

The Value of Music Education

For centuries, music and art have been recognized as disciplines, on equal footing with mathematics, language, and the sciences as regards the development of mental process. More recent research has shown that the study of music and in particular performance actively involves more of the domains of the brain than any other discipline. Instrumental music, particularly in an ensemble such as band or orchestra, is the purest form of mental activity. It requires more of the brain to be utilized, both right and left brain functions, than any activity we experience in formal education. Dealing with the demands of ensemble performance and individual performance simultaneously requires that the performers manipulate visual symbolic information, interpret visual instructions from a conductor, analyze and synthesize aural information being received constantly, exhibit manual skill with the instrument, regulate their volume level and style of playing in concert with several other performers, and many other factors that all combine to become "making music."

PLATO: "Music training is a more potent instrument than any other, because rhythm and harmony find their way into the inward places of the soul."

SHAKESPEARE: "The man that hath no music in himself...let no such man be trusted."

ERNEST BOYER (President, Carnegie Foundation): "Music gives us a language that cuts across the disciplines, helps us to see connections and brings a more coherent meaning to our world."

PAUL HARVEY (Broadcaster/commentator): "Our schools tend to refine intellects but neglect to discipline emotions. For anyone to grow up complete, music is imperative."

GREGORY ANRIG (President of Educational Testing Service): "The things I learned from my experience in music in school are discipline, perseverance, dependability, composure, courage, and pride in results. Not a bad preparation for the work force!"

JOSEPH M. CALAHAN (Director of Corporate Communications, Xerox Corporation): "Arts education aids students in skills needed in the workplace: flexibility, the ability to solve problems and communicate, the ability to learn new skills, to be creative and innovative, and to strive for excellence."

CLIFFORD V. SMITH (President of the General Electric Foundation): "GE hires a lot of engineers. We want young people who can do more than add up a string of numbers and write a coherent sentence. They must be able to solve problems, communicate ideas and be sensitive to the world around them. Participation in the arts is one of the best ways to develop these abilities."

SHIRLEY YOUNG (VP, Consumer Market Development for General Motors): "The Japanese consider the study of music important for their engineers. Playing a musical instrument involves discipline, creativity, and conceptualization. These attributes, added to engineering talent, help produce results that are not only functional but also harmonious in every way. Music reaches across cultures and needs no translation."

MUSIC is not only important ... it's ESSENTIAL!

Instrumental Music Department Philosophy

Music education is a primary means by which an educational institution can transmit to students the cultural heritage of society. Music transcends barriers of ethnic background, economic status, language, and even literacy in its power to reach the depths of the human soul. Experiences with music develop a student's ability to make value judgments, to function logically as well as intuitively, and to utilize one's innate creativity. Participation in performance organizations encourages initiative and leadership in the students, stimulates goal-oriented thought processes, creates an appreciation and respect for the efforts of others, and assists students to develop a sense of responsibility to themselves, the organization, and in a broad sense, society.

We recognize that few high school musicians make music a career. However, the mental discipline and thought processes required in the study of music are applicable in all fields of endeavor.

General Objectives

To make participation in instrumental music available to all students at North Harrison High School.

To develop musical experiences that enhances students' overall educational experiences.

To provide a suitable background in music instruction for those students who elect to continue the study of music after graduation.

To develop a life-long appreciation for music and continuation of musical activities.

To develop performing organizations that are a source of pride for the individual, the school, and the community.

Membership Requirements

CONCERT BAND

Open to all students (grades 9 -12) with prior band experience, this class will concentrate on developing basic playing skills such as tone production, rhythmic proficiency, intonation, and technical ability, as well as preparation and performance of fine concert band literature. This ensemble will perform on several concert programs and in concert festivals. There will be out-of-school time required for rehearsals and performances. In addition, students are required to participate in the NHHS Marching Band.

NOTE

In order to be eligible for certain activities (such as, but not limited, to honor bands, solo & ensemble competitions, and trips), students must meet all requirements of the course in which they are enrolled; this constitutes being a "member in good standing" of the North Harrison Band program and the North Harrison Community School Corporation.

