



August 2015

Dear Band Members and Parents,

Welcome to the 2015-2016 Miamisburg High School Band Program.

We are looking forward to an exciting year of band performances and music education. This handbook describes the entire Miamisburg band program, including all three concert band, both jazz bands, marching band, fall color guard, winter percussion, and pep band. We have included information on all aspects of the program that may apply to your present interest and we hope to answer any questions you may have about the future.

This handbook is designed to be a helpful guide, whether you are a first year or fourth year member of the band. It begins with a student section that covers all policies and procedures for all ensembles in the band program. The calendar and forms are for your entire family's reference. More detailed information will come throughout the year.

We all wish every student the best possible experience in the band program. We are truly excited to have you with us and we are looking forward to a great year.

Steve Aylward and Ryan Wintersheimer  
Band Directors



### **Band Program Philosophies**

- Music is a fundamental piece of the human experience and communicates across many barriers. We sincerely believe that this makes music a necessary endeavor and essential part of any student's education.
- To this end, it is the philosophy of the Miamisburg City Schools Band Program to educate, to the fullest extent, every child enrolled in band. This shall include skill development, understanding, and appreciation for all forms of music from many different cultures.
- Students will develop and enhance their own performance, rehearsal, and practice skills.
- Students will develop a good work ethic, show consistent progress, and play an important role within a successful musical experience.

### **Contact Information**

We feel that communication plays a major role in any successful band program. Please contact us with any questions you may have using the information below. Generally, because we see so many students daily and travel between buildings within the district during the school day, email is *by far* the easiest way to contact us – In nearly all cases you will have a response within 24 hours.

**Mr. Ryan Wintersheimer**

865-0011, ext. 2014

[rwintersheimer@miamisburg.k12.oh.us](mailto:rwintersheimer@miamisburg.k12.oh.us)

**Mr. Steve Aylward**

866-0771, ext. 1604

[saylward@miamisburg.k12.oh.us](mailto:saylward@miamisburg.k12.oh.us)

Cell – 937-232-0756 (for emergencies only)



## **Required Materials**

All band students are required to have the following materials with them in class daily:

- Instrument in good playing condition
- Written material and assignments
- Pencil – Keep one in your folder or instrument case!
- Band Folder containing all music and any handouts given
- Any additional Items necessary for playing your specific instrument:
  - Brass – Valve/Slide oil
  - Woodwinds – cork grease, reeds, EXTRA reeds (You need to have at **least 3 reeds** at all time – no exceptions)
  - Percussion – Sticks, Mallets, etc.

**Failing to have any of the required materials will result in a loss of 3 points from a student’s participation grade each day.**

## **Additional Materials**

As student musicians continue to grow, it is strongly suggested (and in some cases required) that he or she owns a **tuner/metronome**. Wind Symphony students are required to own a tuner. Tuners and metronomes are also available as Apps on any Smart device. These have come down in price over the years and greatly aid in your student’s development on their instrument. Contact the band office if you have any questions. Shortly before the holiday season, the band office publishes a “wish list” of step-up instruments and additional band-related equipment that you may find helpful.

## **Purchasing Materials**

All band materials and accessories (reeds, oil, etc.) must be purchased and replenished throughout the school year through a music retailer. The band office is unable to securely store and/or sell these items to students.

## **Local Music Retailers**

**Hauer Music**  
937-222-2815

**Buddy Rogers Music**  
1-800-536-2263

These are just a few of the many stores in the Dayton-Cincinnati area that are happy to serve your musical needs. If you have specific questions, please contact your child’s band director for suggestions.



## **Performance Opportunities**

### *MUSIC DEPARTMENT CURRICULAR OPPORTUNITIES*

**Wind Symphony** – This is an ensemble for the finest musicians at Miamisburg High School. It is intended for Grades 10-12 through audition, but 9<sup>th</sup> graders can audition into it if they score high enough. This group plays the most challenging and demanding music of any of the high school bands. This class will meet one period a day for the entire school year. This group will perform several concerts throughout the year.

**Symphonic Band** – This is another auditioned ensemble geared towards advanced students in Grades 9-12. While it is not as challenging as Wind Symphony, it still provides a significant challenge to students. There are normally between 10-12 9<sup>th</sup> graders that make the Symphonic Band each year. This class will meet one period a day for the entire school year.

**Concert Band** – This ensemble is open to all students that satisfactorily completed their previous year of band. Any student that either does not choose to audition or does not reach the Symphonic Band performs with the Concert Band. The music is a continuation and step up from the MMS program, but generally not as challenging as Wind Symphony or Symphonic Band. This class will meet one period a day for the entire school year.

