

**Handbook  
Crow High/Middle School Band  
(1<sup>st</sup> Period)  
2014 - 2015**



Welcome (or welcome back!) to the Crow Band!

Welcome to a part of this school that not all students have the opportunity to experience. Membership in this distinguished organization is an enjoyable and rewarding experience. The Crow Band consistently maintains a performance standard of excellence while providing each individual with an opportunity for growth.

This band program requires students who are dedicated, determined, and optimistic. Members are dedicated to the performance of good music to the maximum of their abilities. They are dedicated to their fellow band members, to Crow Middle/High School, and to their community. They are determined to work hard and diligently to become a part of this disciplined group, and to make their family proud of all they have accomplished. They are determined to persevere when things get rough, and optimistic that through hard work and practice, they can someday be the leaders.

MrD

## Band Goals

- Always rehearse and perform at the highest level.
- Maintain the highest standards of excellence.
- Instill and maintain pride in our music department and our school.
- Increase understanding and appreciation of the fine arts in the community through our performances and endeavors.
- Maintain a healthy balance of work and play.

## My Job

- To provide you with the skills to become an independent musician.
- To treat all others with respect at all times.

## Your Job

- Become the best musician you can.
- Be willing to learn and grow.
- To treat all others with respect at all times.

## Citizenship

Please see the attached sheets for both citizenship guidelines as well as the grading rubric.

## Grading Policy

<b>Citizenship</b>	<b>70%</b>
<b>Playing Tests</b>	<b>20%</b>
<b>Theory Quizzes and Assignment</b>	<b>10%</b>

Band should be an "Easy A," but there are still some general citizenship guidelines that I you must follow in order to get the best mark in this class. Generically speaking, Citizenship is the majority of your grade, and consists of four equal parts: Participation, Punctuality, Required Materials, and Attitude. Citizenship is 70% of your grade – A large amount of your grade is how you act in class: towards your classmates, your teachers, and yourselves.

## Playing Tests

15% of your grade will be playing tests. Yes, this is a change from the last few years, but I feel that participants do need to be held accountable to keep their parts up. All test materials will come from the warm-up/exercise packet you will all be receiving. Playing tests will be held every other Friday, and you will know all playing assignments well in advance.

## Music Theory Quizzes and Assignment

15% if your grade will be in music theory. This is new . . . very new. **Don't panic!!** I maintain that the better you understand music and how it is constructed, the more you will appreciate it and the better you will play. The goal is to have everyone be able to play 5 (five!) scales – from no flats (C major) to four flats (A flat major) – by the semester.

## Practice

Practice is an integral part of band. As such, we cannot ignore it, for we do so to our peril. HOWEVER, you will also note the difficulty of the music that we will be playing. If you don't practice, you'll find band quite . . . frustrating.

This band does not have practice requirement. It is very, very simple. Professional and college ensembles have no practice requirements, and neither do college studio lessons. The simple fact is, if you enjoy what you're doing and want to actually *improve* (as well as being prepared for your rehearsal), you will practice.

A caveat: If I detect that people are not taking their home practice responsibility seriously I will re-apply the practice card requirement.

## Concert Dress

### Men

Choir/Band Shirt  
Black Slacks  
Black Shoes

### Women

Choir/Band Shirt  
Black slacks or skirt  
Black Shoes

**Yes!** We are getting a choir/band shirt this year, which we will wear at all of our public performances. The shirt fee is \$15. I will be ordering ASAP after school starts, but not before I receive everyone's (HS & MS band, choir, and jazz band) shirt fee.

**If you still have your shirt from last year then you do not have to buy a new one this year!**

**Unacceptable concert dress:** Other shirts, blue jeans of any kind, street shoes, tummy shirts (which I think are out of style anyway), or teeny little skirts.

## School Instruments

All band instruments were serviced this summer due to some generous donations from the Crow community. We are grateful for this, as many of our fleet of instruments have been unrepaired and unplayable for years. We will keep them in as good a shape as possible and treat them with the respect that they deserve.

If you are leasing an instrument from the school district, then I unfortunately I will have to follow up on all rental fees. In the past I have often waived this charge, but things being how they are I'm going to insist on collecting money this year. The yearly charge is \$35 -- which is a lot cheaper than any other option. If you do a yearly lease from Pacific Winds the charge is well over \$150 for the smallest instruments, and the charge goes up from there for larger instruments.

