



Bayonne High School Concert & Symphony Band Handbook 2017-2018

Welcome to the Bayonne High School Instrumental Music Department! By joining an ensemble, you will now have the opportunity to learn and experience the excitement of playing an instrument in a band setting. As a student, you are an incredibly valuable member of the department. Each of you can impact not only the sound but also the connection and ultimate success of each ensemble. Being a member of an ensemble means joining a team of people using their talents together to reach a goal of expressing, performing and moving people with music.

In order to have a successful team, each member must put forth equal effort to reach the goals of the group. This handbook helps break down the expectations and requirements of being a student in a Bayonne High School ensemble. We must all work together to maintain the high standard of academic and musical excellence that was established in prior years of the BHS Music Department.

I am looking forward to creating some amazing music with you throughout the year! Please never hesitate to contact me with questions and concerns.

Ms. Samantha Hitchell
Director of Bands, BHS
shitchell@bboed.org

Philosophy:

As an ensemble, we believe:

- In our potential.
- In the importance of stepping out of our comfort zone and being creative.
- That music is key to success and happiness in life.
- That talent does NOT stand alone - hard work, dedication, and effort are necessary skills in being successful.
- That we must work together and support each other to achieve our goals.

Expectations:

As an ensemble, we will:

- *Always* give 110%.
- Be prepared for all rehearsals/lessons – know our parts well and ask questions when necessary.
- Treat everyone with the utmost respect.
- Communicate effectively with each other (classmates, director and parents).
- Hold ourselves accountable for performances and rehearsals.
- Attend all lessons, rehearsals and performances (see attendance policy) as we all play a crucial part in our music.
- Be the best musicians we can be.

Rehearsal/Class Procedures:

- All school rules apply to classes and rehearsals.
- Class begins when the bell rings. Look to the board for the “Do Now” assignment and begin upon attendance in class.
- No food, drink or chewing gum is allowed in the band room or auditorium.
- YOU are responsible for all music and materials. You will be expected to replace anything that is lost.
- Be professional every day in rehearsal.

Required Materials

All students must come to class daily with:

- A black folder
- Notebook
- Pencils
- All music (parts, warm-ups, class handouts, etc.)
- Instrument and corresponding supplies listed below

Instrument Supplies

Every instrument requires other materials. In addition to having a working instrument at all times, you will also need:

Flute:

- Cleaning rod
- Cleaning rag

Clarinet:

- 3 Working Clarinet Reeds (Vandoren/D'addario reeds are recommended – see Ms. Hitchell for help with sizing). You MUST have your own reeds
- Working ligature
- Cork grease
- Weighted silk cleaning cloth

Saxophone:

- 3 Working Saxophone Reeds (Vandoren/Rico Royal reeds are recommended – see Ms. Hitchell for help with sizing). You MUST have your own reeds
- Working ligature
- Cork grease
- Weighted silk cleaning cloth

Trumpet/Baritone/Euphonium/Tuba:

- Valve oil
- Cleaning rag

Trombone:

- Slide oil/Slide cream
- Cleaning rag

Percussion:

- Sticks/Mallets
- Drum Pad/Bell Kit (bell kits (available for rent at Elefante) can stay at home for practice – pads & sticks/mallets to class)

Recommended Instrument Supply Websites

Elefante Music

www.elefantemusic.com

Woodwind & Brasswind

www.wwbw.com

Dillon Music

www.dillonmusic.com

Grading Policies

Performance: 60%

- Concert attendance. Students will receive a grade for their attendance and performance at concerts/performances.
- Class participation/effort in rehearsals. Grades will be given on a weekly basis for in-class rehearsals.
- Participation, preparedness, and attendance for performance studies lessons. Grades will be given based on student effort and readiness for their performance studies lessons. Lesson dates and times will be given to students in the first few weeks of school (they will be taken out of lunch).

Classwork/Homework: 40%

- Written/non-written assessments including, but not limited to, sight-reading assignments, part checks, and playing tests.
- Class work and assignments.
- Any tests or quizzes given in class.
- Any homework assignments.
- PRACTICING AT HOME! Students at the high school level should be practicing 5 days a week for an hour each. You will be very impressed with your progress if you put in this time.
- Composer/Word of the Day assignments – students will be given an assignment to research a composer or musical term and present to the class at least once a marking period. This will count as a homework assignment.

Extra Credit:

- Extra credit assignments are available (posted and/or announced in class.) Students may present extra credit proposals at any time. Any extra credit proposals must be approved by Ms. Hitchell.

Join the Google Classroom!

Stay up to date on assignments and announcements via Google Classroom!

Concert Band: c0sawct (0=zero)

Symphony Band: 1t2ut5

(Please only join your respective Google Classroom.)

Attendance Policy

The following rules have been adapted from the BHS attendance policy. For further information on attendance, check the student handbook on the BBOED website.

- Excused absences are limited to illness, death in the family, doctor appointment, religious holidays, and anything approved as “excused” through the board of education.
- Students are expected to attend all of their band functions, whether on the calendar or announced in class. This includes, but is not limited to, concerts, performances, and class trips. Any conflicts with dates must be resolved in writing (preferably via email to shitchell@bboed.org) at least **three weeks prior** to the event.
- Attendance in class and at concerts is MANDATORY. Students will be issued cuts if they skip band rehearsal or their lesson without a legitimate note.
- Students who miss an excessive amount of rehearsals may not be able to participate in performances or class trips.
- During an absence from school, students will be required to meet with Ms. Hitchell or someone in their section in band to discuss what was missed and take any notes necessary. It is possible that make up work will be assigned (dependent on the date of absence and is at the discretion of the director.)

Concert Attire

All concerts (unless otherwise specified) will require the following concert dress:

Women: Long skirt/dress (mid-calf to ankle) or dress pants and blouse (black). Dress shoes (no sneakers of any kind or color). **No spaghetti straps or exposed midriffs.** No slits above the knee.

Men: Black button down and black dress slacks. No sneakers or sandals (of any color). **No jeans.**

Contract

*Please return this contract and join your Google Classroom by no later than **Friday, September 15**. This will count as the first homework assignment of the school year.*

I understand that this is a performance-based class. I acknowledge that in order to pass this class, students must attend rehearsals, class and concerts outside of school hours.

I understand that in order to be excused from a performance, I must present a written request **at least three weeks** prior to the event. I understand that this excuse may or may not be approved. If approved, make-up work may be assigned. If not approved, I understand that the grade will suffer.

I understand all policies, procedures and expectations presented in this handbook and will abide by them to the best of my ability. As a band member, I know I am responsible to represent the band and BHS to the best of my ability and to maintain a high level of discipline and etiquette.

Photograph Consent:

____ Yes, I/we grant permission for my child's image to be posted on the school website, newspaper, band website, and/or band/school affiliated social media pages.

____ No, thank you. I would prefer my child's image not be used.

Student Name (please print)

Concert or Symphony Band

Student Signature

Date

Parent Signature

Date