**Star City Jazz** - This ensemble is for the finest jazz musicians at Miamisburg High School. It is open to trombones, saxophones, trumpets, and rhythm section musicians. This class will meet one period a day for the first semester, and then meets after school for the rest of the year.

\*\*\*\*\* NOTE: Any student wishing to perform in jazz band **MUST** be enrolled in one of the three concert bands. (Concert Band, Symphonic Band, or Wind Symphony)

**Music Theory** – Open to grades 9-12, this is an opportunity to learn how music works. The course will begin with a brief introduction to music reading and will quickly progress through scales, keys, intervals, chords, and non-chord tones. Any student planning to continue music study in college or who has a strong musical interest would benefit from this class. This class lasts for one semester and is taught the second half of the year.

**Music History** – Open to grades 9-12 as a survey of the history of Western music from medieval times to the present. Students will study musical developments and styles, relating them to historical periods. Any student with an interest in music or history would benefit from this course. There are two sections of this course offered, one during each semester.



*MUSIC DEPARTMENT EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES*

**Jazz Lab Band** – This auditioned ensemble is intended for excellent jazz musicians in grades 9-12, featuring the same instrumentation as the Star City Jazz. It is more introductory in nature, with more emphasis on learning and understanding jazz style, as well as improvisation. This ensemble will meet twice a week after school during the second quarter and once a week after school during the second semester.

**Marching Band** – This is the most visible performance ensemble in Miamisburg. We will be spending a great deal of time talking about marching band. Marching band is a completely after school activity that does not affect your ability to stay in band. This group includes the fall color guard, which maintains a similar but separate rehearsal schedule to the rest of the band.

**Pep Band** – This group plays for all boys' basketball games during the winter. There are a few practices in November, and then many performances in Miamisburg for games.

**Winter Percussion** – This ensemble will be open to all band students that desire to learn the skills of percussion instruments and apply those in a competitive ensemble setting. This group will meet several times a week following the conclusion of marching band season and lasting into April. It will be a competitive ensemble, competing in several local and national competitions.



## POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

### Band Classes

(Wind Symphony, Symphonic Band, Concert Band, Star City Jazz)

#### I. GRADING POLICY

- A. All band courses are participation and performance-based music classes. Grades will be based on the following components.
- B. Daily Participation and Performance Evaluation
  - 1. 70% of a student's grade is based on daily work and participation in class.
  - 2. Students who are prepared and rehearsing to the best of their ability will receive full credit for participation.
  - 3. The daily participation grade will be reduced if a student is disrespectful to others, disruptive, unprepared, or is not participating in class.
  - 4. Weekly written work and regular performance evaluations will also contribute to this portion of the student's grade.
- C. Performance Attendance
  - 1. 30% of a student's grade is based on performance attendance.
  - 2. While band is a curricular subject, it requires, by its nature, some after school commitments. These will include occasional rehearsals and some performances.
  - 3. Performance dates are listed in the band calendar. Any additional after school commitments will only be scheduled with ample notice to students and parents. **Any one unexcused absence from an after school function will result in the loss of the Performance Attendance portion of the final grade and possible removal from the band program.** (see attendance policy)

#### II. ATTENDANCE

- A. Attendance in class and at rehearsals is imperative to our success.
- B. Concert Band is a curricular subject and is treated like all other classes at Miamisburg High School in regards to class attendance.
- C. In addition, attendance at after school functions may be required for many ensembles.  
(These dates can be found in the band calendar.)
- D. **Excused** absences from after school functions:
  - 1. A written excuse, stating an acceptable reason for the absence and signed by a parent, is required in the case of any absence.
  - 2. Acceptable excuses include but are not limited to:
    - a. Illness that causes student to miss school
    - b. Death in the family or other family emergency
    - c. Wedding or similar ceremony involving an immediate family member
  - 3. **Signed excuses should be presented to the director as soon as the student and parent become aware of a conflict and at least one month**



**prior to a performance. Special considerations can be made for emergencies and will be dealt with on an individual basis.**

4. Conflicts with employment or other non-school events will *not* be considered an excused absence. Students are given ample notice of all performance and rehearsal requirements to arrange their work schedule. (Present your employer, coaches, and advisors with your schedule early)
  5. Conflicts with other school organizations will be considered, but must be brought to the attention of the director as soon as possible. Conflicts may be resolved much easier with advance notice.
  6. Decisions on the acceptability of excused absences are at the discretion of the director. All decisions will be final.
- E. **Unexcused absences** from after school functions (marching band/winter percussion)
1. If a student is missing unexcused from a rehearsal or performance a phone call will be placed to the home by a director or band manager.
  2. An unexcused absence from any rehearsal or performance will result in the loss of an upcoming performance opportunity. The “disciplined” member must attend but will not perform with the band.
  3. Following a second offense there will be a conference with the directors, student, and parents. This conference will serve to determine if and under what circumstances the member will continue in the band program.

