



TVS Marching Band/Wind **Ensemble Handbook** **2016-2017**

“The world is open for the rethinking of what and who we are. The pioneers of the past have given us a great gift by establishing bands and wind ensembles of superb excellence. What gift will the future generation write in the book of wind band history?”

– H. Robert Reynolds

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Welcome to Band

Whether this is your first year in the high school band program or you are a returning member, I think I can speak for all involved when I say, “Welcome home.” Through my years of experiences with bands across the country, my love and appreciation of OUR art form has only grown exponentially when I see the love, commitment, and dedication band students have for their art and each other. Band truly is our art form, having rapidly grown in American schools and communities for over a century; from Sousa to Holst, Holst to Grainger, Grainger to Fennell and onwards, the expansion of band in humanity’s story is a tribute to both its intrinsic and extrinsic value. I can name countless studies that prove how important music is for developing socially, cognitively, and academically, but I prefer to let the value of the music as an art speak for itself. Performing with an ensemble will open up countless opportunities for adventures with a supportive band family, and in the end, the character and memories you develop will form who you are: a person you respect. Remember! No one ever reached the end of their life and thought, “You know, if I had to go back, I would definitely play less music.” Engage with art! Engage with band. –Mr. Smith

Goals and Mission Statement

The Twin Valley South High School Band Program is an organization that seeks to grow young musicians into responsible, dedicated, diligent, and invested members of their community through the rehearsal and performance of high quality wind band repertoire in and around West Alexandria, Ohio. During the fall and winter, the athletic bands serve to support their teams and represent school pride by engaging with student athletes through victory and loss. Through a tradition of excellence, the band has served its school, athletes, and community through student and parent support. By creating an environment where the parents, students, and instructors are partners, the Twin Valley South High School Band Program continues to push for excellence in both academic and human achievement.

Performance Opportunities

The TVS Marching Band has the opportunity to regularly perform at ten football games per season (excluding post regular season games) in both a marching and pep band capacity, one exhibition performance, five community based parades (Preble Fair, Pork Festival, Homecoming, Oktoberfest, Halloween), and three to four contests.

Attendance, Behavior Expectations, and Discipline

Attendance: Due to the nature of the Marching Band activity/class, attendance will be a large portion of the student grade for the fall semester. Every rehearsal, camp, parade, high school football/basketball game, and competition will be worth a certain amount of points depending on the event, and students must attend to receive credit. Students are allowed 2 unexcused absences from regular rehearsals (points will be excluded) before they start receiving no credit. All high school games and contests are mandatory. Certain events constitute excused absences:

- Death in the family
- Severe illness (with doctor's note)
- Traffic accident
- Athletic conflict (limited to one missed rehearsal per week, or parade)

All other absences are on a case by case basis and will most likely be considered unexcused.

Band Camp: Because much of our show and the fundamental skills we use during the season are taught during band camp, attendance is mandatory and essential. For this reason, students are allowed to miss two rehearsal "blocks" during the week of mini-camp with an appropriate excuse (a block being a section of a rehearsal day that is separated by meal times), and one outdoor rehearsal block during the full week (these outdoor blocks will be from 10AM-12:30PM and 6PM-8PM). Students who miss more than the allotted rehearsals will not be able to march on the field during the season, but will perform in the front ensemble percussion section, so as to not have a negative impact on the experience of their peers. If students need to miss

an indoor block for fair duties (12:30PM-6PM), the director must be warned in advance with a note from a parent.

Front Ensemble Members: Due to the stationary nature of the front ensemble percussion section, members will only be required to attend one after school rehearsal a week, usually of their choice, although the director may specify. Members of the front ensemble who play a wind instrument will use their wind instrument during pre-game and parades, others will use marching percussion instruments or proudly carry the TVS Marching Band Banner.

Fall Sport Athletes: Band members who are also active in fall athletics will be operating with different attendance expectations (see above). Students who participate in band and cheerleading/football will not be required to perform at the high school football games (although they are more than welcome to). All other athletes must check with the director about missing rehearsals for athletic practices or events.

