



*Handbook 2018-2019*

# ELKHORN HIGH SCHOOL INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC HANDBOOK 2019-2020

*Instrumental Music at Elkhorn High school is one of the many ways that students learn to express themselves individually and in an ensemble setting. Our instrumental ensembles will not only enable students to perform selected literature on their specific instrument, but will also give a general understanding of music as a performer, listener, and intelligent consumer of the art. While there will be some out of class assignments and practice is expected, our instrumental music courses will not require a great amount of daily homework. For this very reason, great importance is placed on attendance, class and concert participation, attitude, attentiveness, adherence to class expectations, proper use of social skills, and respect towards individuals and self.*

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## **Grading Policies**

The goal of our band program is to help students become literate, critical, and comprehensive musicians. We will use a range of activities and evaluations to help achieve this goal. Grades will be determined within the following formula:

*35%- Rehearsal attendance, attitude, and effort  
25%- Performance attendance, attitude, and effort  
40%- Assignments/Quizzes/Playing Evaluations*

It is essential that students attend all scheduled rehearsals and performances. All absences are considered UNEXCUSED unless otherwise arranged. **Performances will not be considered excused unless a parental notification is submitted at least two weeks before the performance date. Special considerations will be made for illness or family emergencies, as long as notice is given in a timely manner. Work conflicts will never be considered excused. Unexcused concert absences will receive a zero in the gradebook, and can be PARTIALLY made up through a makeup assignment from the director.** Please remember that although you may practice and fill out the practice log for extra credit to replace lost points, there is no way to truly make up a missed performance or rehearsal opportunity. Our band is a team; every member needs to be present in order to perform at 100%.

Assignments will vary throughout the year as we work on different aspects of our curriculum. They may include music memorization, playing tests, music theory quizzes, special projects, listening reviews, research projects, and external concert attendance among others.

Students who are absent for a rehearsal are responsible for finding out what was worked on that day. Daily points will be lost for each absence, and can only be made up through use of a home practice log. 30 minutes of practice will make up the loss of 1 day's participation points. If there were any assignments, the student must contact the director to arrange a way and time to make it up.

### **Rehearsal Time Expectations**

During the marching season, we will need all the time we can get to prepare our show to an outstanding level. To accomplish this, the downbeat of our rehearsals will be at 7:05 AM each day, no matter the weather. Band members not in attendance position either in the room, or on the field with instrument, music, and charts ready will be counted tardy. Being in the right place unprepared is unacceptable. Once our regular marching season ends, rehearsals will start promptly at 8:05 AM. Again, it is the expectation that at the start time, all students will be in their spots ready to play. **To be early is to be on time.** Students not prepared to begin class on time will be docked participation points commensurate with their degree of tardiness. Students with repeated infractions may not be allowed to participate in a performance if their readiness has been affected. The points lost for this must be made up.

### **Music**

Each student will receive a copy of each piece of music that we play. It is the student's responsibility to mark all music (in pencil) as your own and to keep it from getting lost. It is expected that you will have your music at rehearsal every day, along with a pencil for marking it. Forgetting music is just like forgetting a textbook for another class. If you do not have it, you are unprepared for the day, and your daily points will be affected. Lost music or folders may bring fines for the replacement cost of your music. The same expectations are in place for jazz band, pep band, and solo/ensemble pieces.

### **Instrument Care and Accessories**

The proper care and upkeep of your instrument is your responsibility. Students who own their own instruments are expected to keep them in good playing condition and arrange for any necessary repairs in a timely fashion.

Students who use a school owned instrument are responsible for any repairs which are caused by accident, negligence, or misuse. The school will assume financial responsibility for regular maintenance items. See Mr. Rom if you have questions about the nature of your repair. Students using school owned instruments are expected to abide by the terms, conditions and fees agreed to in the instrument rental contract. Students using school instruments will be charged a rental fee to help sustain their upkeep and build towards replacing them when worn out. This includes percussionists, whose rental fee is used for regular maintenance and head replacement.

In cases of financial need or other special circumstances, the director may waive charges, or agree to help finance an instrument repair. Please see Mr. Rom if you have any questions or needs with financial help.

Accessories that you need, such as reeds, oil, lyres, neck straps, etc. can be obtained from several music stores in the area. In an emergency, Mr. Rom may have some supplies you can use, however you are expected to be prepared and have the supplies you need.

