

# Cascade School District Instrumental Music Department



2008-2009 6<sup>th</sup> Gr. Band Handbook

Skylar J. Garcia, Director

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## Welcome

Students & Parents of the Icicle River Middle School Band Program,

Welcome the to the Band Program! Beginning band is an incredible class to teach for a lot of reasons. Student progress farther in this one year of band that they will in any other single year simply because they start with no skills at all and by Christmas they will perform in concert for you as a band. While it is a fast and furious ride for the first few months of band it is important to realize that there will be many ups and downs along the way. The frustration level can get very high. It is at these times that we all think, "Is it really worth it?" Having been there myself more than once, I can assure you it is more than worth it. Band can be the best thing that ever happened to a student's life.

As this year progresses I want the encourage all of you parents to remain actively involved in your students musical training. You don't have to read music to be supportive of your child's desire to become a better musician. All you have to do is provide positive encouragement and help by re-enforcing practice habits at home. Regular focused practice time is truly the key to success and a sense of accomplishment that keeps us going and builds self-motivation.

I have prepared this handbook to help inform and to answer questions regarding the band program at IRMS. From grading policies to performance dates, this handbook contains a variety of information that I hope you find helpful. Please read it carefully and be sure you understand the possible implications of the information it contains.

**The last page must be filled out and returned to me by Friday, September 12<sup>th</sup>.** This is a graded assignment (see grading), so please be sure it gets turned in on time. This page is a statement of acknowledgement. This simple says that you have read and understand the policies and procedures outlined in the handbook. Please understand that by signing this statement, you are not only affirming that you have read and understand the information contained here in, you are also agreeing to follow these policies and procedures or accept the consequences of your actions.

**Please take special note of all performance dates.** You are welcome to keep the enclosed list of events for your reference. I would encourage you to copy these dates into you household planner or calendar. This will help to avoid one of the most common causes of lowered grades in band (missing a performance).

If you ever have any questions regarding any aspect of the band program, please contact me:

Work Phone: 548-5277

E-mail: [CascadeKodiakBand@Yahoo.com](mailto:CascadeKodiakBand@Yahoo.com)

I am looking forward to this year and I hope you are as well.

Sincerely,

Skylar Garcia  
Director of Bands  
Cascade School District #228

## IRMS Band Schedule 2008-2009

Day	Date	Event	Place	Time	Who?	Required
Tues.	9-Sep	Chinook Instrument Rental	CHS Band Room	3-7PM	6	No
Tues.	28-Oct	Sarge Huber Honor Band	East Wenatchee	All Day	7, 8	No
Wed.	29-Oct	Fall Band Concert	CHS Commons	7:00PM	7, 8	Yes
Mon.	15-Dec	Band Holiday Concert	CHS Commons	7:00PM	6, 7, 8	Yes
Sat.	31-Jan	Piano/Vocal Solo/Ensemble	Wenatchee HS	All Day	7, 8	No
Sat.	7-Feb	Winds/Strings/Percussion Solo/Ens.	Wenatchee HS	All Day	7, 8	No
	TBA	Band and Choir Festival Concert	IRMS Gym	7:00PM	6, 7, 8	Yes
Wed.	18-Mar	Middle School Band Festival	Foothills MS	All Day	7, 8	Yes
Sat.	25-Apr.	Jr. Apple Blossom Parade	Wenatchee	Morning	7, 8	Yes
Sat.	9-May	Manson Apple Blossom Parade	Manson	All Day	7, 8	Yes
Sat.	TBA	Peshastin Pet Parade	Peshastin	Morning	7, 8	Yes
Thurs.	TBA	Band and Choir Spring Concert	IRMS Gym	7:00PM	6, 7, 8	Yes
Sat.	6-Jun	High School Graduation	P-D Field	7:00PM	8	Yes

### Concert Expectation

Performance behavior for both performers and audience members should be based on a basic respect for the hard work and hours of practice involved in the preparation of the music.

**Performers are expected to behave in a professional manner, which means:**

- Arrive on time
- Dress appropriately (see concert dress code)
- Do not talk or whisper to those around you during a performance whether you are playing or not.
- Focus all of your attention on the music and the conductor
- Don't do things to draw attention to yourself
- Help with set-up and clean-up
- DO YOUR BEST! If you make a mistake, just keep right on playing. Chances are, no one noticed.

**Audience members are expected to show respect for the performers and show appreciation for their work**

- Please do not talk or make noise during a performance.
- If you have to leave to performance, please wait until between pieces.
- Please keep small children quiet and under control.
- Do not walk along the hallway next to the commons area in the high school during a performance.

