

Edmond Memorial
High School
Band Handbook

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Activities & Goals

The Edmond Memorial High School band program has a distinguished history of excellent performances in both concert and marching. It is the job of each current member to see that this tradition is continued and advanced each year. The success of the Edmond Memorial High School Band will only be determined by the dedication, discipline, and character displayed by its members and the collective staff, parents, and community. It is important to remember that each member represents what is best about young people, our community, and involvement in a quality organization. The goal of the band staff is to provide students with the best music education possible, as well as directing students to develop their character to the fullest extent through hard work, goal setting, cooperation, and responsibility. Through these efforts the Edmond Memorial High School Band can become a premier music program in the State of Oklahoma and an example of success accomplished the "right way".

The high school band program consists of several ensembles including the marching band, wind symphony, symphonic band, concert band, jazz ensemble, colorguard, winterguard, percussion ensemble, and numerous chamber groups. The membership of the marching band includes all members of the high school band program. The activities of the marching band include performing at Bulldog football games and pep-rallies, community events, area marching festivals, and the OSSAA Marching Contest. Placement in the wind symphony, symphonic band and concert band is determined through audition and each group performs quality literature from the wind band idiom. These bands perform holiday, winter, and spring concerts, as well as at OSSAA Concert and Sight Reading Contest and at various area festivals.

The jazz ensemble is determined through audition and is only open to students who are members of one of the concert ensembles. The jazz ensembles perform for community functions, school district concerts, fall, winter, and spring concerts, as well as at various area festivals. The school also offers a junior varsity jazz ensemble for interested members. The JV ensemble begins rehearsals following the completion of marching season and rehearses twice a week outside of the school day.

Individually, members will be expected to perform solo literature for their instruments and participate in various chamber ensembles. These individuals and groups will perform at the OSSAA Solo & Ensemble Contest. In addition, members who attain a high level of proficiency will be encouraged to audition for the various C.O.D.A. and O.M.E.A. honor groups, such as the All-Region Band, All-Region Jazz Ensemble, and All-State Band. Being selected as a member of these organizations is among the highest honor a high school musician can achieve.

Socially, members have the opportunity to serve in leadership positions as section leaders, drum majors, music librarians, uniform assistants, and officers, as well as interact in a variety of outlets, such as organizing parties, picnics, holiday celebrations, and the annual spring band banquet.

Attendance & Grading

Attendance at all rehearsals, sectionals, clinics, and performances is a must if the band is to maintain any semblance of organization, discipline, and consistency. Please read the following guidelines referring to attendance in order to understand the program's expectations.

1. School policy will be followed regarding tardies and absences during the school day.
2. Tardies and absences should be cleared in advance whenever possible.
3. An unexcused tardy or absence from a rehearsal can result in that individual member forfeiting their performance spot in the ensemble.
4. Any student having two or more unexcused absences from a rehearsal or sectional may be removed from the performing ensemble at the discretion of the director.
5. Any unexcused absence from a performance may result in immediate removal from the performing ensemble at the discretion of the director.

In order to have a tardy or absence excused, the following guidelines must be met:

1. Enter the absence through the band's attendance portal.
 - a. Web address: <http://goo.gl/forms/w5Dar0n0BT>

Approved reasons for a tardy or absence:

1. Illness
2. Death in the family
3. EMHS school activity
 - a. The individual student should handle conflicts with other school-sponsored activities in advance with the director.

NOTE: Work, club sports, boy/girl scouts are never excuses for missing a rehearsal, sectional, or performance.

Grading is accomplished each nine weeks through a simple formula consisting of three parts:

1. Performance Assessments
 - a. Through a combination of playing assessments, written assessments, and listening assignments students are assessed on their ability to perform various materials and challenged to use critical thinking skills to apply their current musical knowledge to analyze performances.
2. Attendance at required rehearsals, sectionals, and performances
3. Semester Exam

Uniforms & Instruments

Each student will be issued a marching uniform that is the property of the Edmond Independent School District and is valued in excess of \$300.00. Students will check-in and out their uniforms for each performance during the marching season. Student assessment fees include hemming and small maintenance to the uniforms. In addition, students should own a pair of black marching shoes, black gloves, black socks, a maroon dry-fit band performance shirt, and a band polo. These items are ordered during summer rehearsals and are paid for with the students' assessment fees (except socks). Students will undergo an inspection before each performance to make sure these requirements are met. Should a student not be in proper uniform they will not be allowed to travel or perform with the band at that evening's performance.

