

Welcome to the McHenry High School Concert Band!

For returning members, it's wonderful to have you back again, and I am looking forward to working with you during this upcoming school year. For new members, the entire band is glad to welcome you, and we know you are in for a great experience. We have several new changes and additions in store for this upcoming year, though plenty will remain familiar to returning veterans. Student and parent input is welcome along the way, and opportunities for members to participate will be many. I am glad to have you here, and I am looking forward to an exciting year working with all of you!

~Mr. Weidner

Program Goals

The goals of the bands at McHenry High School are as follows:

- to expose students to a wide variety of musical styles and approaches, focusing on developing an understanding of the theory, culture, and history from which the music came;
- to develop students' musical and technical skills as individual musicians and ensemble members;
- to provide students with an educational and fun musical experience; and
- to perform quality literature in concerts which are both entertaining and educational for band members and our audiences.

Expectations

Members of the McHenry High School bands will be expected to:

- prepare all assigned musical parts by the appropriate date as laid out in the rehearsal schedule, in terms of notes, rhythms, and musical expression;
- attend all rehearsals, performances, contests, and tours unless advance notice is given to the Mr. Weidner and exception is made;
- complete all assignments and projects, both in class and individually at home; and
- serve as representatives of McHenry High School and its music program in a professional, responsible manner.

Assignments and Evaluations

Members of the McHenry High School bands will be assessed using the following tools:

- **Participation and attendance**
 - 3 points are given each day. Points may be lost due to tardiness, poor behavior, poor participation, and failure to bring all materials.
- **Performance checks**
 - Assessment will be made regarding technical accuracy and adequate preparation.
- **Written Assignments**
- **Quarterly Individual Performance Evaluations**-Students have two options and will need to decide by August 29th which option they will pursue for the entire year:
 - Small ensemble participation-Small ensembles must be made up of at least 4 MCHS band members on primary instruments (unless permission is given otherwise) and will rehearse outside of the regular school day. These rehearsals will be primarily run by the student members but students may arrange for rehearsals with Mr. Weidner. All ensembles must perform and be evaluated on either a solo-ensemble concert or a pre-concert recital once a quarter.
 - Playing tests-At the end of each quarter, students will perform an assigned music excerpt, scales, and sight-reading. These playing tests are held in scheduled slots before or after school.
- **Scales**
 - All scales must be performed from memory.

- Once a student performs a scale accurately, they do not need to perform that scale again. At least two scales must be performed correctly at any time to count.
- Progress will be shown on a chart posted in Mr. Weidner's office.
- Students may perform these at the end of any class, during open periods, or before/after school.

Scale required by semester and year	1 st semester	2 nd semester
Freshmen	Bb,Eb,Ab,Db,F,C,G major	Gb,D,A,Cb/B major
Sophomores	Above scales with arpeggios	Above scales with arpeggios
Juniors	All major scales with arpeggios	a, d, g, c, f, bb minor scales with arpeggios
Seniors	All major scales with arpeggios	All minor scales with arpeggios

- **Self-Evaluations**
 - These assessments occur at the end of the quarter and require students to assess their own development over the course of the previous quarter.
 - A prompt will be provided which will outline the expectations for each self-evaluation.
- **Performances**
 - Students are expected to attend all scheduled performances both on campus and off campus. Absences will only be excused without loss of grade points in extreme pre-arranged cases or for sickness/family deaths
- **Experience points**-Students must participate in one music experience per quarter and complete a "Music Experience Points" sheet to document their progress. These options include:
 - Participation in and critique of an extracurricular ensemble (This does not need to be school sponsored and cannot be an ensemble used for small ensemble participation points)
 - Enrollment in and critique of weekly private lessons (These do not need to be on the students primary instrument)
 - Attendance as an audience member and critique of a live music performance of at least 30 minutes
 - Critique of 2 recorded performances (audio or video) of at least 1 hour combined
 - Article review (provided by Mr. Weidner no less than 2 weeks before the end of the quarter)
- **Music Notes**
 - This monthly newsletter will go home with students during the first week of each month. Students must return the bottom of the newsletter with a parent signature.
 - This serves as a 5 point assignment.

Grading

Grading will be broken down as follows, using the assignments above as criteria:

20% Participation/Punctuality

20% Music preparation/Scales

20% Assignments/Music Notes

25% Performances/Self-evaluations/Small ensemble participation/Playing tests*

15% Experience points

*Unexcused absence from a performance will result in an automatic drop of one letter grade from the quarter grade.

Materials

Students are expected to bring the following materials with them to every rehearsal. Failure to do so will result in the loss of daily participation points.

- Instrument
- Music folder and music (provided by school)
- Pencil (not pen)
- Instrument specific materials as listed on the last page

Performance Attire

The formal concert attire for the concert band is as follows:

Men:

White shirt with tie

Black pants, socks, and shoes

Women:

Black concert gown (provided by school)

Black shoes

Instrument and Music Assignment

School instruments which are being used by students are the responsibility of the student assigned to it. Any damage or loss to the instrument will be at the student's expense to repair or replace. Students using school instruments are expected to provide their own mouthpiece. **The student assigned the instrument is expected to maintain the instrument and take the necessary precautions to prevent its damage. By the second week of classes, students using school instruments need to provide evidence of all maintenance materials or daily points will be lost.** Problems with instruments should be conveyed to Mr. Weidner immediately.

All members will be assigned parts and be given music which is to be returned at the end of the concert cycle. Loss of any of these parts must be reported immediately so that they may be replaced. A replacement cost for the music is applicable.

