



Mrs. Ciji Coates and Mrs. Nancy Ciacciarelli, Band Directors

PROGRAM INFORMATION

The HMS 7th & 8th grade band program is an exciting continuation of the ARIS 6th grade band experience. This large program currently has 200 members with lots of ways to participate and get involved!

HMS Band Placement:

HMS has 3 curricular bands - Concert Band, Symphonic Band, and Wind Ensemble. To better serve all instrumental students, ensemble placement is based upon performance level, not grade level and there can be fluidity (*i.e. changes*) to placement if needed. This allows for improved flexibility and personalized instruction. Additionally, students are placed into the performance group that will support/promote individual growth, musical development, and achievement.

Students will be placed into Concert Band or Symphonic Band in the beginning of the school year after an informal ensemble placement screening. Specific music will be shared in June with ARIS band directors for summer practice in preparation for these fall screenings. All students are accepted and welcome into the program!

Wind Ensemble placement will be determined by a more rigorous audition process which will require students to prepare a solo piece that demonstrates advanced musical ability, sight reading, 3 memorized major scales and a one octave chromatic scale (not memorized).

A sign-up form for ensemble placement screenings will be shared in early September prior to the start of the new school year via email.

HMS Bands:

The majority of incoming 7th graders will be placed into Concert Band or Symphonic Band.

Below is a list of performance criteria for all three curricular HMS Bands:

Concert Band: Level 1 - performs band literature ranging from grade 1 to 1.5

Scale expectations by end of year: Concert Bb, Eb, F and C scale.

Observation of basic accidentals within those keys and enharmonics.

Concert Band rehearses on Monday and Tuesday mornings.

Symphonic Band: Level 2 - performs band literature ranging from grade 1 to 2.

Scale expectations by end of year: Concert Bb, Eb, F, C, Ab and chromatic scale.

Observation of basic accidentals within those keys and enharmonics.

Symphonic Band rehearses on Wednesday and Friday mornings.

Wind Ensemble: Level 3 - performs literature from grade 2 to 3.

Scale expectations by end of year: Concert Bb, Eb, F, C, Ab, G, D and chromatic scale.

Observation of challenging accidentals within those keys and enharmonics.

Wind Ensemble rehearses on Tuesday and Thursday mornings.

Jazz Ensemble

This is an extra curricular ensemble that meets Mondays and Fridays.

Students will study the basics of jazz style and jazz articulations.

Auditions will take place for Jazz Ensemble in November. Rehearsals will begin in December.

Specific, individualized schedules are created for students if there is a curricular band rehearsal conflict.



HMS Band Attendance Policy & Schedule:

Because Band is a performance based art, attendance is an essential element for the success and development of the entire group. All Band students are required to attend 2 mandatory before school ensemble rehearsals (period 0) per week and one small group lesson which will occur as a pull out that rotates throughout the school day.

Students are to be dropped off between 7:00 am - 7:20 am. Period 0 begins promptly at 7:30 am.



Unexcused period 0 rehearsal absences include:

1. Students who are in school *during* the school day, yet do not attend period 0 rehearsal.
2. Students who schedule extra academic help during period 0 band rehearsals. Band is also a core subject. If extra academic help is needed in another core subject, students need to arrange for help on a non band rehearsal day.
3. Any club activity that interferes with any rehearsal one month before a concert event.

Students who are in school and do not attend period 0 rehearsals or small group lessons during the day will receive the grade book equivalent of an F (64%) for individual/group performance.

The dress rehearsal (final rehearsal at HHS) and the rehearsals one week prior to the concert are mandatory.

1 quarter rest absence “coupon” may be used per marking period. The quarter rest will served as a single “free pass” and will not impact band ensemble grade for that particular marking period (this coupon is *not* redeemable one month prior to a concert).

3 late arrivals within a given marking period will equal 1 unexcused absence within a marking period.

Small Group Lesson Instruction:

Small group lessons will rotate throughout the entire school day with the exception of lunch.

Students will be placed in homogeneous groups (*same instruments*) from the same performing ensemble.

Weekly individual performance grades are determined based upon small group lesson performance & preparation (evidence of home practice).

A "flex" schedule option will be provided in the event that a student experiences an unavoidable conflict (*academic assessment or test review*) and needs to attend his/her lesson at an alternate time. All lesson groups are provided with at least one “flex option” lesson time.

Students will be responsible for notifying Mrs. Coates or Mrs. Ciacciarelli one day prior to the lesson should this situation occur.

