

Herscher High School Music Department

Parents and Students,

This handbook contains information necessary for successful involvement in the Music Program at Herscher High School.

Please read the attached handbook! Look for any changes and review the expectations for your student in this department. Keep up with emails, Remind, and social media for updates on future events. Return the bottom portion of this page to a High School Music Teacher by **September 1** to show that you and your student have read the handbook and are responsible for the terms inside.

I have reviewed and understand the information and calendar included in the Herscher High School Music Department Handbook.

Student Name-Printed

Parent/Guardian Name-Printed

Student Signature

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

Parent's E-mail (for newsletters, e-mail contact, etc.)

Herscher High School

Music Department Handbook 2017-2018



A guide to participation in the music curriculum of Herscher High School:

*Concert Band
Marching Tigers
Pep Band
Jazz Band*

*Concert Choir
Chamber Choir
"Class Act" Show Choir
Guys Choir/Girls Glee*

*String Orchestra
Symphony Orchestra
Chamber Strings
Music Theory I & II*

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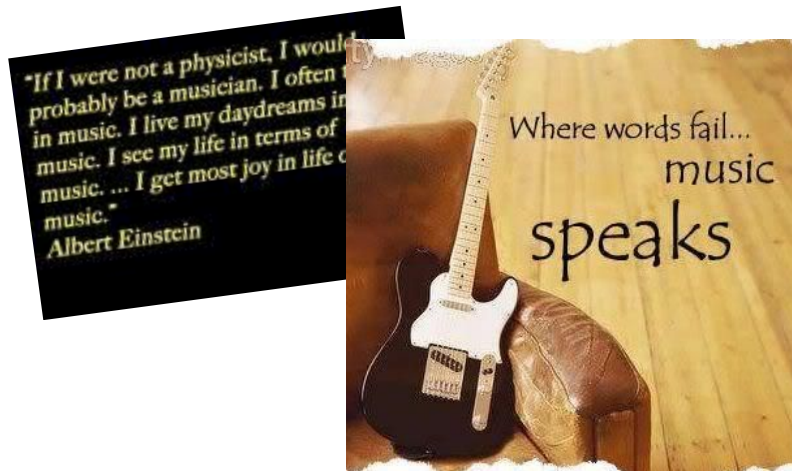
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From the Directors,

Welcome to the Herscher High School Music Department. The Music Department is recognized among the best in Illinois because of hardworking students and parents like you. We appreciate your participation and support. The students love when you are there and we cannot do the things we do without you! As a student, we hope you will find your membership to be enjoyable, rewarding, and something you can look back on with great pride.

This handbook has been developed to assist you with questions and concerns that may come up throughout the school year. Class expectations, grading policies, and a schedule of activities are included. As teachers, we promise to give 100% to this department and to push the ensembles to the levels they need to be at. We look forward to another successful year with your help!

Sincerely,

Katrina Cessna, Orchestra Director
Kyle Schrage, Chorus Director
Karol Domalik, Director of Bands



About the Herscher High School Music Department

Herscher High School offers the following musical classes for academic credit. These classes are designated as "co-curricular" and subject to the co-curricular/extra-curricular policy.

Band

Band is open to all high school students with previous band experience or permission of the director. Band meets one class period each day and students are **required** to participate in the various configurations of the class including: the Marching Tigers, Pep Band, and Concert Band. Students perform throughout the year in contests and concerts. Students also have the choice to experience IMEA and other festivals throughout the year. *Band is a year-long class!* The band is directed by Mr. Domalik.

Orchestra

Orchestra is open to all high school students with previous orchestra experience or permission of the director. Orchestra meets one class period per day and students are **required** to participate in string orchestra and symphony orchestra. The students are required to perform during any IHSA contest – Solo and Ensemble & Organizationals – as well. Interested wind and percussion students attend orchestra one day per week beginning in November to form Symphony Orchestra. The orchestra performs throughout the year in contests and concerts. *Orchestra is a year-long class!* The orchestra is directed by Ms. Cessna.

