



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 220 members with lots of ways to participate and get involved!

### **About the Bands & 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 audition process.

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

There is also a Jazz Ensemble at HMS. Auditions will take place for Jazz Ensemble in November.

## **HMS BAND ENSEMBLES:**

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

Wind Ensemble students will need to earn a place in this group by a more formal audition in the fall (*similar to HHS*).

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

**Concert Band:** Performs literature from grade 1 to 1.5

Students mostly perform within the “intermediate-on level” rubric rating on the HMS Band Performance Rubric.

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

Observation of basic accidentals within those keys and enharmonics.

**Symphonic Band:** Performs literature from grade 1 to 2.

Students in this ensemble mostly perform “on level” according to the HMS Band Performance Rubric..

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

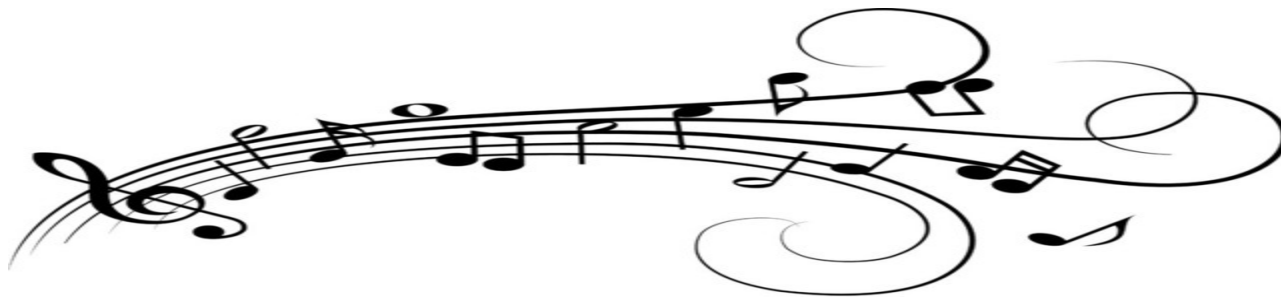
Observation of basic accidentals within those keys and enharmonics.

**Wind Ensemble:** Performs literature from grade 2 to 3.

These students consistently perform on the “expert” level according to the HMS Band Performance Rubric.

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.



## **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 (*not* redeemable one month prior to a concert).

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



## **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: instrument, binder, lesson book, tuner/metronome combo (*phone tuner apps are not permitted*), and a pencil (mechanical pencils are most convenient).

## **Cell Phone Policy:**

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

## **Additional Information:**

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 Field Trip. Students at risk will be notified in a timely manner so that performance corrections can be made.

A car pool friend finder for morning ride share possibilities is available. Indicate interest on the sign-up google form located on main page.

## **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 Band and Jazz Combo perform 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, and a fun year end trip to Dorney Park!

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.

***What do current HMS Band Students say about the program?***

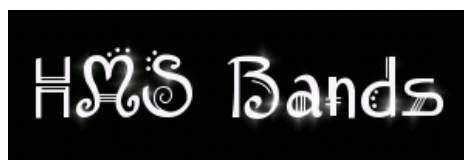
*“In band I feel joy, challenged, and that I am becoming more advanced as a band player”. ~ Julia, grade 7*

*“It sometimes can be tiring waking up early in the mornings, but once you get to band you forget about waking up because you're having so much fun! I enjoy taking field trips, especially to Broadway, because it helps me get a better understanding of what the performing arts is really like. Being in band is a blast! 3 adjectives that describe my experience: -Beneficial -Fun -Great Learning Experience”. ~ Jenny, grade 8*

*“An experience worth having!” ~ Eli, grade 7*

***Some other adjectives students have used to describe their HMS Band experience include:***

*“Amazing, Inspiring, Life Changing, Happy, Excellent, Exciting, Fun, Cool, Easy/Hard, Interesting, Awesome, Beautiful, Fun Cool Easy/Hard, and Incredible!”*



**Hillsborough Middle School Performing Arts**

**“Stronger Together!”**