

## TVS Marching Band/Wind Ensemble Handbook 2019-2020

"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

1. Intro/Welcome pg. 3
2. Goals/Mission Statement pg. 3
3. Performance Opportunities pg. 4
4. Attendance, Behavior Expectations, and Discipline pg. 4
5. CTC/Color Guard Expectations pg. 5
6. Game and Contest Procedures pg. 7
7. Grade Break Down pg. 8
8. Instrument Borrowing Policy pg. 9
9. Instrument Care and Maintenance pg. 10
10.Uniform Maintenance/Transportation/Medical and Fees pg. 10
11.Parent Volunteer Communication and Responsibilities pg. 11
12.Officer Positions pg. 12
13.Awards pg. 14
14.Band Camp Schedule pg. 14
10. Calendar pg. 17
16.Wind Ensemble Mission Statement pg. 18
11. Performance Opportunities pg. 18
18.Practice vs. Rehearsal and Commitment pg. 18
19.Grade Break Down pg. 19
20.Solo and Ensemble pg. 19
21.Percussion Ensemble pg. 20
22.Jazz Band pg. 20
12. Member Contract (must be signed and returned) pg. 21

## 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 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 struggle. While maintaining 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 multiple OMEA 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. Rehearsals during regular season will be every Monday from 6:00PM to 8:00PM and every Thursday from 2:30PM to 4:30PM. 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. Notification must be given BEFORE a planned absence in order for it be excused. Any excuse given after the absence occurs will most likely automatically be considered unexcused. Examples of unexcused absences include, but are not limited to:

- Work schedule conflicts
- Celebratory events (birthdays, hanging out)
- Transportation conflicts

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 without approval from the director will not be able to march on the field during the season, but will perform in the front ensemble 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: 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' and girls' varsity home basketball games during the regular season as a grade. Same attendance rules and expectations apply as those of a football game. For girls' varsity games, two pep bands (A and B) will be on a rotation. In order to be excused from a girls' game, students must find a suitable substitute. Once a sub has committed, if they have to back out, the responsibility of finding a sub for that person falls on the sub.

## 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 representation of the musical and marching arts, and is just as vital to well rounded student education. As with percussion, dates throughout the summer to supplement normal rehearsal times will be added on an as needed basis. Students participating in color guard who
have limited instrumental experience and can not perform with the Wind Ensemble in the Spring should sign up for the semester-long color guard course that will only be offered for Fall semester.
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 (director approval must be obtained). 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 may be removed from the ensemble for the sake of their peers.

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 $3^{\text {rd }}$ quarter, etc;)
- Love your neighbor as you love yourself
- Always be prepared with drill-sheet/music/pencil/note paper/instrument
- Insubordination will not be tolerated
- 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
- Appropriate physical exercise (laps, push-ups, etc; given only by director)
- 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


## 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 perform the funk/fight song for the crowd in the event of a win. 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 (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 on three to four Saturdays per season. 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:

- Weekly Rehearsal Participation 5 points each
- High School Football Games 10 points each
- Contests 20 points each
- Parades 10 points each
- December Concert (or paper) (1) 200 points
- Semester Exam (1) 100 points
- Extra Credit Opportunities (varies)

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!

## 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) - \$30
- White Gloves (through Boosters)- first pair free, then \$2 per pair (excludes percussionists)
- Summer uniform band shirt (through Boosters) and black athletic shorts - Shirt \$9, Shorts \$15
- Black socks (on their own)

Uniform cleaning will be handled at the end of the season by students, however, students are expected to take care of their uniforms and treat them with respect throughout the season. Following each performance, uniforms must be hung up by the students, with any mud or dirt cleaned off (including shoes). Shoes go in the back pocket of the garment bag to ensure that the rest of the uniform stays clean. 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 $\$ 40$ 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).

## 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 $\mathbf{8 1 0 1 0}$ and you will be subscribed to the TVS Band Remind system for important announcements (standard texting rates apply)
Parent Responsibilities: Through the band website and booster org, 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 on the website will include:

- Bus/band chaperone (must be approved through school)
- Equipment managers (front ensemble/drum major podium/personal items)
- Equipment trailer transport
- Parade walkers/water carriers

Music Boosters: The TVS Music Boosters are dedicated to the support of the band and choir students. Any parent volunteer can attend booster meetings and be a music 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 Music Booster President Marissa Jackson at (937) 839-4315 (ext. 130) or through email at mjackson@tvs.k12.oh.us

## 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 as needed 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. It is the president's responsibility to ask for a water break during rehearsal, otherwise one may not be offered. Students needing water (outside of emergencies) should
communicate with the president who will inform the director of the situation.

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 as needed 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 as needed with the band council to discuss morale and band concerns.

## 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. 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 in areas of musicianship, responsibility, and leadership. 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. Attendance for Drum Majors is always mandatory, with the exception of emergencies.

