

August 29, 2018

Dear Hall Concert Band Students and Parents,

Welcome back to school! Hopefully you and your family had an enjoyable and relaxing summer vacation. 2018-2019 promises to be an exciting year for the Hall HS Band program, and I am looking forward to working with our talented musicians in the upcoming school year.

Please keep this handbook and refer to it throughout the year as needed. It contains crucial information for a successful year (including concert dates, attendance policy, concert dress, required equipment, etc). I will be covering some of this information in class, but I ask that you take a moment with your son or daughter and go through it again so that everyone is fully aware of the class expectations. Every Concert Band and Freshman Band student must sign and return the attached contract. As the year progresses, this information will be available online.

WE WILL HAVE A BAND PARENT MEETING ON WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 26 at 6:15pm IN THE HALL BAND ROOM. At this time we'll discuss important things (South Florida band trip, concert dress, football games, parades, concerts, etc) and hear from our parent booster club! Please attend for this very important information! This is the only evening/adult presentation time I have scheduled for the South Florida Band Trip this year!

I am an email-friendly teacher. I will send updates, reminders, and important announcements throughout the course of the year via email. Please make sure I have your most up to date email(s). Sometimes powerschool has inaccurate information. Please email me or send them in with your son/daughter. I hope to meet you and see you this year at our performances!

Sincerely,

James Antonucci
(860) 232-4561 x6388
James_antonucci@whps.org

2018-2019 Hall High School Bands Performance Master Schedule

<u>DATE</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>EVENT</u>
Friday, September 14	6:30 pm	Football v. Enfield
Wednesday, September 26 night)	6:15pm	ALL Band Parent/Band TRIP Meeting (before curriculum
Friday, October 5	6:30 pm	Football v. East Hartford, Leave @ Half-time
Saturday, October 6	8:15am	Park Road Parade
Friday, October 19	7:00pm	Football v. New Britain
Friday, November 2	7:00 pm	Hall v. South Windsor, Leave @ Half-time
Saturday, November 3 Avon HS	Morning	CMEA Northern Region Auditions (jazz and classical) @
Thursday, November 8	7:00pm	District Band Festival, Conard HS
Sat, November 17	12:30pm	Hall Conard Game (@ Hall)
Monday, December 17	7:30 pm	Dress Rehearsal Winter Concert
Tuesday, December 18	7:00 pm	Winter Concert
Friday and Saturday, January 18 and 19		Fri aft/Sat (all) CMEA Northern Region Music Festival
Saturday, Jan 26	TBD	CMEA All State Auditions
Tuesday, Jan 29	7:00 pm	Concert Band MS Feeder Concert at King Philip
Tuesday, March 26	6:30--8:30pm	South FL Band Trip/Competition Rehearsal #1
Wednesday, March 27	6:30--8:30pm	South FL Band Trip/Competition Rehearsal #2
Tuesday, April 2	6:30--8:30pm	South FL Band Trip/Competition Rehearsal #3
April 4-9		South FL Bands Trip/Tour/Festival/Competition 2019
CMEA All State Festival....4/11--4/14		
Monday, May 20	7:45 pm	Dress Rehearsal Spring Concert
Tuesday, May 21	7:30 pm	Spring Concert
Monday, May 27	8:45am	Memorial Day Parade

Band Performance Attendance Policy

Students are expected to attend all performances for their ensemble(s). Students are also expected to remain at a concert if other performing groups are playing on the same concert. To request to be excused from a performance, students must bring in a note explaining the conflict written and signed by a parent or guardian at least two weeks prior to the performance. Excuses will be considered on a case-by-case basis. The following reasons for missing a performance will not be accepted: work, failure to find a ride, tickets to a show, sports practice. If there is a conflict with a school sport game, both the coach and Mr. Antonucci should be notified so that they can communicate directly about the conflict. Students who are excused for something other than a school sport will be asked to complete an alternate assignment. Failure to notify the director of a conflict in a timely manner will result in a significant grade reduction.

Rehearsal Participation

Students cannot 'sit out' without permission of the director. A student needing to sit out for more than one rehearsal for medical or other reasons must bring a note from a parent. For those students that are taking band during their lunch period, a lunch rotation will be discussed the first week of class so that students have time to eat for a portion of the period.

