

## BAND HANDBOOK 2022-2023

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## WELCOME FROM THE DIRECTOR

Dear band parents and students,

Welcome to band at Heartland! I am so glad to have each student and family on board. Band is a great opportunity to deepen friendships, develop leadership skills, and learn valuable life lessons through music. Commitment is necessary to having a positive experience in band. Band is not easy, and it won't always be fun. Band is hard work, but it IS extremely rewarding!

This handbook is designed to answer any questions you may have about Heartland's band program. Please read it carefully then sign and return the signature page. I am always available to answer any questions or talk about concerns you may have. I am honored to work with the students at Heartland and am looking forward to a great year together!

Blessings,

Miss Michelle Probst

## BAND MISSION STATEMENT

Heartland's band program exists to empower students to learn instrumental technique, music literacy, and ensemble skills so that students and graduates play their instruments with excellence and use their musicianship to glorify God and minister to others.

## OBJECTIVES

Through instrumental study in band, students will:

- Learn to play their instruments with correct posture, proper technique, and pleasing tone quality.
- Become proficient at reading music and performing it accurately and artistically.
- Develop and demonstrate Christ-like character.
- Use their talents to worship God and minister to others.

## EVENTS

- October 27-28, 2022 – IACS Fall Music Festival (high school advanced band students)
- December 14, 2022 (8:30 AM) – Band & Choir Mini-Concert
  - Dress Code – school uniforms
- March 28, 2023 (7:00 PM) – Band & Choir Full Concert
  - Dress Code – dressy black or black and white
- July 10-15, 2023 – GWSM Band Camp

## PARENT'S RESPONSIBILITY TO THE BAND

While the ultimate responsibility for achievement rests on each student, parental involvement is essential to boost student success by providing encouragement and accountability. Without the support of band parents, the success of the band organization is limited and the director's hands are tied. Here are some critical ways parents can help:

- Show an interest in the musical study of your child. Be aware and encouraging!
- Find a regular time and a quiet place for your child to practice.
- Sign the student's practice sheet every week.
- Encourage carefulness with instruments – repairs are often costly.
- Double check to make sure students bring their instruments and folders to school.

## STUDENT'S RESPONSIBILITY TO THE BAND

To ourselves – You get out what you put in. Half-hearted effort will yield mediocre results. Please do your best and be willing to ask for help when needed. The director is always available for guidance and encouragement – if you ask!

To the school – Heartland Christian School strives to develop Christ-like leaders who are competent, creative, confident, connected, and people of courage and character. Band provides many opportunities to nurture and demonstrate these traits.

To each other – Just like a sports team, each band member's attitude and effort affects other people in the group. A band is only as strong as its weakest player. Set a good example for others to follow!

To the music – No one expects you to play like a professional yet, only to do your best and keep learning. Can you be 1% better every day?

## BAND CURRICULUM

Any student in grade 5+ may join band at Heartland. All students (except beginners) will audition to be placed in the band that best matches their playing level. Each class meets for 40-minute class periods on Mondays and Wednesdays. Beginning band has an additional session on Fridays.

*Beginning Band* – Beginning band works almost exclusively from *Standard of Excellence*, book 1. No previous experience is required.

*Cadet Band* – Cadet band is for students who have some experience on their instrument but lack the skills necessary for intermediate band. In addition to studies from *Standard of Excellence*, book 1, cadet band plays grade 0.5-1 band literature.

*Intermediate Band* – Intermediate band plays from *Standard of Excellence*, book 2 as well as various grade 1-2 band literature.

*Advanced Band* – Advanced band plays grade 3+ band literature. Emphasis is placed on technical proficiency, musical expression, and ensemble skills.

*Percussion* – Percussion students split their time between band rehearsal and a percussion techniques class, where they will learn the fundamentals and techniques for various percussion instruments.

*Band Camp* – All band students are strongly encouraged to attend Garen Wolf School of Music Fine Arts Camp. Camp is held on the God's Bible School and College campus in Cincinnati, OH, on Monday-Saturday, typically the week after July 4. For more information and to register, visit [www.gwsmcamp.com](http://www.gwsmcamp.com).

