

Sleepy Hollow High School

Concert

Band



Guide

2009-2010 School Year

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2. Performance Schedule 2009-2010

Revised: 9/24/2009

Date	Event	Reporting Time	
Saturday, 9/12	Football Game	11:00 AM	Game Starts 1:30 PM
Saturday, 9/26	Football Game	12:00 PM	Game Starts 1:30 PM
Saturday, 10/17	“Homecoming” Football Game	12:30 PM	Game Starts 1:30 PM
Saturday, 10/31	Halloween Parade	3:30 PM	Parade Starts 5:30 PM
Tuesday, 12/15	High School Winter Concert	TBA	Concert Begins 7:30 PM
Sunday, 3/13	St. Patrick’s Day Parade	11:00 AM	Parade Starts 1:30 PM
Friday, 4/16	Sixth Annual Sleepy Hollow Jazz Festival	TBA	Concert Begins 7:30 PM
Wednesday, 5/19	High School Spring Band Concert	TBA	Concert Begins 7:30 PM
Monday, 5/31	Memorial Day Parade	TBA	TBA
Wednesday, 6/23	8 th Grade Recognition Night	TBA	Begins 7:00 PM
Thursday, 6/24	SHHS Graduation	TBA	Begins 7:00 PM

*Performances in **Grey** are course requirements. The High School Concert Band serves as an educational ensemble in school and an extension of our school in the community. Both roles are very important. Please check the attendance policy that follows carefully (especially pertaining to football games).

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3. Course Outline

Band is a wonderful opportunity for students to experience music in school. Our program at Sleepy Hollow continues to grow from year to year thanks to the dedication and commitment of the students to achieve musical excellence. Listed below are the basic components of the course with a brief explanation.

- I. Rehearsals
 - A. Attendance at every other day rehearsals as indicated in student schedules.
- II. Group Lessons
 - A. In school lessons are the best opportunity for individual growth as a musician. Lessons are on a rotating schedule posted in the band room. A student will have one lesson every week. Ideally, students should not miss the same class more than once every 16 weeks. Students can sign up for make-up lessons on Mr. Sprague's door. A student taking weekly private lessons can opt to do a performance evaluation once a quarter to substitute for in school lessons.
- III. Performances
 - A. Two School Concerts
 - B. Three Parades
 1. Halloween Parade, St. Patrick's Day Parade, Memorial Day Parade
 - C. Home Football Games
 1. There are three this year, please refer to the event schedule
 - D. Graduation
- IV. Chamber Music

Any group of students wishing to perform in a chamber ensemble (i.e. duet, trio, quartet, quintet, ensemble) are welcome to do so. They can schedule a rehearsal time with Mr. Sprague and will receive extra credit.
- V. Mentoring

With Special permission from Mr. Sprague, a band student may participate in the Middle School Mentoring Program. In place of a lesson, the student will work with an assigned middle school band student on a weekly basis to help them improve their playing.

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4. Attendance Policy

High School Band is a scheduled course for which students receive academic credits that are recorded in their school transcripts. The grade that band students receive is averaged equally amongst other school courses when computing cumulative averages each quarter. Therefore, attendance policies for band follow the same guidelines as all other school courses. The High School Band has a larger number of performances than the other performing ensembles due to our special role in community events. This policy takes those differences into account.

Be a part of the Band "team" where each individual musician is an important ingredient. Good attendance is one way of showing that you care enough to contribute your skills for the good of the band in each musical experience that we encounter.

Pep Band

1. Students are required to attend the "Homecoming Game" and one other for a total of 2 football games. In the event of post season play, the Pep Band will be called upon to support our football team.
2. If a student wishes to attend all of the games and playoffs, they will be awarded .5 credits towards graduation. These students should see their guidance counselor to register.