Chamber Choir

Open by audition only - the audition is based on the student's ability to sight read. Chamber choir is a mixed ensemble, for the top singers at Herscher High School. Chamber Choir also meets as a separate Male and Female choir. This set-up offers the opportunity for us to develop and meet the specific needs of all students. Chamber Choir meets one class period per day and performs in contests and concerts throughout the year. Students in this ensemble are **required** to participate in Solo and Ensemble and Organizational Contest. It is strongly recommended that these students audition for the IMEA state choir as well, and Chamber Choir offers excellent chances for our students to further themselves as musicians. *Chamber Choir is a year-long class!* Chamber Choir is directed by Mr. Schrage.

Concert Choir

Open to students with or without previous choral experience. Concert Choir is a mixed ensemble, that also rehearses as an all men's and all women's ensemble. This choir is an excellent opportunity for the students to learn how to use their voice and participate within a musical ensemble. Concert Choir meets one class period per day and performs in contests and concerts throughout the year. Students in this ensemble are **required** to participate in Solo and Ensemble and Organizational Contest. *Concert Choir is a year-long class!* Concert Choir is directed by Mr. Schrage.

Music Theory

Theory is open to Sophomore, Junior and Senior students enrolled in a High School Music course or by permission of the instructor. Fundamentals of melody, harmony, and rhythm are covered in addition to ear training, basic composition, and arranging. Theory meets one class period per day during 1st semester. Advanced Theory meets 2nd Semester. Requirements are Music Theory I or teacher approval. Theory is taught by Ms. Cessna.

The following activities are designated as "extra-curricular" and subject to the co-curricular/extra-curricular policy.

Jazz Band

Open to students enrolled in a High School Music course or by permission of the instructor. Jazz Band meets on Tuesday evenings beginning in November. Students perform in contests and concerts. Jazz is directed by Ms. Brocker.

"Class Act" Show Choir

Open to students enrolled in a High School Music course or by permission of the director. This group is auditioned in the spring of each school year for the following school year. Class Act is a competitive show choir, which means it attends several competitions in the winter months. These competitions are required in order to participate in the group. There is also a monetary requirement of the students, for costuming and lodging accommodations. Rehearsals are on Monday afternoons for 1st quarter and Monday & Thursday evenings starting in November. Students have a rigorous schedule of rehearsal and competition. "Class Act" is directed by Mr. Schrage.

Guys Choir

This choir is an after school opportunity for male singers only. This group meets on Tuesday and will have a calendar handed out at the first rehearsal. This choir is an all male choir that works on pop and jazz music and is an excellent opportunity for men to sing in a relaxed setting. Students must attend a percentage of the rehearsals to perform at the concert. Students are able to join and discontinue whenever they want. There is no audition for this ensemble and all male singers are welcomed.

Girls Glee

This choir is an after school activity for female singers. This group meets on Tuesday afternoon 3:20-4:00 pm and a specific schedule will be handed out the first rehearsal. It is an all female choir that works on pop and jazz music. This is an excellent opportunity for women to sing, in a relaxed setting. Students must attend a percentage of the rehearsals to perform at the concert. Students are able to join and discontinue whenever they want. There is no audition for this ensemble and all female singers are welcomed.

Chamber Strings

Open to all students with string experience! This group is formed as needed to perform for the community outside of the school day on an ad-hoc basis. A separate subset of this group is the HHS String Quartet. Past gigs include: Straight-A Banquet, weddings, and assisted living centers. Rehearsals before or after school are scheduled as needed. Chamber Strings are directed by Ms. Cessna.

Extra-Curricular & Co-Curricular Eligibility Policy

A student must be passing at least 25 hours (5 classes) of academic classes each week to be eligible for extra-curricular activities. In any co-curricular programs which are sponsored by IHSA (solo/ensemble and organizationals) a student must also be passing at least 25 hours (5 classes) each week. Students not allowed to participate will be given an alternative assignment.