Basketball Games: Students are expected to attend all boys' varsity home basketball games during the regular season as a grade. Same attendance rules and expectations apply as those of a football game. Girls' varsity games will be announced and on a volunteer basis until such a time the band has enough members to support two pep bands on a rotating schedule.

Behavior Expectations: The following list is a compendium of student expectations to assist the band in running smoothly and ensure that everyone has a positive experience:

- Always be on time (to rehearsal, after 3rd quarter, etc;)
- Love your neighbor as you love yourself
- Always be prepared with drill/music/pencil/note paper/instrument
- Insubordination will not be tolerated
- Talking during rehearsal is not permitted and will affect grades
- Individual practice is expected at least twice a week
- When in uniform, represent your school with energy and positivity
- Marching music and drill will be memorized with periodic checks

- No PDA aside from holding hands (couples cannot share seats on bus)

Discipline: Discipline is necessary for an organization to run at the highest possible standard, and is an essential skill to be a productive member of society. In band, discipline is used as a way to correct negative behavior and hold ourselves accountable for our actions. The following constitutes examples of disciplinary steps (note that while steps are in order of severity, steps can be skipped based on nature of infraction):

- Verbal warning
- Private meeting about behavior
- Removal of third quarter privileges (being able to leave stands)
- Involvement of parents. Contact by email or phone
- Behavior referral/detention/Saturday school
- Removal from ensemble performances and subsequent grade loss

Disciplinary Note: Action is only taken as a way to correct behavior and done so out of care for student well being and experience. Because of this, certain disciplinary steps will not be tolerated, particularly the use of physical punishment (laps, push-ups, etc;). While an exercise regimen may be used during camp to improve health of the ensemble and performance capabilities, students with health concerns will not be forced to participate, and the activity will be optional for the improvement of the ensemble.

Game and Contest Procedures

Game Procedure: The Marching Band will perform at every regular season varsity football game. Students will be given a call time the week before (varies for away games), and will be expected to show up on time. Upon arrival students will walk in to the band room, prepare for the performance, (whether loading the bus for away games or putting on uniform for home games) and will depart for the game. For away games, students will enter away stands and wait for the game to start. For home games, students will march to the band section of the bleachers, place any personal items in the stands (these items will be under parent volunteer supervision) and set up off field for pre-game performance. Following pre-game, students will return to stands. During the game, students will be expected to stand and

support the team, engaging with the game and representing their school spirit. While the ball is in play, students are not allowed to play their instruments so as to prevent the team from being penalized. At five minutes left in the first half, the band will make its way to a warm-up area precluding their half time performance before taking the field. During this time, the front ensemble will move to a pre-staging area. Following the half time performance, students will return to stands (may be expected to play fight song for the returning team) and will have third quarter to take a break. During this break students may sit and watch the game, get food from concessions, or walk around and interact with other fans/family/friends. At no point during the game, however, should non-band members be in the band section of the stands, for security and professional reasons. Students are expected to begin returning at three minutes remaining in third quarter in order to perform during the quarter change (true of basketball games as well). Following the game, the band will either perform the funk/fight song for the crowd (in the event of a win) or the Alma Mater (in the event of a loss) from the stands as a way of showing solidarity with our team regardless of victory. Following a home game, students will be expected to clean up the stadium, picking up trash and discarded items before returning to the band room to replace instruments and uniforms and going home. Following an away game, students will get back on the bus and receive a notification to communicate to their parents the approximate arrival time so that rides can be arranged. The director will also send out a Facebook notice and Remind 101 (text based communication) when students are approximately ten minutes from Twin Valley South. Students must attend the entirety of a game including post game clean up to receive credit for the performance.

Contest Procedure: Contests are held on Saturdays, with the band usually performing at three to four per season. Most contests will be in the evening to avoid conflicts with athletics. Students will follow away game procedure before departing. Upon arriving, students will be allowed a restroom break before going to a warm up location. Following warm up, students will be directed to the performance area, under strict instruction that there should be no conversation so as to maintain a focused and performance ready atmosphere. The goal at contest is to receive a numeric rating of I (Superior) on a rating scale of V to I. Following the performance, students

will return to the buses to change before returning to the stadium to watch and enjoy other band performances; students should bring money for concessions. Following the announcement of scores and awards (retreat) in which student representatives will take the field to represent the band, students will return to buses and away game procedure will resume.

