

Hudson High School Band Handbook

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Hudson High School Band Handbook

Welcome to the Hudson High School Band Program. The Hudson High School Band has a long tradition of excellence that goes back to 1935. It is known for its exciting Swing Marching Band, and its "Loud is Good" motto, as well as for its excellent Wind Ensemble, Concert Bands and Jazz Ensembles. Membership in the Hudson High School band makes you part of an elite group of musicians who wear pride as part of the uniform of the group. Band membership will widen your circle of friends to well over 200 people at the high school as well as providing memories which will last a lifetime. Students in the band are some of the most successful students in academics at the school, and graduated members have found success in all walks of life beyond high school.

The following pages will provide you with all of the information a band student and his or her parents will need in order to be successful in the Hudson High School Band.

I. Marching Band

The Hudson High School Band is a yearlong commitment. All students in the band are required to be in both the marching band and the concert band. Eighth graders who were in the band at the middle school are automatically included in the high school band. Likewise, any student who was in the band the previous year is on the band roster the following year. Any student who would like to be in the band, but who was not in the band previously may schedule an appointment with the directors to determine if he or she plays at a level that would allow him or her to be successful in the band. Additions to the band by previous non-members will be considered on a case by case basis.

Preparation for the fall marching season begins the previous spring. Marching Band packets will be available on line at www.hudsonmusic.org in March. The Marching Band packet will contain all information necessary to secure a student's spot in the marching band. The band camp packet will contain a band camp registration form, rooming request, behavior contract, uniform information and payment information. The packet will also contain information for the parents about the Hudson Music Association.

Auditions for the Hudson Dance Line will be held in May. Auditions are a three day process. Day one and two the routine will be taught and day three is the audition. The dance line will be announced at the end of the audition. Girls who make the dance line are members of the Hudson High School Marching Band and as such are required to fulfill all of the obligations of a band member.

A. Marching Band Leadership

Marching Band leaders are chosen by the directors for the Marching Band season in May of the previous year. Leadership is based on playing ability as well as demonstrated past commitment and dedication. The hierarchy of band student leadership is as follows:

1. Head Senior Squad Leader/s

One or two outstanding senior leaders are chosen for this very important leadership position. The Head Senior Squad Leader is responsible for all of the other leaders in the band and is answerable to the directors. This position requires an extreme level of dedication and involves much more work than glory. The head senior squad leader/s will bring the band to attention at the beginning of the show and will perform any other duties as assigned by the directors. The Head Senior Squad Leader will also be a squad leader and may also be a section leader.

2. Section Leaders

The section leader is generally the best senior player in a section. In some large sections two section leaders may be chosen. The section leader is responsible for leading by example and always having his or her music prepared. The section leader will be asked to lead music sectionals and to teach the band dance to the section. Section leaders will be required to stay up later than other band members at band camp in order to learn the band dance so it may be taught the next morning to the section. Section leaders are also squad leaders.

3. Squad Leaders

A squad leader is a junior or senior who is responsible for 3 other people in a squad. The squad leader makes sure that his or her squad members are present at all rehearsals and performances in a timely fashion. The squad leader also makes sure that his or her squad members have learned the music and is prepared for music tests. The squad leader reads the drill charts and teaches the drill to his or her squad members and helps the squad member with any other issue that may arise in the band.

Band leaders will be expected to visit their squad members in person on the last day of school in June. At that time music and the marching band schedule will be distributed. This is also an excellent time to get to know your squad member and encourage the new marchers. The number one thing that helps a freshman band member be successful is a good relationship with his or her leader. Band leaders are also expected to come in to school the week before band camp to help put squad books together, create the band dance and to assist the directors in any other manner to facilitate the beginning of the marching season.

All leaders are expected to be at every rehearsal and performance at least 15 minutes before the appointed time. A leader will not miss a rehearsal or a performance for any reason. Leaders who miss a performance or rehearsal may be removed from the leadership position. Such instances will be reviewed by the directors on a case by case basis.

Band leadership is not about glory for the leader, but is about service to the band. It is often thankless and tedious, but the rewards for a leader who goes above and beyond the minimum requirements are immeasurable.

B. Hudson Band Dancers

The Hudson Band Dancers are an integral part of the Hudson Marching Band. Dancers are chosen for the line through an audition process that is held during the month of May. All Dancers , including members of previous years' dance line, must try-out each year for the line. Auditions are open to girls who will be in the 9th through 12th grades in the following year. Students who make the dance line will be required to schedule band during the last period of the day for the first quarter. Dancers are required attend Band Camp and all other rehearsals, performances and events that are scheduled for the band. Band Dancers are also required to adhere to all rules of the band as any other band member.