Cell Phone Use

There is a no tolerance policy for cell phone use in class. Any student that uses a cell phone for any purpose without approval from Mr. Antonucci will be subject to procedures and penalties outlined in the Hall High School Student Handbook.

Instrument Care

Students are expected to keep their instrument clean and in good working condition at all times. Students should immediately report any instrument malfunctions to the director and make an appointment to have the instrument repaired promptly. There is a repairman that comes to the school to pick up instruments to be repaired, and then returns them when work is completed. Check with Mr. Antonucci if you are interested in using this service. Damaging an instrument intentionally will be grounds for removal from this course. Percussion equipment is to be used by percussionists only. Music Dept. pianos and drum sets are not to be played without permission. Chewing gum in the band room is prohibited as it is unsafe for both the player and instrument. **Please label your instrument case with your name!**

Instrument Storage

Students may leave their instruments in the band room storage cabinets during the school day, and overnight. Every attempt is made to lock the band room when not in use, but keep in mind that other groups may use the band room in the evenings. Please lock your instrument up at all times, and students are not permitted to change locks provided for the band lockers.

Concert Attire

Concert Dress for all concerts: Tuxedo shirt, dress black pants, black bow tie, dress shoes and dark dress socks. You will need to purchase your own tux shirt, bow tie, and dress pants; they will not be provided. Oscar's tux here in West Hartford will come in during class in September to measure for tux shirts and bow ties. I will send home a letter regarding this process

Concert Dress for all Parades: Band Warrior Logo Polos (provided, must be returned at end of year or a charge of \$65 will be applied to student's account), black pants, black shoes (can be comfortable, just all black), black socks, black belt (if applicable).

Dress for the football games is the band polo, though when it gets cold I expect folks will wear jackets/sweatshirts as needed--that is fine. Dress warm! It can get cold. If it approaches freezing temps, we head inside early.

Leadership Positions

The following is a brief list of leadership positions needed each year for the Concert Band. Those students making up the following positions along with the conducting assistant will be called the Executive Board. They will be responsible for making key decisions for the band (activities, repertoire). Exact roles of each member and their own particular nomenclature will be determined once the year gets underway. These are appointments that should be reflected in students CVs/resumes, and help ensure continued success of the Hall Band Program.

- *President of Concert Band (speaks at concerts/functions in place of Mr A, oversees all leadership positions, liaison with Hall Admin)
- *Vice President (helps with daily administrative tasks, is in charge of all collections and documentations/list keeping, liaison with Hall Admin)
- *Secretaries (takes attendances in class and at functions, responsible for maintaining copies of documents)
- *Librarians (should be more than one)
- *Conducting Assistant(s)--conducts pep band games/pep rallies, and a song at spring concert (at discretion of director)
- *Recording Engineer
- *Research and Reference Recordings Leader (program notes/historical info for concert pieces, finds recordings for class)
- *Section Leader(s)

Private Lessons

Due to the number of students in the band program at Hall High School, individualized/one-on-one instruction can be limited. Private lessons can be a great way to get more personal attention, especially for those students looking for a challenge. If you are interested in finding a private music teacher, please let Mr. Antonucci know. The music department maintains a list of high quality private teachers in the area. Sometimes there are opportunities for scholarships for those students that can qualify for financial assistance.

Travel

The Concert Band has historically travelled bi-annually. This is a trip year for the Concert Band. **Further information regarding our trip to South Florida will be distributed at the Band Parent Meeting on Wednesday, September 26th at 6:15 pm.**

Grading

This will be discussed specifically in class. Students are expected to arrive on time, get set up and seated in time for the warm up to begin, participate every day, and try their best to learn all material and concepts presented. Band is a participation-based class, and students will be expected at all performances and dress rehearsals!

Other Required/Recommended Equipment

Below is a list of required and recommended equipment for students participating in the Hall HS Band program. If an item is listed as required, it is something students will be using every day, or almost every day in class. If an item is listed as recommended, it is either something that will help protect an instrument from damage, or something (such as a new mouthpiece) that will upgrade the performance of an instrument to a suitable level for high school. If your son or daughter takes private lessons, you should consult your private teacher to get equipment recommendations before making a purchase. Please feel free to check with Mr. Antonucci for vendor suggestions, or any questions about what is listed below.

