

Oak Lawn Community High School Band Handbook



2017-2018

OUR MISSION:

The Oak Lawn Community High School band department is dedicated to providing outstanding musical experiences and opportunities to its students while helping them grow into responsible, mature adults. To make these experiences successful, we require discipline, organization and commitment to the program. Being a part of the band is to be seen as an honor and students will be expected to help serve as role models for the school and other organizations within it. As a result of our high expectations, discipline, leadership and social opportunities, the students have the opportunity to develop valuable life skills such as a positive self-image, time management skills, confidence, poise, responsibility, and loyalty as well as the musical abilities needed to be a successful musician.

OUR GOALS:

- To provide a comprehensive knowledge of music through the performance, creation, and promotion of music.
- To provide an environment that promotes and encourages lifelong learning and personal as well as professional growth.
- To create an environment that provides all students with a sense of community and loyalty to an organization bigger than themselves.
- To provide an opportunity for students to develop as disciplined, organized, and mature adults.
- To allow students to express themselves in a different, creative manner through the means of music.
- To reach full potential in all aspects of students' lives through the use of music.

ATTENDANCE:

1. Students are required to attend all rehearsals and performances for the ensembles that they are members.
2. Attendance is figured into every student's grade. Points will be given every day for attendance and for every rehearsal and performance.
3. Being tardy counts against the attendance grade. It is important for the program's success that all students are on time. Failure to do so will take points off of the attendance grade for that day.
4. Students are responsible for notifying the director of missing any extra rehearsals or performances well before the event occurs.
5. Excessive tardiness and/or absences will affect the student's eligibility and participation in the performing ensemble.
6. Students will only be excused from performances/rehearsals for the following reasons: (1) school activities, (2) sickness (a doctor's note should be provided), and (3) family emergencies such as a death in the immediate family. Any other circumstances should be brought to Mr. Levy.

MISSED PERFORMANCES:

If a student misses a performance (excused or unexcused), the student will be able to recover lost points/credit through an extra performance that will happen approximately one week after the original performance (exact date will be determined by Mr. Levy). The performance will be held after school and will be open to the public and students. Students will perform the concert music with Mr. Levy as the conductor.

- STUDENTS WILL NEED TO REQUEST A MAKE UP PERFORMANCE. IF YOU DON'T REQUEST IT, YOU WON'T GET IT.
- Excused absences will be able to receive full credit.
- Unexcused absences will only be able receive partial credit.

REHEARSAL/PERFORMANCE RULES AND CONDUCT:

1. ALWAYS BE ON TIME. If you are not early, you're late!
2. The band program will follow all school policies and will not tolerate students that go against school regulation. For instance, no alcohol, tobacco, vapes or drugs shall be tolerated at any time.
3. Always be prepared. Students must have all materials needed for a successful rehearsal. Always have your music, instrument, pencil and mind ready to go!
4. Students must show respect for all band members, directors, and parents. Whether they are a part of our organization or apart of another organization, it does not matter.
5. Students must show respect for all property. Every area the band visits should be left in better condition than it was before they entered it.
6. The uniform must be worn correctly at all performances. During marching season, students will wear their band shirts underneath their uniform jackets and all jackets and pants are to be fully buttoned and zipped at all times. The uniform will be worn correctly, no exceptions!
7. Students must have music prepared. During marching season, this means having all halftime show music memorized.
8. No food or drinks will be allowed at any rehearsal or performance. This includes gum on the marching field and food or drinks in the stands.
9. Being in band is a privilege. ***Only band members will be allowed to sit with the band at any rehearsals or performances, including times that we perform in the stands.***
10. Proper language is to be used at all times!
11. Band should be fun! Remember, the more effort you put into the program and making every rehearsal successful, the more fun and worthwhile your experiences become.
12. All concerts are mandatory. Unexcused absence may result in a lowered grade and/or removal from course (See the section on missed performance make-ups for more information).

BAND ROOM POLICIES:

1. The band room should be kept neat and orderly AT ALL TIMES. It should exemplify the PRIDE and ORGANIZATION that reflects the program. Students should clean up around his/her own area, instruments are to be restored in their designated places, and backpacks will be left in the locker room or in locker.
2. There will be NO FOOD OR DRINKS in the band room at any time. With permission, water can be brought into the band room if, and only if, it is in a sealed bottle (no cups) (Gum and candy is also considered a food that will not be allowed in the band.)
3. Hats will be removed when entering the band room.
4. *Non-band students will not be allowed in the band room. Band students have earned the privilege to be in the band room.*
5. Students will only handle things that belong to them. No one should touch the instrument or personal belonging of another student.

PRACTICE ROOMS

Practice rooms are available for practice both before and after school. Practice rooms are for **PRACTICING**. To use a practice room you must sign up with Mr. Levy. Non-Music students are **NOT** allowed to use the practice rooms. Food or drink (other than water in sealed bottles) are not allowed. Failure to follow the rules of the practice room will result in the loss of practice room privilege.

LEADERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES/AUDITION INFORMATION:

- The director will choose section leaders.

- Seating in symphonic band/wind ensemble will be based on auditions. Chair placement can be challenged.
- Auditions for jazz ensembles/combo will be held in mid-September.
 - Jazz auditions will be selected from a jazz etude book that will be given to them well in advance. They should be ready for sight reading as well as scales with up to 6 sharps and 6 flats.
- Auditions for placement in the following years wind ensemble will be held in mid-January.
 - Wind ensemble audition materials will be available before winter break.
- PEPR: Students will be selected for the student leadership team by Mr. Levy. Meetings will be held at least once a month. Members of this group will work with Mr. Levy and Mr. Habersat on various activities and ideas for the OLCHS band Program.

ENSEMBLES

Marching Band: In the fall, all OLCHS band students combine to form the marching band (mandatory). The marching band season begins with a one-week band camp the first week of August. The marching band performs at all home football games, pep rallies, and homecoming parade. Marching band will rehearse at 7:50am on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday (from August to Mid-October).

Symphonic Band: Symphonic band is composed of band students grades 9-12. Symphonic band meets daily during the school day. Performances include three evening band/music department concerts, IHSA contest, and graduation. In addition to these concerts, occasionally the band will go to area band festivals/contests to perform (at the discretion of Mr. Levy). Students enrolled in symphonic band will perform in the marching band in the fall and the pep band in the winter.

Wind Ensemble: Wind Ensemble is an audition based group. Auditions will be held in mid January and audition materials will be available before winter break. Students will be selected for this ensemble based on playing ability and instrument need. Wind ensemble is composed of band students grades 10-12 and meets daily during the school day. Performances include three evening band/music department concerts, IHSA contest, and graduation. In addition to these concerts, occasionally the band will go to area band festivals/contests to perform (at the discretion of Mr. Levy). Students enrolled in wind ensemble will perform in the marching band in the fall and the pep band in the winter.

Percussion Ensemble: All OLCHS percussionists will enroll in percussion ensemble. Students will focus on percussion specific techniques independently of the wind players. For the the fall, percussionists will work on drumline music and rudiments. After marching season, specific percussion ensemble music will be learned as well as band literature..

Pep Band: The OLCHS pep band performs at all home boys varsity basketball games. The pep band will be composed of students from both the wind ensemble and symphonic band. Students will be assigned mandatory games to attend. Extra credit can be earned by performing at unassigned games.

Extra-Curricular Jazz Program: The OLCHS jazz program consists of two jazz ensembles, jazz combo, and two electric guitar ensembles (the exact number of groups depends on the amount of students interested). Jazz ensemble membership will be determined on an audition to be held in early september. Materials will be available the last week of August. Students who are not selected for jazz ensemble will be placed in the jazz lab band. Each jazz group will meet once a week after school. Jazz ensemble will perform at the IHSA contest and all jazz groups will perform at the jazz night concert that is held in the spring. Other jazz concerts/festivals may be added at the discretion of Mr. Levy.

SPARTAN PLUS

Spartan plus (per. 4) is a 24-minute period that will allow each student to select an intervention/enrichment session they want to attend. This period will be used to hold sectionals, individual

practice sessions, and extra in depth musical concepts lesson. Students will need to sign up through skyward. Spaces are available on a first come first served basis.

REQUIRED MATERIALS

All students must be prepared for class daily. For every rehearsal a student must have the following items:

- An instrument in good working order
- Woodwinds: reeds, Brass: Valve oil/slide cream, Percussion: snare sticks (Vic Firth SD1) and practice pad (I would also get a nice pair of medium yarn mallets).
- Pencil (NOT PEN)
- Band folder and music (Folder will be assigned by Mr. Levy)

SCHOOL OWNED INSTRUMENTS

OLCHS can provide students will instruments to use for band. These instruments will be loaned at the beginning of the year. The students are responsible for keeping them in good working order. The students are also responsible for them if they are damaged, lost, or stolen. Students using a school owned instrument must fill out and complete a rental agreement. These forms can be obtained from www.olchsmusic.org or from Mr. Levy.

PRIVATE LESSONS

Private lessons are highly encouraged for all band students. There is no substitute for receiving one-on-one instruction from a highly qualified musician. Please see Mr. Levy for more information.

GRADING POLICIES: A (90-100) B (80-89) C (70-79) D (60-69) F (0-59)

Grading in band is based upon participation and playing evaluations. Students belong to our program because they "want to," not because they "have to!" Band students receive a grade for each performance attended.... i.e., football games, concerts, competitions, etc. Students will receive additional grades based on daily participation, sectionals, playing & written tests, etc. Students must have equipment in good working order and be present at all required rehearsals and performances for their participation grade. If these expectations are not met, the participation grade will be affected.

- *Attendance (30%)*
- *Performances (20%)*
- *Playing Assignments (40%)*
 - *Check offs, Starboard, etc*
- *Written Tests/Quizzes (10%)*

AT HOME PRACTICE

There is no exact number of minutes or hours for at-home practice that will fit all students. Every student must **practice enough at home to be prepared to play all of his or her music correctly at school.** This will mean different amounts of time for each student.

It is also true, however, that there is a bare minimum, which must be adhered to in order for every student to keep his or her "chops" in shape. **Every OLCHS band member is to practice his or her instrument at least 20 minutes a day (This is your daily band homework assignment).** This will maintain proper dexterity and smoothness in his or her playing, and it will allow the students to master the homework assignments. It will also facilitate greater success in band rehearsals.

Please remember that band rehearsal is ***not*** for working on ***individual*** parts or problems; that is what sectionals and at-home practice are for. Nothing is more counter-productive (or more boring for other students) than having to ***waste rehearsal time on individual problems caused by lack of practice***. The key to avoiding this problem is adequate at-home practice. Set aside a certain time, on specific days for your practicing and stick to that schedule every week. This will make it a regular habit, and more will be accomplished (and use a metronome!).

CONFLICTS WITH OTHER ACTIVITIES

Students should do their very best to be at all band rehearsals and performances, as students should feel a sense of loyalty to the band. However, conflicts with other activities are sure to happen. The key to avoiding any confusion and to keeping a good rapport with the band is ***communication!*** Please let Mr. Levy know of any conflicts immediately after they have been realized. Failure to do so can result in the lowering of a student's grade.

UNIFORMS

All band members are required to be in the proper uniform for performances. Failure to wear the correct uniform can result in not being allowed to perform. Please refer to the following list for the correct uniform.

- ***Marching Band:*** School issued Marching band uniform, band t-shirt (under uniform. Avail able for purchase, \$15), black Drillmaster shoes (Can be purchased from Mr. Levy for \$35), and long black socks (no ankle socks)
 - ***Alternate uniform:*** Band t-shirt, Dark Jeans, drillmaster shoes, and long black socks
- ***Symphonic Band***
 - ***Gentlemen:*** Long Sleeved white shirt, tie, black pants and black dress shoes (drillmasters are ok)
 - ***Ladies:*** Black and White or all black dress up. Pants or skirts are both ok. Dress must meet school dress code. NO SHORT SKIRTS.
- ***Wind Ensemble:***
 - ***Gentlemen:*** Tuxedos (Long Sleeved white shirt, Bowtie, black pants and black dress shoes (drillmasters are ok). You are required to provide shirt, pants, black bowtie, and shoes. School will issue a jacket.
 - ***Ladies:*** Black and White or all black dress up. Pants or skirts are both ok. Dress must meet school dress code. NO SHORT SKIRTS.

iPads

School issued iPads will not be needed during most rehearsals. If the iPad is need for class, Mr. Levy will inform students ahead of time.

- The iPad is a great tool for "AT HOME PRACTICE". In conjunction with the olchsmusic.org website and SmartMusic, students are able to keep a connection to the teacher and other useful materials.
- I would highly recommend that all students download a tuner and metronome app.
 - ***Levy Recommended App:*** *Tonal Energy \$3.99 (Metronome and Tuner)*

Cell Phones

Cell phones are WILL NOT be needed for class. Student will be subject to the OLCHS discipline code for violation of cell phone policy.

2017-18 Band Schedule

August 2017

7/31-8/4: Band Camp (9a-2p)

8/18: Green and White football game (650pm performance)

September 2017

9/1: Football Game #1 vs Julian HS

9/11: Academic Letter Night (*only selected students*)

9/15: Football Game #2 vs Eisenhower (middle school night)

9/21: Homecoming Parade

9/23: Football Game #3 vs Argo (Homecoming Game)

9/26: Disney Trip Meeting (Mandatory) (6pm)

October 2017

10/6: Football Game #4 vs Reavis (Senior night)

10/11: ILMEA auditions at Sandburg High School (*only selected students*)

10/15-19: Musical Tech Week (*only selected students*)

10/23-28: Musical performance week (*only selected students*)

11/30: NHS induction ceremony (*only selected students*)

November 2017

11/11: ILMEA jazz district one festival (TF South HS) (*only selected students*)

11/17: Green and White basketball game (*only selected students*)

11/18: ILMEA band/choir district one festival (Elmhurst College) (*only selected students*)

11/30-12/4: Disney Trip (*only selected students*)

December 2017

12/5: Basketball game #1 vs. TF South

12/7: Fine Arts Fest

12/8: Basketball game #2 (Pink Out)

12/15: Basketball game #3 vs. Tinley Park

January 2018

1/11: Basketball game #4 vs. Hillcrest

1/19: Basketball game #5 vs. Richards

February 2018

2/9: Basketball game #6 vs. Shepard

2/13: Basketball game #7 vs. Argo

2/28: Winter Band Concert (7pm)

March 2018

3/3: IHSA Solo and ensemble contest (Reavis HS) (*only selected students*)

3/7: SSC all-conference band day (Lemont HS) (*only selected students*)

April 2018

4/4: VanderCook BandFest

4/13: IHSA jazz/band/choir contest (Hosted by OLCCHS)

4/26: OLCCHS Jazz Showcase (6pm)

May 2018

5/2: Spring Pops Concert (7pm)

5/8: Music Awards BBQ (6pm)

5/16: OLCCHS Graduation (St. Xavier University)

Handbook Agreement

I have received a copy of the Oak Lawn Community High School Handbook. I have read and reviewed all of the band policies. I understand the expectations that are to be upheld by the band students and will encourage my child to abide by the rules set in place and to fulfill their obligations to the band.

Signature of Parent/Guardian

Date

I have received a copy of the Oak Lawn Community High School Handbook. I have read and reviewed all of the band policies and I understand that it is a privilege to be a part of this program. I know that by signing this form I have agreed to uphold these policies and have accepted the responsibility to attend all performances and activities in which the band participates. I recognize that each member of the band contributes greatly to the success of the program.

Signature of Student

Date