

**John Hersey High School
Band Program
Handbook
2022-2023**



Mr. Spencer Hile (he/him), Director of Bands

E-Mail address: spencer.hile@d214.org

Ms. Joann Langley, Fine Arts Assistant

Philosophy

The John Hersey High School Band Program has played an important role in the academic lives of our students since the school opened in 1968. The band has represented the school and community at such famous venues as the Rose Bowl Parade, the Orange Bowl Parade, the Cotton Bowl Parade, College Band Directors National Association North Central Division Conference and the MidWest International Band and Orchestra Clinic. Recent accolades include two invitations and performances at the National Concert Band Festival and an unprecedented TWENTY invitations and performances at the Illinois Superstate Concert Band Festival. In 2007, our Symphonic Band's performance at the MidWest Band and Orchestra Clinic inspired a standing ovation, which led to our invitation to perform in an expenses-paid trip to the French Riviera in 2009. IN 2018, the band performed three concerts in Rome and Venice, as part of a 10-day tour of Italy. In 2020, the bands performed at the famous John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington DC as part of a four-day tour. In addition, the Hersey bands have performed in such celebrated performance venues as Carnegie Hall in NYC, Orchestra Hall at the Chicago Symphony Center, the Foellinger Great Hall in the Krannert Center for the Performing Arts and Clowes Memorial Concert Hall, Indianapolis, IN.

The John Hersey High School band program is one of the most celebrated band programs in the United States. Welcome to a tradition of excellence and outstanding opportunities for development of essential successful life skills and musicianship.

Offering full academic credit in a variety of ensembles, band teaches crucial life skills such as discipline, confidence and leadership. Band is part of the school curriculum because it realizes three of the most important aims in the formal education of our students: the development of hand, head and heart. The development of these aspects is the cornerstone of the American educational system and is essential to the physical (hand), technical (head) and emotional, and social (heart) growth of our students. Band is also a part of our curriculum because of the unique, expressive symbol system (language) that it represents. The importance of understanding this means of expression warrants band, and other music instruction, as an essential part of the school's course offerings.

In the John Hersey High School Bands, our curriculum encompasses not only achievement in musical performance, but also understanding classic works of music as well as very basic composition concepts. The Symphonic and Concert Bands are the core of the program. All students must participate in one of these ensembles in order to participate in any other ensembles offered. All Freshmen are immediately placed in the Concert Band (except for percussionists) at the beginning of the year and can move to Symphonic Band through an audition process that begins in November.

In addition to the curricular portion of this offering, the band plays an important role in the community and in the school by performing at community events, at school functions and at athletic events. These performances are opportunities to showcase the talent of our students and program to a public who may not attend a concert. Students should understand the importance of these extra school performances as a necessary service to community and school. These performances are an extension of the classroom and they are also reflected in the student's grade, as explained in the Music Department Grading Policy.

It is the intention of the John Hersey School Band Program that every student will have at least two opportunities to participate in a major tour (at least three nights) during their four years of high school. These tours provide exciting opportunities for music performances while challenging students to adapt to a variety of cultural, political and social settings. Previous trips have included France, Italy, the Bahamas, New York City, Indianapolis, Washington D.C and Disney World.

John Hersey High School Music Department Grading Policies

The following grading policy will be in effect for the school year and represents a general policy for the Music Department at John Hersey High School, including all instrumental and vocal ensembles. Each musical ensemble will define the policies further to meet specific expectations. The following policies have been approved by all music program directors and JHHS administration.

Participation(40%)

"Participation" is a broad idea that encompasses such criteria as daily preparedness and responsibility. Students are expected to make daily improvements in their abilities and work habits. Musical ensembles will define this area further to meet specific expectations unique to their ensemble. An unexcused absence from a rehearsal (during school or outside of regular school hours) will affect this portion of the semester grade.

Testing (30%)

Regular testing will take place in each ensemble as prescribed by its director.

Performances (30%)

This portion of the student's grade is based on attendance. It is expected that every student be prepared both technically and mentally for each performance. The primary focus of daily rehearsals is to prepare for performances. Therefore, the penalty for an unexcused absence from a performance will be significant and appropriate. Each musical organization's performance is judged by our school, community, our families and, in some cases, judges. One person's absence affects the entire ensemble's performance. You will have a schedule of events well in advance; take care of problems before they happen!!