### Band Room Expectations

- You are in band because you love music & you are committed to personal improvement as a musician through perseverance
- You will always show respect for the people, the music, the tools, and the mission in band
- You will be ready to make music together when the bell rings
- You will strive to make every rehearsal a quality investment of your time and energy
- You will take responsibility for, and accept the consequences of your actions and choices
- You will not interfere with learning or safety or well-being of your fellow musicians

With these goals in mind the following rules apply to the band room.

1. No gum or candy in the band room, practice rooms or storage areas.
2. No food or drinks in the band room, practice rooms or storage areas. (exception is eating lunch by the drinking fountain.
3. Don't leave your trash, reeds, clothing, or other items in the band room.
4. Do not play the percussion instruments unless you are a percussionist.
5. Do not play or borrow someone else's instrument or equipment without their permission.
6. Report all damage to school instruments ASAP, whether you caused it or not.
7. All other school rules apply.

## Cascade Band Grading Policy

Your grade in band will be determined based on a weighted category system. This system works as follows:

- There are five basic categories that you will be graded on:
  - Performances
  - Rehearsal
  - Homework Checks
  - Playing Tests
  - Written or Other Assignments

1. **Performances:** You must perform at all performances or have been granted an excused absence as outlined in the Performance Policy part of your band handbook. Failure to attend or be excused from a performance will drop your percentage in the class by 40%. This means that the only way you can pass the class after having missed a performance is to have a 100% on everything else. You would then pass with a 60% (D-). If you are granted an excused absence, your make up assignment must be turned in within two weeks after the performance date. If your make up is not turned in on time, you will lose 40% of your grade in the class. Each student plays an important role in not only playing their part individually, but with the entire group to create a unified musical ensemble. Concerts are the culmination of classroom work and serve as "exams."
2. **Rehearsal:** You must be prepared for, participate in at an acceptable level, and not disrupt the rehearsal process. Each missed rehearsal will lower your percentage in the class by 5%. Students can lose rehearsal credits in the following ways.
  - a. **Unexcused Absence-** Any absence that is deemed unexcused under Cascade High School or Icicle River Middle School Policy (UA).
  - b. **Absence Not Valid Reason-** Any absence that, while excused by a parent, is not deemed valid under Cascade High School or Icicle River Middle School Policy (NA).
  - c. **Unexcused Tardy-** Any tardy that is deemed unexcused under Cascade High School or Icicle River Middle School Policy (UT). Three unexcused tardies will count as a missed rehearsal.
  - d. **Missing Instrument-** If you do not bring your instrument or if you do not bring all of the parts of your instrument (i.e. no reeds, no sticks, no mouthpiece).
  - e. **Missing Music-** If you do not bring all or part of your music.
  - f. **Missing Cleanup-** If you do not clean up your area at the end of class or if you leave your belongings in inappropriate places in the band room.
  - g. **Missed due to Behavior-** If you interfere with the rehearsal process in any way or your behavior is not appropriate for the rehearsal (i.e. sleeping, reading other books).

If you wish to make up a missed rehearsal you may choose one of these two options. Makeup must be done within two weeks of the missed rehearsal.

- One hour of band room cleaning.
- One hour of practice in the band room after school. Practice must be verified by Mr. Garcia

3. **Homework Checks:** Students will receive a homework check grade every two weeks. Each homework check grade is worth 10 points. Homework assignments for each week will be posted in the band room and on Skyward. Homework checks are graded on a 4 level rubric: O (outstanding [10]), S (Satisfactory [7.5]), U (Unsatisfactory [2.5]), N (Not Played [0]). Homework checks can only be made up (by replaying the checked material) before the grade posts at the end of the two-week period.
4. **Playing Tests:** Playing tests are tests on the music we are currently working on in class. These tests may be either announced or unannounced (pop quizzes). Playing test can vary in value for 5 to 20 points each. Playing tests may not be made up.
5. **Written or Other Assignments:** This category can include everything from research projects to journal entrees to extra performances, but the primary grade here is practice cards. Assignments in this category will vary greatly in value. The number of assignments in this category will also vary greatly from class to class.

**Practice Cards:** Each student will be required to turn in a practice card every two weeks. Practice cards are worth 25 points each. This makes them one of the largest single pieces of the grade and therefore the most important. To receive full credit practice cards must be turned in on time with a parent signature. Unsigned practice cards will not be graded at all. Practice cards will be graded on the following scale:

Total Minutes	Points	Percentage
240 (4 hours)	25	100%
216	22.5	90%
192	20	80%
168	17.5	70%
144	15	60%
120 (2 hours)	12.5	50%
96	10	40%
72	7.5	30%
48	5	20%
24	2.5	10%
Less than 24	0	0%

You can check your current grade online through Skyward which can be accessed from the district website:

<http://www.cascade.wednet.edu/>

Grades will be updated on a weekly and bi-weekly basis.

## Performance Policy

### **Attendance at performances is required!**

An unexcused absence from a performance will lower your grade as you WILL NOT be allowed to make up those points according to school policy!

