

NCHS Bands Handbook 2026-2027

Mr. Carter

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Student Learning Objectives:

Students who take this course will:

- Perform on their instrument(s) at a high level of proficiency as a section and ensemble member, as well as in smaller chamber ensembles and sectionals
- Understand the concepts of good tone, intonation, balance, and blend
- Understand the concepts of phrasing, dynamics, note and rhythmic accuracy, and ensemble clarity as it relates to the performer
- Become familiar with a diverse range of quality repertoire, including but not limited to newer works, works by diverse composers, older standards, etc.
- Work creatively and collaboratively with other members of the ensemble

Student Expectations and Rehearsal Etiquette:

- Be on time and prepared for rehearsal (this means you must practice at home!)
- Come to rehearsal open-minded and ready to learn
- Use time in rehearsal to become a better musician: listen actively, understand your role, and participate in class discussions as well as music making
- Be quiet, respectful, and stay focused on the rehearsal process
- Phones are not to be used during rehearsal unless specifically stated; students will be instructed to place their phones face down under their chair and are not to be used
- Respect colleagues, the teacher(s), the equipment, and the space
- This environment should be a safe place where all students feel welcomed

Concert Schedule:

Student attendance at all afternoon dress rehearsals and evening concerts is strictly **REQUIRED**. Ensembles rely on all students participating in order to perform music at the highest levels. Please put the following dates below on your calendar **NOW** and inform Mr. Carter if there are any conflicts as soon as possible. These are not the only performances, so keep an eye on the calendar on the website for any potential additions.

- *Wednesday, November 4th, 2026: Dress Rehearsal for SW, SB, CW*
- *Thursday, November 5th, 2026: WE/WS/CJHS 8th Grade*
- *Monday, November 9th, 2026: U5MP Musical Arts Extravaganza: SW, SB, CW*
- *Monday, December 7th, 2026: Dress Rehearsal for SW, SB, CW*
- *Tuesday, December 8th, 2026: All Bands Winter Concert*
- *Wednesday, March 10th, 2027: Dress Rehearsal for SW, SB, CW*
- *Thursday, March 11th, 2027: All Bands Concert*
- *Thursday, March 18th, 2027: Percussion Ensemble Concert for CW*
- *Monday, May 10th, 2027: Dress Rehearsal for SW, SB, CW*
- *Tuesday, May 11th, 2027: All Bands Spring Concert and Senior Celebration*
- **Other Dates TBD as the year progresses**

Grading:

Band is a skill-based class utilizing Traditional Grading. We will continue to use the standards rubric that can be found at ironmenbands.org under FOR STUDENTS. Assignments will be scored on a points-based system converted from the rubric used to score assessments. Playing tests are the most common form of skill assessment, and they will be administered either during class or outside of class via electronic submission. Playing tests will have due dates shared in advance. Late submissions may be accepted on a case-by-case basis up until the next Concert or Performance, after which they will remain a zero.

PERFORMANCES are assessed similarly and are also used to assess a variety of performer and audience skills. **Attendance at all performances is required** (for the entire duration).

Excused absences from a performance include: illness on the day of the performance (i.e., not in school), death in the family, *immediate* family wedding, and school sports conflict (provided proper prior communication and effort to be at both events). (NOTE: Club sports and outside events are NOT considered an excused absence.) In cases of a school-related conflict, please notify your coach and band director **as soon as possible** of the conflict.

Folders:

You will be assigned a folder for the year, which will be labeled with your name and instrument. Folders are to be kept in your locker or in the Band room, and you are responsible for them at all times! If the folder is damaged or lost while in your possession, you will be responsible for the cost of replacement as well as the contents of the folder: music, books, etc. (which can range from \$25 to \$50 or more). To minimize wear and tear on the folders, students may also be provided with a cardboard folder upon request to transport music to and from home for practicing; please do not stuff the oversized folders into your backpack if it does not fit.

Music:

Every student will be issued their own set of music parts for the concerts. Please write **only** in pencil on these parts and in warm-up books/binders. Loose scale sheets, fingering charts, and other materials may also be provided and are yours to keep.

Lockers:

Each student will be issued a locker in which to store their instrument. Use **ONLY** your assigned locker. You are responsible for supplying your own lock to keep your locker locked at all times. Locker combinations **MUST** be provided to Mr. Carter and will be stored for emergency cases. Your personal insurance on your instrument will NOT cover theft if your locker was unlocked. If you are playing a school-owned instrument, a lock is **required**. If theft occurs because of your negligence, you will be asked to cover the cost of the instrument. (Some of the instruments range in cost from \$2,500 to \$5,000 or more). If you misuse lockers, your privilege to use them will be revoked.

Concert Dress:

Students will be provided with concert attire by the Band program. It is expected that students take good care of their concert attire. This includes keeping it on a hanger, dry cleaning as necessary, and returning it in good condition at the end of the year. For those individuals wearing a Tuxedo, it may be necessary to have your pants hemmed to correct the length, if you are having an issue with that, let Mr. Carter know. Students will need to provide black dress shoes as well as socks if necessary. Please consider your appearance as part of the school's and band's "professional" image when wearing the uniform.

Auditions:

Students perform an audition in the early Spring semester of each year. These happen electronically, and materials are distributed at the end of the Fall semester in December. This audition will count as an assessment grade, and future part assignments/band placements are determined by the audition. Included materials are scales, excerpts of music they have prepared outside of class, and sometimes other etudes or technical exercises as assigned. Percussionists prepare assigned excerpts on mallets and snare drum. These auditions help to monitor a student's progress throughout the year, and they help the students develop audition and interview skills for the future.

Practice:

Students are **expected to practice** their individual parts outside of rehearsal. Rehearsal is for learning each other's parts and how the music works together, not for learning your individual part!

Private Lessons:

All instrumentalists are strongly encouraged to study privately with a specialist on their instrument. It is proven that a student will progress at a faster pace with the help of a private instructor. In a large group setting, you may not always receive the instrument-specific information and individual attention needed that is possible in a private lesson. Private instruction is a way to work on YOUR individual musical and technical needs. If you would like to study privately, contact information for private teachers is posted at ironmenbands.org. Mr. Carter would also be happy to make a recommendation.

If you have questions regarding any of the above information or need to contact Mr. Carter, the best way is by email at carterp@unit5.org. You may also contact via office phone or leave a message at 309-336-6377. I will respond as soon as possible, but please be patient.