



Symphonic Band

Handbook & Course Guide

Directors

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Band Updates & Info

Schoology

www.Masonbands.com

Symphonic Band Text Messages Via “Remind”

Mission Statement

The Symphonic Band is second highest wind and percussion ensemble in the William Mason band program. Selected by audition from upper level wind and percussion performers at Mason High School, the ensemble performs upper level repertoire for wind band regardless of instrumental dispensation and is committed to only the highest musical standards.

The Symphonic Band exists to provide students with the opportunity to engage with music and other student musicians at the highest level of performance, collaboration, and artistic expression. Engagement of this type stimulates the mind, heart, and soul of each of the ensemble members. Members will learn the art and craft of solo and ensemble music performance, the solitary discipline of practice and preparation, as well as the community experience of musical sharing in a group setting. Through dedication to consistent individual practice and increasing awareness of the social/musical environment of the ensemble, students will open a gateway to personal artistic expression and the impact of that expression on the outside world. Mastery of these realms will, in turn, enhance the student experience with music itself. The Symphonic Band practice and performance experience is designed to prepare students for future high level music performance experiences including the Mason Wind Symphony and University level participation.

Student Expectations

- Be dependable. Keep a current calendar of rehearsals, performances, and due dates. Be on time at all times.
- Private instrumental lessons are highly encouraged but not required
- Participation in OMEA Solo & Ensemble as a soloist is encouraged but not required
- Be prepared. Practice your parts and be ready to make your musical contributions to other ensemble members impactful.
- Be responsible. Care for your equipment, the equipment of others, and the facilities we use.
- Be interested. Show genuine interest in the ideas and performances of the ensemble, other students, teachers, and guest.
- Be supportive. Encourage the efforts of all ensemble members.
- Be courageous. Take musical risks and chances. The greatest learning and growth will come on the heels of your most vulnerable experiences.
- Be respectful. Treat others as you would want to be treated. Treat others as they would want to be treated.
- Be professional. Approach your Wind Symphony music, performances, and experiences as if you were a professional musician with a professional attitude.

Rehearsal Skills

Your ability to rehearse and perform at the highest level of attention and effort will be assessed and reflected in your Rehearsal Skills Grade.

Be on time to all rehearsals and performances. Be ready to play before the designated start time. Remember: To be early is to be on time - to be on time is to be late - to be late is unacceptable.

***Due to having lunch immediately prior to rehearsal Wind Symphony Students are expected to be seated and ready to play at the posted end time of lunch based on the schedule being used on the day of the rehearsal.**

Bring all necessary equipment to rehearsal. This includes a professional level instrument, all assigned music, pencil, and a tuner with a clip on microphone.

Come to rehearsal prepared to play all required parts. A learning schedule and performance expectations schedule will be provided for each piece being performed.

Warm-up professionally prior to the start of rehearsal. Wind Symphony members are encouraged to get to rehearsal before the official start time in order to properly warm-up. A professional warm-up is one that follows accepted norms for preparing to play on one's instrument. Consult the ensemble directors and your private teacher for advice on a professional warm-up. **End your warm-up when the director steps onto the podium to begin rehearsal.**

Follow all rehearsal norms established by the directors. Rehearsal norms will include but not limited to:

- Properly mark parts with rehearsal notes
- Having your tuner and microphone
- Singing when asked
- Following setup and teardown instructions
- Not talking during performance or instruction
- Sitting with proper posture
- Actively listening to match note lengths, style, entrances, and releases
- Actively listening and adjusting to achieve the desired ensemble balance and sound color

Grading

| | |
|---------------------------|---|
| 1. Rehearsal Skills: 20% | Students will be assessed on their ability to rehearse effectively. This includes readiness to being on time, bringing instrument, music, pencil, and tuner to every class, knowing their part, attentiveness to direction, marking music, working together to make improvements, following stated expectations, knowing and understanding vocabulary, and making a positive contribution to the class through participation and effort. |
| 2. Performance Grade: 30% | All students are required to attend all performances. Please refer to the attendance policy for more details on this portion of the grade. -October Band Concert -December Band Concert -Concert Band Camp -February Band Concert -Music for All Regional Concert Festival -OMEA District 13 Large Group Adjudication -May Band Concerts -Pep Band Performances (Basketball) -Scheduled after school sectionals/dress rehearsals -Memorial Day Parade (marching band members) |
| 3. Music Testing: 40% | -Scales (major/minor) -Arpeggios (major/minor) -Chromatic scales -Exercises from technique and musicianship exercises -Etudes -Solos -Concert Music -Music Theory *Testing can be written, recorded, performed live or through “SmartMusic” assessment. |
| 4. Exams: 10% | -Exams are cumulative and include all learned objectives for the semester and year. |
| 5. Required by not graded | -Private instrument study with and approved instructor -Participation in OMEA Solo & Ensemble as a soloist |

Section Rehearsals

Starting in December, students will be required to attend scheduled sectional rehearsals. Each sectional will last approximately 90 minutes. Sectionals will deal with the very fine details of music (musicality, range, intonation, specifics on various instruments, and limiting during various music passages). **All sectionals are mandatory.** Grading of sectional participation will fall into the performance participation portion of the student's grade in band.

Performance Participation

All performances are considered graded events with mandatory student attendance. All members are expected to play in all schedule performances dressed in the required concert attire (see concert attire section). Students are to arrive at the performance venue at time announced by the directors.

Performance participation is equal to 30% of a student's grade in band. An unexcused absence from a performance will result in a failing grade for that portion of their average. Absences are unexcused except in emergency cases or personal illness. Any school related activity conflict must be worked out between the advisors (including the band directors), student and parents at least three weeks in advance. The student has the responsibility to inform the band director immediately when the conflict is discovered.

In the event of an excused absence, the student may receive the full points for the performance grade by bringing in a letter (in cases of emergency/illness) upon their return to school, signed by the student's parents explaining the reason for their absence. The director may call for further verification. In addition, students with excused absences will be required to attend a professional or collegiate concert writing a two page typed paper on their observations or to make an individual recording of the concert music. The decision as to the selection of the make-up assignment will be made by the head director of the student's band class.

Seating and Challenges

Students may be moved up or down in their perspective sections at different times during the year. The changing of seating assignments may take place due to scheduled music testing sessions, student chair challenges, or due to a student being underprepared on an assigned part. Scheduled music testing will be done by the directors with results posted the day after the students play. Should a student wish to schedule a music challenge, he/she should contact the director and schedule a time for the playing challenge. Students wanting to initiate a chair challenge must have a current grade of "B" or better in order to qualify. Challenges will involve sight-reading and current band literature. Challenges may not take place within two weeks of a concert. The directors reserve the right to change student part assignments, reduce the number of students playing a part, or to move a student within sections at anytime due to musical needs or concerns.

Performance Attire

| | Purchased through the Mason Band Boosters | Purchase on your own |
|-------|---|---------------------------------|
| Men | White Tux Shirt (\$15.00)-One time purchase Tuxedo Rental (\$35.00)-Yearly Fee | Black Socks & Black Dress Shoes |
| Women | Concert Dress (\$65.00)-One time purchase Pearls (\$10.00)-One time purchase | Black Shoes |

Required Performance Dates

| Concert/Event | Location | Date |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------|---|
| Fall Band Concert | MHS Auditorium | October 11, 2017 (WS/SB/CW) |
| Concert Band Camp | MHS Auditorium | December 01-03, 2017 (WS/SB) |
| Winter Band Concerts | MHS Auditorium | December 07, 2017 (SB/CW/CS) December 12, 2017 (WS/CWH) |
| MFA/OMEA Preview Concerts | MHS Auditorium | February 26, 2018 (WS/CW) February 27, 2018 (SB/CWH/CS) |
| MFA Regional Concert Festival | MHS Auditorium | March 3, 2018 (WS/SB/CW) |
| OMEA State Large Group | Fairfield HS Auditorium | March 9 & 10, 2018 (WS/SB/CW/CWH) |
| Spring Band Concerts | MHS Auditorium | May 01, 2018 (WS/SB/CW/Jazz) May 15, 2018 (WS/CWH/CS/Jazz) |
| Memorial Day Parade | City of Mason | May 28, 2018 (Marching band only) |
| Basketball Pep Band | MMS Arena | 3 Required Games Dates TBA |

WS=Wind Symphony, SB=Symphonic Band, CW=Concert Winds, CWH=Concert White, CS=Concert Silver

Additional Performance Opportunities

| Concert/Event | Location | Date |
|---|-------------------------------|----------------------|
| MFA Honor Band Auditions Open to all band members info can be found @ musicforall.org | Recorded and submitted online | October 01, 2017 |
| OMEA District 13 Honor Band Auditions Open to all band members (see private teacher or one of the band directors for information) | Fairfield Middle Schools | December 02, 2017 |
| OMEA District 13 Honor Jazz Band Open to all band members (see private teacher or one of the band directors for information) | TBA | January 05-07, 2018 |
| OMEA District 13 Honor Band Weekend *Students selected by audition on December 02, 2017 | Mason HS | January 12-13, 2018 |
| OMEA District 13 Solo & Ensemble Open to all students (solo encouraged for Symphonic Band members) | Lakota West High School | January 20, 2018 |
| OMEA All State Band Weekend *Students selected by recorded auditions in May of 2017 | Columbus, OH | February 08-10, 2018 |
| MFA National Honor Band *For students selected by recorded audition in October of 2017 | Indianapolis, IN | March 14-17, 2018 |
| OMEA All-State Band Auditions Open to all band members for OMEA All State Band in 2019 | Recorded and submitted online | May 31, 2018 |

Financial Information

It is the policy of the Mason Music Department to provide this information regarding the finances of the performing organization. If there is a problem in meeting any of the commitments explained in this section, please feel free to contact Mr. Protzman or Mr. Green.

This section of the handbook explains the expenses of being in the instrumental music during the 1st and 2nd semesters. Expenses include school band fees, which includes Smart Music registration, clinicians, awards, supplies, as well as contest fees. In addition there are clothing fees such as tux rental, dress purchase, ect. It is necessary for each student to realize these expenses and be willing to help support their band and the entire instrumental music program.

The Mason Booster Organization is a parent booster organization that assists each of the music students in meeting their financial obligations and therefore their success as a student in the Mason Music Program. The purpose of the Booster Organization is to take charge of fund-raisers so that additional finances can be raised to pay for needed items. Those additional monies pay for social events, and awards for the students.

Required Band Class Fees (Separate from marching band fees)

| Description | Paid To: | Type | Amount |
|--|---------------------|------------------------------|-------------|
| Class Fee (School fee for band class) | Mason City Schools | EZPAY (Best Option) or Check | \$62.00 |
| Concert Attire Symphonic Band Men: -\$35.00 Tux Rental (Yearly) -\$15.00 Black Tux Shirt* Women: -\$65.00 for Concert Dress (One Time) -\$10.00 for Pearls (One Time) | Mason Band Boosters | Check | Up to 50.00 |
| School Owned Instrument Fee (only for students using a school owned concert instrument) | Mason City Schools | Check | \$80.00 |

Private Lessons

Symphonic Band members are highly encouraged to take private lessons. Half hour/hour private lessons are offered to band students at Mason High School and required for Wind Symphony members. Lessons are taught by an outstanding staff of professional performer/teachers and are scheduled Monday through Saturday during school, after school, and evenings at either Mason High School or at the instructor's private studio.

The band directors at Mason High School agree private lessons are the most effective way for young musicians to fully develop their performing talents. Private teachers help students develop tone quality, technique, musical style, practice discipline, and musical preparation. The lessons use a combination of explanation and demonstration while building the student's confidence to enjoy playing in group or solo situations. Private teachers use a variety of materials including, solos, exercise books, audition materials, as well as parts from full band arrangements. A student's private teacher will become an important mentor and role model in the student's musical development.

The cost of private instruction ranges from \$15.00 to \$30.00 per thirty-minute lesson with payments usually made four lessons in advance. Lessons can be started or stopped any time during the school year with makeup lessons given for illness, emergencies, or other excused absences. During the winter lessons are cancelled if school is closed or dismissed early.

The Mason High School Private teacher list can be found on line : www.masonbands.com



Symphonic Band

Handbook Acknowledgment Form
(Print and return)

Please sign and return to Mr. Green by

Friday, August 18th

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|----------------------|--|
| Student Name (print) | |
|----------------------|--|

- I have read the information listed in the Mason High School Wind Symphony course handbook.
- I understand the requirements and fees for the class
- I have checked the required performances, rehearsals, and events against my family and person calendar and understand that I am required to attend all scheduled items.

| | |
|--------------------|-------|
| Parent Signature: | Date: |
| Student Signature: | Date |