If a student is ineligible he/she is still required to attend practices and contest unless it is an overnight activity. Grade reports will be run each Thursday. If a student is ineligible, the ineligibility will run from the following Monday to Sunday.

Road Trips

Musical groups travel in order to fulfill their performance requirements. The following guidelines are in effect while traveling.

- 1) Following the instructions of the bus drivers, chaperone, and staff.
- 2) School District Policy does not allow personal audio or electronic games on the bus.
- 3) Food and drink on bus are not allowed unless approved by the bus driver.
- 4) Students must remain in groups of four or more at all times.
- 5) Students are responsible for their own equipment and spending money.
- 6) All Herscher CUSD #2 rules apply on trips.
- 7) Public displays of affection are prohibited.
- 8) Students must make up work in advance if a trip requires absence from school.
- 9) OverNight Trips
 - I. On Floor/In Room/Lights Out Times are strictly enforced.
 - a. 10 minutes late results in parent notification and Saturday detention
 - b. 20 minutes or more late results in 3 Saturdays + service work + other appropriate consequences determined by school officials.
 - II. Members of opposite sex not allowed in rooms for any reason.
- 10) Students are required to ride the bus to and from events unless prior written arrangements have been made with director.
- 11) Any misconduct will not be tolerated and consequences will follow due to the fact that each student represents the band, school, and community.

Expectations

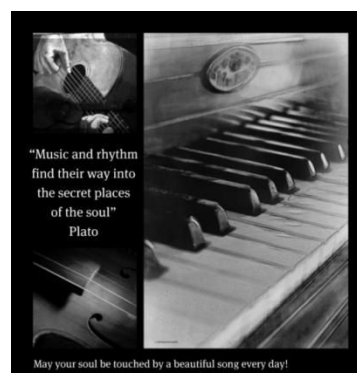
- 1) Be on time for rehearsals.
- 2) Follow directions the first time they are given.
- 3) Be respectful of others in rehearsal and performance.
- 4) Store equipment in designated areas and take care of equipment, uniforms, and music.
- 5) Have all materials necessary to receive instruction. (pencil, instrument, music, etc.)
- 6) Attend all lessons.
- 7) Audition for placement within the ensemble.
- 8) Participate in at least one event for solo/ensemble contest.
- 9) Perform at all scheduled performances.
- 10) Do your best and strive to improve!!

Cell phones will not be allowed in any orchestra, band, or choir rehearsal. Students do not need them for any reason – calculator, note taking, etc. – for the times they have with our performance ensembles. If they are an issue, consequences will be handed out by the director and administration.



Grading and Evaluation Policies

- 1) Grades are earned based on points accumulated. Teachers do not determine grades; student's efforts determine grades.
- 2) Attendance at all performances is required. Excused absences are given only in cases of:
 - a. Death in the family.
 - b. Illness. (Must be verified by Doctor's note and signature)
 - c. Extreme or grave circumstances approved by director.
- 3) Jobs are unexcused absences. Give employers adequate notice for scheduling.
- 4) District Grading Scale:
 - a. 90%-100% = A
 - b. 80%- 89% = B
 - c. 70%- 79% = C
 - d. 60%- 69% = D
 - e. 0% - 59% = F
- 5) How grades are earned in each area:
 - a. Band, Orchestra, & Choir
 - 30% = Daily Grade
 - 30% = Performances
 - 30% = Lessons
 - 10% = Projects/Assignments



Lessons

- 1) You are ***required to attend and be prepared for lessons.***
- 2) Lessons, part of the music curriculum, are vital to your musical growth.
- 3) Lessons are scheduled during study hall, ends of class, lunch, or before or after school.
We try to make the best decision on scheduling so that your student can excel in all areas!
- 4) Make up lessons may be scheduled before or after school at the discretion of the director.

Projects/Assignments

With a new set of standards in place, every classroom is now responsible for including reading and writing throughout the year. In the high school music department, we have developed activities to incorporate reading and writing through *class blogs, in class assignments, cross-curricular projects, self reflection*, etc. These are required activities and your student's grade will be affected if these assignments are not completed.