To avoid this, if you have to miss a performance, I need a note written and signed by your parent/guardian at least **1 month prior to the performance date**. The note must give the specific reason for missing the performance. Cascade School District reserves the right to not excuse absences for invalid reasons (see Cascade High School Handbook). If your excuse is valid, this will make your absence from that performance excused. As stated in the student handbook, "*Students are allowed to make up all assignments from excused days or periods.*"

The only exception to this rule is in cases of medical emergencies or illness. If you have a family emergency or if you become ill you will need to bring a note signed by your physician and/or parent when you return to school. Your absence will then be counted as excused and you will be allowed to make up that performance.

If you do miss a performance for an excused absence and you wish to make up the points, you must satisfactorily complete one of the following make-up assignments. **Make-up assignments are due no later than 10 school days after you return to school.** Each make-up assignment will be worth the same value as the performance. It is your responsibility to remember to get your excused notes and your make-up assignment in on time. I will not remind you.

#### Your performance make-up options are:

**Choice A)** A three page paper about a composer or topic agreed upon by Mr. Garcia. The paper must be written in accordance with the MLA documentation standards and must include citations for all references. You must have at least 2 sources (only 1 may be a CD ROM or internet source). Because the paper is a make-up assignment for a performance, there will only be one graded draft allowed. However, I would encourage you to show me your paper in a rough draft form before you turn it in for a grade. This will almost certainly be to your benefit.

**Choice B)** A performance of all of your parts for Mr. Garcia. Your performance will be judged based on accuracy of rhythms and notes, performance of dynamics and articulations, and stylistic interpretation.

**Choice C)** A performance of an approved solo for the band. Your performance will be judged based on accuracy of rhythms and notes, performance of dynamics and articulations, stylistic interpretation and overall presentation.

**Choice D)** A presentation for the band about an approved topic. This option is only available to those who are missing the performance to attend some other event or to go on vacation. The presentation must be relevant to the class (relevance will be judged by Mr. Garcia). If this option interests you, please see Mr. Garcia well in advance to plan your presentation.

## Stuff You Will Need/Concert Dress/Uniforms

### **Stuff you will need**

#### **Everyone**

- Instrument with accessories (reeds, mouthpiece, valve oil, slide grease, cleaning kit)
- A folder for your music and method books (provided)
- A pencil **NOT PEN** for marking music

#### **Special Requirements**

- Percussionists must have a stick bag with a nametag. Each percussionist must also have 1 pair of bell mallets, 1 pair of general (SD1) snare drum sticks, and 1 pair of light (5A or 7A) snare drum sticks.

## **Concert Dress**

### **Acceptable Dress**

Students are expected to dress as nicely as possible. Preferably this would be a white top and black pants or a black skirt.

### **Unacceptable Dress**

Students not in uniform will either not be allowed to perform or will lose half of a performance grade depending on the occasion.

## **School Instruments**

The school does own a limited number of larger wind instruments and percussion instruments. Students in the percussion section need to have their own snare drum; however, all of the other percussion instruments will be provided. Tubas, Baritone Saxophones, Baritones etc. are available for students who are asked to play those instruments. We also have a very small number of other instruments, which will be checked out on an individual basis to students that cannot rent their own instrument. Students, who use a school instrument as their only instrument, must pay a use fee of \$50 to help cover the cost of cleaning and repair. Financial assistance is available for families and students with limited income.

## **Fines**

Students in the band program will be given a variety of music and books for use in the class. These materials are our textbooks and many are both difficult to replace and very expensive. It is very important that students take very good care of the music and other materials that have been checked out to them. If music is not returned or if it is badly damaged, students will be charged a fine of \$1 per page on damaged or lost music. These funds will be used to purchase new music.

**Statement of Acknowledgement**  
**RETURN THIS PAGE TO MR. GARCIA**

This portion of the handbook must be signed and dated by each student and their parent/guardian and returned to me by Friday, September 12<sup>th</sup> 2008. This slip is a 20 point part of your Grade. If you or your parent/guardian have any questions please contact me at Cascade High School (548-5277).

I, \_\_\_\_\_ have read and understand the information contained in this  
(PRINT STUDENT'S NAME)

handbook. I have also discussed with my parent/guardian, the implications and responsibilities associated with that information. I have taken note of the performance dates and times and I agree to the performance policy outlined in this handbook.

Grade Level: \_\_\_\_\_

Student's signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
(STUDENT'S SIGNATURE)

I, \_\_\_\_\_ have read and understand the information contained in this  
(PRINT PARENT'S NAME)

Handbook. I have also discussed with my student(s), the implications and responsibilities associated with that information. I have taken note of the performance dates and times and I agree to the performance policy outlined in this handbook.

Parent/Guardian signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
(PARENT'S SIGNATURE)