### **Lockers**

The only items that you should keep in the band room are your instrument and music, for which you will be provided a locker. These lockers will be locked when possible, however

as some of the lockers will be assigned to more than one person, they are not a safe place to keep any valuables. The Band Department is not responsible for any personal items that are lost or stolen in the band room. Please remember that you have permission to be only in your own locker and not anyone else's. If you have an individual locker, you may request a lock from the directors. If you cannot find that lock at the end of the year during check-in, you will be assessed a replacement fee. Do NOT bring a personal lock, it will be cut off.

### **Uniforms**

Live music performances are both an auditory experience and a visual one. For this reason, we will have a uniform assigned for each performance type. Every performer is expected to be in uniform, and if it is forgotten, you will not be allowed to perform. Marching band will utilize the formal uniforms for all performances after band camp.

At Concert Band performances we will wear "concert black" clothes. Students are responsible for providing their own outfits for this uniform. Clothes must be **entirely black**, with no pattern or graphic anywhere. Concert attire is semi formal. No midriff skin (cut out dresses) or low cut attire is appropriate in a concert setting. Shoulders need to be mostly if not entirely covered (no tops of less than 3 inch straps)

**Women: black dress and black leggings/tights, black pants, black blouse, black skirt & top (with leggings/tights), closed toed black flats or very low heels**

**Men: black dress pants, black shoes/socks (no white soles), black collared (preferably button up) shirt, if you choose to wear a tie it should also be black**

### **Guard Uniforms**

Members of the Guard will have their own uniforms which are ordered and paid for individually through the Instrumental Music Department. These uniforms will consist both of a set of warm-ups which can be worn for multiple years, and a show specific outfit, which must be purchased every year. Specific outfit combinations for each game or performance will be determined by the director and guard instructor as appropriate for the context and weather.

As with the other sections of the band, the guard uniforms should not be altered or given to anyone else to wear. We represent our band, school, and community, and want to do so with pride!

### **Financial Responsibilities**

There are a few parts of our uniforms that need to be purchased by students:

- Band Shoes (Drillmaster brand)- need to be ordered by all new members, and by any returning member whose old shoes do not fit. Price will be around 40.00
- White Gloves- need to be ordered by new members and any returning member whose existing gloves are lost or worn.
- Band Camp Shirt- needs to be ordered by everyone- will be worn under our formal uniform at all performances. Price will be 10.00, although free shirts are given to students who meet fundraising goals.
- Pep Band Polo- Needs to be ordered by new members, as well as members who have outgrown or misplaced their old one. This will be the standard uniform for all pep band performances. The Price will be approximately 40.00.

In order to simplify the process and help ensure that payments are accurately recorded, all of the various fees (except the band camp fee) will be assembled into a single 1<sup>st</sup> semester band bill, to be mailed out in September. Payments can be split up to accommodate budgets, but must be paid in full by the beginning of winter break. All checks should be made out to Elkhorn High School. Payments will be put in a locked drop box, and should never be given to Mr. Rom or any other staff member directly.

## **Ensembles and Objectives**

### **Pride of the Antlers Marching Band**

The Antler Marching Band is one of the most visible aspects of our band program at EHS. Throughout the years, this band has gained a reputation among the public and our peers as an example of excellence on and off the performance field. Although it takes years to build a legacy, it takes only one season to destroy it. We must remain dedicated to high standards of musicianship, showmanship, and respect for ourselves and all those we compete with and for. This mission will take the personal effort of every student and staff member involved in our program.

Remember that on the marching field, no one is in first or last chair. Each performer is an integral cog in a very large and complex precision machine. No matter where you are on the field, or how simple your musical line may be, you may be the focus point of someone in the audience, or even one of our judges. There are no down moments in marching band.

The EHS Marching Band will:

- serve as a musical and physical outlet for those involved
- contribute to the school spirit and morale at EHS and in the city
- compete with excellence at competitions of our peers
- provide halftime entertainment at its best
- participate in school and community functions
- teach teamwork towards a common goal
- develop higher order cognitive skills and self expression
- develop students musical skills and foster creativity

### **Concert Band**

After marching season is over, we will transition to two concert bands (a freshmen band and a 10-12 band) for the remaining three quarters of the year. During 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter, both groups will meet during 1<sup>st</sup> hour. 2<sup>nd</sup> semester the 10-12 band will meet first hour, and freshmen band will meet 2<sup>nd</sup> hour. These ensembles will be where much of our musical learning occurs, and we will focus on a wide variety of skills, concepts, and ideas, including basic work on technical skills, bringing the written music to life through expression, music as communication and art, music theory and history, performance etiquette, and appreciate the unique contributions of many music types, even those we personally find hard to love.