MARCHING BAND

The North Harrison Marching Band enjoys a reputation for musical excellence aesthetically complemented by vivid visual images and movement reflecting the mood and character of the music. The band is fast becoming recognized as one of the top programs in Indiana; to continue in this tradition of success requires a high degree of dedication, effort, and pride on the part of each person involved. The North Harrison Band will perform at all home football games, contests, and other performance opportunities in the area. Membership in the North Harrison Marching Band requires that students; 1) attend all rehearsals and performances; 2) pay a camp(s), uniform, and transportation band fee; 3) through fund-raising or contribution account for their share of the band budget; and 4) be enrolled in one of the band classes offered at North Harrison High School, and comply with all rules and regulations for that organization as well as Marching Band.

COLOR GUARD

Membership in the NHHS Color Guard is by audition only. The student agrees to attend all rehearsals and performances, including summer activities. Instrumentalist are eligible for fall and winter guard and must be enrolled in band class for the entire year. Non-instrumentalist are eligible for fall guard first semester.

WINTER GUARD

Membership in the NHHS Winter Guard is by audition only. Student must be a member of the fall guard or band to be eligible to audition. The student agrees to attend all rehearsals and performances, including weekend activities. Members are responsible for a Winter Activities fee, uniform cost, personal weapons (rifles & sabers), and travel expenses.

WINTER DRUMLINE

Membership in the NHHS Winter Drumline is by audition only. The student agrees to attend all rehearsals and performances, including weekend activities. Students in Winter Drumline must be enrolled in band class. Members are responsible for a Winter Activities fee, uniform cost, personal sticks (battery & mallets), and travel expenses.

Both of our Winter Programs have established themselves as leaders in innovation and performance. Above all else dedication, hard work and a good attitude are a must.

GRADING PROCEDURE

Band is a unique course at North Harrison High School. It has curricular requirements, just as any other academic discipline, but it also has out-of-class time requirements. The strength of the band program is the consolidation of these requirements into one performance based, academic course of study. The level of commitment from each individual student is the driving force behind the organization and is reflected in the level of achievement reached by the individual and the program. Students are assessed on playing skills, written and playing exams and written homework. Outside individual practice is expected in order to maintain the student's level of playing skills.

Band is a learning activity. Rehearsals, whether during or after school, are the means by which students learn, and by their very nature cannot be reproduced or made-up. Therefore it is imperative that students be present unless the absence is absolutely unavoidable. Excessive rehearsal absences will undoubtedly affect a student's performance. Although we frequently function as conductors, we are primarily teachers responsible for the musical and aesthetic education of each student in the band program. This is the reason we are absolutely insistent upon each student's daily participation. Rehearsals are not optional, and are reflected in the student's daily grade.

Performances are viewed as major tests: a performance is a learning experience that cannot be duplicated in a rehearsal hall or practice room; the level of concentration required in a public performance assists each student in developing an insight into their own level of performance; a performance is an important evaluation tool, allowing comparison of a student's performance in relation to classroom objectives presented and with past performances. Absences from performances are only excused in the event of an extreme emergency: serious illness or hospitalization of the student, death in the family, religious holiday, or other reasons deemed excusable by the band director. All absences from performances must be approved in writing by the band director in advance.

Finally, we take our job as a band director very seriously. The band as an organization provides a medium through which students' progress academically, musically, and socially. Musicianship, attitude, attendance, punctuality, conduct, and a desire for excellence are absolutely expected from each member of the North Harrison Band. Therefore, individual practice and preparation are essential. No other discipline in education requires the high level of achievement from all participants as does musical performance. Through the level of commitment required we hope to better prepare our students for the responsibilities encountered throughout their lives.

PARENTS

Parents are an important part of the North Harrison Band, and have a vital role to play. Without the assistance and cooperation of Band parents, there would be no chance for the level of success we want the band to achieve. There are many things parents can do:

Attend Band Parent meetings.

Volunteer for parent committees. There are many different tasks with which we need your assistance, and everyone can find the niche that suits them best: chaperone, uniforms, transportation, equipment handling (pit crew), sewing, meals and publicity are just a few of the areas we need filled for the marching season alone.

Be supportive of the band program and your child's participation by:

Assisting your child to be prepared and punctual for every rehearsal and performance.

Notifying the director if your child is to be absent or late for a performance or rehearsal. This should be done in advance unless in absolute emergency situations.

Encouraging your child to practice at home and help them find a quiet place to do so.

Showing your interest and support in your child's music study by enthusiastically attending every performance possible.