### III. CONCERT DRESS CODE

- A. We believe that an important part of music performance is the uniform “look” of the ensemble. Like any team or ensemble, we want to emphasize uniformity over individual appearance. Please help us in this matter by following the Miamisburg Bands Concert Dress Code.
- B. The Dress Code for all Concerts (unless otherwise stated) will include:  
Gentlemen will wear black dress shoes, black socks, black pants, and a white Shirt (ties are optional and should be of a conservative nature)  
Ladies will wear black slacks or a black skirt (**knee length or longer**), black dress shoes, and a white blouse.
- C. Students who do not meet the Concert Dress Code will not be permitted to perform on the concert and will receive an incomplete grade for the performance.



#### **IV. CONDUCT**

- A. When students are representing Miamisburg High School, they are acting as ambassadors of both the music program and the entire school district; and as such, it is important that they refrain from any conduct that will bring discredit or dishonor to themselves, the band, or the school. All students representing the school at any event, either local or outside the city, are bound by the regulations of the school.
- B. All rules and regulations of the school district will apply during all band rehearsals, performances, field trips, concerts, etc.
  - 1. No display of affection is appropriate in uniform. Any remotely excessive display of affection at any time is unacceptable.
  - 2. Foul or crude language while representing the school shows a lack of respect for the organization and the school, and therefore will not be tolerated.
  - 3. Disrespect or harassment of fellow students, chaperones, or staff will not be tolerated.
- C. Band members are expected to honor the requests of all school personnel including staff members, bus drivers, and chaperones.

#### **V. TRIPS**

- A. All members will be required to ride the band bus to and from any trip unless the director grants special permission.
- B. Only members of the band, chaperones, and staff will be permitted to ride the busses.
- C. While on a trip, chaperones and bus drivers are given the same respect and authority of school personnel.
- D. All rules of Conduct listed in section IV will apply on all trips.

#### **VI. RESPONSIBILITY FOR SCHOOL INSTRUMENTS / EQUIPMENT**

- A. Musical instruments and other equipment must be signed out through a band director. At that time you must complete a rental agreement form and will be responsible for the equipment until it is officially checked back into the inventory.
- B. The rental agreement for the school year is \$60 and is payable upon receipt of the contract to Miamisburg City Schools. This fee will only be charged once per student and allows us to keep quality instruments in good working order.
- B. Ordinary care must be used when maintaining your instrument or equipment. You will not be held responsible for normal wear and tear or aging of any band equipment etc. You will, however, be held financially responsible for damage, which occurs due to lack of proper care, neglect, rough handling, and/or loss of equipment.





## **VII. STUDENT / PARENT CONTRACTS**

Included in this handbook is a contract for membership in any and all aspects of the Miamisburg Band Program. Please complete this contract and return it to the band office at your earliest convenience.

## **VIII. SUPPLEMENTAL CALENDARS AND ROSTERS**

Supplements are published for additional ensembles as they are created. These may contain rosters and contact information, as well as more detailed rehearsal information. They will be made available to your students and online at [www.miamisburgbands.com](http://www.miamisburgbands.com).

## **IX. ENSEMBLE RESPONSIBILITY**

All band members must complete all ensembles in which they are enrolled to receive recognition at the end of the year band awards banquet. Any member that does not fulfill these obligations will not be recognized and will not receive any awards for ensembles completed.

## **X. COMMUNICATION**

Communication is a key to a successful band program. Parents are asked to contact the band office through phone or e-mail with any concerns or questions that may arise during the course of the school year.

### **Grading Policies**

All band students are graded according to the following plan:

#### **Daily Participation / Evaluation – 40%**

This portion of the grade will consist of in-class participation, attendance, cooperation, and preparation (bringing materials to class). Students who are on time to class, have all necessary materials, rehearse properly, and put forth a quality effort will receive full credit each day.

#### **Playing Tests / Written Tests – 30%**

Students will be evaluated periodically throughout the quarter through a variety of written and performance examinations. Evaluations will be based on student performance in class, and therefore, evaluations can differ from person to person and section to section with an ensemble.