Grade Break Down

The following is a break down of how students will receive grades for the fall semester:

- Rehearsals (approximately 33) 10 points each
- High School Football Games (10) 30 points each
- Contests 50 points each (3-4)
- Parades (5) 10 points each
- Entrance slips (9) 10 points each
- December Concert (or paper) (1) 200 points
- Semester Exam (1) 150 points
- Extra Credit Opportunities (varies)
- Weekly Participation (18) 10 points each

Extra credit opportunities will usually consist of post test meetings to discuss material, demonstrate an understanding, and earn back half credit that was lost, as well as the attendance of professional or collegiate music performances (such as Miami University Wind Ensemble performances) as designated by the director. If unable to perform at a concert, students are required to write a six page essay (details will be provided) worth 200 points.

Instrument Borrowing Policy

Students will be allowed to borrow certain instruments from the school if they fill out the following contract (see next page) and return it.

TVS Band Instrument Borrowing Contract

To ensure the school instruments the TVS band program has available last for generations to come, while also encouraging students to take the instruments home and practice, students who are loaned school instruments are responsible for any wear and tear repairs that are needed, as well as any major damages that occur in the students' possession. These incidences include, but are not limited to:

- Pads falling off
- Chipped mouthpieces
- Bent ligatures
- Stuck valves/slides
- Corks falling off
- Crushed pipes
- Destroyed or unplayable instruments
- Lost parts

We at TVS are proud to be able to provide students with opportunities that all students around the country find accessible, and in order to maintain this policy, students must learn responsible care and respect for their instrument (whether it is their own, the school's, or a music store rental.) By signing this document, it is understood that the student will be able to take the instrument home to practice whenever they want (with the exception of summers, unless approved directly by Mr. Smith), while also being responsible for the repair payments of any damages to the instrument while in their possession.

Thank you for your understanding, and happy practicing! Go, Panthers!

Parent Signature

Date

Student Name (Print)

Date

Instrument Repair and Maintenance

At TVS, our main vendor for instrument repair and maintenance is Kincaid's Music. Students may send their instruments out from the school for repairs by filling out a repair tag. After instrument has been sent out, two contacts NEED to occur for instrument to be repaired and returned in a timely manner. First, parents will be contacted for approval of repair (repair estimate is completely free and the parent has the option to refuse repair). After repair has been done, parents will be contacted about payment options (either by card over the phone or cash/check on delivery to the school). Payment must be received by Kincaid's representative prior to student receiving instrument. If contacts have been attempted and student does not have instrument returned within two weeks due to parents not communicating, participation grade will be affected.

If students require instrument supplies (new reeds, valve oil, etc;) parents have the option of ordering from kincaidsmusic.com. When ordering from the website, use the school as the shipping address and there will be no additional charge. It's like having a music store in your home! Due to overhead costs, the school will only have emergency supplies not available for students purchase (in case of reed breaking right before a concert, or similar occurrences).

Uniform Maintenance/Transportation/Medical and Fees

Uniforms are provided during band camp by the TVS Band Boosters. Numbers will be assigned to each student and uniform part and collected at the end of the season. The uniform that is provided consists of: Jacket, Bibs (marching pants), Shakos (Helmets and plumes), Gauntlets. In addition to what is provided, students are expected to purchase the following items for themselves:

- DSI Marching Shoes (through Boosters) - \$26
- White Gloves (through Boosters)- \$5 per pair (excludes percussionists)
- White athletic thick wrist bands (on their own, percussionists only)
- Summer uniform band shirt (through Boosters) and black athletic shorts – Shirt \$10, Shorts \$12
- Black socks (on their own)

Uniform cleaning will be handled by the Band Boosters. Currently, Twin Valley South has a transportation fee of \$60 for any fall activity including band that should be paid DIRECTLY TO THE OFFICE AND NOT THE DIRECTOR. There is a \$30 band camp fee to help cover the costs of additional staff required for a successful season. Money that is to be paid to the band boosters must be put in an envelope (provided) marked with the students' name and the purpose of the money before being turned in to the gray lock box in the front of the band room (ALSO NOT TURNED IN TO THE DIRECTOR). The transportation and band camp fee are yearly, the uniform costs are only on an as needed basis (New shoes/summer uniform shirt/shorts/etc; are not required every year). It is the policy of Twin Valley South that all students participating in marching band fill out and return an emergency medical form and turn in their transportation fee to the office before they can perform in any event during the school year (excludes fair parade).

