

The Milford High School

**CONCERT
BAND**

**2007-2008
Handbook**

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Introduction

Welcome to the Milford High School Concert Band! As the new director this year I am very excited for the school year to begin and am looking forward to working with all of you. I hope that together we can create a positive and productive learning environment where we can enjoy making music. I plan to continue the excellence in music that has been established here in Milford and appreciate your willingness to embrace any changes that may add to your overall musical experience as the year progresses.

The Milford High School Concert Band is a group made up of ninety to one hundred students, grades nine through twelve. The band meets daily during the school year for fifty minutes each day. The focus of the Concert Band is to develop fundamental skills that will help students grow musically as an individual and as an ensemble. Throughout the 2007-2008 school year the Concert Band will perform three concerts and students will have the opportunity to participate in OMEA adjudicated events.

Procedures and Rules

These procedures and rules are put in place to create a successful and positive learning environment for you and your peers.

1. First and foremost, **Respect**. Show respect to adults and peers, music and materials, equipment, and facilities at all times.
2. Report to class on time and prepare for rehearsal. Students should be in your seats prepared to rehearse with all necessary materials no later than **3 minutes** after the tardy bell rings.
3. Warm up properly before class begins with material and warm-up exercises that will help prepare you for rehearsal.
4. Have all music out and in order according to the posted daily rehearsal schedule in order for the class to move at a productive pace.
5. When a director steps onto the podium students should immediately stop their warm-up or any other activity and listen to the director's announcements and instructions.
6. No food, drinks, or gum is to be brought into the music facilities at any time. Take care of your facilities and clean up after yourselves and others to help make this a good environment for everyone.
7. Be actively involved and engaged in rehearsal at all times. Disruptions will impede our ability to have a positive and productive learning environment where we can focus on the fundamental skills that will help us grow as musicians and individuals. Disruptions and disrespect will not be tolerated.

Grading

Weekly Participation and Effort-

This includes actively participating in class, following classroom procedures and rules, having a positive attitude, being prepared for class, and displaying self-discipline.

Playing Tests/Quizzes-

There will be 2 playing evaluations per quarter consisting of selected scales, etudes, and concert band music.

Concert and After School Rehearsal Attendance-

All mandatory concerts and rehearsals will count as a portion of the final grade for each quarter.

Semester Final Exam

There will be one written and/or playing exam each semester.

Concerts and After School Rehearsals

All concerts are mandatory for every student in concert band. Performances are a crucial part of the music education experience as it is a way for students to demonstrate what they have learned and how they have grown as a musical ensemble. These concerts can be a very special time for students and families. We hope you truly enjoy these experiences.

Attached you will find a calendar that includes our rehearsal and performance schedule. Please note on the calendar after-school rehearsals scheduled before the December concert and the O.M.E.A. Contest. Please add them to your dates immediately, and avoid scheduling appointments, etc. during these times. These rehearsals are mandatory. In the event that a band member cannot attend a rehearsal, a note from the parent/guardian must be submitted *one week prior to the scheduled rehearsal*. Unexcused absences *will* affect grades. Students who miss any after-school rehearsals before contest or a concert - excused or unexcused - may lose their eligibility to perform at that event. Only very *extreme* emergencies/illnesses will be regarded as an excused absence from a performance. If there is a conflict with another activity (i.e. sports, drama), it is the student's responsibility to make arrangements to attend the rehearsal/concert. Concert Band is a full credit class, not an extra-curricular activity.

Concert Attire

Gentlemen:

Concert tux uniforms
Solid white tuxedo shirt
Black socks*
Black dress shoes*

Ladies:

Black concert uniform pants
Black concert uniform shirt
Black hose*
Black dress shoes*

*These items are personal responsibilities

Practice and Events Outside of School

Band members are expected to practice an absolute minimum of two hours per week to have his/her music prepared for our class rehearsal. Students are strongly encouraged to take private lessons, take part in area honor bands, and perform in the O.M.E.A. Solo and Ensemble festival. More information about this event will be provided throughout the school year (see attached calendar for dates), however; students should have their music selected and an accompanist should be secured prior to the holiday break. Materials will be due either immediately before or after the holiday break. This always sneaks up- please plan now by notifying your private teachers. Unlike the junior high event, there is a required list from which students must select their music.

Supplies and Instrument Upgrades

Reeds and a small amount of other supplies can be ordered through our Buddy Roger's representative. Students may pay for and order the supplies and they will be delivered to the school. Please put money in an envelope with a name and detailed description of the item you need and give it to a director. Students are encouraged to buy directly from area music stores. Buying reeds by the box saves money and time. If you are not taking private lessons and are not sure of which strength reeds to purchase, please see one of the directors.

Most comprehensive public school instrumental programs suggest that by the time a student reaches the eighth or ninth grade they trade their beginner model instrument in on an upgraded instrument. For example, students at the high school level should be playing at least an intermediate level wood clarinet. The bore size of beginning brass instruments/mouthpieces is too small for the more mature instrumentalist. The tone of a flutist can be drastically improved by upgrading to a silver instrument. If your son/daughter wishes to purchase an upgraded instrument, we have many catalogs and price lists on file in our office which you may borrow. Often times simply upgrading the mouthpiece of a brass or reed instrument can improve a student's tone.

Private Lessons

Students are **strongly** encouraged to take private lessons. Private lessons are one of the most effective ways for a student to progress in their musical experience. These lessons allow students to work on a one-on-one basis with a highly qualified musician on a specific instrument. The private teachers use a variety of materials and teaching techniques to help each student with their individual needs in developing tone quality, technique, musical style, and effective practice techniques. Lessons can also help build a student's confidence in performance and help prepare them for auditions, concerts, solos, and playing tests.

Private lessons are given by our teachers in the evenings or during the day at Milford High School. The cost is typically between \$15.00 and \$20.00 for a thirty minute lesson and can be paid with funds raised through the band boosters' fairshare program (for more information see milfordbandboosters.org). Our list of private lesson teachers is attached.

Boosters

We need you, the parents, to become involved with our booster organization. Your band program could not survive without the support of this group. The Boosters are an organization that meets once a month and are in charge of finding ways to help parents and students raise money to pay for individual as well as group expenses through fundraising and fairshare events. The group also is involved in working with directors on many other aspects of the band program. Meetings are generally the fourth Tuesday of every month at 7:30PM. If you have any questions regarding the boosters, please contact one of the Band Booster Co-Presidents, Kim Slade (831-0849), or Mike Carroll (831-2701). Please become a member, regardless of the ensemble(s) in which your son/daughter participates.

Communication and Information

A vital part of the band and band booster communications involves the band booster website <www.milfordbandboosters.org>. Please check this website often, as it contains relevant information including calendars, booster contacts and fundraising. You may also keep up with grades and assignments through the schools Edline website.

Lastly, you need to fill out and return the last page of this packet with your private lesson information and signed agreement form. This will count as your first grade in concert band.

Thank you and I look forward to an outstanding year working with you in the Milford High School Concert Band!

Mrs. Everett

School phone: 576-2225

E-mail: everett_a@milfordschools.org

RETURN FORM

To receive full credit for this assignment, this form must be completed and returned by Friday, September 7.

Name _____ Instrument _____ Grade _____

Private Lessons Information:

_____ I am currently taking private lessons.

If yes, with whom: _____

_____ I am not currently taking private lessons, but I am interested in taking them.

_____ I am not currently taking private lessons and cannot take them at this time.

Handbook Agreement Form:

I have thoroughly read and understand the policies, grading system, and required rehearsal/performance schedule of the Milford High School Concert Band.

Student Signature _____ Date _____

Parent Signature _____ Date _____