**2017-2018 Hampton Music Handbook**

Welcome to the Hampton Music Department! I am pleased to have you as part of this exciting group, whether you are a member of junior high chorus, band, or choir, and I hope you will give your utmost in helping us create a fine musical ensemble. It is necessary for any group to have certain written policies governing its members, and by presenting these policies in this handbook, many misunderstandings can be avoided. By providing you and your parents with a copy, I know that we all can be aware of what is expected in this classroom.

The main emphasis of the music program is on **musicianship and pride of accomplishment**, followed closely by **citizenship, loyalty, tradition, positivity, and spirit**. It is the pride of a job well done and the accomplishments achieved that make the sacrifices worthwhile. You are a crucial factor in the success of this group. Striving for our common goals and upholding the philosophies and guidelines of the HHS music department will help us to achieve success.

**ATTENDANCE EXPECTATIONS**

Attendance at all scheduled performances is **REQUIRED** for membership in the music program. **Absences are permitted in the event of illness, death in the family, or unavoidable emergencies and conflicts**. All absences must be presented in writing (from a parent**) at least two days in advance**, when possible. Failure to appear at scheduled performances may result in a failing grade for that quarter. **It is impossible to “make up” an appearance or performance. Only those students with excused absences will be allowed to complete a make-up assignment for that particular grade**. Extenuating circumstances should be discussed with the director **prior to the event. WORK** is **NOT** an excused absence; ALL performances are listed in the back of this handbook, which is posted on teacher website, as well.

**Pep Band** attendances are strongly encouraged and reflected in each student’s lettering points and grade. We are a band few in number when the athletes leave to participate in their sporting events. We need everyone to do his/her best to attend as many pep band events as possible. Every pep band performance is listed in the back of this handbook. Please keep this for reference. I do know that everyone is busy, and sometimes conflicts arise that just can’t be avoided. I don’t expect students to take off EVERY performance from work. However, if I see students at games who choose to not perform with the band, I will reflect that in the grade. Please see Mrs. Farris ASAP, if you know that you will be unable to attend a pep band event. **All pep band members are responsible for getting your own instrument(s) back to the band room. Please note: Any students who are freshman or junior varsity players are expected to be playing in the pep band, unless the coach needs that particular player elsewhere. In that case, a conversation with Mrs. Farris and the coach is expected.**

Pep band for junior high students is strongly encouraged. We need you!

**RESPONSIBILITIES TO SCHOOL EQUIPMENT**

The school district provides the necessary setting and facilities for our performances and rehearsals, as well as some of the larger, more expensive equipment. ***Each student playing a school-issued instrument will be completing a “School Instrument Contract,” and will pay an annual fee of $25 for instrument rental.***

Each student is issued music throughout the school year. The folder and music are the responsibility of the student. Lost or damaged music will cost the responsible party the replacement value. This also extends to lyres, flip folders, and any other necessary materials provided by the school.

**PERCUSSIONISTS,** HHS will provide one new batter head for each snare drum as deemed necessary due to **normal wear.** Any damage inflicted upon drum heads (including bass and timpani) will result in the purchase of a new drum head by the person causing such damage. Players are responsible for lost or damaged equipment (including music) and will be billed for the replacement of such. *This includes sticks and mallets.*

**FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY**

While we are fortunate to receive most of our financial support through the board of education, we also need to supplement this with fund raising projects of our own. These fund raisers are dedicated to the expense of trips, as well as personal equipment needed for band and choir (shoes, etc.). You will be responsible for providing the extra necessary items for your uniform (such as black marching shoes (we will order these in the fall) and black socks).

Each student has a personal music account. Money from fund-raising is placed in this account. Purchases for band/choir equipment (shoes, reeds, oil, etc.) may be deducted from this account.

**BUS AND TRAVEL REQUIREMENTS**

When buses are provided, all members must ride the bus both ways. This can be adjusted ONLY **when written** permission from parents is given. **Please do not call to inform us that your child will not be riding the bus.** We will accept texts and emails. Students are not allowed to drive to events, unless permission is granted by the administration. **Only Hampton students, parents, and sponsors are allowed to ride the buses.**

**UNIFORMS**

A uniform will be checked out to each band student at the beginning of the school year. These uniforms will be checked in after each performance event and will be kept at the school.

**CHOIR ROBES**

High school students will wear choir robes for all performances. These will also be kept at school. Boys must wear dress pants and dress shoes underneath their robe. **NO EXCEPTIONS!** Girls may wear dresses with dress shoes underneath their robes.

