the group's progress.
- The student treats instruments, music, folders, equipment and furniture in a responsible way.
- The student performs with attention to musical detail.

Concerts (33.3%)

- The student performs in all performances.
- The student is dressed appropriately for all performances.

Students and parents are reminded that this performing ensemble is a credit bearing course and that the district has a responsibility to assess students appropriately for their learning as a means of granting this credit. Concert performances are a unique and authentic performance assessments for which there is no substitution or "make-up" opportunity. Therefore a student who misses a required scheduled performance (as listed in this Handbook) will receive a grade of '0' for that assessment. Parents may petition the teacher for exception to this requirement in the case of severe illness and dire family emergency. It should also be noted that this grading philosophy is in alignment with the current district grading and homework policies.

Please examine the Schedule of Events (resources on the band web site) and mark all dates on your calendar. Take note of all concerts, marching band rehearsals, and parades. They are requirements of this course and cannot be missed without influencing a student's participation grade. Pay particular attention to graduation practice and the graduation performance at the Finger lakes Performing Arts Center, as they are also course requirements.

Extra Credit

"Bonus" points will be added to the quarter average of students who successfully participate in co-curricular ensembles as follows:

- "The Sound" – 3 Extra Points
- Pit Orchestra – 3 Extra Points
- Private Lessons – 4 Extra Points (Approval form required)
- Extra Ensemble with Hochstein, Eastman, etc... (Approval form required)

Please note that the director may design other activities in cooperation with the school or community that may be viewed as assessment activities.

The Lesson Schedule

Students will take one (1) half-period lesson (21 minutes) during each 6 day cycle on a rotating period basis. The periods that will rotate are different for each day of the cycle - for now let's assume that the periods are 2, 4, 5, 7

That takes a bit of thought... so here is an example:

Remember that I said that lessons were 1/2 period lessons. Notice that the lesson will always be the same 1/2 of the period.

- Brian's first lesson is the first 21 minutes of period 2 on day 1 of Cycle 1.
- His second lesson will be the first 21 minutes of period 4 on day 1 of Cycle 2.
- His third lesson will be the first 21 minutes of period 5 on day 1 of Cycle 3.

The Schedule will be explained when it is put up for the first time. In addition, the current cycle as well as the next cycle will be on display outside of the band room. Students always have access to the lesson schedule. The lesson schedule will also be available on the band website for you and your other teachers to check.

Band Website: <http://www.caband.info>

Make-Up Lesson Guidelines

Lesson make-ups are offered after school from 2:30 to 3:10 or during "empty" lesson times. Students in need of a make-up lesson are to sign up on the lesson schedule located in the hallway outside of the band room. Make-up lesson times are at a premium, so students should make every effort to attend their regularly scheduled lesson. Students who habitually forget their regularly scheduled lesson waste make-up lesson times and limit the number of times available to students who have legitimate excuses. Therefore, the following Make-Up Lesson Guidelines will be in effect. If you must miss your regularly scheduled lesson:

- Tell Mr. Kane, cross out your regular lesson time on the master schedule and sign up for a make-up as soon as possible.
- You may sign-up up after school or during a make-up lesson slot
- You must make-up that lesson within 2 cycles (12 school days) to receive credit for that lesson.
- The teacher may refuse a make-up lesson to any student who arrives more than 5 minutes late or is unprepared for their lesson.
- Students may not make-up more than one lesson on any given day.

Course Descriptions

The following are the course descriptions of the ensembles related to the band program. They are printed here to give you an overview of the program.

Symphonic Band

Level: Mixed Grades 9-12 Credit: Full Year - 1 Unit Prerequisites: No audition is required if the student has successfully completed 8th grade band.

The Symphonic Band is one of the two primary performing groups in the Academy Band Program. This organization studies and performs high quality concert band literature of moderate to advanced difficulty, offering performance experiences in and out of school throughout the year. As an integral part of the program, each student receives instruction on his/her instrument in the form of a weekly lesson and is required to participate in the Academy Parade Band. Membership allows the student the opportunity to participate in NYSSMA (New York State School Music Association) events such as Solo Festival, All-County Band, Area All-State Band, and All Conference Bands. As an enrichment activity at least one major travel/evaluative/rating experience is planned each year.

Wind Ensemble

Level: Advanced Grades 9-12 Credit: Full Year - 1 Unit Prerequisites: Academy Symphonic Band or permission of the instructor. AUDITION REQUIRED

The Wind Ensemble is one of the two primary performing groups in the Academy Band Program. This organization studies and performs high quality concert band literature of advanced difficulty, offering performance experiences in and out of school throughout the year. As an integral part of the program, each student receives instruction on his/her instrument in the form of a weekly lesson and is required to participate in the Academy Parade Band. Membership allows the student the opportunity to participate in NYSSMA (New York State School Music Association) events such as Solo Festival, All-County Band, Area All-State Band, and All Conference Bands. As an enrichment activity at least one major travel/evaluative/rating experience is planned each year.

