



Pennfield Bands

Student Handbook 2008-2009

Curriculum Goals

The learner/musician will become:

A LISTENER TO ALL KINDS OF MUSIC

Listening is an interactive process involving music perception, cognition, analysis, and evaluation resulting in aesthetic awareness.

A COMPOSER/ARRANGER

Composition/arranging is a creative process that results in a product of organized sound designed to express feeling.

A PERFORMER

Performing is a personal, experiential interaction with music through singing, playing, and moving. This experience can be alone or with others.

AN IMPROVISER

Improvisation is the spontaneous creation of original music.

PROFICIENT USING THE FORMAL / CONSTRUCTIVE ELEMENTS OF MUSIC

The formal/constructive elements of music are the theory, vocabulary, syntax, and symbolic representations of music.

KNOWLEDGEABLE OF HISTORICAL, SOCIAL, AND CULTURAL CONTEXT OF MUSIC

The historical, social, and cultural context in which music is written provides insight into our culture and the culture of others, and enlarges on the context in which a piece of music is created.

"WE REHEARSE COLLECTIVELY TO ACHIEVE WHAT NONE OF US ARE ABLE TO ACCOMPLISH INDIVIDUALLY"

Objectives for Participation

To provide the student with a sound education in the fundamentals of musical technique and expression.

To broaden the musical experience of the student through the performance of quality literature from many different musical periods and styles.

To encourage the application of the creative and critical thinking processes developed in music to other activities in the life of the student.

To encourage the development of self-discipline, responsibility, leadership, and communication skills through the application of these attributes to band activities.

To provide positive experiences that will promote lifelong musical participation.

To provide a focal point for school and community pride and spirit.

Student Leadership Positions

Students in leadership positions undertake these tasks understanding their vital importance to the success of the band. They understand there may be considerable time spent outside of band class and during the school day on these positions. They agree to make themselves available for such times.

Band President (HS) -- The band president serves as the primary student leader for the group. This person is selected by the other students on the basis of musical excellence and personal integrity. Responsibilities include consultation with the band directors, announcing at concerts, student conducting as needed, and responsible leadership whenever a director is not immediately present.

Drum Major (HS) -- Drum majors are selected each spring by the band director on the basis of marching and playing skill and potential for leadership. Drum majors are the student leaders of the marching band, and are figures of authority both on and off the field. Beyond field command, responsibilities also include conducting, sectional rehearsal as needed, and being an exemplary example of bandsmanship.

Section Leader (HS, MS)-- Section leaders are the musical leaders of their respective sections, and are selected by the director on the basis of playing skill and leadership potential. Responsibilities include independent scheduling and direction of sectional rehearsals, musical guidance in rehearsal, uniform inspections, and being an excellent example of musicianship and work ethic.

Squad Leader (HS) -- Squad leaders are in charge of the marching and playing of a squad, of four members, of the marching band, and are selected by the directors on the basis of playing and marching skill as well as leadership potential. Responsibilities include independent scheduling and direction of squad drill sectionals and continuing on-field guidance.

Equipment Managers (HS) -- Equipment managers are in charge of large instruments such as percussion and sousaphones when the band travels. They manage the loading and unloading of these instruments and keep the director informed of issues concerning this equipment. Up to three students may be selected for this leadership position.

Music Librarian (HS, MS) – The librarian will hand out, collect, and sort music. They will become familiar with the music storage room and are charged with keeping it organized. He/she is to keep track of replacement parts issued and report to the director.

Band Historian (HS, MS) – The band historian takes pictures and videos of band at certain times during the school year. They may be excused from playing their instrument at certain times to perform their historian duties. This should be a student interested in photography and videography and who is skilled in the computer aided presentation of band events.

Band Booster Liaison (HS) – This student attends band booster meetings on the 3rd Wednesday of each month and updates the boosters on band events and how the boosters can help the students. This requires a time commitment outside of the school day. There will be an alternate for this position.

Band Public Relations (HS, MS)—This is a student committee responsible for concert invitations, publicity, and the overall marketing of the band and their events.

Music

Music will be handed out with the intent that it will not be lost or damaged. Students will write their name with pencil on the back of their music.

Replacement of sheet music will be made in an emergency, but is not the priority of the director. It's a waste of time for other band members and the director to have to replace music. **TAKE CARE OF YOUR MUSIC!** Consistent failure to adhere to this policy will affect a student's grade. Students are spending the band's money when they need replacement music.

Mark music lightly in pencil so that it can be erased when it's turned in.

Upon music distribution, number all measures immediately. In some cases, students will be spot checked for numbering.

