

**Utica High School
Instrumental Music Department**



2009-2010 Handbook

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Philosophy of the Utica High School Instrumental Music Program

Through the learning, rehearsal, and performance of music our students will demonstrate that they are:

Creative Problem Solvers who think critically and can make decisions, through artistic modes, in situations where there are no standard answers.

Culturally Aware Citizens who have a sense of history and an appreciation of the fine arts through multi-cultural experiences.

Humanistic Thinkers who have creativity, sensitivity, and emotion.

Collaborative Workers who are confident, receptive to others ideas, and utilize peer input to develop interpersonal relationships within the framework of their setting.

Ensemble Opportunities and Responsibilities

Symphonic Band

The Symphonic Band is a full year course designed to help high school musicians develop the technical aspects of their instrument while improving their overall musicianship. Symphonic Band is comprised of woodwinds, brass, and percussion, and will rehearse and perform a wide variety of music and styles. Participation in the Symphonic Band will result in mandatory performances and rehearsals, including Winter, Spring, and Pre-Festival Concerts, Commencement, as well as participation at the District 16 MSBOA Band Festival.

Wind Ensemble

The Wind Ensemble is an advanced ensemble and a full year course. Comprised of woodwinds, brass, and percussion, members of the Wind Ensemble are selected through a successful audition. This band rehearses and performs various styles of music. The music that is rehearsed and performed is at a greater difficulty level and thus, requires that its members be more dedicated while displaying a higher level of technical ability. Participation in the Wind Ensemble will result in mandatory performances and rehearsals, including Winter, Spring, and Pre-Festival concerts, Commencement, as well as participation at the District 16 MSBOA Band Festival.

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Ensemble Opportunities and Responsibilities (continued)

Orchestra

Orchestra is a full year course designed to help high school musicians develop the technical aspects of their instrument while improving their overall musicianship. The orchestra is comprised of string instruments and will rehearse and perform a wide variety of music and styles. Participation in the Orchestra will result in mandatory performances and rehearsals, including Winter, Spring, and Pre-Festival Concerts, Baccalaureate, as well as participation at either District 16 MSBOA Orchestra Festival.

Marching Band

The Marching Band is a musical marching unit that meets outside of the school day during the first semester of the school year. The ensemble consists of woodwinds, brass, percussion, and color guard. The Marching band provides entertainment at home football games, local parades and events, Band-O-Rama, and at the District 16 MSBOA Marching Band Festival held in early October.

The prerequisite for membership in the Marching Band is concurrent concert band or orchestra study during hours one through six or a successful audition at the end of the previous school year for students who did not participate in a band or orchestra class that meets during school during the previous year.

Membership requires total dedication and maximum effort in all aspects of marching, playing, rehearsal, and performance. Participation in the Marching Band will result in mandatory attendance at all rehearsals and performances, including the parades and band camp during the spring and summer. Failure to meet these requirements can result in dismissal from the ensemble.

Jazz Ensemble

The Jazz Ensemble is an advanced ensemble that meets after school once the marching band season has come to a close. Its members will be selected through director appointment based on an audition process. This ensemble is made up of trumpets, trombones, saxophones, and a rhythm section (guitar, piano, bass, and drum-set). The band focuses on rehearsing and performing the various styles of jazz, R & B, swing, rock, fusion, etc. Time is also spent in the development and implementing of improvisation skills, along with the basic knowledge of music theory. Participation in the Jazz Ensemble will result in mandatory performances and rehearsals including Winter and Spring Concerts, as well as participation at the MSBOA State Jazz Band Festival.

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Grading & Evaluation

Grading & Evaluation Criteria

The grading for the Instrumental Music classes at Utica High School is divided into the following categories:

1) Daily Participation:

- Being prepared with your music, instrument, reeds, etc.
- Arriving to class on time, and immediately getting your instrument out to begin warming up.
- Acting appropriately during rehearsals by not talking or playing out of turn.

2) Individual Performance:

- Always having your part learned for class.
- Playing all quizzes with minimal to no mistakes.

3) Performances:

- Participating in all concerts and performances.
- Arriving to the performance at the stated call time.
- Wearing the proper attire needed for that performance.
- Being prepared with the correct music, instrument, reeds, etc.
- Playing your part to the best of your ability.