- You still must provide all necessary supplies for your instrument to play properly – reeds, slide/valve oil, etc.
- I cannot let you take an instrument home until you have paid the lease fee to Cathy, and she has given me a receipt.
- We are going to run out of instruments this year, and as you know older students have priority. However, I request that you try to either purchase or lease an instrument to free up an instrument for a younger player.

## Concert Attendance

### Rule 1: Participate in all performances

***If you have an unexcused absence from a concert you will fail this class and be asked to leave this group.***

### Rule 2: There is no Rule 2

You are expected to attend all performances. Keep calendars on the refrigerator at home so that important dates will not be a surprise! Excused absences from performances include medical emergencies, car accidents, death in the family, or other unavoidable situations. Unexcused absences include hair appointments, athletic events, or "not having a ride." PLEASE plan for our events; they are imperative in achieving our band goals!

Be at all performances at least 30 minutes prior to downbeat! This not only makes me feel better, but it allows most problems to be rectified without panic.

Of course, there are rare instances of legitimate unavoidable conflict. In those cases, you are allowed to make up the work missed at the concert IF I AM NOTIFIED AT LEAST ONE WEEK PRIOR TO THE PERFORMANCE. In cases of severe illness, notification in writing should be as soon as possible. These guidelines allow me to make arrangements for a meaningful performance with absent students taken into account. If you tell me you cannot attend a performance, I will call home THAT DAY to confirm your claim.

## Scheduled Performances TBA

This page is to be signed by both you and a parent/guardian and returned to Mr. Dixon by Friday, 9/12.

**Crow Choir/Band Conduct Pledge Form  
2014 – 2015**

By signing this, you are acknowledging that you understand and agree with the following:

- I have received and read the CHS/MS Choir Syllabus, including the citizenship guidelines as well as the grading rubric.
- I am aware of the CHS/MS Choir performance schedule.
- I am aware of the concert attendance policy and dress code.

**Conduct Pledge**

I, \_\_\_\_\_, am committed to being an asset to the CHS/MS Band. I agree to practice excellence every day and act in a way that will benefit my personal musical development as well as the musical development of the group. Furthermore, I have read the syllabus and I understand that I will be graded according to how I adhere to its commitments.

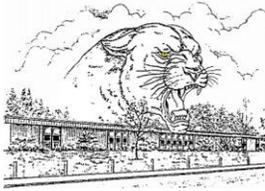
By signing this conduct pledge, I promise to:

- Show respect for others and their opinions.
- Conduct myself as a responsible, cooperative, and respectful member of the Crow Choir.
- Participate in all scheduled choir functions for a grade.
- Be on time for rehearsal.
- Come prepared for rehearsal with my music folder and a pencil every day.
- Follow all Crow School rules and procedures.

Student's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

T-Shirt Size \_\_\_\_\_



Crow Middle/High School Music Dept.  
 25863 Crow Road  
 Eugene, OR 97492  
 (541)935-2227



Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Band and Choir Citizenship Grading Rubric

	<b>A</b> 21-25 points		<b>B</b> 18-20 points		<b>C</b> 17-19 points		<b>D/F</b> <16 points	
<b>Punctuality</b>	Comes to class on time every day.  All tardies excused.		Comes to class on time most days.  Most tardies excused.		Frequently tardy.  Many tardies unexcused.		Always tardy.  Most, if not all, tardies unexcused.	
<b>Required Materials</b>	Has required materials every day.		Has required materials almost every day (forgotten 2 times or less).		Frequently does not have required materials (forgotten more than 3 times).		Rarely has required materials. (forgotten more than 7 times)	
<b>Attitude</b>	Exhibits productive, positive, and cooperative attitude at all times.		Exhibits productive, positive, and cooperative attitude most of the time.		Occasionally has a negative attitude.		Frequently has a negative, uncooperative attitude.	
<b>Participation</b>	Participates fully at all times. Always follows instructions.		Participates most of the time, and usually follows instructions.		Only participates or follows instructions when reminded.		Never participates or follows directions, even when reminded.	

Total Points \_\_\_\_\_/100 possible points

Citizenship Grade \_\_\_\_\_

90-100 points = A  
 80-89 points = B  
 70-79 points = C  
 <69 points = D/F  
 with your time?

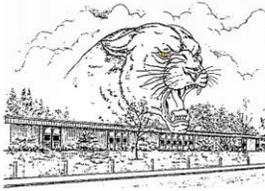
Exceeds Expectations  
 Meets Expectations  
 Rising to Meet Expectations  
 Below Expectations - Perhaps you should find something else to do

Comments \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Dixon Signature



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### **Crow Band and Choir Citizenship Expectations**

In order to make our ensembles the best they can be we need to use our class and rehearsal times wisely. These rules will be followed in all rehearsals so that everyone can benefit from our program.