CTC/Color Guard Expectations

It is the policy of the marching band to allow certain members, meeting the correct requirements, to be a part of the marching band organization. These members are treated no differently from the rest of the band and are a valuable part of our organization. The Twin Valley South Color Guard is an important visual representative of the musical and marching arts, and is just as vital to well rounded student education. Members who are able are required to sign up for marching band/concert band as a class in their schedule to ensure regular rehearsal times. As with percussion, dates throughout the summer to supplement normal rehearsal times will be added on an as needed basis. Color guard members who are unable to sign up for band as a class are still able to participate, but only under strict probationary measures. Due to lack of action able to be taken to discipline these members, members are allowed two unexcused absences from rehearsals before they are removed from the ensemble for the remainder of the season, and no unexcused absence from a performance.

Students who attend CTC are also able to participate if they have had two previous years of band experience and have proven themselves reliable and responsible members of the band. Practice requirements will be very high due to the student not being able to attend school day music rehearsals,

and mandatory attendance at all rehearsals and performances is required. If a student is unable to comply, they will be removed from the ensemble for the sake of their peers.

Parent Volunteer Communication and Responsibilities

This organization would be unable to function without the help of parent volunteers. For this reason, it is imperative that parents partner with band students and instructors to facilitate program growth and success. During a pre-season meeting, parents are asked to enter contact information (email and phone number) into a database so they can be contacted about band events, volunteer opportunities, and necessary information.

Communication will be handled by three methods:

1. Facebook – Parents should “like and follow” the Twin Valley South High School Band page on facebook.com. This is the most common form of communication with advertisements about band events and announcements
2. Email – Once a parent has submitted their email to the database, messages will be sent from the director if there is important information or announcements
3. Remind – Parents can receive text updates from the director without receiving the director’s personal phone number by signing up for Remind by text or through the app. Simply text **@tvshsb** to **81010** and you will be subscribed to the TVS Band Remind system for important announcements (standard texting rates, so free if you have texting)

Parent Responsibilities: At the pre-season meeting, it is important that all parents sign up to handle a minimum of seven responsibilities (two high school football concessions, two soccer concessions, one middle school football concessions, and two other options). Options will include:

- Bus/band chaperone (must be approved through school)
- Equipment managers (front ensemble/drum major podium/personal items)
- Equipment trailer transport
- Concession stand volunteer (football and soccer)

- Pork chop booth
- Parade walkers/water carriers
- Band announcer at home and away games

Band Boosters: The TVS Band Boosters is an organization dedicated to the support of the band students. Any parent volunteer can attend booster meetings and be a band booster (it is encouraged!). Meetings are usually held the third Tuesday of every month, although may occasionally be moved due to conflicts. For more info, contact Band Booster President Marissa Jackson at (937) 839-4315 (ext. 130) or Vice President Shelly Tebbe at (937) 371-3771.

Officer/Drum Major Positions

Every year, the band will elect officers to assist in the running of day to day procedures and represent a student voice in band procedures. These elected officials and their responsibilities are:

Band President: A student to represent the band. Should have some leadership or volunteering experience. Must understand and put first the needs of others. First one to arrive besides the director and the last one to leave. Will meet with band council once a week to discuss morale and band concerns, as well as facilitate volunteers to help band parents as needed. In charge of administrative duties such as: setting the band room, assisting with field lining, ensuring equipment is put away.

Vice-President: A student to assist the President. Should have some leadership or volunteering experience. In the President's absence, the Vice-President takes over all administrative duties. The Vice President will also meet once a week with the band council to discuss morale and band concerns. In charge of administrative duties such as: assisting with drum major podium during rehearsals, getting out and putting away field numbers.

