

2007 — 2008

Yerington Band
Handbook

This handbook belongs to _____

It is my belief that the Yerington bands are the best organizations that you could belong to. Every member is critical to the success of the band. I welcome everyone with all ranges of ability. It is my duty to teach and help the band to achieve a high level of performance. Your duty is to give 100% effort every time we are together. The band is not only “our” band, but the school’s and community’s band. Once again, we will all have the continuing challenge of bringing the finest musicians of two schools (YHS and YIS) together. You will be part of the history (good or bad) that you help create.... so with your help and determination, we can and will continue to be...

“The Pride of Mason Valley”

C.E. Jeka, Band Director

Adopted 8/2007

General Saving Clause

The band director and/or the administration reserve the right to change all or part of this handbook at any time. It is not the intent of the band director to violate any Lyon County School District Policy or any individual’s rights by this handbook.

Grading Policy

Final Exam (Given at Director Discretion)

A 90 - 100
B 80 – 89
C 70 – 79
D 60 – 69\
F 0 - 59

Students will be issued a time to make a recording of a final exam etude, to be completed by a specified date. The recording will be done at school or may be completed at home on “Smartmusic” and e-mailed to the director. No recording will result in an “F” for the semester grade!

“Final” results (score will affect your grade in the following manner)

Scores 90-100 = 1 semester grade higher; 70-89 = no grade change; 60-69 = 1 grade lower; 0-59 = 2 grades lower.

Participation in YIS or YHS sports and other school related extra-curricular activities.... will not lower your grade! However, the following is expected:

- A. Notification a minimum of 2 weeks prior to the event.
- B. Band rehearsal takes precedent over sports practice. (see the director)
- C. Band performance takes precedent over sports practice.

Other pertinent information...

- All rehearsals & performances are mandatory!
- All performances are important. However, some performances are extremely important! Including: Concerts, festivals, contests and parades! You must complete an alternative assignment if you to be excused for credit. Unexcused absences from major performances will most likely result in failing for the semester.
- **There will be NO EXCUSES accepted for missing homecoming parade and game! Plan your schedule accordingly.**
- Failure to have your instrument or equipment will lower your grade.
- “Attitude” problems (talking, not paying attention, etc...) will lower your conduct grade... then it will lower you semester grade!
- Not being properly attired for a performance (filthy shoes, improper attire or colors) will lower your conduct grade... Then it will lower your semester grade.
- Auditioning for Honor Band, All-State, and performing in Solo & Ensemble festivals will have a positive impact on your grade.

- Please remember... we are a band! You and Each person are important! Your attendance is very important! Sometimes things happen where it is impossible to be at two places at once. Please try to be considerate of all the hard work you and the rest of the band have put in and how your absence would affect the band! Work schedules can be changed... therefore working will be considered an **unexcused absence!**
- Situations that arise throughout the year will be dealt with fairly on an individual basis.
- A good “rule of thumb” is not to spring something on the director at the last minute, **NO SURPRISES!** You will be informed of all rehearsals and performances as soon as they are known. I want to be informed of all possible absences as soon as you know about them...**NO SURPRISES!** (Please refer to bullet item #2 above) I have been teaching music for 11 years and have not bitten anyone, YET! Talk to me about any problems or situations before they become **BIG** problems.
- Grading will also be done by the stipulations of your signed acknowledgement.

Individual Awards

- Letter to be awarded at the beginning of the students 2nd year in the YHS band.
- All awards are contingent upon the student maintaining a minimum “B” average in band. Students not maintaining this minimum average will delay their award for a minimum of one semester and receive their award only if they have received a “B+” or better for their probationary semester.
- With the addition of 8th grade band members, students may be awarded a letter during their freshman year.
- The final decision of determining awards shall be made by the director.

Band Performances

We practice in order to perform! The following is a breakdown of our performances: **(ALL PERFORMANCES ARE MANDATORY)**.

Pep Band (YHS Concert band ONLY)

Football/Basketball Games - We perform at all home varsity games unless noted otherwise.

HOMCOMING Bonfire, Parade and Game. Participation is mandatory! **No exceptions!** If you are in band, you are here for these activities. If you are in another organization that has a parade float, marching with the band takes precedence. Cheer is excused as they work together with the band for parades!

Pep Assemblies

- Performance call is always, in your seat, dressed and with music and equipment, ready to perform the first song, **30 minutes before the game.**
- Use the restroom and eat before performance call... no one will leave for a break or food before halftime is over!
- Be in the prescribed uniform for the duration of the performance, No exceptions!