Academy Jazz Ensembles

Level: Mixed Grades 9-12 Credit: Full Year - 1/2 Unit Prerequisites: A member of Symphonic Band, Wind Ensemble or Orchestra Audition may be required depending on interest. The Jazz Ensemble is a select member instrumental ensemble that meets 3 days per cycle for one period. The Jazz Ensemble performs music of all jazz styles such as fusion, jazz-rock, blues, Latin, swing, and others. Students will be exposed to jazz improvisation during the school year. The Jazz Ensemble performs at school events, community sponsored activities, and concerts.

Musical Pit Orchestra

Level: Mixed Grades 9-12 Credit: Non Credit - Co-Curricular Prerequisites: A member of Symphonic Band, Wind Ensemble or Orchestra. Audition may be required depending on interest. The pit orchestra is the ensemble that supports

and accompanies the school musical production. The music is of professional difficulty and requires the utmost musical proficiency. E-Mail Ms. Boss for more details: bossj@canandaiguaschools.org

"The Sound"

Level: Mixed Grades 9-12 Credit: Non Credit - Co-Curricular Prerequisites: A member of Symphonic Band, Wind Ensemble or Orchestra. "The Sound" is a voluntary rhythm and blues/jazz/rock ensemble that performs at all home football games and other fall activities. The group rehearses twice a week, with a number of rehearsals in late August before the first home football game. An audition may be required if interest generates a large number of students.

Miscellaneous Items

Late to Class

Each ensemble shall verbally designate its own "on-time" standard, at which point tuning/group warm-ups will commence. Students who are in the band room on time but are not ready to warm-up with the ensemble will be treated as if they are late to class and will receive the same consequences as if they were tardy. Students who are tardy three times will be issued an after-school detention. Tardiness is unprofessional and unacceptable!

Evening Attendance

Students will be in the band room for warm-ups at the time indicated by the director for all evening rehearsals and concerts. Students who will be late or must miss an evening rehearsal will present a note from their parent/guardian before the rehearsal that will be missed – regardless of the reason. Emergency excuses may not have an impact on the student's participation grade. Conflicts with other school related activities may also be excused as long as the student makes an equal effort in both activities. Concerts and Performances however are not to be missed for any reason. (See grading for further details.)

Classroom Attendance Policy

In accordance to school policy, "in a full year, one credit course, a student must not be absent from class more than 18 days" if they wish to receive credit for that course. Legal absences may be made up by special arrangement with the teacher.

Locks and Lockers

For security reasons, all students will be required to lock their instruments in a school locker after every rehearsal, lesson, or practice session. All students will be assigned a lock and an instrument locker that they are responsible for. Instruments should be secured in their cases before being locked and lockers should be kept clean!

Percussionist Requirements

All Percussionists will be required to purchase and maintain a stick bag that contains basic sticks and mallets for percussion performance. All percussionists should, at the bare minimum, have a pair of soft and hard mallets and a pair of concert band appropriate snare drum sticks. Also highly recommended are a pair of medium timpani mallets. The school will continue to provide the most expensive and exotic sticks and mallets for general use.

Cleaning up and putting away your instruments are essential components to every complete band rehearsal. Putting away small instruments and mallets is the equivalent of a trumpet being returned safely to its case and then being stored in its locker. The same care must also be given to your band folders.

Fundraising

There are two scheduled fundraising events this year. The primary function of the fund-raisers has historically been to help defray the cost of spring music trips. This year's proceeds will be saved towards future trips as well as used to invite clinicians/guest conductors into school. A very small percentage of fundraised money goes towards administrative tasks such as postage, paper, etc... This year's Fund-raisers can be found on our calendar. Exact dates and times will be communicated in class and on the music department website.

Parent Booster Group – Our Students Need Your Help!

The Academy Music Department is a vibrant and active home away from home to over 400 student musicians. In order to insure that we can provide our students with the best musical experience possible, we need your help! Hundreds of families have volunteered their time in the past. Help is needed with the smallest of activities such as sorting fundraiser orders, to the largest of tasks, keeping track of 400 pieces of concert attire! Our booster organization has taken on a streamlined format that gives everyone an opportunity to volunteer throughout the year. We ask that everyone find the time to volunteer for at least one activity throughout the year. We do not hold regular meetings and have no elected officials.

Please go on-line, fill out, and submit the "How You Can Help" form. This will insure that our students have the best experiences possible throughout the school year! Everyone can easily give our program a boost so that we may continue to build upon all of our past experiences. www.caband.info



How You Can Help Form Contact Information Form

Please go to

WWW.CABAND.INFO

The “How You Can Help Form” is the first lesson grade of the school year and must be completed by everyone!