

# Hickory High School Band



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## STUDENT/PARENT HANDBOOK

2019-2020

## **Welcome to the Hickory High School Band Program!**

We are so excited that you have chosen to join our band program! The Hickory High School Band is continuing to build a tradition of excellence as an award-winning program, earning several Superior ratings and accolades at marching band and concert band events at the regional, state, and national level. We are glad to have you on board!

I am privileged to serve as the band director at Hickory High School. My background includes teaching band at the middle and high school levels as well as professional music experience and church music leadership.

I have three goals for each and every student in the Hickory High School Band Program: to learn, to have fun, and to develop a lifelong love and appreciation of music! We will accomplish these goals through dedication, hard work, and a relentless pursuit of excellence. Achieving excellence has been and will continue to be the focus of the Hickory High School Band, because I am a firm believer that the above three goals are best accomplished when musical and personal excellence is the focus of our program.

Achieving excellence takes a great deal of commitment and effort. In order to be successful we rely on the commitment of every student and parent in the program. Please be sure to mark your calendars with all the important dates for the season, and commit to being on time and giving 100% effort for every camp, rehearsal and performance. Band is a team activity, and it is imperative that we have all members present and working hard in order for us to reach our full potential.

Additionally, please read carefully and familiarize yourself with all the information, policies, and procedures contained within your band handbook. This handbook is intended to be used by students, parents, administrators, staff, and the director as a convenient source of information regarding the various aspects of the Hickory Band Program. Band members and parents are expected to understand and abide by the handbook!

As we prepare to launch a new year, remember that the cornerstone of the Hickory Band Program is the pursuit of excellence through learning, experience, dedication, and team effort from both students and parents. The program's success is based largely on the ability of students and parents to commit to the activity and be involved. It is important to note that one side benefit of the total band experience is the fun and lasting relationships and memories that are developed by both students and parents! Hard-working students, dedicated staff, involved and active parents, a supportive administration and community all combine to make it possible for the Hickory Band Program to continue to offer an outstanding array of musical opportunities.

As we launch our 2019-2020 school year please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions. I look forward to serving as your band director this year, and I cannot wait to embark on another excellent year of music-making!

Sincerely,

**Justin T. Beebe**

Band Director, Hickory High School

## Did you know?

- Middle and High School students who participate in instrumental music score significantly higher than their non-band peers on standardized tests
- Music lessons boost a child's capacity for verbal memory
- Students who were exposed to music-based lessons scored 100 points higher on fractions tests than those who learned in the conventional manner
- 66% of music majors that apply to medical school get in. The next closest major was biochemistry with 44%.
- Data from the National Educational Study shows that music participants received more academic honors and awards than non-music students
- Research shows that instrumental students are better equipped to comprehend mathematical and scientific concepts
- High School band students score almost 100 points higher on the SAT in both verbal and math than their peers
- College-age students who studied music are emotionally healthier than their non-musician counterparts and less likely to have substance abuse problems
- A ten year study tracking more than 25,000 students shows that music courses improve overall test scores
- The nation's top business executives agree that arts education programs can help repair weaknesses in American education and better prepare workers for the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

**“The difference between a successful person and others is not a lack of strength, not a lack of knowledge, but rather in a lack of will.”**

**– Vince Lombardi**



## **HICKORY HIGH SCHOOL BAND PROGRAM 2019 MARCHING BAND SEASON SCHEDULE**

*Sunday, July 28 - NightBEAT*

*(optional trip to watch DCI World Class ensembles perform - Cost TBD)*

### **BAND CAMP**

#### **Student Leadership ONLY:**

Monday, July 29 - Time TBA

Tuesday, July 30 - Time TBA

#### **New Members, Color Guard, Percussion, and Leadership ONLY:**

Wednesday, July 31 - 5:30 P.M. - 8:30 P.M.

Thursday, August 1 - 5:30 P.M.- 8:30 P.M.

#### **Full Band Camp for ALL MEMBERS:**

Monday, August 5 - 12:00-8:30 P.M.

Tuesday, August 6 - 12:00-8:30 P.M.

Wednesday, August 7 - 12:00-5:00 P.M.

Thursday, August 8 - 12:00-8:30 P.M.

Friday, August 9 - 12:00-8:30 P.M.

Monday, August 12 - 12:00-8:30 P.M.

Tuesday, August 13 - 12:00-8:30 P.M.

Wednesday, August 14 - 12:00-5:00 P.M.

Thursday, August 15 - 12:00-8:30 P.M.