Students will be issued a folder in which to keep their band music. Through use, these folders degrade and new folders will be handed out free of charge.

Uniforms

(High School Band)

Uniforms play a very important part in the public perception and pride of the community, the band, and each of its individual students. The Pennfield Bands maintain a long-standing tradition of pride and self-discipline in uniform presentation.

Uniforms are issued prior to the marching and concert seasons. Students must wear only the uniform parts issued by the school. Only members of the Pennfield band are authorized to wear any part of the uniform. The uniform should be worn only for authorized band activities. Marching shoes are purchased by the student through the school to insure uniformity, and should be kept clean and polished to maintain their bright white appearance.

Non-uniform items such as decorative/humorous buttons, festival medals, sunglasses, etc. should not be worn with the band uniform. Students with longer hair will be required to wear it up under the hat--hair should not touch the collar. No jewelry should be worn with the band uniform.

Whenever a student has been instructed to wear the uniform, and appears in public, the complete uniform will be worn.

"In public" means in the public view, whether it be going out of the house, walking down the street, getting out of a car, or performing with the band. The band room and adjacent bathrooms are available for changing and are not considered in the public view. At no time should the uniform be worn unbuttoned, unfastened, or partially on or off. This applies to both the concert and marching uniforms.

Students are responsible for adjustment of the hems and sleeves of the uniform.

Pants should be adjusted so that the bottom front of the pant leg comes all of the way down to the shoe without causing a "break" in the pleat on the front of the ankle. Sleeves should be adjusted so that they extend just to the palm of the hand when the student stands in the "attention" position. Alterations to pant and skirt hems and jacket sleeves are encouraged, but more extensive alterations should be discussed with the director.

The uniform and all of its parts should be clean and wrinkle-free for all public appearances.

None of the parts of the uniform issued by the school are machine washable. It is the responsibility of the student to hang up the uniform immediately after each use, and to dry-clean the uniform as needed during the school year. Dry cleaning is required before turning the uniform back in. *Any uniform parts turned in must be accompanied by a receipt from the dry cleaner to confirm that they have been cleaned. Uniforms turned in dirty or without proof of cleaning will be subject to a \$20.00 cleaning fine **per uniform*** (the concert and marching units are considered separate uniforms--separate cleaning fees apply to each).

Uniforms (6th-8th)

The band uniform is a physical manifestation of your pride in yourself and our organization.

6th grade band members will need the following for the fall, winter, and spring concerts:

6th Grade Boys	6th Grade Girls
Black Dress Pants (JEANS are NOT acceptable.)	Black Dress/Skirt/Dress Pants (Skirt or dress must be BELOW the knee when seated.)
Black Dress Shoes (TENNIS SHOES are NOT acceptable.)	Black Socks/Nylons
Black Socks	Black Dress Shoes/Pumps (NO FLIP FLOPS OR SANDALS)
White-collared Dress Shirt (Polo shirts are acceptable.)	White dress shirt or blouse (Polo shirts are acceptable.)

7th and 8th grade band students will purchase a Pennfield Middle School Band Polo shirt at the beginning of the school year. The student will supply the rest of the concert uniform.

7th and 8th Grade Boys and Girls
Pennfield Middle School Band Polo
Black Dress Pants (JEANS are NOT acceptable.)
Black Socks
Black Dress Shoes (TENNIS SHOES are NOT acceptable.)

*Please begin planning for your uniform immediately. If you have any questions or financial concerns please see Mr. Driver immediately.

Grading Policy for 2008-2009

The success of a band student is measured in many different ways.

A GOOD MUSICIAN SHOULD BE:

1. **PUNCTUAL and PRESENT** at all band rehearsals and performances. Student participation in class is essential for a band to succeed. Unexcused absences from rehearsals and performances will result in lowering of a student's 9-week grade by two letter grades. Excused performance absences such as family emergencies and pre-arranged absences will be made up using the Performance Make-up Sheet. Each band member plays a vital role in the sound of the band. Prearranged, excused absences are rare, and must be discussed at least **one month prior to an event**. Please review the entire performance schedule and notify Mr. Driver immediately if you know you have a conflict with a performance. Each absence is handled on an individual basis.

2. **PREPARED** with instrument, music, and a pencil. Forgotten or incomplete equipment, or untidy uniform will result in a lowered grade. Being prepared also includes having music ready for playing quizzes, written tests, and band functions, such as concerts.

3. **COURTEOUS and RESPECTFUL** of other band members. During band rehearsal, the student is expected to remain quiet in his/her seat. Students are encouraged to ask questions by raising their hands. Gum chewing, disrupting of class in any way, and lack of attention will result in a lowered grade.

