

BAND HANDBOOK 2021-2022

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WELCOME FROM THE DIRECTOR

Dear band parents and students,

Welcome to band at Heartland! I am so glad to have each student and family on board. Band is a great opportunity to deepen friendships, develop leadership skills, and learn valuable life lessons through music. Commitment is necessary to having a positive experience in band. Band is not easy, and it won't always be fun. Band is hard work, but it IS extremely rewarding!

This handbook is designed to answer any questions you may have about Heartland's band program. Please read it carefully then sign and return the signature page. I am always available to answer any questions or talk about concerns you may have. I am honored to work with the students at Heartland and am looking forward to a great year together!

Blessings,

Miss Michelle Probst

BAND MISSION STATEMENT

Heartland's band program exists to empower students to learn instrumental technique, music literacy, and ensemble skills so that students and graduates play their instruments with excellence and use their musicianship to glorify God and minister to others.

OBJECTIVES

Through instrumental study in band, students will:

- Learn to play their instruments with correct posture, proper technique, and pleasing tone quality.
- Become proficient at reading music and performing it accurately.
- Respect the talent and diversity of others within the group while working together to become the best they can be.
- Use their talents to worship God and minister to others.

BAND CURRICULUM

Any student in grades 5 or above may join band at Heartland. All students (except beginners) will audition to be placed in the band that best matches their playing level. Each band meets on Mondays and Wednesdays for 40-minute class periods.

Beginning Band – Beginning band works almost exclusively from *Standard of Excellence*, book 1. No previous experience required.

Cadet Band – Cadet band is for students who have some experience in band but lack the skills necessary for intermediate band. In addition to studies from *Standard of Excellence*, book 1, cadet band plays grade 0.5-1 band literature. Cadet band will only be offered based on student need.

Intermediate Band – Intermediate band plays from *Standard of Excellence*, book 2 as well as various grade 1-2 band literature.

Advanced Band – Advanced band plays grade 3+ band literature. Emphasis is placed on scales, sightreading, and ensemble skills.

Percussion – All percussion students will split their class time between band rehearsals and a percussion techniques class, where they will learn the fundamentals and techniques for various percussion instruments.

Summer Band Camp – All band students are strongly encouraged to attend Garen Wolf School of Music Summer Band Camp. Camp is held at God's Bible School and College in Cincinnati, OH, on Monday-Saturday, typically the week after July 4. For more information, visit <https://skclemensl.wixsite.com/gwsmsummercamp>.

ATTENDANCE POLICY

Much of the success of a band is determined by all members being present, responsible, and coachable. Please let the band director know ASAP when you realize you will miss a band class. Excessive absences will be considered on an individual basis and may result in a student being dismissed from band.

If you forget to bring your instrument to school, it is YOUR responsibility to inform the band director. Do not send a friend to relay the message; talk directly to the band director. Consequences will be given if a student habitually forgets their instrument.

Students are expected to participate in all scheduled performances. Exceptions must be cleared with the director at least 2 weeks prior to the event and may result in a student's grade being lowered.

GRADING POLICY

Each student will receive one grade per quarter for band. Grades will be calculated according to the following criteria:

- Class attendance and participation - 25% (assessed quarterly by student and teacher rubrics)
- Practice time - 25% (checked weekly - half is amount of time practiced; half is parent signature)
- Playing tests - 25% (test material will be announced 2 weeks in advance)
- Performance Attendance - 25% (just show up and play your best, ok?! 😊)

PARENT'S RESPONSIBILITY TO THE BAND

While the ultimate responsibility for achievement rests on the student, parental involvement can boost student success by providing encouragement and accountability. Without the support of band parents, the success of the band organization is limited and the director's hands are tied. Here are some critical ways parents can help:

- Show an interest in the musical study of your child and listen to them practice when asked to do so. Encourage them!
- Find a regular time and a quiet place for your child to practice.
- Sign the student's practice sheet every week.
- Be careful with instruments – repairs can be costly.
- Double check to make sure students bring their instruments and folders to school.