Friday, August 16 - 12:00-8:30 P.M. (Parent Meeting/Showcase 7:00-8:30)

## **HHS Marching Tornadoes Regular Season Schedule:**

Tuesday, August 20 - Full Band Practice 5:30-7:30 **(NON SCHOOL-DAY)**

Thursday, August 22 - Full Band Practice 5:30-7:30 **(NON SCHOOL-DAY)**

**Friday, August 23 - Home Football vs. Statesville (NON SCHOOL-DAY)**

Tuesday, August 27 - Full Band Practice 5:30-7:30

**Friday, August 30 - Home Football vs. Hibriten**

Tuesday, September 3 - Full Band Practice 5:30-7:30

**Friday, September 6 - Home Football vs. Newton-Conover**

Tuesday, September 10 - Full Band Practice 5:30-7:30

Friday, September 13 - Full Band Practice 2:30-4:30

Tuesday, September 17 - Full Band Practice 5:30-7:30

**Friday, September 20 - Home Football vs. Reagan (HOMECOMING)**

Tuesday, September 24 - Full Band Practice 5:30-7:30

**Thursday, September 26 - Preview Show @ LENOIR-RHYNE UNIVERSITY**

Friday, September 27 - Full Band Practice 2:30-4:30

**Saturday, September 28 - Band Competition @TBD**

Tuesday, October 1 - Full Band Practice 5:30-7:30

**Friday, October 4 - Home Football vs. Freedom**

Tuesday, October 8 - Full Band Practice 5:30-7:30

Friday, October 11 - Full Band Practice 2:30-4:30

**Saturday, October 12 - Band Competition @South Caldwell**

Tuesday, October 15 - Full Band Practice 5:30-7:30

Friday, October 18 - Full Band Practice 2:30-4:30

Tuesday, October 22 - Full Band Practice 5:30-7:30

Friday, October 25 - Full Band Practice 2:30-4:30

**Saturday, October 26 - Band Competition @Fred T. Foard**

Tuesday, October 29 - Full Band Practice 5:30-7:30

**Friday, November 1 - Home Football vs. Alexander Central (SENIOR NIGHT)**

**Potential Playoff Game Dates:** 11/15, 11/22, 11/29, 12/6, 12/13, 12/14

Extended practices for full band will take place every Tuesday from 5:30-7:30 and every Friday from 2:30-4:30, including on days of home football games.

Additional performance dates will be added as they become available for Hickory Christmas Parade, J. Iverson Riddle Parade, etc. All dates are subject to change with advance notice.

**All after-school rehearsals and performances are mandatory!**

## ATTENDANCE

Unlike most other classes and activities this group cannot function properly without every student present. Please make every effort to be present and on time for each event. Remember: "To be early is on time, to be on time is late."

1. Attendance at all practices and performances is mandatory unless specifically deemed optional by the director.
2. Students should be at the assigned place ready to go by the time rehearsal starts.
3. Being tardy lowers your weekly participation grade to an 80. Missing a rehearsal lowers your weekly participation grade to a 0. Two absences from rehearsals result in a performance grade of a 0 which is a major test grade.
4. Unexcused absences from a performance result in a 0 as a major test grade.
5. Non-emergency dental, doctor, and counselor appointments will not be considered as an excused absence. Please schedule regular appointments at a non-band time.
6. Do not assume that due to weather an event will be cancelled. Report to the band room at the assigned time unless you hear from the director via email, text, or phone call.
7. Excused absences listed below must be discussed with the director first:
  - a. Illness (doctor's note required)
  - b. Marriage in the immediate family
  - c. Death in the immediate family
  - d. Extenuating circumstances will be dealt with on a case-by-case basis. They must be discussed well in advance with the director. Make sure to email the director well in advance to get an approved absence.
8. Not having a ride does NOT constitute an excused absence. Plan ahead and work out a carpool if needed.
9. Most absences can be avoided by simple planning. Check your band schedule carefully, because your attendance is VITAL to the success of the entire band!

## **REQUIRED MATERIALS**

### **All Members:**

1. Instrument in good working condition
2. Long black socks - No ankle socks
3. White gloves (available through the booster club)
4. A good pair of athletic shoes for rehearsal
5. Black marching shoes (available through the booster club)
6. 1" 3-ring binder w/ sheet protectors (for show music and other music throughout the year)
7. Appropriate Lyre and flip folder - may purchase at Music & Arts
8. Tuner/Metronome (phone app is OK)
9. PENCIL (required for ALL rehearsals!)
10. WATER BOTTLE (bottles will NOT typically be provided by the band at rehearsals)
11. White t-shirts (must be worn for all drill rehearsals)
12. Athletic clothing, hat and sunscreen are recommended for outdoor rehearsals

\*Students are responsible for keeping up with any and all music that has been issued to them by the band. Students will be charged for any lost music!