Secretary: A student to assist the director. The Secretary is in charge of taking attendance, setting the band room, and contacting students who have an unexcused absence from rehearsal. The Secretary will also meet once a week with the band council to discuss morale and band concerns.

Librarians (2): A student to save Mr. Smith's sanity. The Librarians will have the daunting task of organizing and passing out music, as well as storage for the band. Students who are Librarians must be organized and service oriented.

Officer Notes:

1. Officers who are elected must be students who are best suited to the task; this is not a popularity contest.
2. Drum majors are ineligible to be elected as officers since they already have a position of influence.
3. There will be a pizza/donut party for all officers and drum majors at the conclusion of the season (at their request).

Drum Major(s): The TVS Drum Majors are students with a minimum of one year of marching band experience, preferably two. Drum Majors work closely with the director to ensure that rehearsals are productive and effective, while also setting examples for all student leadership and musicianship. Drum Majors shall be recognized by wearing a unique uniform provided, with the option of carrying the TVS Mace during parades. The Drum Major audition process begins in May of the previous year, with students performing a conducting audition, interviewing, and being rated anonymously by band members. Drum Major duties will include conducting the band, moving podium, leading sectionals, running the metronome back field when not needed on the podium, communicating between the band and the director, and assisting wherever needed. Students who become Drum Majors should take their role very seriously as it is an honor to serve and represent their organization.

Section Leaders: Section leaders are individuals assigned by the director to take responsibility for the well-being and preparedness of their section. The individuals will be selected solely by the band director, although an interview may occur. Section leaders must understand that the best leaders are truly the best servants. Leaders will be selected based on the following criteria: work ethic, commitment, attendance, positive attitude, leadership, and support of younger members. Leaders will NOT be selected for: being the best performer, having seniority, or knowing the most about music. Section leaders will be in charge of running sectionals, administering

playing tests (students who fail a playing test for a section leader will be judged by the director), and maintaining a positive work environment in their section. Section leaders may be replaced if deemed unfit for the position.

Awards

At the Spring concert following the marching season, students will be recognized for their years of service to the band with specific awards. The awards are as follows:

- 1st Year: Letter
- 2nd Year: TVS Band Pin
- 3rd Year: Graduation Year Numbers
- 4th Year: Personalized Plaque

8th Grade Vanguard Program

8th grade students will have the following opportunities to perform as honorary members of the TVS Marching and Pep Band:

- Perform on-field during pre-game
- Perform on front sidelines during home game halftime production
- Perform during the game as members of the Pep Band (extends to basketball games)

The Vanguard Program is an excellent way for younger students to get a marching band experience and feel more comfortable and prepared for the responsibilities of high school and being a full member.

Band Camp Schedule (Subject to Minor Change)

Visual blocks will be held outside on the field, music blocks will be held inside, usually during the warmest parts of the day. The first week of band camp is a mini-week to get members acclimated to the rehearsal schedule and work on marching band basics. Dinner will be provided by band boosters. Lunch may be packed or brought in.

Monday, July 18th

9:00 AM – Visual: Fundamentals
11:30 AM – Lunch
12:00 PM – Music: Pre-game music
2:00 PM – Rehearsal ends

Tuesday, July 19th

9:00 AM – Visual: Fundamentals
11:30 AM – Lunch
12:00 PM – Music: Pre-game music
2:00 PM – Rehearsal ends

Wednesday, July 20th

9:00 AM – Visual: Fundamentals and Pre-game
11:30 AM – Lunch
12:00 PM – Music: Pre-game and Movement 1
2:00 PM – Rehearsal ends

Thursday, July 21st

9:00 AM – Visual: Fundamentals and Pre-game
11:30 AM – Lunch
12:00 PM – Music: Movement 1
2:00 PM – Rehearsal ends

Friday, July 22nd

9:00 AM – Visual: Fundamentals and Pre-game
11:30 AM – Lunch
12:00 PM – Music: Movement 1
2:00 PM – Rehearsal ends