NOTE - *If you are absent from a performance due to an unexcused reason, you are in jeopardy of receiving a failing grade. Instrumental music is a performance based class, and will be graded as such. Thus, the performances category is weighted much heavier than the other two categories.*

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Instrumental Music Student Responsibilities

Attendance Policy

The unique nature of the band class has, as part of the curriculum, performances outside of the scheduled school day. The success of our organization and ensembles depends directly upon the full and complete participation of all of its members. Calendars are provided at the start of each school year and are updated and available on the website and in the band room. The performance expectations of the ensemble are outlined in the course description and instrumental music handbook. It is reasonable to expect that with this notice, as a member of the Utica High School Instrumental Music Program, you will attend every rehearsal and performance. Please do not schedule avoidable conflicts with rehearsals or performances. These include job commitments, baby-sitting, doctor and dentist appointments, senior pictures, etc. Band and Orchestra are academic classes and are graded. Attendance will be taken at every rehearsal and performance. Although nothing can replace the absence of a performance, the student must see Mr. Sauer for the assignment that will replace the grade.

School - Related Conflicts:

It is expected that students who choose to participate in activities or classes that have an "after-school" practice/performance component will make every effort to completely fulfill their obligation to these groups. In many cases, splitting time equally between the two simultaneous activities is the best compromise. Graded academic activities, such as performances within the arts, will take precedence over non-graded extra-curricular activities.

School - Related Athletics:

Performances/games take precedence over practices/meetings. The student and/or parents should resolve practice conflicts by giving advanced notification to that student's coach. If possible, the director will make special arrangements to limit the amount of practice time missed.

Performance/game conflicts should be resolved with full understanding and cooperation of all involved including complete and open communication between the students, teachers, parents, and coaches. Students can only be excused if participating in the sporting event's game. If possible, arrangements may be made to split time between the two events.

Because our calendar is available from the beginning of the year, it is expected that students check their schedule against the instrument music schedule. Any conflicts should be addressed at the beginning of a sport's/activity's season. All conflicts must be worked out no fewer than two weeks prior to the conflict. This will allow coaches and directors to make the necessary adjustments to their ensemble or team.

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Attendance Policy (cont.)

Emergencies/Illness:

If you suddenly miss a rehearsal or performance due to an emergency or illness, a parent must attempt to make contact with the director via voice mail within 24 hours of the missed event. This is still required if the student has been excused from school during the day.

Make - Up Work:

Upon the notice of an excused absence, an assignment will be given to earn the points lost while missing performance in a band or orchestra class. The assignment due date will be determined by the director and will be completed before the end of the marking period that contained the missed performance. For emergency absences, the student is held responsible for the missed performance and should arrange to get the make up assignment with-in five days of the performance. It is the student's responsibility to arrange for and complete the required assignment. Failure to complete the assignment within the time frame allotted will result in a "0" (zero) being entered into the grade book for that performance.

Uniform Wear, Care, and Cleaning

Our band and orchestra uniforms are very expensive and must be treated accordingly. This applies to all parts of the uniform, including accessories. Always hang up your uniform, whether at home or at school. Never leave your concert uniform at school. Your uniform will be clean when you receive it. It is your responsibility to keep your uniform ready for inspection at any time. If you get your uniform dirty, it is your duty to have it cleaned. You will be held responsible for any damage that is done to the uniform you check out. Don't make switches! Wear the band uniform with pride, and wear it completely. This means never wear the uniform for a performance with the coat unbuttoned, or parts missing. When you wear your uniform, remember that you are representing our school, our band, and our community. Please act accordingly.

Code of Conduct

Each instrumental music student is a representative of our school and our community. Our code of conduct applies to all music activities, in or out of uniform, at school, in our community and out of town. We and your parents expect you to act in an appropriate manner, including appearance, behavior, and language. Students should be considerate of other organizations, students, staff, and chaperones. Please show respect for other people's property. Individual problems will be dealt with in accordance to the severity of the situation. This includes being sent home, at your expense, if we are out of town. Of course, alcoholic beverages, smoking, and illegal drugs are absolutely prohibited. Simply remember that all school rules are in effect at any instrumental music functions and use common sense.

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Parent/Student Commitment Form

(Please return this entire page)

We have read the Utica High School Instrumental Music Program Handbook including member responsibilities and schedules. We understand that for a successful instrumental music program, all students and parents must fulfill their fair share of responsibilities. We are fully aware of the schedule of performances as listed in this handbook. Listed below are the conflicts which we will have with the handbook's Calendar of Events. We expect other members to make the same commitment, and for all members to be treated fairly in this respect.

Print student's name: _____

_____/_____
(student's signature) (date)

_____/_____
(parent's signature) (date)

Conflicts with Calendar of Events (a parent phone call will still be necessary before the event(s) in question):