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:
$1^{\text {st }}$ Year: Letter
$2^{\text {nd }}$ Year: TVS Band Pin
$3^{\text {rd }}$ Year: Graduation Year Numbers
$4^{\text {th }}$ Year: Personalized Plaque

## 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 (except Friday). Lunch may be packed or brought in.

## Monday, July $\mathbf{1 5}^{\text {th }}$

10:00 AM - Visual: Fundamentals, Coordinate Reading
12:30 PM - Lunch
1:00 PM - Music: Pre-game, Pep tunes, Opener
3:00 PM - Rehearsal ends
Tuesday, July $\mathbf{1 6}^{\text {th }}$
10:00 AM - Visual: Fundamentals, Opener setting
12:30 PM - Lunch
1:00 PM - Music: Pre-game, Pep tunes, Opener
3:00 PM - Rehearsal ends

## Wednesday, July $17^{\text {th }}$

10:00 AM - Visual: Opener setting
12:30 PM - Lunch
1:00 PM - Music: Pre-game, Opener, Scherzo
3:00 PM - Rehearsal ends
Thursday, July $\mathbf{1 8}^{\text {th }}$
10:00 AM - Visual: Opener setting
12:30 PM - Lunch
1:00 PM - Music: Opener, Scherzo
3:00 PM - Rehearsal ends
Friday, July 19 ${ }^{\text {th }}$
10:00 AM - Visual: Opener rehearse

12:30 PM - Lunch
1:00 PM - Music: Opener, Scherzo, Closer
3:00 PM - Rehearsal ends

## Monday, July 22 ${ }^{\text {nd }}$

10:00 AM - Visual: Fundamentals, Opener rehearse, Scherzo setting
12:30 PM - Lunch
1:00 PM - Music Sectionals
3:00 PM - Music Ensemble: Scherzo, Closer
5:00 PM - Dinner
5:30 PM - Activity
6:00 PM - Visual: Opener rehearse, Scherzo setting
8:00 PM - Rehearsal ends
Tuesday, July 23 ${ }^{\text {rd }}$
10:00 AM - Visual: Fundamentals, Scherzo setting
12:30 PM - Lunch
1:00 PM - Music Sectionals
3:00 PM - Music Ensemble: Scherzo, Closer
5:00 PM - Dinner
5:30 PM - Activity
6:00 PM - Visual: Scherzo rehearse, Opener rehearse
8:00 PM - Rehearsal ends

## Wednesday, July $\mathbf{2 4}^{\text {th }}$

10:00 AM - Visual: Fundamentals, Scherzo rehearse, Closer setting
12:30 PM - Lunch
1:00 PM - Music Sectionals
3:00 PM - Music Ensemble: Opener, Closer
5:00 PM - Dinner
5:30 PM - Activity
6:00 PM - Visual: Scherzo rehearse, Closer setting, Opener run
8:00 PM - Rehearsal ends
Thursday, July $\mathbf{2 5}^{\text {th }}$
10:00 AM - Visual: Fundamentals, Opener rehearse, Closer setting
12:30 PM - Lunch

1:00 PM - Music Sectionals
3:00 PM - Music Ensemble: Closer, Pre-game, Pep tunes
5:00 PM - Dinner
5:30 PM - Activity
6:00 PM - Visual: Closer rehearse, Opener rehearse, Scherzo rehearse
8:00 PM - Rehearsal ends

## Friday, July $\mathbf{2 6}^{\text {th }}$

10:00 AM - Visual: Fundamentals, Closer rehearse, Opener, Ballad
12:30 PM - Lunch
1:00 PM - Music Sectionals
3:00 PM - Music Ensemble: Opener, Ballad, Closer, Pre-game, Pep tunes
5:00 PM - Dinner (on your own)
5:30 PM - Activity
6:00 PM - Visual: Opener rehearse, Ballad rehearse, Closer rehearse
8:00 PM - Rehearsal ends

## Calendar

Below is a tentative calendar of important band dates. Some times and dates are approximate and subject to change.
June 22nd - New Member Camp 10am-2pm
June 29th - Percussion and Guard Camp 10am-4pm
July $15^{\text {th }}-19^{\text {th }}-$ Mini-Camp ( $10 a \mathrm{~m}-3 \mathrm{pm}$ )
July $22^{\text {nd }}-26^{\text {th }}$ - Full Camp (10am-8pm)
August $3^{\text {rd }}$ - Preble County Fair Parade
August 12th-14 ${ }^{\text {th }}$ - Pre-season Camp (10am-3pm)
September 14th - Troy Contest
September 21st - Pork Festival Parade
October 5th - Loveland Contest
October 12th - Versailles Contest
October 19th - Clark Shawnee/Piqua Double Header Contests
October 26th - Tecumseh Contest
October - Halloween Parade
November - Possible State Competition and Veteran's Day Performance

## 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) 5 points each
- S\&E Preparation and Performance (Perc. Ensemble) (1) 50 points
- Entrance Slips (9) 10 points each
- High School Basketball Games
- End of semester exam (1) 100 points
- End of year concert (or paper) (1) 200 points
- High School Graduation Performance
- $3^{\text {rd }}$ Quarter Quiz (1) 50 points


## 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 (up to 2 events), 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. 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, $\qquad$ hereby acknowledge that I have read, understood, and accept 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 members 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

Director signature Date