During concert season, each student is furnished a concert uniform that is the property of EMHS. In addition, male members will need to purchase a white tuxedo shirt and black dress pants to accompany the school issued concert uniform. Girls will need appropriate black dress shoes (close toed). Jazz ensemble members will purchase shirts for casual performance and will wear dress clothes (i.e... coat, dress shirt, tie, slacks, dresses) in formal situations.

NOTE: The directors will put a great deal of stress on personal and collective pride in our appearance at all performances. We always intend to "stand out" from the crowd.

School owned instruments are available to members who play those specific instruments or have been asked to switch by the directors due to instrumentation needs. The following instruments are available:

- Piccolo
- Oboe
- Bassoon
- Bass Clarinet
- Tenor Saxophone
- Baritone Saxophone
- French Horn/Mellophone
- Euphonium/Marching Baritone
- Bass Trombone
- Tuba

In addition, quality percussion equipment is available, as well as all electronic equipment used by the jazz ensemble and marching band. Students will be expected to maintain the instrument throughout the school year and are responsible for any and all repairs BEFORE checking the instrument in at the end of the year in May.

Auditions & Eligibility

Auditions are held throughout the marching season in order to place students in the different concert ensembles of the band program. These auditions are competitive in nature and stress playing proficiency on the students' respective instruments. Priority is given to characteristic sound, technique, and musicality. Students must demonstrate the ability to prepare required material as well as performing major scales and other defined techniques. While there is a spot for each student in the band program regardless of playing ability, membership in the jazz ensemble and contest performing marching band ensemble is limited to a specific number. Although competition for placement is encouraged, the emphasis is stressed on positive, constructive feedback and each individual's improvement. It is the individual student's improvement that is important, and their development and growth is the primary focus of the directors regardless of band placement.

The primary objective of each student in school should be to obtain the highest quality education and experience possible. No other area of the band program is stressed as much as academic performance. Ineligibility prohibits a student from receiving all the benefits from being in band as well as negatively impacting the performance level of the entire group. The band program takes pride in the fact that band students are among the highest achieving students academically in the school and are also among the most active in other organizations. Education research has shown that students who are involved in extra and co-curricular activities perform at a consistently higher academic level and have higher levels of self-esteem.

Students who are having problems academically are encouraged to take part in departmental tutoring from the high school faculty. It is imperative that the band maintains the highest eligibility rate possible in order to perform at a superior level.

Students who are consistently ineligible will not be considered for placement in the top performing groups, marching band, or jazz ensemble, as well as not being able to participate in out of state trips.

Private Lessons

The private lesson program is offered to all EMHS music students enrolled in grades 9-12. This program is absolutely the most important facet in improving the quality of individual student musicianship and thus, the level of ensemble performance. Parents are highly encouraged to consider private lessons for their student in order to facilitate the most improvement and enhance the participation of their student in the band program. Here are some specifics on private lessons:

1. Private lessons are offered to all band students in grades 9-12 on a voluntary basis.

2. Lessons are taught during the school day, as well as before/after school, once per week for 30 minutes.
3. No student should be dismissed from an academic subject for a lesson.
4. The private teachers will be qualified performers who are approved by the band staff.
5. Lessons should be scheduled to accommodate both student and teacher schedules.
6. Should a student have a financial obstacle and wish to be involved in private lessons they or their parent should contact Mr. Jahnke for assistance.

Purposes of the private lesson program:

1. To continue to improve the quality of music education in the EMHS.
2. To provide for individual differences of music students.
3. To boost the achievement level of all music students.
4. To provide private lessons in the school building allowing students to take advantage of the convenience and expense factors lost by traveling elsewhere for instruction.
5. To provide the school with the ability to monitor and guide the quality and cost of private instruction.
6. To provide the student with one-on-one guidance by a specialist on the student's instrument.