Concerts

Concerts are the culmination of our work and dedication in band. The high quality of our performances is ensured by every member being present and ready to perform. **Attendance is Mandatory**

Parades

Sleepy Hollow's Band is an ambassador for our school in the community and a highlight of parades. We need full Participation. Attendance is Mandatory

Procedures for Absence

1. Any medical or other excuse must be received, by e-mail or in written form, **prior to the event.** Exceptions are made for family or medical emergencies.
2. All absences must be made up.

Rehearsals

Attendance at band rehearsal by every individual member is crucial to the success of our group. Since we meet every other day, each rehearsal is twice as important for our band to grow and reach a level to compete with other schools of our size.

Attendance is Mandatory

Procedures for Absence

1. If a student misses a band rehearsal for any reason, they should produce a parental note to the attendance office the first day they return to school.
Students who arrive in school after first period must sign-in at the attendance office.
2. Every unexcused absence from band will deduct five points from the student's overall rehearsal grade.

Tardiness Policies

Band students need to arrive by 7:40 A.M. for first period.

On time for a musician means 10 to 15 minutes early due to the set-up time required.

1. Students must be seated and prepared to play by 7:48 AM at which time attendance will be taken.
2. If students arrive late to Band due to a family commitment, or a family transportation problem, they must produce a parental note.
3. Each unexcused Tardy will deduct three points from the student's overall rehearsal grade.

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5. Expectations

A positive environment for learning in band is represented by the following expectations.

1. Be Here

Arrive on time for Rehearsals, Lessons, and Performances. (Remember, on time for a musician means 10 to 15 minutes early)

2. Be Prepared

Students need to always have the following: a pencil, music, and their instrument in good working order. Performances require a dress code be followed as well. Chewing gum, eating food, or drinking anything except water are also considered being unprepared.

3. Be Respectful

Give attention to whoever is on the podium. The main goal of band is to play. Eliminate any activity that keeps us from doing so (i.e. talking, homework, studying).

4. Be Positive

There has never been a “perfect” musical performance. The only way to be successful musically is to give your best effort and believe that you can do it! Every member of the band will be challenged at some point this year. The best way to grow as a person is to handle those challenges and learn from them in a positive way.

Behavior Consequences

These consequences are designed to help every student act in a way that helps the group attain the goals agreed upon. Actions that don't lead toward goal achievement must be corrected so that the group can be successful!

1. Verbal Warning
2. Behavior Modification Plan (Dependent on incorrect behavior)
3. Detention and call to Parents
4. Conference with Guidance Counselor, Assistant Principal, and Parents

Disruptive Behavior

In the unlikely event a band member purposefully causes a serious classroom disruption and/or threatens the well being of any other member, the student will be immediately removed to the assistant principal's office.

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6. Grading Policy

Students are graded in the following three areas. Their quarterly average will be computed with the weighting shown. There will also be a Midterm and Final performing evaluation. This grading system is designed to reward responsibility, musical growth, and dedication.

Lesson Grade	20%
Rehearsal Grade	30%
Performance Grade	50%

The Performance Grade is the most heavily weighted because it is the culmination of all our work in Band. Music is a performing art. Performing for an audience is not only rewarding, but it is an integral part of this art form.

Rubrics

Rehearsal Grade

Works to best ability, behaves positively, improves the band	95-100
Performs to musical expectations, behaves Positively	90-94
Deficient in expectations (ie. unprepared), does not perform to musical expectations	80-89
Achieves no behavior expectations, detracts from the band	65-79
Non-Participation (absences, tardiness, unprepared)	0

Lesson Grade

Works to best ability, behaves positively, improves individually	95-100
Behaves positively, performs to musical expectations	90-95
Unprepared, performs to musical expectations	80-89
Deficient in behavior expectations, does not perform to musical expectations	65-79
Absence	0

Performance (Concerts, Football Games, Parades, Graduation)

Behaves positively, is fully prepared according to requirements for the performance	95-100
Unprepared, poor participation	75-90
Unexcused Absence	0

Make-up Policy

Lessons may be made up by receiving 5 Scale Master Stars, completing Smart Music Exercises, or by scheduling a make-up with Mr. Sprague. A Make-Up Schedule will be posted in the band room.