Monday, July 25th

10:00 AM – Visual: Fundamentals, Pre-game, and Movement 1
12:30 PM – Lunch
1:00 PM – Music Sectionals
3:00 PM – Music Ensemble: Movement 1
5:00 PM – Dinner
6:00 PM – Visual: Movement 1

8:00 PM – Rehearsal ends

Tuesday, July 26th

10:00 AM – Visual: Fundamentals and Movement 1

12:30 PM – Lunch

1:00 PM – Music Sectionals

3:00 PM – Music Ensemble: Movement 1 and Pep tunes

5:00 PM – Dinner

6:00 PM – Visual: Movement 1

8:00 PM – Rehearsal ends

Wednesday, July 27th

10:00 AM – Visual: Fundamentals and Movements 1 and 2

12:30 PM – Lunch

1:00 PM – Music Sectionals

3:00 PM – Music Ensemble: Movements 1 and 2

5:00 PM – Dinner

6:00 PM – Visual: Movements 1 and 2

8:00 PM – Rehearsal ends

Thursday, July 28th

10:00 AM – Visual: Fundamentals and Movement 2

12:30 PM – Lunch

1:00 PM – Music Sectionals

3:00 PM – Music Ensemble: Movement 2

5:00 PM – Dinner

6:00 PM – Visual: Movement 2

8:00 PM – Rehearsal ends

Friday, July 29th

10:00 AM – Visual: Fundamentals and Movements 1 and 2

12:30 PM – Lunch

1:00 PM – Music Ensemble: Movements 1 and 2

3:00 PM – Rehearsal ends

Calendar

Below is a tentative calendar of important band dates. Some times are approximate and subject to change.

June 4th and 11th – Percussion and Guard Camps
July 18th-22nd – Mini-Camp
July 25th-29th – Full Camp
July 30th – Preble County Fair Parade
August 9th-11th – Pre-season rehearsals
August 11th – Community Picnic
August 26th – FB @ Dixie
September 2nd – FB v. Preble Shawnee
September 9th – FB @ National Trail
September 16th – FB v. Ansonia
September 17th – Pork Festival Parade
September 23rd – FB @ Arcanum
September 24th – Northwestern Contest
September 30th – Homecoming FB v Mississinawa Valley
October 7th – FB @ Bethel
October 8th – Oktoberfest Parade
October 14th – FB v Covington
October 15th – Piqua Contest
October 21st – FB @ TCN
October 22nd – Tecumseh Contest
October 28th – FB v Miami East
October – Halloween Parade
November – Possible State Competition and Veteran's Day Performance
December 9th – BB v. TCN
December 23rd – BB v. Covington
December – Winter Concert
January 3rd – BB v. Bishop Fenwick
January 6th – BB v. Bethel
January 13th – BB v. Tri-Village
January 21st – BB v. Brookville
January 27th – BB v. Mississinawa Valley
January-February – S&E
February 7th – BB v. Bradford

February 14th – BB v. Carlisle

March – Possible trips, Honor Bands, etc;

April – Percussion Ensemble Concert

May – Spring Concert, Memorial Day Performance, High School Graduation, Drum Major Auditions

Wind Ensemble Mission Statement

It is the expressed goal of the Twin Valley South High School Wind Ensemble to expand the appreciation and performance of Wind Ensemble music in the community of West Alexandria and Preble County. By performing only high quality of music with varying instrumentation and style, the Wind Ensemble seeks to better its performers as musicians while giving them new insight into emotional depth as human beings. Furthermore, the Twin Valley South High School Wind Ensemble seeks to prove that high quality music can be made regardless of circumstances.

Performance Opportunities

The Twin Valley South High School Wind Ensemble has the opportunity to perform in a wide variety of venues and events. Students will be required to perform in a solo or small ensemble for OMEA competition in late Winter, perform in a Percussion Ensemble concert, with the Jazz Band, possible trips, an end of year concert, and for High School Graduation. Performances may be added on a year by year basis as new and exciting opportunities present themselves. Unless otherwise noted, dress for concerts is all black, professional attire so as to not distract audience members from the music. For men, collared dress shirts, black slacks, black belt, black socks, black dress shoes. For women, long black dresses (must be at knee or lower) or skirts, black dress pants with a black top, black shoes, no flashy jewelry. The Wind Ensemble wants to represent Twin Valley South with pride and professionalism.