Financing:

The private lesson instructor, per 30-minute lesson once per week, will define the cost of lessons. Advance payment will be made once a month directly to the private teacher with checks made payable directly to the private teacher. It is the responsibility of the teacher/band staff to keep accurate records of the transactions and furnish proper receipts to the student.

Guide To Preparation

The purpose of this portion of the band handbook is to provide information on exactly what each individual student should be focusing on his or her instrument outside of class on a daily basis outside of regularly scheduled rehearsals.

When to Prepare:

1. Approximately the same time every day in 30-60 minute intervals.
2. At a time when you are physically and mentally alert.
3. At a time when there will be the least amount of distractions.

Preparing at the same time every day helps establish a set routine. Also, there are fewer interruptions if both family and friends know that a certain time has been set aside for practicing.

Where to Prepare:

1. In a place as free as possible from TV, phone, stereo, other people, etc...
2. In a place that is neither too "live" or too "dead" acoustically.
3. In a place where the student feels comfortable.

** It is important that each student have a comfortable, distraction free environment in which to learn and prepare.

Equipment:

1. A chair with a straight back and no arms.
 - a. Assists the student in developing good posture
2. A music stand.
3. A mirror.
 - a. Used for viewing hand, embouchure, and body position.
4. A metronome.
 - a. Assist in developing consistent pulse.
5. A means to record.
 - a. Allows the students to hear how they really sound.

What to Prepare:

1. Warm-up materials: long tones, slurs, scales, etc.
2. Band music: band pieces, test material, All-District/Region music, etc.
3. Private lesson music – assigned by private lesson teacher.
4. Sight-reading: use an etude or song book.
5. Student music: play anything for enjoyment.

** Preparing consistently for 30-40 minutes per day is optimum.

A Note To Parents

Parent involvement and interest in their student's musical growth can be the single most important factor in their total music education. When parents are actively involved in their student's musical endeavors, the chances for success are exponentially greater than for the student whose parents show little or no interest at all.

Students are learning more in the band hall than how to just blow a horn and beat a drum. They are developing "life skills" such as discipline, teamwork, responsibility, self-confidence, social skills, and critical-thinking skills. It is the goal of the EMHS band staff to help each student develop in these areas and we know if we work with you as a team we can be successful.

Many times parents say things: "The only thing I ever learned to play was the radio;" or "I couldn't carry a tune with a bucket!" For those of you who feel you fit into this category here's some good news... it doesn't matter! What is important is that through your actions, you show your student that you care about their musical development. There are many ways to do this. You can show your support by attending concerts

and contests and by attending civic and community or professional performances with your child. As much as possible, try to provide equipment and or accessories that they may need and give them a productive place in which to practice. Praise your student when they practice regularly and offer a little positive reinforcement when they don't. Ask your child how things are going in band class and have them play for you what they are working on. Parents do not need any prior musical experience in order to effectively support their student's development.

The directors, through this handbook, phone calls, emails, the band website, and newsletter, want to improve communication between the staff and parents. The goal is to keep you informed about your student's band activities so as to facilitate your involvement with their musical growth. Remember, you can be the most important figure in your student's musical journey, and if we work together we can make your student's experience win the Lovejoy Band a success!

Please feel free to contact our band staff at any time:

Mr. Jahnke Cell: 469-343-8235

Mr. Bishop Office: 405-726-6902

Mr. Jahnke Email: jeff.jahnke@edmondschools.net

Mr. Bishop Email: will.bishop@edmondschools.net

Mr. Smith Email: john.smith@edmondschools.net

Mr. Basset Email: adam.basset@edmondschools.net

Mr. McDonald Email: Kevin.mcdonald@edmondschools.net

EMHS Band Handbook Acknowledgement Form

I/we have read and understand the guidelines pertaining to membership in the Edmond Memorial High School Band program for the 2015 – 2016 school year. My/our student has permission to participate in the activities and performances as outlined in the band handbook.

Student Name (please print): _____

Student Signature: _____

Parent Name (please print): _____

Parent Signature: _____

Please return the signed signature page to the band office no later than Monday, August 24, 2015