Purchases

- 1) Accessories, supplies, reeds, books, etc. may be purchased on a CASH and CARRY basis through the music department's resale accounts.
- 2) Notification of debt occurs each 9 weeks. Report cards are held when student's financial obligations have become stagnant.

IHSA Solo/Ensemble Contest

- 1) Students ***are expected to participate in a choir and at least one other event.***
- 2) Solo & Ensemble contest is held the ***1st Saturday of March.***
- 3) Students improve the most during the season called Solo/Ensemble.
- 4) Individual and small group performances strengthen student's individual skills aiding in personal growth as well as overall group improvement.

IHSA Organizational Contest

- 1) Students are ***expected to participate. No exceptions.***
- 2) Organizational contest is held in April.

Both Contests are graded as performances for every student! Please be careful when scheduling the ACT or SAT and other activities for your students during contest time. We do not have control over the performance times we are given!



Instrument/Equipment Maintenance

- 1) Every student is required to have a working, defect-free instrument.
- 2) Regularly check for: loose screws, pads, corks, springs, stuck slides, warped bridges, open seams, etc.
- 3) Perform preventative maintenance: grease, oil, tighten screws, wipe off excess rosin, etc.
- 4) School Owned Instruments:
 - a. All of the above apply.
 - b. The school pays for normal wear and tear.
 - c. Damage resulting from mistreatment or negligence will be paid by person(s) causing damage.
- 5) Personal Instruments:
 - a. Refer to maintenance procedures posted in rehearsal room.
 - b. Director may do instrument repair.
 - c. If instrument repair is beyond director's resources:
 - i. Instrument will be sent to Music Shoppe in Normal. Students are in charge of updating their parents on this.
 - ii. Payment is required to Music Shoppe before repair is done. They will call with an estimate and you will have to approve it before they will do any work on the instrument.
 - iii. Instrument is returned to School by Music Shoppe.(usually within a week)
 - d. Try to take your instrument in twice a year – Christmas break and June. If not twice, at least once at the end of each school year.
- 6) Instrumentalists should own and maintain the following preventative care items:
 - a. Woodwinds- at least 2 extra reeds, cork grease, swab.
 - b. Brass- valve oil, slide grease, mouthpiece brush, cleaning cloth.
 - c. String- extra set of strings, rosin, cleaning cloth, shoulder rest or rock stop.
 - d. Percussion- drumsticks, timpani mallets, xylophone mallets.
- 7) Uniform Care
 - a. Students are issued uniforms. (Marching Band, Robes, Tuxes, etc.)
 - b. Care instructions are taught by the director and must be followed.
 - c. Uniforms are meant to last for years, proper care saves taxpayer money.
 - d. Improper care or loss will be the student's responsibility.



Awards/Music Letters

- 1) After the completion of a year of the activity, a student will receive an activity pin. Each year of completion after that first year will result in a service bar.
- 2) Students earn points toward the “Music Letter” based on participation throughout the school year.
- 3) The attached point sheet has examples of activities that students can earn points. Each student fills this out at the end of the school year. A student has to accumulate 80 points in order to receive a letter.
- 4) Music Letters are awarded at the Spring Concert.
- 5) Guard members need to be a part of the color guard for two years and then they will receive their guard letter.

Music Department Schedule

- 1) Attached you will find the Music Department Schedule. *All competitions, contests, and concerts are set dates....they will not change!* Rehearsals are the only things that could change if that is necessary.
- 2) Supplemental information concerning times, places, maps, and other details will be provided by directors prior to the events.
- 3) Post the copy of the schedule on your refrigerator for easy reference. (Suggestion)
- 4) All parents are able to be a part of the music boosters! The meetings are on our calendar and usually meet in the HS media center. We would love to see you there and hear your ideas!

Don't ever forget that you are now a Part of the Herscher Tradition &

HHS PRIDE!!!