The Concert Bands will:

- serve as a core foundation for all instrumental musical activities at EHS
- provide an environment in which to explore the true art of expression through music
- teamwork towards a common goal
- develop higher order cognitive skills and self expression

- develop students musical skills and foster creativity
- challenge students at their level and push them to improve their musical abilities

### **Pep Bands**

Throughout the school year, our band will perform as a pep band for various sporting events and activities. This year, we will split into two pep bands to lighten the time commitment for everyone. The events which each band performs at have been determined by a meeting between the director and administration. The pep band performances are another very public part of what we do, and are important for adding to school spirit. Because of these reasons, pep band games are considered performances and will be graded accordingly. Attendance at games that your pep band is playing is REQUIRED.

If you have a conflict with a game you are scheduled to play at, you have the option of finding someone from the other band to TRADE games with. Once a trade is worked out, both students must fill in a trade sheet, sign it, and turn it in to Mr. Rom. This form is due at least one day before the scheduled event, unless the trade is due to illness on the game day. All trades must be on like instruments! If no one can trade with you, you are responsible for being at the game, or accepting the consequences of a missed performance. Once trades have been made, you are responsible for attending that performance as if it was your own. If you get sick on a game day, please let Mr. Rom know ASAP who you will be trading with, and he will fill out the necessary forms. If you are absent for the day from school with an illness, you will be excused, and Mr. Rom will attempt to find your replacement.

You may always play in games which you are not signed up for! Each pep band performance you volunteer for will be credited towards your band letter.

When we are performing as a pep band at games, it is like being on duty at a job. You must be ready to play at any time, meaning that cell phones, homework, etc. may be restricted. If we are there for a full double header game (boys and girls) you will be given a break at a certain point in the game to use the restroom, get snacks, and visit with friends. It is important that we are back in our position ready to play by the time given to you by your director. A quarter break with the band area looking like a ghost town is a poor reflection on all of us.

### **Jazz Bands**

The jazz bands will study and play various styles of jazz from across the styles and decades. We will work on material from the big band swing era and before all the way through modern funk and fusion styles. Players will learn to express themselves through improvisation, and work to understand the history and language of one of America's only original art forms, along with the theory and fundamentals that anchor it.

Our varsity jazz band "the Jantlers," will be an auditioned group, and will rehearse before school one to two days per week, along with one weekly evening rehearsal. This group will perform at our band concerts, school and community events, and several jazz festivals in the area. All jazz band members must be members of a concert band, unless special director permission is given before hand for rhythm section instruments that we do not have in the concert band.

Jazz Dos, our JV jazz ensemble, will rehearse two to three days per week before school. Instrumentation may be more diverse than the competition jazz band, and it is open to students on all instruments. They will perform at school concerts, and possibly at a festival.

Students will be assessed using attendance, participation, playing assessments, written assignments, and performances.

### **Other Ensembles**

Throughout the year and especially before EBO and DMC, there will be many small ensembles formed, including brass quintets, woodwind trios, duets, solos, etc. These opportunities will be open to all EHS band students in all grades.

Percussionists often are not given parts during every piece in concert band due to the number of parts available on some pieces. To help make up for this deficit, concert percussion ensembles will be formed and will practice during the winter and spring seasons. Participation in these ensembles is mandatory for percussionists. Rehearsal times will be determined at a later date.

### **Hazing/Bullying**

Hazing and initiations of any sort will not be tolerated. Our band is a family which needs trust to function. Treating other members with anything less than respect and friendship does not help us grow together. Any reports of hazing, bullying, or other improper conduct will be handled according to policies adopted by our school administration and board of education in the handbook.

### **Rehearsal Guidelines and Expectations**

1. Be on time to rehearsal. 3 tardies will lead to detention and then further disciplinary action.
2. Be ready to play at any time. Rests are not a time for homework or visiting.
3. Pay attention in rehearsal, even if you are not playing. Often times, one can learn from the mistakes of others.
4. Be respectful of others by not talking or causing disturbances during times when one section is woodshedding.
5. No food, drink, or gum during rehearsals. Seriously, they make your instrument really gross.
6. Respect each other and each other's equipment. Do not borrow without asking, and do not play jokes on others by hiding their instrument, etc.
7. Always ask, but make sure you've been paying attention before you speak!
8. Bring a pencil to every rehearsal
9. Take pride in our ensemble and in your role in it.
10. Encourage each other when things are difficult. Band is an ensemble sport!