Rehearsal Etiquette for HMS Band Rehearsals/Lessons:

1. Anything that disrupts the flow of a rehearsal is considered to be poor rehearsal etiquette.
2. Have all of the materials that you need. Stopping a rehearsal to get things wastes time.
3. Be ready to go when the rehearsal starts.
4. Every rehearsal has natural breaks or pauses in the routine. If you have a question, wait until there is a natural pause. Always raise your hand.
5. Every rehearsal goes through the process of breaking down the performance piece into small sections. Naturally, there is a lot of stopping and restarting. It is during these in-between times that the director or members will want to evaluate and describe the things that went well or need to be fixed. It makes sense that there is no talking during this time.
6. Often during a rehearsal, one section will rehearse while another section is left idle. When other sections are rehearsing, listen and watch what they are doing. You will probably have to do the same thing yourself. Whatever you do, do not talk or disrupt. The group leader will take this as a sign of disrespect to both the leader and the other performers.
7. Mark or make note of important things that the director or other members point out so that you will remember it next time. It is a waste of time to go back and relearn what you have already learned. Wasted time results in a sloppy performance.
8. Make transitions smooth, quiet, and seamless.



Required Materials for HMS Band/Lessons:

Students are expected to attend rehearsals and lessons with the following:

1. instrument, binder, lesson book, tuner/metronome combo (*phone tuner apps are not permitted*), and a pencil (mechanical pencils are most convenient).
2. Lesson books should not be purchased until the fall after ensemble placement screenings have concluded. A band supply list will be available on the school website, google site and will be shared out via email to all families.
3. Students will also be required to purchase an HMS band t-shirt which will be worn for all concert dress rehearsals, Raider for a Day event in the fall, and HHS Recruitment Day in January.

Cell Phone Policy:

Cell phones are *not permitted* in the HMS rehearsal space, concert stage, or in the HHS auditorium due to distraction/disruption to the instructional environment.

Additional Information:

1. Due to elevated performance standards, any student receiving a C or below during any marking period *will not be eligible to participate* in evening concerts, festival concert events, or the year end Dorney Park or Six Flags Great Adventure Field Trip. Students at risk will be notified in a timely manner so that performance corrections can be made. This policy is enforced. Students and parents are highly encouraged to regularly check grades in Genesis.
2. Students are expected to check their email regularly. Lesson schedules and important reminders are sent via email and on Remind text messages. Class codes for Remind will be sent after ensemble placements.
3. A car pool friend finder for morning ride share possibilities will become available in the fall. A link to google sign-up form will be shared after ensemble placements.

HMS BAND FAQ'S:

How many concerts do we perform?

The Concert Band, Symphonic Band, and Wind Ensemble perform 2 concerts per year at HHS. One in December and the other in May. Concert attendance is mandatory. The Jazz Ensemble performs a separate concert in March at HHS.

Can I participate in sports at HMS and still be in band?

YES! Members of the band are on *every* school team!

Is it difficult to carry my large instrument around the Middle School?

No. The HMS Band Room has instrument racks for larger instruments. You can drop off your instrument in the morning and pick it up in the afternoon!

Are there any field trips?

Yes! We have exciting dress rehearsal trips to HHS, Raider for a Day Marching Band trip in the fall, and a fun year end trip to Dorney Park or Six Flags Great Adventure!

Additionally, Wind Ensemble members will also have the opportunity to attend a Broadway Show in NYC and perform the National Anthem at the Patriots Stadium!

How am I graded in the HMS Band Program?

Students will receive a letter grade each marking period. Grades are determined by weekly individual performance, weekly ensemble performance, marking period performance assessments, and google classroom assignments. More information about grading will be provided in the fall.

Expectations are clearly outlined, explained and posted in Genesis, google classroom, and on the HMS Band Google Web Site.

What do current HMS Band Students say about the program?

“I love that I can play music with people of my level. The conductors put you where they feel you belong. This is good because you get music that challenges you. I also love the environment of the band program. I can also have fun with my friends.” - Paige, grade 8

“The best part about being a member of the HMS Band program has to be the people. That includes the two amazing conductors, all the other band members, and any guest musicians we may have for events such as fun master classes. At HMS, you become super close with all the other band members and it feels like a second home. Not only is the band program a great way to learn how to become a better musician, but it's a way to make sure you have a built in support system and feel like part of a family. Mrs. Coates and Mrs. Ciacciarelli have given HMS band students a place to really feel comfortable in their own shoes, and long lasting friendships are made in the band room.” - Emma, grade 7

“The best part is having all the fun. You get to play an amazing instrument and you learn a new skill. Then you get a whole new group of friends. I have grown to know and become close to so many people and without band this would have never happened. You get to do stuff together that nobody else in the school would get to experience.” - Alex, grade 7

“The best part about being in the HMS band is all of the fun you have. We go on many field trips throughout the year. This is a great time to hang out with your friends and even make some new ones. Also, Mrs. Coates and Mrs. Ciacciarelli are very fun and convivial people. They try to make band rehearsals as fun as possible and I think they have done a really good job. Also, this year we added Music group houses and we have to compete against each other in sections to get the most points. These are just a few of the things that make band a fun place to be part of.” - Parin, grade 8



Hillsborough Middle School Performing Arts

“Stronger Together!”

2017-2018