Student Leadership

In addition to being members of the band, students have the opportunity of participating in student leadership in a variety of different ways. Opportunities for leadership can be found both in individual ensembles and within the entire music program. Students for these positions are selected on their own personal merit and take into consideration leadership, reliability, responsibility, musicality, character, and other such traits.

Section leaders are selected on a quarterly basis. The expectations for these individuals are that they are both capable musicians AND leaders. Their responsibilities include organizing sectionals, reporting section progress to the director, and assisting other musicians in developing their musicianship. Section leadership is a responsibility, and students not executing this responsibility may be removed from their positions. Section leaders are expected to complete a "Section Leader Assessment" form to be turned in on the last day of each week as an assignment. Section leaders turning in all section assessments are exempt from Self-Evaluations. Additionally, McHenry High School has a Tri-M Music Honor Society which serves as the student leadership organization for the music program at McHenry High School. Members meet once a month and provide service to the music department and McHenry High School. Applications are available in April of each year. Membership requirements include participation, scholarship, leadership, service, and character.

Parental Involvement

Parents are more than welcome to both observe rehearsals and performances and also to help in various functions of the music program. Parental assistance is necessary for a variety of activities, including but not limited to:

- Chaperoning for trips and tours.
- Equipment hauling for rehearsals and performances.
- Fitting and repairing of music department uniforms.
- Contacting members and families about changes and opportunities.
- Fund raising for the MCHS music department.

If you are interested in assisting the music program in any way, please contact Mr. Weidner so that you can be contacted when assistance is needed.

T.E.M.P.O.

T.E.M.P.O. (To Enhance Music and Performance Opportunities) is the parent booster organization for the MCHS performing arts. It serves as an invaluable aid to the music department by providing both practical and financial assistance which opens up new possibilities for the students of McHenry High School. All are welcome to join, and T.E.M.P.O. welcomes new faces at all its meetings, which are typically held the second Wednesday of each month in the West Campus Music Room at 7:00 PM and are listed on the Music Department schedules. If you have questions, please contact Mr. Weidner or T.E.M.P.O. president Tracy Thompson. Our next meeting is on **WEDNESDAY**, September 9th in the West Campus Music Room.

Contact Information

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact Mr. Weidner either in person, by phone, or e-mail.

Phone numbers: East Campus-(815)385-1145 x6469

West Campus-(815)385-7077 x6469

E-mail: weidnerbrian@dist156.org

Website: <http://dist156.org/staff/music%20website/>

Major Concert Schedule 2009-2010

Date	Concert	Ensembles	Location
8/12	Parent Preview	Marching Band	West Campus Field
8/28	Football game	Marching Band	McCracken Field
9/12	McHenry Marching Festival	Marching Band	McCracken Field
9/25	Football game	Marching Band	McCracken Field
9/26	Phantom Regiment Festival	Marching Band	Harlem HS-Machesney Park
10/2	Homecoming	Marching Band	McCracken Field
10/13	Fall Choral Concert	Choirs	West Auditorium
10/14	IMEA Auditions	Selected Students	Niles North HS-Skokie
10/15	Fall Festival of Bands	CB, MB, SB	East Main Gym
10/17	Marching Music Bowl	Marching Band	Downers Grove South HS
10/21	McHenry Jazz Festival	Jazz Band	East Theater
10/23	Football game	Marching Band	McCracken Field
10/28	Tri-M Benefit Concert	Solos/Small Ensembles	East Theater
11/11	Veteran's Day Ceremony	Symphonic Band	MCC Main Gym-Woodstock
11/14	IMEA District VII Jazz Festival	Selected students	New Trier HS-Winnetka
11/21	IMEA District VII Festival	Selected students	West Main Gym
12/2	Fox Valley Jazz Festival	Jazz Band	Cary Grove HS
12/5	Madrigal Dinner	Surround Sound, madrigals	East Theater
12/8	Messiah Concert	Symphonic Band, Choirs	West Auditorium
12/10	Holiday Concert	Concert Band, Choirs	East Theater
12/12	Messiah Concert	Symphonic Band, Choirs	Holy Apostles Church
1/6	McHenry County Honor Band Auditions	Selected Students	Marian HS-Woodstock
1/21-23	McHenry County Honor Band	Selected Students	Woodstock North HS
2/4	NIU Jazz Festival	Jazz Band	Northern Ill. Univ.-DeKalb
2/12	Swing Dance Concert	Jazz Band	East Theater
2/17	Winter Choral Concert	Choirs	East Gym
2/18	Winter Band Concert	Concert Band, Sym. Band	East Gym
3/6	Solo/Ensemble Contest	Solos/Small Ensembles	TBA
3/19	Northshore Concert Band Festival	Symphonic Band	Northwestern U.-Evanston
4/20	Tri-M Small Ensemble Concert	Solos/Small Ensembles	East Theater
5/4	Spring Concert	Concert Band/Choirs	West Auditorium
5/6	Spring Honors Concert	Symphonic Band/Choirs	West Auditorium
6/12	Music Awards	All music students	West Auditorium
5/25	Tour kick off concert	Symphonic/Jazz Bands	Veteran's Memorial Park
5/26-30	Toronto Tour	Symphonic/Jazz Bands	Michigan State U/Toronto
5/31	Memorial Day Ceremony	Symphonic Band	Veteran's Memorial Park

TEMPO Meeting dates-7:00 PM @ West Campus

September 9th
 October 14th
 November 11th
 December 9th
 January 13th
 February 10th
 March 10th
 April 14th
 May 12th
 June 9th (if necessary)