1. Head Dancer

The Head Dancer will be chosen by the director's and the dance instructor. The head dancer must have 2-3 years experience on the dance line. Head dancer will be required to help teach the routines for performance and assist the Dance instructor in any way required. The head dancer will be considered a section leader and will have all of the privileges and obligations of that title.

2. Uniforms

Dancers will be required to purchase black jazz sneakers, tights, and a Hudson Dancer jacket. Other items of the required uniform will be provided to dancers by the school. School items will be returned at the end of the year by the student and are expected to be returned in good condition, or they will be replaced and the cost charged to the student. There may also be additional expenditures for the line as required by the dance instructor and/or the head dancer.

C. Marching Band Summer Rehearsals

1. Pre-Band Camp

The Marching Band drum line will have rehearsals throughout the summer. These will be scheduled by the drum line instructor and percussionists are strongly encouraged to attend, if possible. Required rehearsals begin the Monday before band camp. This week will be the drum line camp and is a very important week for the drummers to learn cadences.

The first rehearsals for the rest of the band are Thursday and Friday before band camp. Thursday rehearsals are mandatory for all freshmen, new marchers and leaders and Friday rehearsals are for all band personnel. Each day will have a morning and an evening rehearsal. Leaders should be available for meetings after all rehearsals. All band members will bring their band camp luggage to rehearsal on Friday night. The moving van will be packed by band leaders on Saturday morning.

2. Band Camp

All members of the Hudson High School Marching Band are required to attend band camp. Camp is held on the campus of Allegheny University in Meadville PA. The band leaves Hudson High School on Sunday morning and returns to Hudson Middle on the following Friday afternoon. Upon

return from camp the band will give its first performance for the parents. Following the performance students are free to retrieve their luggage, instruments and other belongings and go home with their parents. While at camp students are expected to follow all of the rules in the Hudson High School code of conduct. Any student who chooses to break any of the rules of Hudson High School or the Hudson High School Marching Band will be sent home from camp and removed from the band.

3. Rehearsals after Band Camp

Upon return from camp rehearsals will be held in the evenings according to the distributed schedule. All rehearsals are mandatory for all band personnel. When school begins a regular rehearsal will be held on Wednesday evenings from six until nine o'clock. These rehearsals will continue through the marching band season.

D. Marching Band Performances

The Hudson High School Marching Band performs approximately 15-16 times per season. These performances include football games, band shows, college halftime shows, pro football games, news appearances and local events. The schedule of performances will be distributed in the June preceding marching season, however, on occasion events will be scheduled on short notice. Band members are asked to be flexible when additions are made to the schedule.

E. Attendance Policy

All students are expected to attend all rehearsals and performances. Excused absences are accepted for the following reasons:

- Illness requiring absence from school
- Death in the family
- Required court appearance
- Wedding of immediate family member

Absences not found on the above list will be evaluated on a case by case basis. The following reasons for absence **will never be excused**:

- Family vacation
- College visit
- Work
- Too much homework
- Unable to get a ride
- Performances in outside groups
- Attending a rock concert

Students who are to be absent for any reason should contact their squad leader and the directors. Students who have an unexcused absence from a Wednesday night rehearsal will not be permitted to march in the Friday and/or Saturday performances. Students who miss a performance will earn a zero grade for that performance.

F. Grading Policy

Marching Band students are graded on participation, music tests and performances.

- **Participation**-all students are expected to be at all rehearsals on time and to have their instrument in good working condition, music, flip folio, lyre, and appropriate marching footwear. (*Shoes with solid toe, sides and back. Athletic shoes are best.*) Students are given 100 participation points at the beginning of the quarter. If all of the above conditions are met for every rehearsal 100 points will remain at the end of the quarter.
- **Music Tests**-All performed music will be tested by the directors, the section leaders or the squad leaders. Music that is not passed will be retested until it is passed. Points will be lost the longer it takes to pass the test.
- **Performances**-All performances are worth 200 points.

G. Uniforms

Each band member will be issued a marching and concert band uniform. It is the responsibility of the students to keep track of all components of the uniform and return it in good condition at the end of the year. Immediately after fitting please check to make sure pants are the proper length. If too long hem to top of the shoe. Do not cut any extra fabric, just turn under and sew. If any part of the uniform needs repair it is the student's responsibility to inform one of the uniform maintenance technicians. (*Uniform Moms.*) Students are required to keep the uniform clean and pressed. The directors will periodically require the uniforms to be taken for cleaning, but if the student determines it needs to be cleaned more often then it should be done. Students are required to buy their own marching band shoes. The shoe representative is available at the uniform fittings in July for anyone who needs shoes. Students are to keep shoes, spats, hats and gloves clean. Band dancers are required to buy boots, tights, and jacket. Dry cleaned uniforms will be returned to the High School after the Memorial Day Parade on a date to be announced. Students will be charged for any missing uniform components and for uniforms that are damaged beyond normal wear and tear.

H. School Instruments

Students who play mellophone, baritone, sousaphone, percussion, and some students who switch to trombone for marching season will be issued school instruments that are in good working condition. These instruments are available to you at no cost; however, it is the student's responsibility to make sure that the instrument is in good working condition when he or she gets it and to maintain the condition of the instrument. Repair of dents, stuck slides, broken spit valves, etc, are to be taken care of by the student to whom the instrument was issued. Instrument will be turned in at the end of marching band season.

I. Procedures

1. Rehearsal Procedures.

Each student will be issued a locker for his or her instrument. During rehearsal book bags, cases, coats, etc. are to be stored in the locker. After getting instrument students should either proceed outside to parade block or to their seat in the band room.

- **Indoor rehearsal**-Students should have music, flip folio, instrument and pencil. Students are to get and remain quiet while anyone is on the podium whether it is a director or Head senior squad leader.
- **Outdoor rehearsal**-Students should go directly to parade block outside of the East doors. Students are not to talk in parade block.

2. Performance procedures.

- **Home Football Games and the Hudson Parade of Bands**-Students will meet at the Hudson Middle School at least 15 minutes prior to the scheduled inspection time. Students will arrive at the school with the band uniform neatly hung in the uniform garment bag. Students will proceed to the appointed dressing area and dress in full uniform. Students are to be lined up in parade block by inspection time.
- **Away Football games and performances**-Students will report to Hudson High School at least 15 minutes prior to the scheduled inspection time. Students will arrive at the school with the band uniform neatly hung in the uniform garment bag. Students will proceed to the appointed dressing area and dress in full uniform. Students are to be lined up in parade block by inspection time. After completing inspection students will proceed to their assigned buses.
- **Inspection**-During inspection students will stand at attention while the directors or band leaders make sure that the uniform is worn correctly. Pants are to touch the top of the shoe, uniforms are to be clean and pressed, hair that touches the collar is to be secured under the hat, instrument is to be clean, polished and in good working condition. Reed players are to have at least 2 good quality reeds.
- **Arrival at away performance venues.** All students will remain on the buses until they are told to disembark. Percussion and tuba players will get off buses first and unload the equipment truck. When the truck is reloaded with cases, percussionists and tubas will line up in parade block. The director will then blow the whistle to start the cadence. Students remaining on the buses will then march off the bus and directly to their spot in the parade block. Students are to stay in step and are NOT TO RUN to their places. There is to be no talking through this process. When all students are in the parade block the band will proceed to the seating area. At that time the director will arrange the band in the seats.

- **During Football Games.** The job of the band during football games is to rally the crowd and encourage the team. Therefore, the band must remain attentive to the action on the field. The football game is not meant to be solely a social occasion for the band members. Band members should always be ready to play if there is a score in the game or any other time that the director dictates. At no time is a band member to behave in any way that reflects badly on the organization.
- **Third Quarter-**during third quarter of the football game students may, at the director's discretion, be allowed to purchase food and drinks from the concession stand. Squad leaders will take orders and money from their squad members and make the purchases. All food and drink must be consumed and trash disposed of before getting in parade block at the end of the game. **No food or drink is allowed on the buses.**
- **After the game.-**The band will be informed by the directors if there is to be a meeting when we return to the school. If there is no meeting then students may get out of uniforms and depart the school. Leaders will insure that the dressing areas are clean and that no items are left behind. If there is to be a meeting students will go to their seats in the band room at the high school or to the bleachers in the middle school gym. Students are to stay quiet entering the meeting room and throughout the meeting. When the meeting is dismissed students may undress and depart. Percussionists and tuba players must unload the equipment truck before departing the school.
- **During Band shows-**A different level of attentiveness is necessary at band show performances. During the performances of the other bands students are to refrain from talking and give their full attention to the other bands. Students will demonstrate courtesy and respect to their fellow musicians by showing the appropriate appreciation following each band's performance.

J. Indoor Concert/Awards Ceremony

The last performance of the Marching Band season is the indoor band concert. This performance is held on the Friday following the last football game in the High School Auditorium. At this time all of the music, drum cadences and dances from the season will be performed. This performance is also the time for the marching band awards ceremony. At this time leaders and seniors will be recognized as well as senior lettermen.