- Watch the game; be prepared to perform the song on deck when situations warrant (touchdown, quarter, timeout...)
- Break is 3rd quarter, be back in your seat by one minute remaining on the clock, tardy members will receive only half credit for the performance.
- No one leaves until all equipment is properly stored in the music room. You will be dismissed after all instruments are properly stored, music is put away and uniforms are checked in and properly hung. I will loudly announce when we are done and you may leave. Everybody has places to go! The faster this is done, the faster we all get to leave. Leaving early will lower your conduct grade, semester grade and revoke your travel privileges PERIOD!

Concert Band Performances

Winter concert

Spring Concert

Band festivals

Other band performances such as caroling for YES, 5th grade band introduction, staff birthdays at school.

Transportation... Must be by LCSD vehicle

1. Exceptions may be made by the principal and director in very rare and special circumstances.
2. ONLY the parent(s) or legal guardian(s) may pick-up band members from an event if:
 - A. The band member previously gives the director a written note from the parent/ legal guardian.
 - B. The parent/legal guardian gets in touch with the band director immediately after the performance. The parent/legal guardian must then complete an official release form.
 - C. NO EXCEPTIONS!

Trips

Part of the fun of being a part of the band is taking trips.

1. When the band is taking a trip, the proper forms must be given to the director a minimum of **two days before the trip! NO SLIP....NO TRIP!** (Usually, bus seating will be determined by order of slips received!)
2. Be aware of eligibility for trips according to participation in required performances throughout the year.
3. You will be representing yourself, our school and community. Be the best you can be. A trip is a privilege, not a right!
4. **All school and music department rules apply on all school sanctioned trips!**

Jazz Band

- Open to all students 5-12 band and any non band members wishing to take part.
- Grades are attendance and performance based. (Being on time for an early morning class counts toward your grade, tardies will negatively affect your grade!)

- Student volunteers are welcome to be part of this band on the grounds that they are well prepared on their solos and parts. The director will be the final judge of whether the student is prepared for the performance and will determine if the student will perform or not.
- Performances will include Winter concert, Spring concert, Band Festival and the Spring Shriners Dinner.
- The director of the Jazz Band solely determines the performance schedule and personnel of the group.
- On occasion this class may be canceled due to the fact that the school district does not provide substitutes before 7:50 am. In case of class cancellation, every effort will be made by the director to inform the students before hand.

Classroom Expectations

Our rehearsal time is valuable, therefore:

1. You must be in your seat, ready to rehearse two minutes after the tardy bell. No exceptions!
2. Talking will not be tolerated.
3. Reeds, oil, etc.. will be available before or after class (or rehearsal)... **not during!**
4. Hall passes will not be issued. (Extreme emergencies will be considered)
5. Excuses will not be tolerated for: not marching, not rehearsing, etc. Written notes only and only if presented **before** class begins.
6. All school rules apply at all times.
7. NO GUM in class or at anytime you have your instrument assembled for playing.
8. No food or drink other than "PLAIN" water permitted in the music room, football field, gym during class time.... Your grade will be lowered and the food or drink disposed of immediately.
9. Chairs and stands will be placed on their respective racks after each class unless otherwise advised.
10. Students will have a pencil at all times. This will be checked and graded.

Music Folders

- a. Each student will be assigned a folder number and will be required to maintain that folder in good order at all times. Spot inspections will occur for a conduct grade.
- b. Students will write their folder number in pencil in the top left of each piece of music and each handout.

Leadership team

8/2007

New this year, a leadership team will be selected by the director to assist in library management, equipment management and attendance.

Uniforms

Concert

Until our school supplied uniforms arrive, concert band dress will be:

White dress shirt, black pants and black dress shoes. No exceptions!

You have nearly four months before our first winter concert so no excuses for not having the proper attire will be accepted. If cost is an issue, Mr. Jeka is to be notified upon return of the signed page at the end of this handbook so a cost effective solution may be found in due time.

No uniform...you will not perform, no performance.... no passing grade!

When our new school band uniforms arrive, a handbook amendment and use contract will be distributed to each student before any uniforms will be issued.

Marching Band

Centennial shirts, blue jeans, athletic shoes.

Pep Band

Pep band shirts, blue jeans.

Your uniform will remain on from the time we begin performing until the director gives permission to change after our performance. No Exceptions! Any challenge of this rule will lower your conduct grade.

