

Hopewell Junior School
8th Grade Band
8th Grade Jazz Band

2009-2010

Handbook
and
Performance Calendar

Hopewell Junior School

8th Grade Band

Dear HJS Band Member and Family,

Welcome back to school! We hope that your summer was relaxing and enjoyable for your family.

We have very exciting news for both our 8th grade concert band and 8th grade jazz band! Both groups have been selected to perform at the OMEA (Ohio Music Education Association) Professional Development Conference at the Cincinnati Convention Center, January 28-30, 2010! Over 120 CD's were submitted throughout the State of Ohio representing outstanding performing groups throughout the state. We are very proud to have both of our 8th grade concert band and 8th grade jazz band perform for this honor. In addition, the Hopewell Junior Vocal Chamber Ensemble has also been selected to perform! Although all of these Hopewell Junior groups have performed previously at the OMEA Conference within the past 10 years, it is a Hopewell Junior Music Department first, a Lakota District first and quite possibly a state wide first that three performing groups from the same junior high have been selected to perform at the same conference. What an honor for Hopewell Junior School, our music department and our students! Our bands will be assigned a performance date and time during the conference, January 28-30. We will let you know as soon as we hear. Parents are encouraged to attend performances. Also, please keep in mind we will need some chaperones for the event too! It will also be necessary to schedule some extra rehearsals and performances to help the students prepare for the OMEA Conference Performance. Practice, makes perfect! We appreciate in advance you all encouraging extra practice at home too!

Enclosed is the performance schedule with concert dates for the entire 2009-2010 school year. Please arrange your family activities so that your son or daughter can be present to perform at each concert. Part of your child's band grade is determined by concert participation and attendance. **The band directors and school administrators expect the students to participate in all performances as part of their musical education.** Especially in the spring time, we have had conflicts with baseball, soccer, etc. Please plan ahead so that we may avoid these conflicts. Remember, school comes first!

This year's **band uniform** will be the **red HJS music shirts and dark black pants**. All band students will need to purchase a shirt at the beginning of the year, unless you already have one. **The cost is \$15.00** payable to **Lakota Performing Arts**. Attached is the order form. Shirt orders and payment are due by Monday, August 31.

Please read all of the attached material with your son or daughter, discuss the grading policy and team work suggestions, and return the forms signed by August 31.

We are looking forward to an exciting and rewarding musical year filled with great music and wonderful concerts. Please call us if you have any questions.

Yours for the BEST BANDS!
Julie Fuqua Joe Tignor

Hopewell Junior School Band Directors
Hopewell Junior School
8th Grade Band
Grading Policy

Students receive letter grades in band (A+ -, B+ -, C+ - D+ -, F) which are averaged into the academic honor roll. Grades are determined each quarter by the following factors: daily class participation - 5 points per day; taking your instrument and music home to practice each weekend (THYIMEW) - 15 points per week; concert attendance, performance, and participation -100 points per concert; playing tests -100 points per quarter.

Points per Quarter

Quarter	<u>1st</u>	<u>2nd</u>	<u>*3rd</u>	<u>*4th</u>
Daily Participation	210	230	235	215
THYIMEW	120	150	150	135
Concert Attendance	100	100	200	200
Playing Tests	<u>100</u>	<u>100</u>	<u>100</u>	<u>100</u>
Totals	530	580	685	650

*Please note there are 2 required 8th grade band concerts both 3rd and 4th quarters.

Point Grading Scale

Quarter	<u>1st</u>	<u>2nd</u>	<u>*3rd</u>	<u>*4th</u>
A+ = 97-100%	514-530	563-580	664-685	631-650
A = 93-96%	493-513	540-563	637-663	605-630
A- = 90-92%	477-492	522-539	617-636	585-604
B+ = 87-89%	461-476	505-521	548-616	566-584
B = 83-86%	440-460	481-504	569-547	540-565
B- = 80-82%	424-439	464-480	548-568	520-539
C+ =77-79%	408-423	447-463	527-547	501-519
C = 73-76%	387-407	423-446	500-526	474-502
C- =70-72%	371-386	406-422	480-499	455-473
D+ = 67-69%	355-370	389-405	459-479	436-454
D = 63-66%	334-354	365-388	432-458	410-435
D- = 60-62%	318-333	348-364	411-431	390-409
F = below 60%	Below 318	Below 348	Below 411	Below 409

Extra credit points will be given for participating in optional musical events.

