

Amherst Bands "2016-17" Handbook

Please READ Carefully!

1. Welcome!

It is important to read through these materials. They spell out everything that is expected from our program including concert participation, grading policy, and schedules. Keep this booklet on hand to review expectations and to keep track of our concert schedule. As a performing ensemble, it is **MANDATORY** that all members are present during performances. To avoid any conflicts, be sure to understand this one simple rule.

2. Amherst Instrumental Music Ensembles

A. Wind Ensemble

If numbers permit, the Wind Ensemble will meet five days a week during 5th period of the school day. Because of block scheduling, the ensemble will meet the last 15 minutes of 5c and all of 5d. This ensemble will be by audition **ONLY** and is reserved for the top musicians of the program. Literature will be of the highest quality and expectations will be high. The ensemble will perform a Winter Concert, a Contest Concert, a Spring Concert, OMEA District and State Band Contest. (STATE...If we qualify), and Graduation.

B. Symphonic Band

If numbers permit, the Symphonic Band will meet five days a week during 5th period of the school day. Because of block scheduling, the ensemble will meet all of 5b and the first 15 minutes of 5c. This ensemble will be by audition **ONLY** and is reserved for the above average musicians of the program. Literature will be of medium quality. However, expectations will also be high. The ensemble will perform a Winter Concert, a Contest Concert, a Spring Concert, OMEA District and State Band Contest. (STATE...If we qualify), and Graduation.

C. Jazz Band

Jazz Band will meet during the A block of 5th period if the schedule permits once Marching Band is concluded. If not, the band will meet at a later determined time and place. If there is enough interest, a second ensemble may be added to allow other instruments to participate. Instrumentation for the Jazz Band will consist of: Trumpets, Trombones, Saxes, Piano, Guitar, Bass, Vibes, and Drum Set. The ensemble will perform a Winter Concert, a Jazz Festival, and a Spring Concert. This ensemble may go to a Jazz Contest in the spring.

D. Solo and Ensemble Contest

Each year, Lorain County and the Ohio Music Educator's Association sponsor contests where students can perform as soloists or in smaller ensembles for a rating from a judge. The contest is excellent for any player that is looking to broaden their playing abilities. Working in an Brass or Woodwind ensemble also promotes cooperative learning along with developing good leadership qualities. S & E contest is not mandatory.

E. Large Group Contest

Each year, the Ohio Music Educator's Association sponsor large group (Full Band) competition. All bands perform in front of four judges for a combined rating. The contest is excellent for promoting teamwork and giving the group a little bit of a challenge outside of their own performances in the gym.

F. Marching Band

During the first 9 weeks of school, The Amherst Marching Comets will meet 5B, 5C, and 5D. Members of the marching band will eat 5A. All non-marchers will eat 5D and have a study hall for 5B and 5C. During 5A, the non-marchers will have concert band to play during the first 9 weeks. Auditions will be held at the beginning of the 2nd nine weeks for concert season. Please see the Marching Band handbook for more information.

G. Advanced Band

Available by audition or permission of the director only with the following requirements:

- A. Must be member of the Wind Ensemble in good standing
- B. Take private lessons and/or play in an ensemble outside of school setting
- C. Perform in a honors ensemble through high school connections (i.e. college)
- D. Perform Class A or Class B solo at OMEA Solo and Ensemble Competition

3. Check Your Schedules

Below is a listing of the Steele Instrumental Music Department performances. Make sure to **plan ahead** and mark the dates clearly on your calendars TODAY! as performances are a part of your class requirements. **An absence from a performance will result in an automatic “Zero” for that event. A “Zero” WILL effect your final grade and may result in the failure of the class at which time no credit will be given for participation.** In the event of an excused absence, members may be permitted to make up missed work. See below for more info...

We rehearse an entire semester for a performance. A missed performance is like missing the final exam in a science class. If for any reason a student cannot attend a mandatory performance, please let the director know as soon as possible. The sooner the director is aware of the problem, the better the problem can be handled. Please do not wait until the week, day, or hour before the concert to announce a conflict. This may result in an unpleasant outcome due to the circumstances with the nature of the absence. A death in the family and an illness excused by a doctor's note will be considered an excused absence. In the event of **an excused absence**, students may be permitted to make up a missed concert. Make up work will include, but not limited to, Solo and Ensemble Contest, something involving a musical performance, and/or a written report on a musical subject. Makeup work must be in by end of quarter or the student shall lose credit for that missed assignment.

Our Concert Schedule is as follows: (does not to include Marching Band)

*Thursday, December 15th	-Winter Concert, HS Cafetorium 7PM
Saturday, February 11th	-OMEA Solo & Ensemble Contest
Saturday, February 25th	-Lorain County Solo & Ensemble Contest
*Monday, March 6th	-Contest Concert, w/JH Gymnasium 7PM
*Friday, March 10th	-OMEA District Large Group Contest
*Saturday, March 11th	-OMEA District Large Group Contest
**Friday, April 28th	-OMEA State Large Group Contest if needed
**Saturday, April 29th	-OMEA State Large Group Contest if needed
Thursday, May 4th	-Amherst Jazz Fest, Cafetorium 7PM
*Thursday, May 11th	-Spring Concert, Cafetorium 7PM
*Saturday, May 27th	-Graduation at the Wolstien Center time TBA

* = denotes mandatory performances ** = Symphonic Band and Wind Ensemble if needed

4. 7 Day Rule with Absences, Tardies, and having your Instrument

Because of other opportunities and possible distractions, students may tend to forget their instrument at home or in a car. We would like to remind you that there is credit given for this course and not only is attendance required, but so is having your instrument/materials for rehearsal. Please be prepared and have your instrument ready, cleaned, and in good maintenance. Any student with 7 unexcused and/or non-certified absences from class will receive an “F” for the work that they are missing and an unexcused absence will not be permitted to be made up. **Failure in having your instrument will also result in losing 1 point for your participation grade for the day.** It is also the responsibility of the student to produce the documentation which turns an unexcused absence into a certified excused absence. “Certified” being the key word here.

