

Hempfield High School Band

~ Handbook ~



Published in the interest of Students, Parents, and Faculty
By the Hempfield School District Music Department

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INTRODUCTION

For the past 60 years, the Hempfield School District has established one of the finest, and most well-rounded music departments in Pennsylvania. A vital portion of this total program includes various performance opportunities provided by the Hempfield High School Band. Hempfield provides its students the opportunity to perform a wide variety of instrumental music literature through the concert band, marching band, and jazz ensembles.

At Hempfield we are very proud of the accomplishments - past, present, and future, which our high school bands have attained. Information pertaining to the band has been compiled in this Handbook, which will serve as an important resource during your membership in these organizations.

Hempfield Music Department Philosophy

"Through the arts, and especially the divine art of music, can man's highest aspirations . . . communicate to him with a voice of power and of beauty . . . talk to him of love and brotherhood . . . restore his soul. This I believe is the purpose of music." Howard Hanson, American Composer and Music Educator

The Hempfield Music Department believes that music is essential to life, and is an integral part of all cultures. Music provides a universal language, which bonds artistically and emotionally all persons. Further, music appreciation creates an emotional and intellectual "wholeness" which cannot be gained through any other discipline.

Therefore, the Hempfield Music Department encourages musical experiences for all students in the Hempfield School District, and provides musical enjoyment and understanding through classroom and performance activities at all levels.

Musical competencies resulting from the Hempfield Music Program should include, but not be limited to, **keen perception, aesthetic sensitivity, creativity, analysis, and evaluation**, based upon heightened student musical awareness, enjoyment, and understanding. Other educational outcomes resulting from the Hempfield Music Program include **improved self-image, teamwork and cooperative learning, critical and higher level thinking, goal setting/achievement, self-discipline, decision making, and informed consumerism**.

The Hempfield Music Department strives to achieve these goals by stressing fundamental skill development, generating lifelong social skills to enhance the quality of human interaction, and providing experiences which foster the sheer "joy of music."

INSTRUMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

Black Knight Marching Band

The Black Knight Marching Band is comprised of band members from grades 9-12, and performs at all Hempfield football games. The band also competes in the Cavalcade of Bands, and plays at Pep Rallies, fall and spring parades, assemblies, and community events. Summer rehearsals begin in June and culminate in Band Camp. Parents and friends of the band are invited to an annual Preview Show at the conclusion of Band Camp. During the rest of the fall season the marching band rehearses Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays after school, one evening, and on competition days. Annually, the Marching Band presents its Parents' Night Concert. The Hempfield Marching Band Booster Club is the Black Knight Band's parent and community support group.

Color Guard

The Hempfield Color Guard is comprised of ninth through twelfth grade students interested in Band participation through movement with flag, weapon, and body. The basic purpose of this organization is to provide an entertaining visual program, which enhances the musical selections.

Auditions are held each spring. Guard captains are selected after squad membership is determined. Rehearsals are held whenever the Marching Band meets. At times the Guard rehearses more extensively than the musicians. Extra rehearsals may be called by the captains or the Color Guard Director. Performances include all football games, competitions, parades, pep rallies, assemblies, and the Annual Parents Night Concert.

From December through April, an Indoor Color Guard rehearses and performs.

Concert Band

The Hempfield High School Concert Band is offered as an accredited course, which counts toward student graduation requirements. The Concert Band has a well-balanced instrumentation, and performs a variety of band music. Concepts such as blend, balance, intonation, style, and precision are stressed. Admittance is gained by audition.

Performances include Winter and Spring Concerts, and Commencement. The director recommends outstanding players to participate in Symphony Orchestra and Musical Pit Orchestra.

Small Ensembles

Several small ensembles are offered to give Hempfield students the opportunity to perform music, which is composed for more unique instrumentation. Jazz Band is the most active of these groups. Auditions for Jazz Band are held in November, and rehearsals are conducted after school and evenings. Concerts are presented at the school, local jazz festivals, elementary Festivals, and civic events.

Other small ensembles are offered during the school Club period. There is no audition for these ensembles, and all band members are strongly encouraged to participate. Rehearsals are held during Club Period, and performances are given at school concerts, Tri-M recitals, and church or civic events. Band members are strongly encouraged to form trios, quartets, and quintets on their own. Members of the marching and/or concert bands are eligible for membership in Hempfield's small ensembles. Award points are presented to Small Ensemble members who perform in concerts or the Tri-M Recital.