Discussing with directors and staff anything that will help them understand and better serve your child.

Arranging for private lessons for your child, if at all possible.

STAFF AND CHAPERONES

Everyone on the staff of the North Harrison Band has been selected due to the skills and qualities they possess and for the benefit they can bring the band program, and should be considered an extension of the directors. They are to be treated with the highest level of courtesy and respect.

Chaperones are also extensions of the authority of the directors. Without the dedication of our chaperones and other adults that assist with the band, we could not travel or perform in the way we do. These people work hard, and the only payment they receive is our appreciation. Be respectful, polite, cooperative, and remember that the words "Thank You" cost you nothing but are highly valued by the recipient.

If you disagree with something a chaperone asks you to do, you are not to argue with the chaperone. You are to do as you are asked and then inform a director as soon as possible. This policy will be strictly enforced. (In the extremely unlikely event that a chaperone's instruction would cause you to violate civil law or moral standards, the student should ask to be taken by that chaperone to a director immediately) If a chaperone has to report a student for being uncooperative or for any other reason, that student is subject to removal from the group.

SUMMER ACTIVITIES

A complete schedule of all summer activities is distributed by the beginning of summer vacation.

SUMMER REHEARSALS

There are several rehearsals scheduled during summer vacation in order to begin preparing music for the fall performances. Students are strongly encouraged to attend as many of these sessions as possible; however, we recognize that family vacations and other activities may conflict. Students should make every effort to attend every rehearsal that they possibly can. Please let the director know in advance if your child is not able to attend a specific rehearsal.

MUSIC / GUARD / PERCUSSION CAMP

This is a special workshop that all students from NHHS attend each year. Classes are structured for beginning marching band members as well as advanced. Skills taught include marching technique, musical performance, leadership, and motivation. There are special classes for field commanders, color guard, percussion, and wind players. Held at North Harrison High, this week is a series of half-day (4 hour) sessions that are used to rehearse music and marching fundamentals. Different sections follow different timetables, which are spelled out in the schedule for the summer.

BAND CAMP

Held at North Harrison High School usually the later part of July. Exact dates and times will be listed in the schedule for the summer. These are full day sessions, utilized to teach the competitive marching show musically and visually. There will be a lunch break in the schedule, during which students need to bring their lunch and remain on campus during this time.

CAMP ATTENDANCE

It is imperative that students attend ALL Camps. We have a limited amount of time to prepare for our first performance, and we must be able to make the most of the time we have. Students who are unable to make camps may not start the season as a performer.

REHEARSALS

The band follows a regular rehearsal schedule; any changes are announced well in advance. This allows students to plan other activities and obligations around the schedule.

Punctuality is a trait that will serve you well in any endeavor. Plan to arrive well in advance of the beginning of rehearsal...don't try to "sneak" in at the last second. The North Harrison Band has a limited amount of rehearsal time when compared to other groups against which we compete. It is essential that we make efficient use of the rehearsal time we have. This can only happen when every band member is present and working to improve. The band member that misses rehearsal cannot improve, and the other band members around them have a less effective rehearsal due to the absence. We all depend on each other to "carry our fair share of the load" in order for us to achieve the level of proficiency for which the North Harrison Band has become noted.

Rehearsals are never canceled due to inclement weather. We will not usually rehearse outdoors in the rain, unless it is just drizzle or intermittent light rain. In the event of steady rain, we will rehearse indoors and go out at the first opportunity. Students should dress for the weather. Not having the proper attire is not a satisfactory reason for having a poor rehearsal. Students should wear comfortable shoes (preferably low-topped tennis shoes) and socks for rehearsals. This is important in that the style of marching step we use requires that the foot and ankle be permitted to move freely. Caps and sun block are recommended. You may bring water, etc., to the field for breaks. Horseplay, throwing ice or water and other such activities will not be permitted.

Each member is expected to have all necessary equipment, in working order, along with all music and coordinate book at all rehearsals. Students are expected to have a three ring binder notebook with 10 clear vinyl sheet protectors (non-glare) in which to keep their marching band materials.

Absences from band rehearsals or performances are *unexcused* unless due to (a) personal illness, (b) death in the family, (c) an emergency, or (d) special permission of the Director obtained in advance by the parent or guardian. Students must exhibit consistent responsibility in these areas. Excessive absences for any reason may result in being removed from performance status.