Rehearsals make up the largest amount of our time together. In order to make them meaningful and effective, we must view them as more than a means to exciting moments on stage or on the field. Our rehearsal times can and must have the moments of excitement, joy, and even sorrow that we long for in performance. It is likely that the most truly beautiful music will be in our band room. These moments are for each other and for music.

# Band Lettering Requirements and Worksheet 2019-20

Name \_\_\_\_\_

*Letter points are as follows and are subject to revision. Other items may be granted at the director's discretion. Please be prepared to present documentation of an activity at director's request. Please provide a program for community performances not set up through the school. **A total of 500 points is required to letter!** Students are responsible for keeping track of their own lettering records. This sheet plus any supporting documents must be completed and turned in no later than May 1<sup>st</sup> to Mr. Rom. Students who do not return this completed worksheet will not letter, regardless of how many points they have earned. Students who earn 1,000 points will also receive a bar pin.*

<b>Activity</b>	<b>Points</b>	<b>Total earned</b>
"B" Average for the year in Band*	100	_____
"A" Average for the year in Band (may not claim "B" points too...)	225	_____
Solo performance for DMC or Elkhorn Band Olympics	85	_____
Small Ensemble performance for DMC or EBO	50	_____
Audition for honor group (All-State, UNO Honor, etc)	20 each	_____
Acceptance into honor group	50	_____
Each extra pep band performance (not counting trades!)	10 each	_____
Participation in Pit Orchestra	75	_____
Take private lessons outside of EHS (weekly)	50/sem	_____
Participation in OAYO or other community group	75 each	_____
<u>Solo</u> performance in community	25 each	_____
Ensemble performances in community (ex. Church band)	10, or 40/sem	_____
Show Choir Band (each)	75	_____
Antler Force Member	100	_____
Winterguard/Indoor Drumline Member	75	_____
DMC Rating for Concert Band (superior/excellent)	25/15	_____
Marching Band Competition results	(TBA-Rom)	_____
Chair Challenge Participant	10 each	_____
Jantlers Member	100	_____
Jazz Two Member	100	_____
Help with various band tasks	5-50 varies	_____
Attend a concert by a symphony or "pro" concert band**	10	_____
Fall Prop construction	5 per hour	_____
Working concession stands, SOE, etc.	5 per hour	_____
Working at middle school band camp`	5-50 (see sheet)	_____
Other (approved by director)		_____

<b>GRAND TOTAL _____</b>
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\*A minimum Grade Point Average of 3.0 for the year in band must be attained to be eligible for lettering. Students who transfer in during the year must maintain this average from the time they begin classes.

\*\*This means a community band, military band, etc. High School or Middle School concerts do not count. Pop/Rock/Country concerts do not count.

## Emergency Treatment and Health Form

STUDENT'S FULL NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

(street)

\_\_\_\_\_

(city)

\_\_\_\_\_

(zip)

\_\_\_\_\_

(Phone)

BIRTHDATE \_\_\_\_\_

DATE OF LAST TETANUS SHOT \_\_\_\_\_

CHRONIC MEDICAL PROBLEMS, ALLERGIES, ETC. THAT WE MAY NEED TO KNOW

FOR PROPER CARE OVER LONG DAYS AT COMPETITIONS \_\_\_\_\_

HEALTH INSURANCE (COMPANY) \_\_\_\_\_

(POLICY #) \_\_\_\_\_ (HOLDER) \_\_\_\_\_

### PARENT/GUARDIAN INFORMATION

FATHER \_\_\_\_\_

MOTHER \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

PHONES \_\_\_\_\_ HOME

PHONES \_\_\_\_\_ HOME

\_\_\_\_\_ WORK

\_\_\_\_\_ WORK

\_\_\_\_\_ CELL

\_\_\_\_\_ CELL

In the event of sickness or accident, the sponsors and/or chaperones of the EHS band are granted permission to seek any needed medical attention for the above named student. Also, I grant the permission to give any/all needed medical care and treatment to any medical facility or physician licensed to provide this care and approved by the sponsor or chaperone. This permission is granted in the absence of the parents/guardians of the minor.

Parent Signature(s) \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_