Indoor Percussion Ensemble

The Indoor Drumline season runs from December through April, and the ensemble is open to marching band members in grades 9-12. Performances are competitive, beginning in February and ending in April. The activity involves marching percussion instruments brought into the gym as the performance venue. Repertoire is typically the same as Marching Band and movement in the form of drill is utilized. This activity is offered to improve members' overall technique and musicianship on marching percussion instruments.

BAND OFFICERS

The following Band Officers will assist in the following ways:

PRESIDENT (Elected)

1. Act as student representative of the Band.
2. Be a member of the Marching and Concert Bands.
3. Be a senior member.
4. Assist the director in preparation for all band activities and concerts.
5. Help coordinate the Alumni Mailing List and Newsletters.
6. Collect and distribute money through the Student Activities account.
7. Serve as liaison with the Cheerleaders.
8. Organize and direct officers' meetings.
9. Help the director in any other way needed.
10. Know thoroughly the roles of every Officer and Staff member. Motivate each of these persons to complete their responsibilities to the very best of their ability.
11. Serve in the Band office during study halls.

DRUM MAJOR(S) (Appointed)

1. Win an audition comprised of: marching, vocal commands, conducting, and interview.
2. Demonstrate a strong quality of leadership.
3. Assist the director in the organization of Band Camp and all rehearsals.
4. Assist the director in rehearsing the Marching Band.
5. Help to conduct stand music and cheers.
6. Assist the director in any other way needed.
7. Maintain accurate student attendance for the musicians.

GUARD CAPTAIN(S) (Appointed)

1. Win an audition comprised of: marching, an interview, and the presentation of one or more flag/rifle/dance routines.
2. Assist the Color Guard Director in rehearsing all equipment work, warm-ups, and movement exercises.
3. Demonstrate a strong quality of leadership.
4. Assist the director in the organization of Band Camp and all rehearsals.
5. Aid the Color Guard Director in the distribution and collection of equipment and uniforms.
6. Report to their unit all actions taken by the officers.
7. Maintain accurate student attendance for the Guard.

CLASS REPRESENTATIVES (Elected - 1 representative per class)

1. Serve as spokesperson for their respective classes at officers' meetings.
2. Assist the President and Drum Major in the organization of band activities, rehearsals, store, and performances.
3. Report to the Band all actions taken by the officers.
4. Aid the director in concert publicity.

BAND STAFF

LIBRARIANS (Appointed)

1. Assist the director in all facets of organizing and maintaining Band music.
2. File, catalogue, and repair all music.
3. Prepare concert and marching folders.
4. Issue and collect music.
5. Maintain the band's Music Inventory list.

QUARTERMASTER(S) (Appointed)

1. Assist the director in the organization and maintenance of Band uniforms.
2. Help issue and collect uniforms for marching band and concert festivals.
3. Maintain the band's Uniform Inventory list.

MANAGER(S) (Appointed)

1. Assist the director with the movement and storage of band instruments and equipment.
2. Help set the stage for rehearsals and concerts.
3. Check the band room daily to assure correct rehearsal seating.
4. Load the Marching Band buses and truck.
5. Assist the director with the Instrument Inventory list.

HISTORIAN(S) (Appointed)

1. Keep the band room bulletin board up-to-date.
2. Obtain pictures, newspaper articles, and programs concerning the band.
3. Prepare a yearly Band Scrapbook.

PHOTOGRAPHER(S) (Appointed)

1. Take pictures at all band activities.
2. Coordinate the use of band pictures with the Historian for the bulletin board and scrapbook.

Remember, each of these Officers or Staff members volunteers their time for the betterment of our band. Follow the "Chain-of-Command" by asking the appropriate student aid before coming to the band director. Cooperation is always the name of the game with Officers and Staff!

TRI-M

The name "Tri-M" represents Modern Music Masters, which is an honorary music organization. This group sponsors solo/ensemble recitals during the school year, and serves as ushers for all Music Department concerts. Junior and senior band, orchestra, and chorus members who have an extreme interest in and devotion to music are eligible for membership. Other qualifications include an earned "B" average or better in music courses and a "C" or above average in other subjects. Leadership, responsibility, and excellence in performance are additional criteria.