BEHAVIOR GUIDLINES

- All band members are expected to follow the instructions of any teacher, staff member or chaperone without question unless said instruction is a violation of civil law or moral standards.
- All school rules and policies are in effect at all band functions.
- Any band member possessing or using any controlled substances, which include tobacco and alcohol, during any band function is subject to immediate removal from the organization, referral to school authorities, and if applicable, the appropriate law enforcement agency.
- Band members will not play on or play with the equipment of others. This practice can lead to potential damage and a general lack of respect for the property of others. If you see someone picking up an instrument or equipment that is not theirs, remind them.
- Destructive activity will not be tolerated, whether it be something as seemingly innocent as playing on a wall, locker, or door with drumsticks, or bumping things with horns or equipment, or something more overt as deliberately damaging equipment, throwing objects, writing on walls or leaving trash around. An organization with class, mature members, and pride will not permit acts such as this. It is the responsibility of everyone to see that these types of things do not occur. If you see it, stop it. If they refuse to stop, notify a director, staff member, or chaperone immediately.
- Band members should not remove, play with, hide, or take all or part of the uniform of others. The uniform is obviously an essential part of the performance. If you have a problem with your uniform, don't take someone else's. See the uniform people for assistance. Take care of your own uniform.
- All students must travel to off - campus activities on the bus. If you wish to ride home from an event with your parents, they must sign you out, in person, at the conclusion of the event, and you will be removed from the bus roster. **Students will be released only to parents or guardians.** Please be aware of this policy -- it is for your protection as well as ours.
- Band members are expected to use good judgment and show respect for others in displaying affection. An impassioned embrace or more ardent demonstration of feeling is best kept for private moments. Band trips and activities are not "carte blanc" makeout opportunities. Keep your raging hormones in check and don't embarrass your friends or cheapen your relationship by taking things beyond the limit of common decency.
- Any time there is a critical incident involving our people, our people and other band members, our people and "civilians", or any incident involving police or other authorities, the directors are to be notified immediately.
- Any injury that occurs during a band function should be reported to the director without delay.
- At any band contest, festival, trip, or other function, band members should move from place to place in a group. Do not go off by yourself, especially after dark. To leave the site, you must have permission from the director.

- Food and drink are not allowed in the stands at football games. You will be given a break during third quarter. When you re-enter the band section, get rid of your food and drinks without being told.
- Students remain in their own row when in the stadium. It is important to present the image of discipline and pride at all times. The band plays only as a group, except when the percussion section plays in support of the cheerleaders. There should be no individual, indiscriminate playing.
- Band members only in the Band section of the stadium.
- When the North Harrison Band "falls in" to march to or from any location, there is to be absolutely no talking. When we march in formation, we are observed by the public and by other bands, and our tradition of success demands that you exhibit the highest level of personal and ensemble discipline at all times. You are "performing" whenever you are in public, whether you are getting off the bus, marching to the stadium, or on break. Do not embarrass yourself and your friends by acting in an immature manner.
- Following any football game or competition, it is your responsibility to insure that all your equipment is put away correctly. Non-band personnel should wait outside the band room to help limit confusion and expedite dismissal.

ATTITUDE

Those who have a positive attitude, regardless of their individual skills, will always have a place in the North Harrison Band. Regardless of your ability, if your attitude is not positive, if you are not doing your personal best to make the group successful, you should not be a part of this band. In fact, students who do not project an attitude that is positive and cooperative will be given the opportunity to change their personal perspective or else leave the organization.

Those who have pride in themselves will generally project a positive attitude.

Characteristics of a positive attitude include a generally cheerful outlook toward rehearsals and performances, cooperation in the preparation and maintenance of equipment and facilities, and an eagerness to do what is necessary to be successful.

In short, the ideal band member is someone who is always willing to give their best for the good of the organization.

CONTESTS AND FESTIVALS

Contests, festivals, and other adjudicated activities are important features of the North Harrison Band program. Through these activities we obtain valuable feedback about our progress as individuals and as a program. Although we never "live or die" by any one judge's or any panel's opinion of our performance, it is important that we learn the value of giving maximum effort and standing by the results as our best possible effort that day.