**PERFORMANCE DRESS CODE**

We have two options for our concert performances: our concert uniform or a dress outfit that contributes to the look of sophistication. BAND MEMBERS WILL ALWAYS WEAR CONCERT UNIFORMS TO PARADES, CRC BAND, HONOR BANDS, AND TO DISTRICT MUSIC. We want to maintain a look of professionalism, so the following dress code requirements must be met for ALL JUNIOR HIGH choral students, or a student will receive a grade reduction for that performance:

1. BOYS must wear dress pants (not jeans), a button-up shirt, tie, and dress shoes.
2. GIRLS must wear a dress or skirt of appropriate length, a dress shirt, and dress shoes. NICE dress pants may be substituted for a skirt. Bermuda shorts are not considered dress attire, nor are cheap flip-flops.

*During this economy I realize that it may be difficult for some to meet the requirements of this dress code. Please see me if you have financial concerns; we want everyone to participate, and I will find a way!*

**LESSONS**

Every student has access to lessons throughout the school year. Lessons may be given during the school day, if schedules permit, but most likely, they will occur before or after the school day. Please contact Mrs. Farris if you wish to take advantage of this opportunity. Lessons don’t need to be a year-long commitment—they can meet the needs of the student.

**GRADING SYSTEM**

A very important item that needs to be understood is that music is an ACADEMIC class. The class tests (performances) have a very high degree of visibility. In reality, the performances become the evaluations of how well the group is achieving and how the individuals are progressing. Along with the attendance factor and a willingness to learn, the general attitude of a student, as well as their actual performance level is considered when establishing and assigning a grade. The most serious issue to negatively affect a grade would be to not show up for a scheduled performance. This results in a failing grade. Your grade will be divided into four parts:

**Participation:** This grade includes punctuality, on-task behaviors during rehearsals, minimal talking, respect for teacher and others, NO GUM, CANDY, BEVERAGES, OR FOOD, positive attitude and effort.

**Performance:** This is the easiest grade to earn high marks through. To earn a 100% for a performance grade, each student must be in attendance and demonstrating positive aspects of the participation grade. Students must also be dressed according to the performance dress code.

**Written and Performance Assessments:** During the first three quarters there will be one playing exam administered during each quarter in band. First quarter will include memorization of the marching piece. Second quarter will include demonstration of knowledge of the winter concert music. Third quarter will include demonstration of knowledge of the District Music contest selections. *Should a student audition for honor bands, the District Music recording (and possibly others) will be waived.* All theory and vocabulary assignments will fall into this category, as well.

**Care and maintenance of music, instruments, uniforms, and school equipment:** A weekly grade will be given in this area; a quick check of your music folder, and/or an assessment of your uniform before a performance/parade will serve as the base for this grade.

**AWARDS AND LETTERS**

We have a new lettering policy this year; please view it in Google Classroom. All letterwinners must be enrolled in the class. During the freshman year a Chenille will be issued. Each year thereafter bars will be distributed for pinning on the H letter.

Various awards are also given for students who participate in honor bands, contest, and other events. **The John Philip Sousa Band Award** and **The National School Choral Award** are presented to the most outstanding member of the senior class who demonstrates leadership, musicianship, citizenship, character, and dedication.

**REEDS, OIL, AND SUPPLIES**

Students are able to purchase reeds, valve oil, slide oil, and other instrument maintenance items through the school. In the past it has worked out well that these supplies are deducted from student accounts. Should a student acquire a bill and not have sufficient funds in his or her account, a bill will be sent to parents. **STUDENTS PLEASE NOTE: All items MUST be marked down in the notebook.** We currently have an “honesty” system with students writing down their supplies. If this does not happen, you will have to purchase supplies through the music store.

**CONCLUSION**

The accomplishments of the HHS ensembles depend on each member of the organization. Even if just a few members don’t cooperate fully, the group becomes an inefficient organization. I hope that each member will assume a responsibility to do his or her part to make our year at HHS a memorable one for all. The behavior policy will be followed at all times.

Please return the handbook agreement sheet, located at the back of this handbook, by **Friday, August 25.** THIS IS A GRADE FOR YOUR CHILD. FOR EACH DAY THAT THIS SHEET IS LATE, 10% WILL BE DEDUCTED FROM THAT PARTICULAR GRADE. WHAT AN EASY WAY TO EARN 100% FOR A WRITING GRADE!