

# **CLARENCE HIGH SCHOOL BAND HANDBOOK**

## **Music Department**

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## **Faculty & Staff**

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**Please be sure to visit the music department website for:**

- MUSIC NEWS & CALENDAR
- DIGITAL PROGRAMS
- PHOTOS & SLIDESHOWS

## *The Clarence Bands*

The Clarence High School Bands have long enjoyed a national reputation for musical excellence and worthy educational achievements. Our guest appearances at state and international music conferences; our local concerts; our national tours; our recordings; the numerous Clarence students who appear at county, regional, state and national music festivals: these have all led to conductors, audiences, music educators, and students from other schools to expect exceptionally high levels of musical performance and personal behavior from the Clarence High School Bands.

It is the purpose of the music department to maintain this worthy tradition while increasing the musical sensitivity and knowledge of our band members and stimulating character growth through cooperative effort, self-discipline, responsibility, patience, attention to detail, and the desire for perfection. We believe that each student, as a direct result of his/her full participation in the Clarence Music Program, will be a lifelong, independent, comprehensive musician.

## *Student Responsibilities*

A proper attitude and a strong concept of responsibility to one's self and to the ensemble are vital to our program. The quality of the band is severely limited when one individual fails to fulfill his/her responsibilities.

The following expectations have proven valuable to guide and enforce the values we seek.

- Follow the codes of conduct established by Clarence High School and the Clarence School District
- Follow guidelines laid out in subsequent sections of this handbook.
- Show respect for your teachers, fellow students, the equipment and the facilities that are provided for your use.
- Show respect for your ensemble by practicing and improving your musical skills.
- Maintain punctual and regular attendance at lessons, rehearsals, sectionals and performances.

## Lessons

Weekly instrumental lessons occur on a rotating basis, so a student will not need to miss the same period on a frequent basis. (It is the student's responsibility to inform the teacher whose class they will miss for music lesson. Students are still responsible for making up all missed work.)

If a student encounters a teacher who does not allow him or her to miss class to attend a lesson, or a teacher who makes it unusually difficult to be excused from class, please inform your lesson teacher immediately.

Please treat each lesson as you would any other academic class. Always be on time. This means in your seat, already warmed up, with the proper music, mutes, reeds, valve oil, and pencil by the time the lesson teacher is ready to begin. A pencil is always necessary at every lesson and rehearsal. Mark your music (specifically, band music) neatly and thoroughly according to the lesson teacher's comments. Remember that others will need to use this same music in future years.

## Rehearsals

Band rehearsals occur daily, and should be treated as any other academic course, including:

- Always be on time. This means; in your seat, already warmed up, with the proper music, mutes, reeds, valve oil, and pencil by the time the conductor is ready to begin.
- All music must be adequately prepared before the rehearsal begins and private Practice time for this music must be a part of the student's daily routine.
- Each student should have his/her own copy of all music that is being performed. Each student must have his/her own band folder to keep music in to prevent damage. If a student doesn't have a folder, he/she is responsible for purchasing one through the music office. It is the individual's responsibility to have the proper music at all rehearsals.
- A pencil is always necessary at every rehearsal. Mark your music neatly and Thoroughly according to the conductor's comments. Remember that others will need to use this same music in future years. Band pencils are available in the band room.

Extra rehearsals and sectionals are scheduled regularly. They are mandatory and are an extension of the academic class. Students and faculty will be given notice as far in advance as possible.

Dress Rehearsals are scheduled on an evening prior to concert performances and are clearly indicated on the Music Department Calendar. Dress rehearsal serves as a "final review" for the subsequent concert (see Section C, below) and student attendance is mandatory.

## Concerts/Performances

Concerts are considered final, performance based “projects” which conclude the preparation time leading up to them. Each concert, therefore, will be evaluated as a critical part of the marking period grade. Attendance is mandatory.

## Uniforms

The band uniform is to be worn with pride. All band members are expected to wear the entire uniform throughout the length of a given musical event. At no time should a student appear in partial uniform while an event is in progress, including directly before or after the event.

The appropriate band uniform consists of:

### Men

- Black Tails Tuxedo and Pants
- White Tuxedo Shirt –
  - Pleated, French Collar Style \*
  - Pique White Bow Tie and Vest \*\*
- Black Socks and Black Shoes –
  - Non-Rubber Soles
- Limited Cologne

### Women

- Black Concert Dress
- Simple Jewelry
- Black Hosiery and Black Shoes
- Limited Perfume

Inappropriate accessories, makeup and/or hair color will not be tolerated. Band directors reserve the right to withhold a student from a performance for failure to follow these guidelines.

Male band members should see Mr. Vitello at least one month prior to the first concert performance to be issued a tuxedo jacket and pants. Female band members should see Mrs. Runfolo for their dresses.

All band uniforms **must** be handed in at the last concert (Spectrum) so they can be dry- cleaned. If they are not handed in at that time, you are responsible for your own dry-cleaning.

If any loss or damage to concert uniform assigned should occur, it will be the student’s responsibility to pay purchase price of said uniform.

\* Tuxedo shirts to be purchased by student from Tuxedo Junction for a cost of approximately \$25.00. Please visit their website for location and hours. <http://www.tuxedojunction.com/>

\*\* Bow tie and vest to be purchased by student from school stock. (Please make check payable to “Clarence Band Boosters”) for a cost of approximately \$55.00.

## Care of Equipment

Students are financially responsible for all school equipment issued to them. The band uniform must be properly cared for and returned at the end of the school year. All band music must also be returned. Each student must purchase his or her own mouthpiece when using a school instrument and each percussion student must own his or her own sticks, mallets, and carrying case. Please contact Mr. Vitello and/or Ms. Runfolo for information on the appropriate mouthpiece and percussion equipment to buy.

The cost of any damage caused by negligence will be borne by the student.

No student will play another's instrument or open their case without that student's permission.

All pianos, percussion equipment, chairs, music stands, and other school owned instruments are to be treated with great care and used only by authorized students.

## Facilities

We are fortunate to have excellent facilities in the music area, and all students must treat them with care and respect. The following guidelines will be followed:

- No food, gum or drink of any sort will be allowed in the blue room, percussion room, or rear storage room at any time.
- The band room is not a lounge. It may be used for practice and band related activities during non-ensemble periods at the discretion of the lesson teacher.

Students wishing to utilize practice rooms during the school day may do so only if it is during a study hall or lunch, and only with permission and a pass from one of the band directors. Practice rooms are to be used exclusively for instrumental practice.

## Grading

Evaluation of each student's achievement in the Band Program is derived in several ways. Effort, promptness, practice, and performance are all important considerations in determining the student's grade.

Specifically, these components are:

1. Weekly Music Lessons – 35% (6 required per marking period assigned)
2. Daily Band Rehearsals – 65% (tuner sheet, concert attendance, performance assignments, listening assignments, effort and attendance)

## *Tuning Requirement*

The quality of the performance is very much related to intonation, and intonation is very much related to the amount of time the student spends working with a tuner. All band members are required to make frequent use of the tuners. A minimum of one tuner sheet must be completed each marking period during a lesson with your lesson teacher.

Students are encouraged to download tuner apps on their phones (i.e. clear tune). Metronome apps are also strongly encouraged.

## *Concert Attendance*

Each student is required to attend one concert outside of the Clarence District (high school level or higher) per semester. A brief write-up must be turned in within one week of the attended concert. These sheets are available in the band room. Various concerts are announced by the directors and posted in the band room throughout the semester.

## *Listening Assignments*

Occasionally, band directors may request that students spend time listening to recordings of works they are performing, while studying the scores of the pieces. These assignments will be made with enough notice of their due dates.

## *Annual Band Auditions*

In the spring of each year, auditions take place to identify the ensemble in which each student will participate the following school year. Students should understand the importance of the audition process and prepare accordingly. All audition materials are distributed at least one month prior to the actual audition. Questions about the audition process should be directed to your band director. On occasion, students may be asked to perform in more than one ensemble based on need. The students must maintain all requirements with the first assigned group, or the student will be removed from the secondary ensemble.