5 - Performance outside of school (church, nursing home, scout troop, performance with an ensemble outside of school)

5 - Private lessons (students must complete form provided in band and have private lesson teacher and parent signature)

5 - Honor Band/Solo and Ensemble

5 - Attending another high school, junior high, elementary concert or professional music concerts like the Cincinnati Symphony or performance at the Aronoff Center, etc. (students must turn in the concert program, school concerts please attempt to have one of the participating band directors sign)

No more than 15 extra credit points per quarter will be added to a student's grade.

Explanation of band grade requirements

Daily class participation - students must be prepared for band class and have the appropriate materials needed for class every day. Students need to have their instrument, music, pencil, reed, mouthpiece, drum sticks, or other necessary equipment for every rehearsal. Chewing gum, eating, talking at inappropriate times and disruptive behavior do not benefit the band rehearsal. We expect all students to try their best every day. Failure to comply with these requirements will result in loss of participation points for that day. If your instrument is broken and needs repairing, we will not reduce participation points if we receive a note signed by your parent or guardian stating that the instrument is in the repair shop. We must have the note on the day the instrument is being repaired to avoid this point reduction.

Taking your instrument and music home to practice every weekend - Students are required to take both their instrument and music folder home on weekends. This is fondly referred to as **THYIMEW!! (Take Home Your Instrument and Music Every Weekend!!)** If you leave either your instrument or music at school on the weekend, points will be deducted. We average all the weeks together for this portion of your grade. **It only takes 2 or 3 times of forgetting until your quarter grade is lowered one letter grade.** If you leave school on early dismissal, you are still responsible for taking your instrument and music folder home. You will not be penalized if you are sick and have an excused absence for school that day.
Remember, the more you practice your instrument, the better you will sound!

Concert attendance- Band is a performance based class. Concerts provide an opportunity for all band members to apply what they have learned in band each grading period. Preparing for and performing a concert for an audience is the responsibility of each band member and the ultimate goal we work toward. Each band member plays a vital role in class and the concert. It is mandatory that all students attend, participate, and perform in each concert scheduled during the school year (see attached performance schedule). Only the following situations will be acceptable reasons for an excused absence: serious illness of student or family member, excused absence from school, or a death in the family. Concerts are group activities. We practice together daily and it is important to have all players, the entire band, present at all performances. Please plan your other family activities around this schedule. Remember, school activities come first.
The band directors and school administrators expect the students to participate in all performances as part of their musical education.

Playing tests- individually, in class, or in section rehearsals. We will have several playing tests each grading period.

WE APPRECIATE YOUR HELP AND SUPPORT ! ! ! !

Team Work

We all have to work together to have a great band!

Goals for all Hopewell Junior School Band Members:

- *Have a positive attitude and try your best at all times.
 - *Be in your seat on time with instrument, music, pencil and all necessary supplies when rehearsal begins. You may warm up QUIETLY at this time.
 - *Listen to your band directors during rehearsal. Do not talk or play your instrument during instruction.
 - *Clean your instrument daily at the end of each band class. Please make sure you have a cleaning swab, etc. for your instrument.
 - * Return your folder AND instrument to the proper places at the end of each rehearsal.
 - *You are now a member of a great band. **Your attendance at all performances is mandatory.** Please refer to the attached concert schedule.
 - *All instruments and music **must** go home to practice on weekends. **THYIMEW!! (Take Home Your Instrument and Music Every Weekend!!)** If you leave either your instrument or music at school on the weekend, points will be deducted. (See attached grading policy) It only takes 2 or 3 times of forgetting until your quarter grade is lowered one letter grade.
 - ***Practice your instrument.** You will sound better, have more fun playing your instrument, and our band will sound better! Set a personal practice goal of at least one hour each weekend.
 - *Keep your instrument in good playing condition at all times. If your instrument is broken, we will be happy to check the problem before you take it to the repair shop. If it is something minor, sometimes we are able to make the repair at school.
 - ***Put your name on your instrument case before you bring it to school.** Use a luggage tag or masking tape. We have many instruments in the band room and lots of instrument cases are identical! Having your name on your case will prevent many problems.
 - ***NO CHEWING GUM OR EATING CANDY IN BAND! EVER!** These are not compatible with you and your instrument! **We are very serious about no chewing gum or eating during band class. We do not want students choking, damaging their instruments or the carpet.** If you forget and have gum/candy in band, these are your consequences: loss of your participation points that day, and a detention. Detentions are served the following way:
 - 1st offense = 1 detention in the band room 7:40 a.m. - 8:05 a.m. or lunch detention
 - 2nd offense = 2 detentions in the band room and phone call home
 - 3rd offense = General detention, held after school hours
- It is a school rule: No chewing gum. Please refer to your student planner. Make it easy on yourself, leave your chewing gum at home.**