

# Welcome to Tri-City Bands!

2009-2010

The goal of the Tri-City Band Department is to provide students with the skills and experiences needed to become independent and lifelong musicians. Students will learn how to read and understand music as well as become experts on their chosen instrument through the study of quality literature.

Music is a vital part of our everyday lives. It is a universal form of communication and an outlet for emotional and creative needs. It is important for students to be equipped with the necessary tools to express themselves through individual playing as well as through group performances.

The purpose of this packet is to outline the policies and expectations of the band program for both students and their parents or guardians. For this ensemble to function successfully, it is important that all participants are aware of and in agreement with the procedures of the class. By signing the contract on the last page, all parties are stating their understanding and compliance with the expectations and consequences outlined in the packet.

Both students and parents/guardians should **sign and date** the contract on the last page and return it to Miss Vasel by **Friday, September 4**. Students should keep the remainder of the packet in their band folder.

Please feel free to contact me by phone at (217) 364-4530 or e-mail at [kvasel@tricityschools.org](mailto:kvasel@tricityschools.org) with any questions. I look forward to an exciting and rewarding year of music-making with you!

Miss Katie Vasel  
Band Director  
Tri-City Schools

## Band Expectations

1. Be Prepared
  - a. Bring your instrument and all supplies (reeds, valve oil, etc.).
  - b. Bring all music and paperwork.
  - c. Bring a pencil.
  - d. Complete assignments on time.
2. Be Respectful
  - a. Come on time.
  - b. Do not talk while the director is on the podium.
  - c. Do not bring gum, food, or drink besides water.
  - d. Take appropriate care of classroom and equipment.
  - e. Treat others with respect.
3. Participate
  - a. Follow instructions.
  - b. Give everything your best effort.
  - c. Attend all classes and scheduled band activities.

**All Tri-City School District Rules are to be followed at all times whether on or off campus.**

## Daily Procedures

1. Leave all non-band items along the wall or in the closets. Do not bring them into the rehearsal space.
2. Pick up folders from the folder slots and instruments from the instrument closets.
3. All empty cases (besides flute, oboe, and clarinet cases) should be left against the wall or in the instrument closets. Do not bring them into the rehearsal space.
4. The rehearsal schedule will be on the board. Have all music and equipment in order for these pieces.
5. Rehearsal will begin at 1:00 (High school) and 1:50 (Junior high). Everyone should be seated and ready to play by this time.
6. All assignments and paperwork will be handed in at the beginning of rehearsal.
7. Students will be dismissed by the teacher to clean out instruments and pack up equipment at the end of rehearsal.
8. Any music left in the band room must be stored in the student's folder slot. Any instrument or equipment left in the band room must be stored appropriately in the instrument closets.

## Schedule

- ❖ Band rehearsals will take place every other school day from 12:58–1:45 (High school) and 1:48-2:35 (Junior high). Signs will be hung on the band room door and on the music bulletin board each week to let students know which days are band days and which days are choir/study hall days. Students are responsible for checking these signs and coming to the appropriate rehearsal.
- ❖ Junior high private lessons will be scheduled during the first few weeks of school. Each junior high band student will meet with Miss Vasel once a week for a 15 minute lesson. Students will be pulled out of their other classes for these lessons. If a student is in danger of missing a test or other mandatory activity, please speak with Miss Vasel as soon as possible to discuss rescheduling their lesson.
- ❖ Band performances will take place on the following dates. Attendance is MANDATORY (see grading policy).
  - **Concert October 21, 7:00**
  - **Concert December 16, 7:00**
  - **Concert May 11**
- ❖ Pep Band will be performing this year at the Tri-City high school basketball games. **All Tri-City high school band members will play with the pep band.** The schedule of these games will be sent home shortly.
- ❖ Fundraising for the Tri-City Performing Arts Department will begin this September. We, along with the choir students, will be selling Yankee Candles to raise money for our program. Fundraising will take place during the following dates:
  - **Friday, September 4 – Monday, September 14**
- ❖ IMEA District 4 Band (Optional) Students wishing to audition for the high school or junior high district band must notify Miss Vasel before September 21<sup>st</sup> to register and receive audition materials.
  - Audition Date: October 12
  - Performance Date: November 7
- ❖ IESA/IHSA Solo and Ensemble Contest (Optional) Students wishing to perform individually or as a small group for this contest will select and prepare music with Miss Vasel after winter break.
  - High School Contest: Saturday, March 6
  - Junior High Contest: Saturday, March 27
- ❖ Athens Festival An annual combined band concert with other area schools is held each year in the spring. 5<sup>th</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> grade students will perform. Dates and information will be sent as soon as they are known.

## Grading Policy

Grades will be determined by the following percentages per school quarter:

- ❖ 50% Weekly Practice Charts
- ❖ 25% Daily Points
- ❖ 25% Performance Attendance

### Practice Charts (800 points)

Each week, students will receive a practice chart that must be completed and submitted to Miss Vasel at the end of each week. These charts will be worth 100 points each and will consist of a practice log and a written or playing assignment. These charts must be signed by a parent or guardian to verify student's practice time. If a chart is not turned in on time, 10 points will be deducted for each school day that the chart is late.