### **Woodwinds:**

1. Instrument care kit including a swab, cork grease, and a mouthpiece brush
2. 3 good reeds
3. Instrument in good, working condition
4. Reed case (not required, but strongly recommended)

### **Brass:**

1. Valve oil
2. Mouthpiece (consult with the director on which one to get)
3. Instrument care kit including a snake, grease, and a mouthpiece brush

### **Percussion:**

1. Sticks for your instrument (consult with Mr. Decker on what kind of sticks to get)
2. Stick bag
3. Practice pad

If you are thinking of purchasing an instrument, consult with a director first. We can provide recommendations as well as help get you the best price. DO NOT purchase an instrument through ebay or Craigslist.

## **RULES AND GUIDELINES**

1. Always follow school district policies and rules while at any band function, on or off campus.
2. Always give 100% effort!
3. Always show respect for staff, band boosters, and student leaders at all times. The reasonable requests of band boosters, officers, and staff members should be honored without question.
4. Have a great attitude! Attitude problems will not be tolerated.
5. Students are not to enter any part of the school or building not being utilized by the band when school is not in session.
6. Keep areas utilized by the band neat and clean. Discard all trash in a trash can or recycle bin.
7. The band room will be open at least 15 minutes prior to any call time. The band room will close 30 minutes after the end of each event, including trip return times.
8. Parents should generally allow 10-15 minutes following each rehearsal for students to put away their instrument and/or equipment.
9. Do not leave non-essential items out in the band room. Please keep those materials in your locker, vehicle, or proper storage area. Space is very limited!
10. No food or drink in the band room without permission (including breaks and meal times)
11. Follow all classroom rules and guidelines issued for trips.
12. No unnecessary noise, talking, or other distractions while rehearsal is in progress.
13. No cell phone use will be tolerated during rehearsals or performances. Students may use phone apps to tune before rehearsal, but phones must be silenced and stored out of sight once rehearsal begins.
14. No "hazing" of any kind is tolerated within the Hickory High School Band program.



## **GRADING**

Grades will be weighted as follows:

50% - Weekly Attendance/Participation and Assignments

50% - Test Grades/Required Performances

In some cases, extra credit may be offered to students who participate in musical activities beyond what is required. These must be approved by the director on a case-by-case basis.

## **REHEARSAL PARTICIPATION**

If students are well enough to be at school, then they are well enough to play and participate fully in rehearsal. Students are expected to participate if they have a headache, or other small ailment. A parent or doctor note will be needed to excuse students from participating. Please remember that participation grades will be taken on a weekly basis.

## **COMMUNICATION AND MEDIA**

The Hickory High School Band Program is one of the most active organizations in our school. In order to stay informed about all activities it is very important that all students and parents utilize our communication tools.

- All students must sign up for the Remind by texting @39k8hk to 81010
- Parent Remind - Please text @hickoryci to 81010 to subscribe for updates
- Please join our Facebook group "HHS Bands." This is a great way to stay in the loop with what's going on!
- Follow us on Instagram at Hickory\_high\_band\_media
- Visit our website [www.hickorybands.com](http://www.hickorybands.com) to view the band calendar, pay fees, download music, read important updates and more!
- If you have any questions please email Mr. Beebe at [beebeju@hickoryschools.net](mailto:beebeju@hickoryschools.net). Please do not contact through the Remind text.

## **UNIFORM POLICY**

Students will be fitted for uniforms at the beginning of the season. Students who damage a uniform will incur charges to their accounts.

Full uniform is defined as the following: Show shirt, athletic shorts (NO JEANS!), long black socks, marching shoes, bib pants, uniform top, gloves, shako, and plume.

The band will wear either half uniform or full uniform at all times during a competition or game. While in half uniform, the top must be folded and placed on top of the shako, which will rest on a level and clean part of the ground/floor in front of the student. The bib pants must remain zipped with the straps up. Marching shoes must be worn at all times in half uniform. Students that do not wear the proper attire underneath their uniform will not be able to be in half uniform, and are therefore noncompliant with the rest of the band.

While in uniform, students must adhere to the following guidelines:

1. No profanity or other inappropriate conduct
2. No PDA!
3. Take care of your uniform by avoiding actions that may stain or damage the uniform. As stated above, you will be charged!

Remember that you are a direct representation of the band program while you are in uniform. Treat the uniform with the respect it deserves and always wear it with pride!

Uniforms must be picked up prior to warm-up on game days and competition days and returned prior to departure.

Students that do not adhere to the uniform policy will have their participation grade lowered to a "zero." Students that violate the uniform policy multiple times may be dismissed from the band program.

## INSTRUMENT REPAIR

Students are expected to have an instrument present for every class and rehearsal. If an instrument goes into the shop for repair without the director looking at it, a note stating the following must be submitted:

1. What's wrong with the instrument?
2. Which shop is it in?
3. Estimated time needed for repair.

Students should still bring all other materials, including music and mouthpiece, reeds, etc. as in some cases school-owned loaner instruments may be available.

Students that adhere to these guidelines will be allowed to participate without penalty. If a student simply forgets his/her instrument, he/she will lose 50% of participation points for the week.