All Band Members:

Highly recommended:

Polishing cloths, handkerchief, cleaning materials
Metronome & tuner (check out apps on your smart phone!)
Music stand
Pencils
Instrument case, in good condition, clean and labeled
Note the serial number to your instrument for insurance records
Service instrument annually

Flute

Required:

Cleaning and tuning rod

Clarinet

Required:

1 box of reeds. Recommended brand: Vandoren 3 or 3.5
Cork grease

Highly Recommended:

Good quality mouthpiece and ligature. (Most mouthpieces/ligatures that come with student clarinets are of very poor quality) A high quality mouthpiece and ligature can make a student instrument sound like a newer, more professional model. If the student is playing on the same mouthpiece they had when they first bought the instrument, it is time for an upgrade.

Recommended brands:

Vandoren 5RV Iyre///M13///M30///B45 mouthpiece (top quality)

David Hite, premier clarinet mouthpiece (solid value)

Rovner Dark Ligature or Luyben ligature--L2215

Reed Case

Pull through clarinet swab

Saxophone

Required:

1 box of Reeds. Recommended brand: vandoren 3 or 3.5

Neck Strap

Highly Recommended:

Good quality mouthpiece and ligature. (Most mouthpieces/ligatures that come with student saxophones are of very poor quality) A high quality mouthpiece and ligature can make a student instrument sound like a newer, more professional model. If the student is playing on the same mouthpiece they had when they first bought the instrument, it is time for an upgrade.

Recommended brands:

Vandoren Optimum (top quality)

Selmer C-star (top quality)

David Hite, Premier (solid value)

Rovner Dark or Versa ligature

Reed case

Double Reeds: Consult your private teacher

French Horn

Required:

Rotor oil and slide grease

Highly Recommended:

Schilke #29 mouthpiece or Holton MDC 29 mouthpiece

Mouthpiece brush

Non-transposing straight mute

Recommended brands:

Jo-Ral metal straight mute (top quality)

Humes and Berg stoned-lined mutes (solid value)

Trumpet

Required:

Straight mute

Recommended brands:

Jo-Ral metal straight mute (top quality)

Humes and Berg stoned-lined mutes (solid value)

Valve Oil

Highly Recommended:

Bach 3C mouthpiece

Slide grease

Mouthpiece brush and cleaning snake

Trombone

Required:

Slide cream and spray water bottle

Straight mute

Recommended brands:

Jo-Ral metal straight mute (top quality)

Humes and Berg stoned-lined mutes (solid value)

Euphonium

Required:

Valve oil

Highly Recommended:

Bach 6 ½ AL mouthpiece

Slide grease

Mouthpiece brush

Tuba

Slide grease

Mouthpiece brush

Valve oil

Percussionists

Required:

1 stick bag (to protect and carry sticks)

1 pair of general concert snare sticks (different than the ones used for drum set playing)

recommended: Vic Firth, American Custom SD1

1 pair rubber xylophone mallets. Recommended: Mike Balter, #6BB, rey rubber, birch

1 pair general yarn mallets. Recommended: Mike Balter, #14BB Red yarn, Birch

1 pair general timpani mallets. Recommended: Vic Firth T3, staccato

If you do not own any of these items, or if you only own the drum sticks, the easiest thing to do would be to order a complete set. A complete set of these sticks, with stick bag costs much less than purchasing the sticks separately.

The two sets I would recommend are:

--Innovative Percussion FP2 Intermediate mallet pack (top quality)

--Liberty 1 Basic stick pack (solid value)

Both are available at steveweissmusic.com

Hall High School Band Contract

Student Name _____ Band Period: _____

Please check, sign below, and return to Mr. Antonucci

Attendance/Equipment Policy

_____ We have read and understand the policy regarding attendance at performances

_____ We have read and understand the list of equipment required for participation in band.

_____ We have seen the calendar of performances for the 2018-19 school year.

_____ We are aware that any updates to the schedule will be emailed out to parents and students.

Here are our emails: _____ (parent)

_____ (student)

Student Signature _____ Date _____

Parent/Guardian Signature _____ Date _____