Excused absences from performances may be made up by completing a make-up assignment or by submitting a taped performance of the music performed. Guidelines for both will be distributed immediately following each performance. Parades and Football Games may be made up by completing 10 Scale Masters.

Private Lessons

Private lessons on an instrument are the best way to improve ability. Any student taking **weekly** private lessons will have the option to not be assigned a lesson group in school. The Parent/Guardian or student will need to request and return the Private Lesson Waiver Form to Mr. Sprague. In this case, the lesson grade will be calculated by completion of a quarterly lesson sheet and a quarterly performance for Mr. Sprague representative of the work accomplished in the lessons.

*Extra Credit is always available, just ask.

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7. Additional Information

Band Officers

Band officers will have a one-year term at the discretion of the Director. Band officers will receive credit for any extra time donated to the group.

President- elected

Vice President- elected

Secretaries- appointed

Section Leaders- appointed

Pep Band Captain- appointed

Scale Masters

The three students with the most stars at the end of each semester (half year term) will receive a Gift Certificate. To be in the top five the student must have added at least 6 stars in the semester.

Seating

Seating is based on five factors.

- A. The final performance assessment from the previous year.
- B. Seniority
- C. Playing Ability
- D. Dedication
- E. Interpersonal Relationships

The current seating will be maintained until the first concert, unless a student would like to petition Mr. Sprague for a seating change. After the Mid-Term performance evaluation seating will be reassessed.

Supplies

Woodwind players are expected to supply their own reeds. They should have six usable reeds at all times. Please purchase #3 reeds.

Percussionists are required to supply their own snare drum sticks.

Private Lessons

Private lessons are the best way for students to excel and develop their skills. When the student feels that they are ready for this step, please have them see me so that I can aid in the search for a private instructor. I have a list of private instructors available to any student who asks for it.

Home Practice

Students are expected to practice the instrument at home. We hope for half an hour practice daily. Short daily practices are much better than a long session once or twice a week. Students are given practice assignments at each lesson.

The Parent's Role

Parents play an important role in the success of their children on an instrument.

Here is what you can do:

1. Provide continuous encouragement. Listen discretely to your child's practice sessions. Any support and/or praise helps students to boost their confidence and is conducive to the creation of self expression in their music making.
2. Provide a time and place for practice. Try to help your son or daughter establish a practice routine. It is best if a student practices at about the same time every day. Keep in mind that 20 minutes of practice every other day is better than one three hour, marathon practice session.
3. Remind your child to bring their instrument and folder back and forth between home and school for lessons, rehearsals, and individual practice. If these instruments never come home, ASK WHY!!
4. Make sure your child attends all concerts and competitions. These are important to a student's feelings of pride, accomplishment and success. In addition, ensemble and solo competitions are motivational and educational experiences that are vital to any music student's school experience.
5. If you are able to provide your child with the opportunity to attend a live performance or recital, you will be helping them to become more motivated and inspired
6. Ask your son or daughter how the lesson or rehearsal was. Your child needs to know that you value music as an integral part of their education.

Concert Attire

School Dress Code requirements also apply.

Boys:

Please purchase a nice pair of black dress pants.

Black Pants, Dress Socks, Dress Shoes, White Button Down Shirt.

Girls:

Black skirt at least knee length, Black blouse

OR

Black dress at least knee length

Pep Band

Black Pants or Jeans, designated school provided top

All clothing should be red, white, or black

Parade

Black Pants (no jeans), sneakers (white preferred), designated school provided top

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8. Acknowledgement

Student's Name

Sign below to acknowledge receipt of this handbook. Please remember to check the schedule of events carefully! Return this page to Mr. Sprague.

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

Student Signature

Date

There will be a "semi-monthly" e-mail news letter for the band. This e-mail list will also be used for notification of weather issues and any other important information. If you would like to receive information via e-mail and were not on the list for HS Band last year, please write up to three addresses below.