#### **Performance Attendance – 30%**

All students are required to attend all scheduled performance as stated in the attendance policy. Students receive points not only for attending and performing, but also for remaining for the duration of the entire concert as well as conducting themselves in a professional manner. Students who choose to behave poorly, either on stage or as an audience member, will lose performance points despite how well they may perform as a musician.



## **Private Lessons**

One of the most valuable investments a parent can make for a band student is in a good private lessons teacher. There is nothing that compares to instruction from a musician who has dedicated his/her life to studying and perfecting the art of one instrument. **We strongly encourage all band members to study privately.** Private lessons are for all students - beginners, those who are struggling, those who are advanced, and everything in-between. **All students, regardless of ability, can benefit from a private instructor.**

Below are some instructors that are currently offering lessons to Miamisburg students, with the possibility of more being added in the future and posted in the band room. Please contact these instructors directly for lesson information or the band office if you have questions.

## **Private Instructors**

### **Mr. Bill Dixon**

Trumpet, Trombone  
[whiteshoes76@gmail.com](mailto:whiteshoes76@gmail.com)

### **Miss Miranda Watt**

Clarinet  
Watt.miranda@gmail.com

### **Ms. Sarah Robertson**

Flute  
Bella Musica – 937-865-6539

### **Mr. Joe Hochadel**

Saxophone  
That Music Place – 937-748-3501

### **Ms. Maureen Longo**

Percussion  
Maureen.longo@gmail.com

### **Mr. Don Rader**

Horn  
Phone: 937-433-1334

### **Mr. Norlan Bewley**

Trombone, Baritone, Tuba  
nbewley@woh.rr.com  
Phone: 937-253-5812

### **Mr. Jared Kortz**

Percussion  
[j.kortz88@gmail.com](mailto:j.kortz88@gmail.com)

### **Mr. Andrew Whitman**

Trumpet  
whitmanaj12@gmail.com



## *Did You Know . . .*

**The Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania School District analyzed its 1997 dropout rate in terms of students' musical experience. Students with no ensemble performance experience had a dropout rate of 7.4 percent. Students with one to two years of ensemble experience had a dropout rate of 1 percent, and those with three or more years of performance experience had a dropout rate of 0.0 percent.**

*Eleanor Chute, "Music and Art Lessons Do More Than Complement Three R's," Pittsburgh Post-Gazette, April 13, 1998.*

**Two research projects have found that music training can dramatically enhance children's spatial-temporal reasoning skills, which leads to success in subjects like math/science.**

*Shaw, Grazianow, and Peterson, Neurological Research, March 1999.*

**In a 1995 study in Hamilton, Ohio, music students who participated in pullout lessons averaged higher scores than the non-pullout students in all areas of the Ohio Proficiency Test. Sixty-eight (68) percent of the students achieved satisfactory ratings on all sections of the test, compared to fifty-eight (58) percent of the non-pullout students.**

*Michael D. Wallick, "A Comparison Study of the Ohio Proficiency Test Results Between Fourth-Grade String Pullout Students and Those of Matched Ability," Journal of Research in Music Education, 1998.*

**Music students out-perform non-music on achievement tests in reading and math. Skills such as reading, anticipating, memory, listening, forecasting, recall, and concentration are developed in musical performance, and these skills are valuable to students in math, reading, and science.**

*B. Friedman, "An Evaluation of the Achievement in Reading and Arithmetic of Pupils in Elementary School Instrumental Music Classes," Dissertation Abstracts International.*

**Researchers at the University of California and the Niigata Brain Research Institute in Japan have found an area of the brain that is activated only when reading musical scores.**

*"Musical Brain – Special Brain Area Found for Reading Music Scores," NeuroReport, 1998.*

**The College Board, in a publication about college admissions, states, "preparation in the arts will be valuable to college entrants whatever their intended field of study."**

*Academic Preparation for College: What Students Need To Know and Be Able To Do, The College Board.*

**In a 2000 survey, 73 percent of respondents agree that teens who play an instrument are less likely to have discipline problems.**

*Americans Love Making Music – And Value Music Education More Highly Than Ever, American Music Conference, 2000.*

**College admissions officers continue to cite participation in music as an important factor in making admissions decisions. They claim that music participation demonstrates time management, creativity, expression, and open-mindedness.**

*Carl Hartman, "Arts May Improve Students' Grades," The Associated Press, October, 1999.*

**A 1997 Gallup Survey on Americans' attitudes toward music revealed that 89% of respondents believe music helps a child's overall development, and 93% believe that music is part of a well-rounded education.**

*Americans' Attitudes Toward Music, The Gallup Organization, 1997.*