- Always show respect for each member of the ensemble, including Dixon.
- Always raise your hand to ask for permission to talk. You miss out on what is being taught and so do the people around you if you are talking during class and/or rehearsal time.
- **TURN OFF YOUR CELL PHONE!**
- Keep personal issues outside the room. Do not let your personal baggage distract from our rehearsal.
- **GUM, FOOD, AND/OR DRINKS ARE NOT PERMITTED IN THE ROOM DURING CLASS!** Bottled water is fine -- soda, Gatorade, fruit juice, or energy drinks are not.
- **Band:** Do NOT play your instrument unless we are playing together or Dixon is asking you to. It is a distraction for you and those around you.
- Be in your seat, ready to play, with your instrument and materials no more than three minutes after the tardy bell rings. If you are not, you will be counted tardy.
- Make sure that you ALWAYS have your materials for rehearsal and/or class. This includes your instrument, music folder, pencil, reeds, valve/slide oil and a good attitude. This includes the choir as well.
- **TURN OFF YOUR CELL PHONE!**
- You must bring your instrument or folder to school every day you have class.
- **Band:** You must practice at home to make consistent progress. The band is only as strong as our weakest link. When one person does not practice, it hurts the entire band's progress. Don't let others down! Do your part to always play your best.
- My office is not going to be used as storage space. You need to be responsible for storage of your instrument or music folder, and taking it home every night. I will allow materials to be stored in my office only under extenuating circumstances.
- Always check the board upon entering for rehearsal order and announcements.
- Participate fully in class.
- Take care of our room. Keep it clean and orderly. This includes staying off the whiteboard.
- Do NOT touch instruments or materials that do not belong to you. Yes, this means both percussion and the keyboard.
- **TURN OFF YOUR CELL PHONE!**

## ***THE HARDEST THING ABOUT PRACTICING IS GETTING THE INSTRUMENT OUT OF THE CASE!!!***

### **Daily practice is the lifeblood of any band program.**

You must practice in order to reinforce concepts covered in class and to develop the necessary skills on your instrument to become a top-notch musician.

In this program you are expected to take their instruments home everyday. You will never have a day where you don't have something to work on.

### **Have a "Practice Routine"**

**Warm-up Time:** Play through the warm-up exercises introduced in class. Don't just go through the motions, though. LISTEN to what is coming out of your instrument and BE INVOLVED in trying to make it better!

**Building Time:** This time should be spent working on specific practice assignments (lines from the book, scales, music from band, etc.). Try to make at least one thing perfect every day.

**Performance Time:** This time is dedicated to performing musical works selected by you. Make time to play music that you enjoy!

### **Other Practice Hints**

1. Choose a **room that is quiet and free of distractions**...no TV or radio.
2. Be sure to **use proper seating and playing position** and USE A MUSIC STAND.
3. **Make use of a metronome.** Break down hard passages and practice at a slow tempo. Don't raise the tempo or move on until you can play the passage or scale five times in a row perfectly. If you can't play something, you are going too fast! An online metronome can be found at [www.metronomeonline.com](http://www.metronomeonline.com).
4. **Practice for RESULTS**, not just to "put in time."
5. **Prioritize.** Realize that there are some things you can fix in one practice session while other things may have to develop over time.
6. **Play for your parents.** Let them see and hear what you are doing in class.
7. At the beginning of each practice session, determine what your main goals are so that you don't lose focus.

### **How Much to Practice**

In order for a student to progress on an instrument at the expected rate, a regular practice routine must be followed.

There is no "set" amount of time a student should practice each day, but here are some general guidelines:

A beginner in the first six weeks of study should practice about 20-25 minutes per day.

A beginner should increase this time to 30-45 minutes per day starting in the second six weeks.

A second or third year player should plan on practicing at least 30 minutes per day, but, preferably, more like 45 to 60 minutes. This may be broken up into two sections (for example, 15-30 minutes in the morning and 30 minutes in the afternoon).

Occasional days off are fine, of course, but in order to maintain consistency, a student should practice at least five days a week. The student should try to avoid taking multiple days off in a row.

It is better to practice in 30-45 minute "chunks" on a daily basis than it is to practice for longer periods on just one or two days per week.

As mentioned above, the student should have a plan and make sure his or her practice is "focused" and not done simply for the sake of putting in time on the instrument.