II. Concert Band

Concert Band season is the time when students grow and mature in their musicianship. Focus shifts from "Loud is Good" to "Musical is Good." There are four concert bands at Hudson High School. Each band provides players with musical challenges according to students' abilities. The Wind Ensemble is the top group made up of the most advanced players. Wind players in orchestra will also be chosen from the Wind Ensemble players. Most players in the Wind Ensemble are juniors and seniors, and most take private instruction on their instrument. The Gold Band is a small group that meets during period 9/10. Many of the players are freshmen, but the group also has sophomores,

juniors and seniors. The Blue and White Bands are equal ability groups that meet during 11th period. Assignment into the various ensembles, except for Gold Band, is through audition.

A. Auditions

Audition materials will be distributed 1-2 weeks before the end of marching season. During the last week of marching season individual auditions will be scheduled after school with each player. The Gold Band personnel is assigned prior to auditions, due to scheduling, however, if a student plays well enough to make the Wind Ensemble the schedule will be changed. After auditions the top players in each section will be assigned to the Wind Ensemble. The remaining students will be assigned equally to the Blue and Gold Bands.

B. Challenges

Students in the Blue or White Bands have the opportunity to challenge into the Wind Ensemble. In order to challenge, a student must be first chair in the section. He or she must then inform the Wind Ensemble director of the intention to challenge. The director will provide the music for the challenge and arrange a challenge time with the last chair person in that section of the Wind Ensemble. Challenges will be blind and presided over by the Wind Ensemble director and at least one other director. If the challenger wins the challenge the two involved will trade bands. If the challenger does not win band placement will stay the same.

C. Grading

Students will be tested on music, scales or other material, as determined by the director, on a weekly basis. Seating within each band will be assigned on the basis of test scores, or through in-band challenges at the director's discretion. Re-seating within the band will be done on a periodic basis throughout the concert band season.

D. Attendance Policy

During concert band season there are no rehearsals outside the school day. The attendance policy of the school is the band attendance policy. A student with an unexcused absence will be turned in to the office. A student with an unexcused absence from band rehearsal will be assigned to last chair in the section and will not be considered for future leadership roles.

E. Concerts

Normally there are three concerts scheduled during concert band season. The December/Christmas Concert is for Blue, White, Gold Bands and Wind Ensemble. The March and May Concerts span two evenings one of which the Blue, Gold and White Bands will perform while the other evening features performances by the Wind Ensemble and Percussion Ensemble. Students in all bands are required to attend both nights of performances; one evening acting as a performer and the other as audience member. Concert attendance is worth a 200 point test grade. An unexcused absence from a concert will result in a zero.

F. Memorial Day Parade

The final performance obligation for concert band members is the Memorial Day Parade. Following the May concert band performance music will be distributed for the parade. Students should be prepared with shoes, flip folio and lyre to practice marching outside during the period between the last concert and the parade.

G. Spring Awards Concert

Typically, the Hudson Jazz I performs for this event. The music by the Jazz Ensemble is interspersed with awards for band members. Lettermen awards for freshmen, sophomores and juniors are distributed at this time as well as all senior awards. At this time the John Phillip Sousa Band Award and Louis Armstrong and Woody Herman Jazz Awards will also be awarded.

III. Jazz Ensemble

Hudson High School is known throughout Ohio as one of the best schools for jazz around. Hudson High school boasts three outstanding Jazz groups. Jazz I, Jazz II and the Hudson Jazz Lab Band. Each group caters to different ability levels and requires differing levels of commitment. Membership is open to all students at Hudson High School, however, preference will be given to students who are in one of the musical performing groups (Band, Orchestra, Choir). Placement in the bands is by audition which will take place at the beginning of the school year.

A. Jazz I

Jazz I is the premier Jazz Ensemble at Hudson High School. Membership in this ensemble requires a very high level of commitment and dedication. The ensemble meets after school until 4:00 on Tuesdays and Thursdays through marching band season, and Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays when marching season is over. Jazz I has an extensive performance schedule including Jazz Festivals, performances at local jazz venues and other high profile concerts. Rehearsals will begin as quickly as possible in September.

B. Jazz II

Jazz II is the second level jazz ensemble. Students in this group will continue growth in the fundamentals of improvisation and will have the opportunity to perform jazz of different styles and eras. Rehearsals for this group are on Tuesdays and Thursdays after school. Rehearsals will begin in October or at the end of the Marching Band season.

C. Jazz Lab

Jazz Lab is a training group where the fundamentals of jazz style and improvisation are introduced. Jazz Lab meets once per week on Wednesday evening. Due to the evening rehearsal time Jazz Lab is a good choice for students who play sports. Rehearsals for Lab begin after marching band season.

IV. Music Department Trips

The Hudson Music Department, including the bands, orchestras and choirs, has traditionally taken a trip every two years. The purpose of the trip is performance and competition. The destinations of these trips vary from Williamsburg, Virginia, to the Smoky Mountains, to Atlanta and Florida. Participation on the trip is not mandatory, however, if a performing group has too few members attending to make the performance viable the decision will be made about whether that group will forgo the trip. Payment for the trip is the responsibility of each student. Fundraising throughout the year will be done by all performing groups to lower the cost of the trip for all students. Students typically miss two days of school to participate in the music department trip. The Hudson Music Department has generally distinguished itself as one of the most outstanding Music Departments at these festivals and competitions.

V. Solo and Ensemble Contest

The Music Department at Hudson High School has participated in the Ohio Music Educator's Association Solo and Ensemble adjudicated event for many years. This is not a required commitment, but is an outstanding way for students to improve their musicianship. Students who take private instruction on their instruments are encouraged to prepare and perform a solo for solo and ensemble contest. The three levels of musical difficulty (class A, B or C) allow students of all ability levels to participate and be successful. There are also small group performing ensembles who participate at contest. Students in a small ensemble are not required to take private lessons to participate. Any students who are interested in performing in a small ensemble should speak with one of the directors about appropriate music for their group. Students who plan to participate in solo and ensemble contest must fill out and return a contest entrance form and the appropriate fee for their event. Payment of contest fees is the responsibility of the soloist or is to be divided by the members of the small ensemble.

VI. Hudson High School Band Varsity Letter System

Under this system, students participating in the Hudson Band Program will have the opportunity to earn a varsity letter for outstanding musicianship and dedication. Requirements for receiving a letter will vary according to grade, both in the number of activities necessary to letter and the eligible activities themselves. All freshmen, sophomores, and juniors will receive their letters at the Spring Band Awards Ceremony. All seniors will receive their letters at the Indoor Marching Band Show, held each fall. This way, band seniors will be able to wear letter jackets during their final year of high school. Requirements for each grade are included in this section. Each activity shows the number of points it is worth.

1. To letter as a Freshman earn 5 points from the following list:

- Marching Band (1)
- Wind Ensemble (2)

Gold, Blue, or White Symphonic Band (1)
Jazz I (2)
Jazz II/Jazz Lab (1)
Solo Ensemble Contest Class A (2) *Must earn Superior or Excellent rating.*
Solo Ensemble Contest Class B/C (1) *Must earn Superior or Excellent rating.*

2. To letter as a Sophomore earn 4 points from the following list:

Marching Band (1)
Wind Ensemble (2)
Gold, Blue, or White Symphonic Band (1)
Jazz I (2)
Jazz II/Jazz Lab (1)
Solo Ensemble Contest Class A (2) *Must earn Superior or Excellent rating.*
Solo Ensemble Contest Class B/C (1) *Must earn Superior or Excellent rating.*

3. To letter as a Junior earn 3 points from the following list:

Marching Band (1)
Wind Ensemble (1)
Gold, Blue, or White Symphonic Band (1)
Jazz I/Jazz II (1)
Jazz Lab (1)
Solo Ensemble Contest Class A/B (1) *Must earn Superior or Excellent rating.*

4. To letter as a senior participate in BAND FOR FOUR YEARS.

Activities are not cumulative from year to year. Each summer all participation returns to zero. Once awarded, letters may not be taken from an individual. If a member retires from the band program at the conclusion of a school year the former member may continue to wear his or her letter with pride. However, anyone who leaves the band program during the course of the year, either by forceful removal or personal volition will forfeit the privilege of wearing the Band Letter.

VII. Hudson Music Association

The Hudson High School Music Association (HHSMA) is a parent organization set up to support the band, choir and orchestra directors and students. The objectives of this Association shall be to build and maintain an organization which will benefit students of the Music Department and to cooperate where able with the Music Department in motivating and maintaining an enthusiastic interest in the various phases of music activity.

Once a month there is a meeting with the high school music directors, HHSMA officers and any parents who wish to attend. The directors each provide an update regarding their area. There are also updates provided by the parents who have volunteered to run various activities such as tag day, fruit sale, publicity etc. Information about the Music Association may be found online at www.hudsonmusic.org.

There will be a form in the band camp packet for parents which outlines the various commitments and responsibilities and volunteer opportunities of the HHSMA. This form will have a sign-up for parents who wish to lend their support to this very important organization.