Competitive performances are packed with emotion. Because of the time, work and discipline required to produce award-winning performances, we develop great camaraderie within the organization. We share hardship, discomfort, fatigue, oppressive heat, chilling cold, long bus rides, disappointment, tears, success and joy.

Along with these emotions go high levels of tension, which often causes students to react immaturely. We learn to avoid these normal pitfalls and channel our energy and attention toward the goal of performance excellence and the ultimate success that will follow.

All members of the North Harrison Band will stand with silent pride as scores are announced and graciously accept the results, regardless of outcome. We show our appreciation and respect for those who have earned the right to score ahead of us and gracefully accept our own successes. Many of our competitors will not understand that we are able to congratulate those who are ahead of us and appreciate their performance. Those are the people that will not ever know the true reason for participating in competition, but will mistakenly equate winning with coming in first. We will come in first when we deserve to based on our performance. Until then, we know "winning" is the state of every individual having endured the hardships, taken the chance of competing, and done their personal best in the pursuit of excellence.

The band's image is based on each individual. Our public reputation is based on our appearance, our actions, and our projection of pride and organization. It is the responsibility of each member to insure that we present the best possible image at all times.

INSTRUMENT CARE

School-owned instruments become the responsibility of the student to whom they are issued. Any damage other than normal wear and tear will be repaired at the student's expense.

Individual instruments must always be maintained in top playing condition. Always show the director your instrument before taking it for repairs.

Remember that horseplay can cause damage to instruments and equipment. Be careful with your own instrument, place it out of harm's way if it is necessary for you to put it down, and never play around with or play on anyone else's instrument.

GUARD EQUIPMENT

Guard members are responsible for their own equipment condition and storage. An individual "flag bag" will be provided for each member. All "flag bags" will be stored in the Guard Room. Members are also responsible for the condition of their equipment. Do not let unauthorized personnel spin your equipment.

PERCUSSION EQUIPMENT

Percussion members are responsible for their own equipment condition and storage. All instruments & accessories will be stored in a specific location, as established by the Staff. Members are also responsible for the condition of their equipment. Do not let unauthorized personnel play your instruments. Lead by example: show others that you respect the instruments and they just might follow you.

UNIFORM INFORMATION

When you are in uniform, you are no longer just an individual, but a representative of our Band, school, and community.

Your uniform is to be complete at all times when in public: you will received detailed guidelines regarding the proper manner to wear the uniform, with which you will be expected to conform. Trousers should be hemmed long enough to just brush the tops of shoes. Jewelry, nail polish, and student - selected accessories are not permitted. The only headgear worn with the uniform is that provided by the Band. Baseball caps will not be tolerated.

Uniforms are to be transported in a uniform bag...ALWAYS. Shoes should not be placed in the bag with the uniform. Any lost, damaged, or destroyed articles of the uniform must be paid for by the student.

All band members must have black marching shoes for performance and must be ordered through the band. Shoes must be clean for each performance. Black socks are to be worn with the marching uniform.

Color Guard uniforms are to be worn in the prescribed manner. Members of the Color Guard are also required to provide the appropriate footwear. Make-up, jewelry, and hairstyle are as much a part of the uniform as the uniform itself. Guidelines for these will be established and members will be expected to conform.

The way you wear your uniform reflects the pride you have in your band. Our uniform, when worn properly, projects an image of pride and dignity. It is everyone's responsibility to see that all members respect and care for the uniform and that the uniform is worn properly at all times.

BAND AWARDS

Each student that participates in the full band program at North Harrison High School, including Marching and Concert activities, will receive a band award at the annual Band Banquet. After the first year of participation, students receive a Band Letter. Each subsequent year they receive a chevron signifying another year's service. In addition, students meeting these requirements are also eligible for several special awards, selected by directors, staff, or by vote of the band. An unexcused absence from rehearsal or performance will automatically disqualify the student for band awards.

INDIVIDUAL OPPORTUNITIES

All-State Band, IBA Honor Band, Solo and Ensemble, and other Honor Band activities provide students with the opportunity to excel individually on their instrument and to receive recognition for their musical achievements.

To be eligible for these auditions, students must be members in good standing of the Band program at NHHS (see Membership Requirements) and pay an audition fee. Any students' grades 9-12 are eligible to audition for any honor band.

There are always outstanding musicians in the North Harrison Band, and we strongly encourage widespread participation in these activities. Often, colleges and universities use membership in these organizations as partial criteria for music scholarship consideration.