Practice vs. Rehearsal and Commitment

There is a sharp contrast between practice and rehearsal. In an ideal world, musicians would practice on their own, learning their music by studying the notation, rhythms, expression, and so on until they felt prepared to perform it on their own. Rehearsal is the time when those individual musicians come together to make music and improve on performing as an

ensemble. Rehearsal is not the time to learn your notes and rhythms (although it is certainly time to ask questions about them if you need help!), it is the time to see how those notes and rhythms mesh with the rest of the ensemble and work on those important musical elements that you can't work on when you are practicing by yourself. For this reason, no outright "homework" or "busy work" will be given in class. For "homework," students are expected to practice a minimum of twenty minutes per weeknight and two hours per weekend during the Spring semester. Students must be invested in Wind Ensemble and not just involved in Wind Ensemble. Parental support is vital for this to occur. Parents do not need any musical background to ensure that their child is working on their musical abilities for a set time each evening. Unlike other classes where a student can be unprepared for class and it has no effect on their peers, Wind Ensemble is a class where an unprepared student can derail a rehearsal and cost their peers a valuable educational experience (and during the fall season, cost their peers a superior rating). In order for all students to have a successful experience, practice outside the classroom is of the utmost importance. A successful practice block would consist of: 5 minutes of scales, 5 minutes of warm up exercises (lip slurs, long tones, etc;) and 10 or more minutes of repertoire practice. As a good friend and mentor of mine once told me: "In the story of breakfast and of the eggs and bacon, the chicken is involved in providing you a meal—the pig is invested."

Grade Break Down

The following is a break down of how students will receive grades for the spring semester:

- Weekly Participation (18) 10 points each
- S&E Preparation and Performance (Perc. Ensemble) (1) 50 points
- Entrance Slips (9) 10 points each
- High School Basketball Games (varies) 30 points each
- End of semester exam (1) 150 points
- End of year concert (or paper) (1) 200 points
- High School Graduation Performance (1) 100 points
- Other concert performances (varies) 30 points each
- 3rd Quarter Quiz (1) 60 points
- Playing tests (varies) 40 points each

Solo and Ensemble

Students are required to work on a Solo or Ensemble piece of music to take to OMEA contest. If unable to meet the requirements due to instrumentation or lack of music, students will be grouped into brass or woodwind choirs to work on ensemble music to be possibly performed at a later date. Accompaniment and registration fees will be paid by the band boosters, however, if a student commits to an event and has to cancel after the registration fee has been paid (non-refundable by OMEA), the student is responsible for the reimbursement of the band boosters.

Percussion Ensemble

Due to the lack of challenging and educational repertoire for percussionists in most Wind Ensemble literature, percussion students are expected to participate in a Percussion Ensemble in the spring semester. The Percussion Ensemble will rehearse once a week after school and have a concert in April. Rehearsal attendance and subsequent performance will be counted as part of the participation and solo and ensemble grades, as well as playing test grades.

Jazz Band

The Twin Valley South High School Jazz Band is a volunteer based organization that students can join. It is fully extracurricular, rehearsing once a week after school in January through March, and twice a week after school in April and May. Attendance at all rehearsals, particularly prior to the Spring Concert, is highly encouraged. Open to all musicians interested in learning about and performing the only truly American born music while having fun!

Member Contract

(return this page to Mr. Smith, must be returned before first performance
or student will not perform)

I, _____, hereby acknowledge that I have read, understood, and accepted the items presented in this handbook, and promise to uphold the expectations and requirements that accompany a position with this ensemble. I promise to represent myself and my school to the best of my ability, while also supporting and assisting my fellow band mates to be the best we can be. I understand that if I fail to comply with the guidelines in this handbook, my membership can be revoked, or other disciplinary action can be taken.

Student signature

Date

Parent signature

Date

Director signature

Date