LLMEA BAND

Each year the Lancaster-Lebanon Music Educators Association (LLMEA) sponsors a Symphonic Band and Wind Ensemble. These two groups are composed of qualified students who either perform in District Band or are recommended by the band director. Traditionally, a guest conductor directs the very select Wind Ensemble, while a county band director conducts the Symphonic Band.

Students are elected to LLMEA Band based on their District Band audition placement and the recommendation of their director.

DISTRICT, REGIONAL, AND ALL-STATE BANDS

The Pennsylvania Music Educators Association (PMEA) sponsors District, Regional and All-State Band Festivals each year. An audition for the band is held in December, and a well-balanced band is selected for the District Band Festival. Interested Hempfield band members are screened prior to auditions to determine acceptable tryout ability. At the festival, students audition again, and the best players are selected for Regional Band, and likewise at Regional Band the very best are selected for All-State. The Hempfield High School Band enjoys a rich tradition in PMEA festival representation. Qualified band members are urged to make participation in District Band a realistic goal for their performance experience. It is both an honor and a privilege to be selected to District, Regional, or All-State Band.

AWARDS

"Credit where credit is due" is a phrase often heard throughout life. In keeping with this expression, there are Hempfield Varsity Letters and Certificates awarded to deserving band members. Further, the John Philip Sousa Award is given to the outstanding senior band member each year, while Booster Club Awards are presented to the Marching Band's outstanding student leaders. The Jose Alejos Memorial Award is given to an excellent Marching Band senior. Following is a description of the point system used to earn the Hempfield letter through band participation.

Marching Band	1 point per year
Band Officer/Staff Member	1/2 point per year
Marching Section Leader	1/2 point per year
Small Ensemble/Indoor Ensemble	1/2 point per year
PMEA Festival Participation	1 point per festival
Musical Pit Orchestra /LLMEA Band	1/2 point per year

A varsity letter is awarded on the following basis:

Band: when four (4) total points are accumulated

Jazz Band and Color Guard: when three (3) total points are accumulated.

Attachment Pins will be added to the letter on the following basis:

Band: when six (6) and eight (8) points are accumulated.

Jazz Band: when three (3) points are accumulated.

Guard: when four (4) points are accumulated.

A Music Department Service Certificate will be presented to any senior band member who has not accumulated four or more points.

Please note that loss of point can result from: unexcused absence from a performance, unexcused absence from more than one rehearsal, or failure to meet all responsibilities required by membership, election, or appointment. Loss of a point is at the discretion of the director.

GRADING FOR CONCERT BAND

Grading for Concert Band is based on student points, which are earned throughout each marking period. Credit is awarded for the following grade categories:

- Rehearsal participation
- Individual Performance
- Quizzes
- Concert performance
- Pass-offs
- Improvement as a high school player
- Performance in honors bands
- Writing assignments
- Portfolio
- Extra-credit concert attendance

Students who meet all requirements for each category are awarded full credit for that assignment. It is your director's hope that all Concert Band grades will be A's!

AUDITIONS FOR CONCERT BAND

Each Band member is auditioned as an eighth grade band member before entering high school. This tryout is comprised of scales and a prepared exercise. Transfer students will audition within two weeks of entering Hempfield High School.

SEATING FOR CONCERT BAND

Concert Band seating within each section is determined in the first marking period, and is based on individual performance by each member. Seating auditions are held during rehearsal. "Challenges" are allowed, and a Seating Challenge Policy may be obtained from the director. Reseating based on individual performance of band literature or assigned scales is possible throughout the school year.

UNIFORMS

Uniforms for the Marching Band are provided by the Hempfield School District. Beyond marching performances, these uniforms are worn for all LLMEA and PMEA Band festivals. Remember that when the uniform is being worn, a band member represents himself, the band, the school, and the community. Act accordingly when in uniform! This very expensive uniform (replacement cost is in the \$350 range) is to be worn properly: jacket zipped, trousers creased, and shoes cleaned. The uniform is stored in the band uniform bag. Each band member provides a wooden hanger for his or her uniform. IT TAKES ONLY ONE POOR LOOKING UNIFORM TO RUIN THE APPEARANCE OF THE ENTIRE BAND. Be proud! Keep that uniform in excellent shape at all times!