Other "Honor Band" activities may be available to NHHS Band students through the year, either based on audition or application. Students will be notified of these opportunities.

SOLO & ENSEMBLE

Solo and Ensemble Festival, held in January or February, also give students opportunity to excel individually or in small instrumental groups. Students may select their own music (with Director approval) or Directors will assist in the selection.

Students should allow at least four weeks of preparation time for the festival. Each S&E participant must play their contest selection for a director by the established ISSMA deadline.

With all these activities, the value of private lessons cannot be measured.

PRIVATE LESSONS

Private lessons are the key to developing an outstanding musical organization. Students who study their instruments privately with a professional show rapid improvement in individual musicianship. As these students improve, their excitement towards practicing increases, they continue to improve, and they become a stronger contributor to the overall success of the band.

Private instruction has a great impact on the individual student and on our band program both this year and in the future. Directors will assist you, if needed, in selecting a private instructor. The key to satisfactory results from private instruction is to start as soon as possible ... **SO START NOW.**

TRAVELTIPS

- Whenever we travel, whether to a football game, a competition, or an overnight trip, band members are to be at the right place, at the right time, with the right equipment.
- Follow all instructions of directors or chaperones. If you don't understand, ask.
- No unnecessary moving around on the bus. No standing in seats, sitting on backs or arms of seats on the bus. Do as the bus driver asks when on the bus.
- Each bus will have a first aid kit on board. Ask chaperones for help.
- Be quiet and cooperative during roll call on buses.
- No alcoholic beverages, non-prescription drugs, or any controlled substances (which includes tobacco and alcohol) are to be taken, bought, or consumed during the trip. Chaperones should be notified in writing if you are taking any prescription drugs.
- No changing buses without directors' permission.
- Leave non-essential valuables at home.
- Watch your belongings. If you put something down unattended, there is an excellent chance it won't be there when you return.
- Profanity is not a part of this band. Make sure your language is never offensive.
- Personal radios and cassette players (e.g. headphones only...no speakers) are allowed on the bus, but for your own hearing the volume level should not be loud enough to be heard outside your head.
- Behavior of students will be exemplary at all times. There is no excuse for rude, obnoxious acts.
- All school rules are in effect throughout the duration of any trip, which include no food or drink on the bus.
- Kindness and courtesy work miracles in almost every situation. Remember that PLEASE and THANK YOU cost you nothing, and yet are highly valued, especially when received from a teenager.
- **There Shall Be No Action For Which An Explanation Is Necessary.** (Translation: If you think someone might ask you "Why did you do that?" then don't do it.) Violations of these rules will result in disciplinary action that could include removal from the organization.

Detailed information sheets, showing reporting, departing, and estimated arrival times, are distributed prior to any trip. Please have transportation available at the designated ETA.

PERFORMANCES

Band Members are expected to be in the band room (or other designated area), seated, with equipment ready, at the time designated by the director.

Arrive early. Leave enough time to get all equipment prepared, be dressed and ready to warm-up or load when so instructed.

Once you're in the band room, keep noise to an absolute minimum. No horseplay.

After any performance, put away all equipment properly.

On concert performances, if your portion of the program is over before the entire concert ends, this does not mean you are dismissed. It is very rude for you to leave before your friends and peers have completed their performance.

BUS REGULATIONS

- Buses are loaded in an orderly fashion. No pushing, running, or crowding the band room doors will be tolerated. We generally load in descending order by grade. Respect this tradition...you'll get to be a senior someday, too.
- Remain in seat while bus is moving. Do not kneel in seats or sit facing backwards.
- No loud talking or profanity. No horseplay. No playing of instruments on the bus. This includes drumming on the seats.
- No switching buses.
- Do not yell from the buses. Hands, arms and other body parts inside the bus at all times.

NORTH HARRISON BAND AGREEMENT 2007-2008

In becoming a member of the North Harrison High School Band, I agree to do my personal best to carry on the tradition of excellence and success both musically and personally. I realize that conscientious attendance and preparation for rehearsals and performances are essential for the North Harrison Band to operate successfully. I fully understand the conditions set forth in this handbook, and agree to abide by them.

Student Signature

Date

Parent Signature

Date

Students Name (print)

This agreement must be signed by both student & parent and returned with the medical form.