5. Band Dress Code for Performances

Black Tuxes and Black Long Dresses are required of all members. For girls in Symphonic Band: the dress will be long black skirts and a white blouse. Wind Ensemble girls will again be fitted in the Black Concert Dress provided that there are enough dresses to go around. All boys will be fitted in the band tuxes. However, boys will need to purchase (and keep) their white button down tuxedo shirt. We reserve the right to not allow participation for violation of the dress code. If this happens, points will be lost for missing the performance.

******NO FLIP FLOPS PERMITTED AT CONCERTS!!!!**

6. Drill Procedures

Please take instruments with you when exiting the building for a fire alarm. (except tubas and percussion) **DO NOT** leave any instruments on the band chairs. Exit the building as quickly as possible **without** running or talking. We will exit the room through the door on the left side of the room marked "EXIT" and continue through the South parking lot. A tornado drill will be slightly different than a fire drill. We will not take the instruments with us on a tornado drill. Students are to enter the Storage Room and assume the safety position during the event of a Tornado drill.

7. Instrument Storage Room

Our storage room has been designed to stay open and unlocked so students can get to their instruments on a regular basis. However, the doors leading into the band room will remain locked. Individual lockers are assigned to each student. It is your responsibility and **MANDATORY** to provide a lock to ensure that belongings are secured. Please keep the cage doors closed at all times. **DO NOT LEAVE YOUR INSTRUMENT OUT OF THE CASE IN YOUR LOCKER AS WELL.** You must also put your case away after getting out your instrument. Please do not leave your case on the floor for others may trip over it trying to get out their instrument. If you leave your instrument out on the floor or in the cage and is picked up by the director...consider your instrument to be in **JAIL** and will cost you a dollar to get it back. AVOID this by putting your equipment away properly.

8. Instrument Storage Responsibility

The Amherst Schools, Board of Education, Support Staff, and Certified Staff are not responsible for lost, damaged, or stolen items. They are also not responsible for any damaged instruments inflicted by other members of the band. The storage room is for the use of storing instruments, books, bags, and personal material of members in the band program. Again, this room is designed to stay open so students can get to their instruments at any time. We would recommend taking out a small rider on an insurance policy to cover a lost or damaged instrument. If you have any questions, please contact me.

9. Substitute Teachers

It is important that you are on your best behavior for our substitute teachers. It can be very difficult to come in and watch over 100 students at one time. Unless holding a musical degree, It is also impossible to expect a substitute to run a rehearsal. Because of this, when a sub is needed, you make out. However, if problems occur, graded busy work will be handed out and expected to be turned in and added to your 9 week grade.

10. www.marchingcomets.com and www.facebook.com

Our website and social media is a great resource for students and parents. Everything we do in band will, in some way, be posted on the sites. We are asking all students and parents visit the sites on a regular basis to have important information delivered to them. The NET is very popular and easy to manage. Most all of our information will be on the site and will not be handed out in paper form to save money. Please refer to the site on a daily basis to keep up-to-date with the activities we have in band

11. Steele Bands Grading System

1. Song and Show Memorization

Reserved for Marching Band members only.

2. Concert Music Preparation

You will be tested on a portion of a song that we are playing.

A great evaluation tool and tool to get you to get better on your instrument

3. Selected Etude Preparation

You will be expected to play an etude from one of our etude books.

This is to get you to advance to a higher performing level.

4. Scale and Rudiment Preparation

Each will play a scale that the band is working on at that time.

Scales are the basic note patterns and key signatures of all our music.

5. Written Examination

Each student will be tested on the fundamentals of music.

You must retain the information that is presented to you.

Music is a “building” effect on previous skills.

6. Participation

You will earn 1 point per day for participating “hands on” in rehearsal

You will lose this point if you are absent from class

You will lose this point if you do not have your instrument

You may earn extra credit by asking for makeup work designed to replace what has been missed.

7. Performances

You earn points by attending and performing in concerts

Concerts are the “Final Exam” of the semester and attendance is mandatory.

Marching Band Halftime - 10 Points per game

Marching Band Competition - 20 Points per event

Concert Band Performance - 50 Points per event

8. Pop Quizzes

We might have a pop playing or written test on any given day

9. Extra Credit

You may be given a chance every 9 weeks to earn extra credit points.

10. Overall Progress

Grades - Since each semester is different with different schedules and responsibilities, it is difficult to assign exact points for each of the grading periods or for that matter what is expected each semester. However, other than a small pop quizzes, students will be given time to prepare, study, and work on the materials being evaluated in a timely manner. We will also use the School’s grading system to determine +/-.

Ending Statement

It is the responsibility of the student to share this information with their parents and/or guardians. If there are any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me. I can be reached at Steele at 988-1487. Please do not wait until there is a problem to disagree with the policies in this handbook. If there is a question regarding anything in this booklet, please notify Mr. Barbaro as soon as possible. Thank you.