SCHOOL OWNED INSTRUMENTS

The Hempfield School District provides many instruments for marching and concert use. Generally, these instruments are too expensive for individual band members to purchase. Carefully follow the directions below for school instruments:

1. Use of a school instrument is a Privilege rather than a Right.
2. Keep this instrument cleaned and shined at all times.
3. High school band members sign an "Instrument Contract" before any instrument is loaned.
4. Accessories and supplies are the band member's responsibility.
5. Each instrument will be "checked-in" by the director upon return. The instrument and case must be clean and lubricated at this inspection.
6. Carelessness will result in the student and parents paying repair expenses incurred by the school.

INSTRUMENT CARE AND MAINTENANCE

School and personal instruments must be cared for at all times! Follow the directions below:

1. Keep it clean! Smudges, dirt, and dust must be wiped or brushed off.
2. Register your Make, Model, and Serial number with your parents' homeowners insurance policy.
3. Keep your case clean - vacuum it on a periodic basis (especially after marching season.)
4. Have your instrument repaired during the summer. Avoid school conflicts.
5. Repair service is available at school through a local music dealer. Contact the director for information.
6. Be sure to have a name tag on your case!

Brass Instruments

1. Equipment and materials needed - pipe cleaners or mouthpiece brush, brass "snake," valve brush, oil and slide grease, polishing cloth.
2. "The Bath" - Two times yearly. Take out valves and slides and place all parts in a tub of lukewarm water. Snake the instrument, brush the valve casings and mouthpiece, wipe the valves clean. Rinse thoroughly. Dry with a towel. Use oil and grease when reassembling. The mouthpiece should be brushed as necessary to assure clear tone.
3. On school instruments, report any dents or damage immediately.
4. Horn players should always carry a jeweler's screwdriver to repair strings.

Woodwind Instruments

1. Equipment and materials needed - cork grease, key oil, bore oil (if wooden), swab, mouthpiece brush, woodwind screwdriver, and polishing cloth.
2. Always swab your mouthpiece. Brush it regularly with warm water and your toothbrush.
3. Clean tone holes with alcohol and Q-tips.
4. Oil a wooden bore twice yearly.
5. Oil your keys twice yearly. Use a toothpick to insure small amounts of key oil.
6. All metal parts of the instrument should be wiped weekly.

Percussion Instruments

1. Marching percussion will be cleaned before performances using liquid cleaner and/or a soft cloth.
2. Cymbals will be cleaned with cymbal cleaner or metal cleaner.
3. All marching equipment will be cleaned and inventoried at the end of marching season.
4. Concert equipment will be cleaned periodically. Timpani heads and mallet bars must be cleaned regularly to prolong mallet life.

PRIVATE INSTRUCTION

Traditionally, private instruction has played an important role in the quality of the Hempfield Bands. After grade six, all band members are strongly encouraged to begin private study for the following reasons:

1. Each student will benefit by working with a specialist.
2. Far more time and attention will be provided than is available during a school lesson.

When time and interest are available, lessons may be scheduled with the director during a study hall. A complete list of private teachers in our community is available in the Band Room.

MARCHING BAND POLICIES AND EXPECTATIONS

In order to operate efficiently, every organization must establish and abide by certain policies. The Hempfield Black Knight Marching Band, of course, is no exception. The following guidelines are written so that this organization will be able to run smoothly and effectively. This list has been orchestrated for the betterment of the entire band! "Extenuating circumstances" do exist. When dealing with these individual situations the director will determine flexibility.

I. Attendance

- A. Attendance is required at all rehearsals and performances. "Once in a lifetime" experiences or extenuating circumstances (such as sickness or family emergency) must be reported to the director prior to the rehearsal or performance. Absence from a performance can result in loss of the year's award point.
- B. Students who forfeit their year's award point due to unexcused absence are expected to complete their obligation to the Band for the season.
- C. All members are required to attend Band Camp, which is held prior to the opening of school.
- D. Except for vacation or camp, members are expected to attend all summer rehearsals.
- E. Beginning with Band Camp and continuing through the season, vacations or appointments do not constitute excused absences. Work is not an excused absence.
- F. During school, rehearsals are held Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays after school or in the evening, and prior to performances.
- G. Members who miss a rehearsal are responsible for the information learned or distributed at that rehearsal.
- H. Punctuality is a necessity. To be on time is to be late. **TO BE EARLY IS TO BE ON TIME!**

I. Students who join marching band after the registration deadline may have to serve as alternates during the season.

J. Leaving the performance site (rehearsal, game, parade, competition, concert, or assembly) without the director's permission is not allowed.