STUDENT'S RESPONSIBILITY TO THE BAND

To ourselves – You get out what you put in. Half-hearted effort won't get you very far. Please do your best and be willing to ask for help. The director is always available for guidance and encouragement if you ask!

To the school – Heartland Christian School strives to develop Christ-like leaders who are competent, creative, confident, connected, and people of courage and character. Band is a wonderful place to nurture and demonstrate these traits.

To the music – No one expects you to be a professional, only to do your best and keep learning.

To each other – Just like all members of a sports team must work together, each band member's attitude and effort affects the other players in the group. The band is only as good as its weakest player. You wouldn't want to be the person who makes us sound worse, would you?!

PRACTICE EXPECTATIONS

You get to decide how good you will be on your instrument. Practice makes permanent, so practice well! Band will not be fun unless you practice. With patience and perseverance, you will make progress. Here are some tips for effective practice time:

- Pick a set time and place (be consistent).
- Set reasonable goals for each practice session. Try to improve every day.
- Use a tuner and metronome.
- Play scales.
- Practice sightreading.
- Work on technique (articulations, dynamics, range, etc).
- Increase your endurance.

- Write your practice time on your practice sheet every day. Otherwise, it will not be counted. Any personal practice time counts, even if you are not working on your band music (e.g. Practicing music for church or assignments your private teacher gave you counts. Lessons do NOT count.).
- The minimum weekly practice time is as follows:
 - ✓ Beginning Band: 5 minutes a day, 5 days a week
 - ✓ Cadet Band: 10 minutes a day, 5 days a week
 - ✓ Intermediate Band: 10 minutes a day, 5 days a week
 - ✓ Advanced Band: 15 minutes a day, 4 days a week
- Have a parent sign your practice sheet every week.
- Ask your teacher for help if you are struggling or have questions.
- Remember: hard work beats talent when talent doesn't work hard!
- It may not be easy, but it will be worth it.

CLASSROOM PROCEDURES

- Be on time (early is better)
- Get your instrument and music ready as soon as you get to class
- When the director begins class, all playing and talking should stop
- Make a real effort to improve every day
- Be responsible for your own actions and performance
- Respect yourself, your fellow students, and those in authority
- Put everything away at the end of class (make sure your space is clean and neat)
- Have a positive attitude – no one else can control how you act or react

MUSIC PASS-OFF SYSTEM

Pass-offs allow students to demonstrate mastery of the music at their own pace. Beginning and cadet band students are encouraged to pass off as much of their band music as possible. The player must successfully demonstrate to the director or designated student assistant his/her ability to perform it. Every note and rhythm must be perfect, although further expectations will be adjusted according to the student's level of experience. Pass off scores will be tallied and rewards given at the end of each quarter.

INSTRUMENTS AND SUPPLIES

HCS is pleased to partner with Muncie Music Center for band supplies and instrument rental and repair. Muncie Music has a user-friendly instrument rental program with good quality instruments. Jack Finnegan, an educational representative from Muncie Music, travels to HCS regularly. Supplies

can often be ordered online (<https://qandf.com>) and delivered directly to HCS at no additional charge.

SCHOOL-OWNED INSTRUMENTS

Each student who uses a school-owned instrument is completely responsible for the care of the instrument. A \$65 fee will be assessed for the year and will be used to cover routine maintenance caused by normal wear and tear. If the instrument is damaged due to abuse or negligence, the student will be responsible for the entire cost. An instrument rental form must be filled out and returned with payment to the director before an instrument will be assigned.

LOST MUSIC

Band music is expensive. Heartland is working to build a library of quality band music. Students are expected to keep all their band music in the provided folders. Students who lose band music will be charged \$5 per piece that is not returned.

STUDENT LEADERSHIP

Leadership is a position of service. All band students are encouraged to contribute to the team according to their abilities. Furthermore, qualified students will be appointed to specific positions, such as section leader and director's assistant.