50 points (or more) for minutes practiced each week

40 points for written or playing assignment

10 points for parent signature

Total: 100 Points

### Daily Points (400 points)

Students will begin the quarter with 400 points for daily participation (roughly, 15 points per rehearsal or private lesson). These points are maintained by coming prepared for class and following the band expectations outlined on the previous pages. These points will be deducted for any unexcused absences, unexcused tardies, missed lessons, or failure to comply with the band expectations.

### Performance Attendance (400 points)

Concerts and performances are the culmination of our work as a band. It is equivalent to a final exam. **ATTENDANCE IS MANDATORY!** An unexcused absence from a concert or major performance will result in the loss of all 400 points for this category. An unexcused absence from a pep band game or another smaller performance will result in the loss of 100 points each.

Excused absences will be granted only for serious illness in which the student is not present at school that day or for family emergencies. Any other scheduling conflicts must be discussed with Miss Vasel at least 2 weeks before the performance and may or may not be excused.

**All excused absences are granted at the discretion of the director.**

Anyone with an excused absence may meet with Miss Vasel to receive a make-up assignment to gain back some or all of their performance attendance points. It is the student's responsibility to request a make-up assignment.

## District Grading Scale

93.0-100% = A  
85.0-92.99% = B  
78.0-84.99% = C  
70.0-77.99 = D  
0-69.99% = F

## Discipline

The following discipline actions will be taken in the event that any student chooses to not meet the expectations outlined in the previous pages.

First offense: verbal warning

Second offense: point deduction from class participation grade and F-15

Third offense: 2 F-15's to be served on consecutive days and parent notification

Fourth Offense: After school detention, parent conference with principal

Fifth or Serious Offense: Office Referral

## Rehearsal Schedules

For every piece the band prepares, students will receive a rehearsal schedule outlining the measures of the music that will be focused on during each rehearsal. This will allow them to be fully prepared each time the band meets. The measures listed for each day should be personally prepared by the students on their own time. They are responsible for having all notes, rhythms, dynamics, and any other written instructions in these measures learned **BEFORE** they come to class that day. This will allow the band to spend it's time combining individual parts together and working on ensemble issues rather than coaching individuals on their parts. Rehearsals are not a time for personal practice but a time to make music as a group. If there is evidence that the assigned measures are not prepared, playing exams may be scheduled.

## Performance Dress

The attire for our formal concerts is a white shirt and black pants (or skirt for the ladies). All attire must meet the dress code of Tri-City Schools. Inappropriate attire for a performance will result in the reduction of the student's performance attendance points.

Gentlemen: White dress shirt, tie, black dress pants (no jeans), black socks, black shoes

Ladies: White blouse or sweater with sleeves, black dress pants (no jeans) or black skirt (of appropriate length), black dress shoes, black pantyhose or black socks

## Instrument Maintenance

If an instrument is in need of repair, the student must see Miss Vasel to obtain a repair slip. A representative of Boyd Music will be at Tri-City every Monday morning to pick up and drop off instruments. Instruments needing repair must be in the band room with their completed repair slip before 8:30 Monday morning. If the instrument is privately owned or rented, the cost of the repair will be the responsibility of the owner. The repair of school-owned instruments will be covered by the school unless the damage is the result of severe negligence on the part of the student. These situations will be handled on a case-by-case basis and may result in partial or full financial responsibility for the student.

Supplies for both owned and rented instruments, including reeds, swabs, valve oil, etc., will be the financial responsibility of the student. Some items may be available for purchase from Miss Vasel.

## Music

Method books, such as *Accent on Achievement*, and other music used for individual lessons will need to be purchased by the student. These purchases will then belong to that student. The music performed by the full band will be supplied by the school. All school music must be returned to Miss Vasel. If any music is lost or damaged, the student will be asked to cover the cost of replacing that item. Only pencil must be used to mark music. Any music returned with other permanent markings will be considered damaged and will need to be replaced.

## Band Contract

Due to Miss Vasel Friday, September 4, 2009

I, *(print student name)* \_\_\_\_\_, have read and understood the information in this packet. I agree to abide by the outlined expectations to the best of my abilities and I accept the specified consequences for my actions. I also commit to the mandatory performances unless specified below.

*Student signature:* \_\_\_\_\_

*Date:* \_\_\_\_\_

*Performance schedule conflicts:* \_\_\_\_\_

---

---

I, *(print parent/guardian name)* \_\_\_\_\_, have read and understood the information in this packet. I will support the discipline plan and grading policy found within it and I am aware of what is expected of my child. I also acknowledge the mandatory performance dates for my student unless specified below.

*Parent/Guardian signature:* \_\_\_\_\_

*Date:* \_\_\_\_\_

*Performance schedule conflicts:* \_\_\_\_\_

---

---

I, Katie Vasel, will implement the policies found within this packet fairly and objectively to the best of my abilities. I will strive to provide a safe and positive learning environment for my students so they may reach their full potential while inside my classroom.

*Teacher signature:* \_\_\_\_\_

*Date:* \_\_\_\_\_