## CLASSROOM PROCEDURES

- Be on time
- Get your instrument and music ready as soon as you get to class
- When the director begins class, all playing and talking should stop
- Make a real effort to improve every day
- Own your attitude and performance – respect yourself and everyone else
- Put everything away at the end of class (make sure your space is clean and neat)

## PRACTICE EXPECTATIONS

You get to decide how good you will be on your instrument. Practice makes permanent, so practice well! The more you practice, the better you will be able to play your instrument. As you get better at your instrument, you will be able to play harder music. The harder the music you can play, the more fun band is! With patience and perseverance, you will make great progress. Here are a few tips:

- Set reasonable goals each time you practice. Know what you want to accomplish.
- Balance learning technique on your instrument with playing fun music.
- Write your practice time on your practice sheet immediately after you practice. You may count any time you spend practicing your instrument, even if you are not working on your band music. Time spent playing in class or a lesson with your teacher does NOT count.
- Have a parent sign your practice sheet each week.
- Ask your teacher for help if you are struggling or have questions.
- Remember: hard work beats talent when talent doesn't work hard!
- It may not be easy, but it will be worth it.
- The minimum weekly practice time is as follows:
  - ✓ Beginning Band: 5 minutes a day, 5 days a week
  - ✓ Cadet Band: 10 minutes a day, 5 days a week
  - ✓ Intermediate Band: 10 minutes a day, 5 days a week
  - ✓ Advanced Band: 15 minutes a day, 4 days a week

## ATTENDANCE POLICY

Much of the success of a band is determined by all members being present, responsible, and coachable. Please let the band director know ASAP when you realize you will miss a band class. Excessive absences will be considered on an individual basis and may result in a student being dismissed from band.

Students are allowed 3 unexcused absences from band per semester. Each additional unexcused absence will result in a strike (see p. 6). Absences in band will be excused according to the HCS student handbook. To “erase” unexcused absences from their record, a student may schedule a make-up lesson with the teacher after school. There is a \$15 charge each 30-minute session.

If you forget to bring your instrument to school, it is YOUR responsibility to inform the band director. Do not send a friend to relay the message; talk directly to the band director. Makeup work will be given and further consequences will follow if a student habitually forgets their instrument.

Students are expected to participate in all scheduled performances. Exceptions must be cleared with the director at least 2 weeks prior to the event and may result in a student’s grade being lowered.

## GRADING POLICY

Each student will receive one grade per quarter for band. Grades will be calculated according to the following criteria:

- Class attendance and participation - 25% (assessed quarterly by student and teacher rubrics)
- Practice time - 25% (checked weekly - half is amount of time practiced; half is parent signature)
- Playing tests - 25% (test material will typically be announced 1-2 weeks in advance)
- Performance Attendance - 25%

## MUSIC PASS-OFF SYSTEM

Pass-offs allow students to demonstrate mastery of the music at their own pace. Beginning and cadet band students are encouraged to pass off as much of their band music as possible. The player must successfully demonstrate to the director or designated student assistant his/her ability to perform it. Every note and rhythm must be perfect, although further expectations will be adjusted according to the student’s level of experience. Pass off scores will be tallied and rewards given at the end of each quarter.

## STUDENT LEADERSHIP

Leadership is a position of service. All band students are encouraged to contribute to the team according to their abilities. Furthermore, qualified students will be appointed to specific positions, such as section leader and director's assistant. Additional opportunities will be also presented.

## BAND STRIKES

If a band student continuously neglects to fulfill the expectations for band students, he/she will receive a strike. A pink slip listing the reason will be sent home and must be signed by a parent and returned to the band director ASAP. Three strikes will result in the student being dismissed from band for the remainder of the school year. Students may re-audition again the following school year. A strike in band also counts as a strike toward detention. Additional consequences may be given for delinquent behavior as deemed appropriate.

## LOST MUSIC

Band music is expensive. Heartland is working to build a library of quality band music. Students are expected to keep all their band music in the provided folders. Students who lose or destroy band music will be charged \$5 per piece that is damaged or not returned.

## INSTRUMENTS AND SUPPLIES

HCS is pleased to partner with Quinlan & Fabish Music Company (formerly Muncie Music Center) for band supplies and instrument rental and repair. Q&F has a user-friendly instrument rental program and provides quality instruments. Jack Finnegan, an educational representative from Q&F, travels to HCS regularly. Supplies can be ordered online (<https://qandf.com>) and delivered directly to HCS at no additional charge.

All instruments are NOT created equal. Many brands have consistent reputations among band directors and repair technicians. If you find a "great deal," please ask first (the director, not Google!).

## SCHOOL-OWNED INSTRUMENTS

HCS has a limited supply of instruments available for band instruments to use. Each student who rents a school-owned instrument is completely responsible for the care of the instrument. A \$65 fee will be assessed for the year and will be used to cover routine maintenance caused by normal wear and tear. If the instrument is damaged due to abuse or negligence, the student will be responsible for the entire cost of repair or replacement. An instrument rental form must be filled out and returned with payment to the director before an instrument will be assigned.