Honors Programs

Honor band

1. Selected by a taped audition made in late October/ early November.
2. Held during school time (usually January/February) therefore one must maintain YIS YHS eligibility requirements.
3. You must be a member of the band in good standing (“B” or above, few or no absences/tardies. No “N”s or “U”s.)
4. All fees are paid by the Yerington bands music budget... but must be reimbursed if the student is accepted but does not attend or is removed for discipline reasons.

Allstate Band

1. See Honor Band requirements
2. Must have performed in the Honor Band concert to be eligible to perform in the Allstate band.
3. The LCSD Music budget provides money for fees, transportation and lodging. (Food costs are not provided)
4. All fees must be reimbursed if the student is accepted but does not attend (including auditions) or is removed for discipline reasons. Also, the NMEA will prohibit you from participating in the future should you not attend after being selected.

Solo & Ensemble Festivals (NZNMEA & State)

1. All fees are paid by the Yerington bands music budget... but must be reimbursed if the student is accepted but does not attend or is removed for discipline reasons.

2. The student must have received a superior rating (I+, I, I-) in the NZNMEA festival in order to be eligible to participate at the Allstate Festival Zone Festival. The Director will have the *final authority* in determining whether the student or group shall participate at the Allstate festival.
3. The performer(s) MUST provide their own accompanist. (\$20 – 60 is standard)

Please note the eligibility contract! All dates will be made known as soon as they are available!

Instruments

1. Instrument forms (contracts) MUST BE SIGNED and given to the director if you are using a school instrument. Over \$2000 has been spent over the past two years to repair school owned instruments due to neglect. Therefore if your (school owned) instrument is damaged or broken due to neglect, you will be responsible for repair or replacement!
2. Reeds, valve oil, etc. are available for a nominal fee from the director... extended credit will be due at the end of each semester.
3. Percussionists will need to pay an equipment user fee for use of school percussion equipment and school sticks and mallets. All YHS equipment will be returned to its correct place at the end of each rehearsal. (See percussionist user agreement).
4. Percussion students will also need their own sticks, mallets, brushes and a stick bag. This must be purchased by September 10, 2007.

Fund Raising

This is an essential activity if we are to procure equipment and fund trips not paid for by the school district. Activities will be announced throughout the year. It is the responsibility of everyone to “DO THEIR SHARE”!

Concert band chair placement... Shall depend on the results of a playing test (this test shall be graded in the manner of the playing final).

1. Chromatic Scale ascending – tongued descending – slurred
2. Audition piece
3. Sight reading (may be included)
4. The audition will be recorded in the band taping room. Someone will be in the room to assist you and operate the recording equipment. ONCE AGAIN... you will be graded for your efforts.

Chair challenges

1. The challenger must let the director and the challengee know of the challenge 1 week in advance. The director will inform the contestants as to the piece(s) they will be playing.
2. Challenges shall take place in the band room during lunch on Fridays. The challengers will not be seen during the challenge.

3. An AD Hoc committee of interested band members along with the director shall be the judges. The director's decision shall be final.
4. The winner of the may be challenged again only two weeks in a row.
5. If the challenger (lower chair) wins, the challenged (upper chair) may challenge in (1) one week, after which there will be a moratorium on that challenge for a minimum of three weeks.
6. If the challenge is unsuccessful (lower chair fails) there will be a moratorium on that challenge for a minimum of three weeks.
7. Challenges will use the following procedure, alternating between players:
Chromatic scale (2 octaves), piece #1, piece #2. **CHALLENGERS WILL IN NO WAY TALK OR LET THEMSELVES BE KNOWN ON THE TAPE TO THE JUDGES. Disqualification will result!**
8. Challenges will not b permitted 2 weeks prior to a concert or festival.
9. Failing to appear for a challenge is an automatic disqualification.

Return to the director by

Friday August 31, 2007

Parent/Legal Guardian and Student Acknowledgement

I have read this handbook and understand its contents. I understand that by following the guidelines and rules set forth in this handbook and by applying effort and making every attempt at improvement that I have every ability to earn an "A" in band. I understand that should I fail to follow any or all of the guidelines set forth in the handbook I risk losing my chance at earning an "A" in band. I also understand that should I have any questions not answered by this handbook that I will immediately contact the director for clarification and not assume I know the answer. I understand that this is not a legal binding contract but merely a list of guidelines for proper conduct and procedure in band.

Student Signature

Parent/Legal Guardian signature

Print Name

Print Name

Date

Date

List Sports/Activities involved in:

