

Welcome to Tri-City Bands!

2010-2011

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 3rd**. 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 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 1:52 (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. Rehearsals will be conducted on the assigned material for that day. Students are expected to prepare this material before class.
8. Students will be dismissed by the teacher to clean out instruments and pack up equipment at the end of rehearsal.
9. 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.

Weekly Activities

- ❖ Band rehearsals will take place every other school day from 12:58–1:45 (High school) and 1:48-2:35 (Junior high). Signs and schedules will be hung on the band room door and on the music bulletin board 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. Students are also responsible for preparing the material outlined in their rehearsal schedule **before** coming to class. These schedules are handed out at the beginning of each concert cycle.
- ❖ Study halls will take place in the band room during choir days **for junior high only**. Students will bring school work or a book to read quietly on their own. Practice rooms are available to complete band playing assignments at this time, as well. High school students will use choir days for extra rehearsals. If high school students are not involved in a rehearsal, they must bring a book or school materials to work on quietly by themselves.
- ❖ 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 20 minute lesson. Students will receive a grade for their preparation for each 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.

Behavior Discipline

The following discipline actions in regards to student behavior 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: Loss of all daily points for that class period

Third offense: Detention and parent notification

The teacher reserves the right to skip any of these steps in the event of a serious or repeated offense.

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

Grading Policy

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

- ❖ 25% Practice Charts and Written Work
- ❖ 50% Daily Points and Lesson Grades
- ❖ 25% Performance Attendance

Practice Charts (100 points each)

Each week, students will receive a practice chart that must be completed and submitted to Miss Vasel **by Thursday 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. An unsigned chart will be accepted only once a quarter but no extra credit will be counted. Any additional unsigned charts will not have any practice time counted.

If a chart is turned in late, it will only be worth a possible 50% of the total grade. Charts turned in more than a week late will not be accepted.

Daily Points (10 points per day or lesson)

Students will be awarded 10 daily points for each class period and lesson they attend. These points are maintained by coming **prepared** for classes and lessons and following the band expectations outlined on the previous pages. These points will be deducted for any missed lessons, unprepared lessons, behavior problems, or coming unprepared to rehearsals.

Performance Attendance (100 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 required performance will result in the loss of all 100 points for this category.

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.

Points will also be deducted from this category for tardiness, inappropriate dress, or other lack of preparation for the performance.

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.

Performance Dress

All performance attire must meet the dress code of Tri-City Schools. Inappropriate attire will result in the reduction of the student's performance attendance points.

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

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

Pep Band: High school pep band members are expected to wear school colors (blue and gold) in support of our school teams.

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 8:15 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 2010-2011 Schedule

Items in bold are mandatory performances

- ❖ September 3 thru September 13—Yankee Candle Fundraiser
- ❖ September 20—Last day for students to sign up for IMEA auditions
- ❖ October 11—IMEA District Festival Auditions at PORTA
- ❖ **October 22—JH/HS Choir and Band Fall Concert, 7 pm in new gym**
- ❖ November 6—IMEA District Festival at WIU in Macomb
- ❖ December 4—Madrigal Dinner, 6 pm in old gym
- ❖ December 5—Madrigal Tea, 2 pm in old gym
- ❖ **December 17—JH/HS Choir and Band Winter Concert, 7 pm in new gym**
- ❖ January 14—Last day for HS to sign up for Solo and Ensemble Contest
- ❖ January 26 thru January 29—MENC All-State Conference in Peoria
- ❖ January 31—Last day for JH to sign up for Solo and Ensemble contest
- ❖ March 5—High School Solo and Ensemble Contest at PORTA
- ❖ March 26—Junior High Solo and Ensemble Contest at Mt. Zion
- ❖ April 1—Musical Performance, 7 pm in old gym
- ❖ April 2—Musical Performances, 2 pm and 7 pm in old gym
- ❖ **May 19—JH/HS Choir and Band Spring Concert**
- ❖ **June 5—Graduation (HS only)**

**** TBA- Pep Band games (HS only)

**** TBA- Athen's Triad Festival (JH only)

Band Contract

Due to Miss Vasel Friday, September 3, 2010

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: _____