## CLEANING AND SERVICING INSTRUMENTS

Students are responsible for cleaning and servicing their instruments and keeping them in good working condition. Instruments should be serviced by a professional repair technician about once per year.

## INSTRUMENT MAINTENANCE GUIDE

**Brass:** Empty spit valves after each use. Be sure to move tuning slides and keep them greased with tuning slide grease. If your instrument has valves, be sure to move the valve caps frequently to keep from freezing. Keep trombone slides lubricated, and keep piston and rotors oiled.

**Brass Mouthpieces:** These can be fully submerged in water. Use a mouthpiece brush, warm water, and soap to clean out every few weeks. Rubbing alcohol can be used to sterilize the mouthpiece. This is very important, as the mouthpiece comes into direct contact with your mouth. If you have been sick, be sure to do this!

**Woodwinds:** These instruments CANNOT be washed; however, they should be swabbed out after each use with the correct swab for that instrument. Not swabbing means all moisture remains in the instrument, and this could lead to mold and sticky pads. Flutes can be swabbed after each use with a handkerchief and a flute-cleaning rod.

**Woodwind Mouthpieces:** CLARINET MOUTHPIECES CANNOT BE FULLY SUBMERGED IN WATER!! There is cork on them, and if it gets wet, it will expand. A mouthpiece brush, warm water, and soap can be used very carefully to clean these mouthpieces.

## **BUS/TRANSPORTATION POLICY**

Students are required to use the transportation that we provide for ANY off-campus band function unless otherwise specified. Students are NOT permitted to provide their own transportation to away games, competitions, or any other band events unless otherwise specified.

While riding the bus, students must respect the driver, band staff, and chaperones. Any student who violates school or band rules, or shows any form of disrespect to another student, parent, chaperone, staff member, or bus driver will receive disciplinary action up to and including immediate dismissal from the band program with no refund of fees.

Our program has a **zero tolerance policy** for ANY violation of conduct regarding transportation.

## **SCHOOL-OWNED INSTRUMENTS**

School owned instruments will be signed out at the beginning of the year. Repairs for any damage beyond normal wear and tear will be billed to the student who has signed out the instrument. If the instrument is lost or stolen, the student will be charged a replacement fee equal to the value of the instrument. Lost or stolen instruments must be reported to the director within 24 hours of the incident. The Band Program and Hickory High School will not be held liable for lost or stolen instruments, neither personal nor school owned. During the school day, all instruments must be stored in the properly designated area(s). Instruments should not be left in students' vehicles or in any other part of the school building. School owned instruments must be returned at the end of the school year. Students who wish to check out a school owned instrument over the summer must sign them out again. Any student who has not returned a school owned instrument at the end of term will be subject to the full replacement cost.

## **STUDENT LEADERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES**

The HHS band has many different musical and leadership opportunities for all students. Our leadership team is comprised of students that have been through the leadership training in the spring. Training sessions are open to any student in the band. At the end of the sessions, participants will apply for the position(s) they wish to have and will then be selected by the director and a committee of qualified judges. In order to be considered for a leadership position, students **MUST** attend the training sessions.

Leadership positions include:

- Drum Major
- Color Guard Captain
- Percussion Captain
- Woodwind Captain
- Brass Captain
- Section leaders
- Music Librarians
- Equipment/Field Crew
- Uniform Team
- Media/Publicity Team

## **BAND BOOSTERS**

If you have a student that is, was, or will be in band then you are a part of the booster club! The most important thing to know is that there is a job for you with us. We need a huge range of abilities to help keep this band rolling and I PROMISE you will have a good time. Here are some of the volunteer areas that you can sign up for:

- Concessions at football games
- Chaperones at football games and contests
- Hospitality for band camp and events (help cook food, organize, etc)
- Fundraising
- Uniforms (we have to size and hem pants)
- Pit crew - always a good time
- Prop crew - help design, build, and move props
- Truck Drivers
- Financial/Grant-Writing
- Booster leadership

We will be asking for all parents and guardians of band members to please fill out a volunteer form so that our booster club can help you get involved in the best way possible.

Remember, your main job is being a parent. Our students thrive off of support and encouragement. It would be amazing to show up at contests with the best band kids and parents!!!

## **OPEN DOOR POLICY**

As your band director I maintain an open door policy. This means that when my office door is open, any student may approach me. When I am in my office, my door is only closed if I am having a private meeting/discussion, working with a student, or if I am on the phone. If I am with another student or there is a line out the door, please wait patiently unless you have an urgent concern. The open door policy may be used for more serious matters such as reporting any harassment or other issues. However, students are also welcome to come and chat, ask questions, and voice concerns. I am always willing to listen and discuss anything pertaining to the band and am open to students' ideas and suggestions, as well as sensitive to student concerns. It is my goal to be approachable to each and every student!