II. Rules

A. All rules, regulations, and policies of the Hempfield School District and the Black Knight Band are in effect when the band is rehearsing, performing, or traveling as a group.

B. Treat others as you wish to be treated. Courtesy and politeness must be displayed to other members, instructors, parents, and guests at all times.

C. School district rules concerning bus behavior will be used on all Band trips. When a bus is provided, all band members will ride the bus both ways. Students may return with one of their parents if the director is notified.

D. Bus behavior is to be orderly and controlled. Always stay seated on the bus until you have gotten "the word." Absolutely no shouting from or hanging out of open bus windows.

E. The use or possession of tobacco products, alcoholic beverages, or drugs is strictly prohibited.

F. No gum, candy, food, or beverages during rehearsals. At rehearsals and performances, food and drinks are reserved for "breaks."

G. Band members usually are permitted to leave the stands at football games during the third quarter. Members must return to the stands in time to play at the end of the third quarter. No running in or out of the stands during a game. No refreshments in the stands during performances.

III. Reprimands

A. Verbal warning.

B. Loss of point.

C. Suspension.

D. Parent Conference.

E. Dismissal.

Depending on the severity of a student's actions, the director reserves the right to move directly to suspension or dismissal.

IV. Instruments and Equipment

A. At the beginning of each season, members using a school instrument will sign an Instrument Contract. This contract will be made void when the instrument is cleaned and returned to the director.

B. Members are responsible for the condition of the instruments and equipment they are using.

C. Instruments and equipment are expected to be clean at each performance.

D. Members should have nametags on all instruments and equipment at all times.

E. Instruments and equipment are to be stored in their assigned places.

F. Members will report to all rehearsals and performances with the necessary instruments and equipment.

G. Flip folders and music (which are provided) will be carried unless otherwise announced. Each player will use and provide a music lyre for their instrument (school or personal).

H. Band members are responsible for providing reeds, valve or slide oil, sticks, or mallets when they are needed.

I. For away games and parades, all members will be responsible for loading and unloading their instruments onto and from the buses or equipment truck.

V. Uniforms

A. Marching band uniforms will be issued during summer rehearsals. Black shoes (no sneakers), black socks, and black gloves must be purchased by band members.

B. When leaving your home or the bus, the entire uniform must be worn properly. When riding on the bus, the coat may be hung neatly on a wooden hanger. Likewise, the coat may be hung neatly on this hanger to and from a performance. In short, the uniform is either on you or on your hanger inside your uniform bag.

C. Shoes are to be cleaned for each performance. Likewise, gloves must be clean.

D. While in uniform, the uniform jacket remains zipped-up. Hats and gloves will be removed upon direction from the director or the drum major.

E. Each shako will come with a hatbox.

F. In the stands, red, white, and black hats and gloves may be worn in cold weather. Only BLACK turtlenecks or tee shirts may be worn under the uniform jacket.

G. Band members may not carry extra clothing or gear while marching.

H. Other than prescription sunglasses, sunglasses may not be worn during performances.

I. Long hair is not part of the uniform. Hair must be tucked-up under the shako, or pulled back into braids or a ponytail, so that there is no interference with the uniform.

J. Color Guard members will purchase and wear a Guard Windbreaker while entering and leaving performances.

VI. General Information

A. The Band represents the High School, School District, and Community at all times. Please act accordingly.

B. As an organization, UNIFORMITY PREVAILS - hence, these rules and regulations.

C. Take proper care of your music. It is very expensive to replace. Be sure to paperclip all stand music into your flip folder.

D. The expense of lost music, equipment, or uniform parts will be assessed to the member.

E. For all performances, report to the band room rain or shine in full uniform.

VII. Attitude!

You should center your attention on the main ingredient for any organization's success: ATTITUDE! A WINNING ATTITUDE IS CONTAGIOUS, and can be developed through HUSTLE, DETERMINATION, and PROFESSIONALISM. You can become a successful member of this winning organization by marching a little harder, practicing a little longer, running a little faster, and smiling a little wider. With your cooperation, I am sure that together we will make this year's Black Knight Band the best yet!