ALL WORK AND INTERACTION IN PENNFIELD BANDS IS BASED ON A MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING OF RESPECT AND TEAMWORK

A Student's grade is earned in the following manner:

<i>Daily Contribution</i>	25%
This includes music preparation, materials, attitude, and the student's overall contribution to the rehearsal on a daily basis.	
<i>Playing Quizzes</i>	20%
<i>Pennfield Bands Performance Attendance</i>	40%
<i>CD Report or Concert Attendance (HS)</i>	15%
<i>Practice Cards (Grades 6-8)</i>	15%

*There is no longer a practice card requirement in high school. It is expected that high school band students take the individual responsibility to practice and prepare their parts.

Tests and Quizzes

PLAYING TESTS and QUIZZES will be given periodically throughout the semester. Band members are encouraged to take these quizzes either (1) OVER THE TELEPHONE via VOICEMAIL by calling 269 961-9779 (see directions below), or (2) in person, by arranging a time to take the quiz with Mr. Driver.

It is a dangerous practice to wait until the last minute to take the playing quizzes, as there may not be time left at the end of the given time to take all the quizzes at once. For best results, take the test early on, which will give more time to re-take the test if necessary.

FORMAT FOR CALLING IN QUIZZES USING VOICEMAIL

1. Have music prepared and ready to perform. If you need music, keep it close to the telephone. Have instrument out and ready to play.
2. Dial (269) 961-9779.
3. Listen for the voicemail announcement.
4. After the beep, leave this information verbally:
 - Your Name
 - What band and grade level you are in
 - What Instrument you play
 - What quiz you are playing, i.e., page number, song, etc.
5. Gently place the phone down in front of your instrument, and play the quiz.
6. Once you have finished, hang up the phone.
7. If you wish to re-take the quiz at anytime during the semester, repeat steps 2-6.
8. You may check grades on Zangle for results of the quiz. Due to the individual nature of playing quizzes it is not possible to get immediate feedback and grading. Please allow 2-4 days to get quiz results.

CD Report/Concert Attendance (HS only)

As stated in our curriculum goals, students should become listeners to all types of music as part of their band experience. Each semester, students will write about a CD they have listened to or a concert they've attended. See details below.

CD REPORT

A student will choose one of the following:

1. A CD, which features the instrument of the student, approved by Mr. Driver
2. A CD of concert band or orchestra, approved by Mr. Driver
3. A CD of a movie soundtrack, approved by Mr. Driver
4. A CD of a musical or opera, approved by Mr. Driver
5. Other CD's must be approved by Mr. Driver

The CD report is a write-up of specific musical attributes heard throughout the CD, such as dynamics, phrasing, balance, intonation, articulation, etc. The report must be at least 2 pages, double-spaced, Times New Roman, font size 12.

CONCERT ATTENDANCE:

1. A live concert performance that features the main instrument of the student, approved by Mr. Driver. WMU and other surrounding colleges and universities have many free concerts throughout the year.
2. A live concert performance of any of the symphony orchestras in Michigan.
(i.e. Battle Creek Symphony Orchestra, Grand Rapids Symphony, Detroit Symphony)
3. Other Performances – MUST BE APPROVED IN ADVANCE BY MR. DRIVER.

The concert report is a write-up of specific musical attributes heard throughout the concert, such as dynamics, phrasing, balance, intonation, articulation, etc. The report must be at least 2 pages, double-spaced, Times New Roman, font size 12.

Do not wait until the last minute to attend a concert. You will need to plan ahead to ensure that there are concerts to attend prior to the end of the semester. No exceptions will be made for not planning ahead.

FULL BAND SEMINAR REHEARSAL SCHEDULE FOR 2008-2009

September 5, 2008 -- Marching Band- Both Sessions
September 19, 2008 -- Marching Band- Both Sessions
October 3, 2008 -- Marching Band- A Session Only
October 17, 2008 -- Marching Band- Both Sessions
October 24, 2008 -- Marching Band- A Session Only
December 10, 2008 -- Marching Band- A Session Only
December 17, 2008 -- Pep Band (Volunteer)
March 4, 2009 -- Symphonic Band- A Session Only
March 6, 2009 -- Symphonic Band- Both Sessions

Other full band sessions may be scheduled if needed due to weather or conflicts with other school activities (testing, etc.).

During the school year, additional sectional rehearsals will be scheduled as needed both during seminar and before or after school. Students will have input into scheduling sectionals before or after school to accommodate sports and work schedules and will be required to attend once they have committed to a time.