Excused Absences

In order for an absence from a rehearsal or performance to be excused, an email or phone call from a guardian must be received, reviewed and approved by the director as soon as the student knows of the conflict. In the case of an unavoidable emergency, a note or phone call must be received on the student's first day back to school or rehearsal. Notification as early as possible allows the ensemble to make adjustments so that every other student, and the program, is not affected. You will have a schedule of events well in advance; take care of problems before they happen!! Jobs will not be excused. The only excuses that will be accepted after performances will be those involving unavoidable emergencies and sickness.

* Percentages above will be adjusted to incorporate Final Exam grades each semester.

TENTATIVE 2022-2023 Band Calendar

Band Google Calendar

<https://herseyband.com/calendar/>

May

10, 19, 24	FRESHMAN REHEARSALS	6:00-9:00PM
30	Memorial Day Parade	Morning/Early Afternoon

June

(Students excused from these June/July dates in the event of family vacation, however missing these rehearsals makes August very challenging, particularly for incoming freshman)

21	Freshman Only	6:00-9:00 PM
22	Freshman Only	6:00-9:00 PM
23	Freshman Only	6:00-9:00 PM
28	ALL MEMBERS	6:00-9:00 PM
29	ALL MEMBERS	6:00-9:00 PM
30	ALL MEMBERS	6:00-9:00 PM
July 1	ALL MEMBERS	6:00-9:00 PM
July 4	FRONTIER DAYS PARADE	9:00 AM Call Time

August

July 29 (Fri)	Freshman Only	12:00-5:30 PM
1-5	BAND CAMP!!!	12:00PM-9:00PM
8-10	ALL-Rehearsal and Band Section Olympics	12:00PM-9:00PM
11	ALL – rehearsal	4:00-9:00PM
12	Picnic/Parent Fall Preview	Report 5pm
	Picnic and performance	6:30pm
15	First Day of School	
17	FIRST Wednesday PM Rehearsal	6-8:45pm
	Drumline sectional	3:30-5pm
	Front Line percussion	5-6pm
20 (Sat)	Rehearsal w/ show designers	12-5pm

September

2	Home Football Game	Report 5:00 PM
9	Home Football Game	Report 5:00 PM
24	Red and Black Classic – NIU	Afternoon and Evening
30	Homecoming Football Game	Report 5:00 PM

October

4 (TUES)	Marching Rehearsal	6-8:45
5	No Wednesday night rehearsal	
8	Downers Grove Marching Invitational	Afternoon and Evening
15	Football Game	Report 5:30
17 (Mon)	Marching Rehearsal	6-7:30pm
19	Wednesday night rehearsal	6
22	State of IL Marching Championships	All day/late night
26	End of the Season Marching Party	6:00PM

November

9	First Wednesday PM Symphonic Rehearsal	7-8:30pm
12	IMEA Dist 7 Music Festival (select students)	All Day
19	District 7 Jazz Festival (select students)	All Day
22 (mon)	Jazz Night Club Concert - Jazz 1 and 2	7:00 pm

December

1	Jazz Ensemble 1 to Thomas Jazz Concert	7:00 PM
2	ALL – Holiday Concert Dress Rehearsal	3:30-6:30pm
4(Sun)	Holiday Concert	1 and 3pm
16	Holiday School Assembly	9:00 am

January

10 (tues)	Class resumes	
18	Solo and Ensemble Contest at Hersey	4:00-8:30 PM
20-21	Jazz I & II to Purdue University	
25-28	IMEA All-State at Peoria (select)	

February

4	Jazz Ensemble II to New Trier Festival	All Day
11	In Good Taste - Adult Event	7:00-10:00 PM
14	Symphonic Band Night Rehearsal w/ guest	7:00-8:30 PM
15	Symphonic Band Festival w BG/WHS	7:00 pm
25	Jazz I to Jazz in the Meadows	All Day/Early Evening

March

1 (tent)	Dist 214 Honors Music Festival	7:30 pm
4	Elk Grove Percussion Festival	Afternoon
11	Mundelein Jazz Festival (Jazz 2+Combos)	Afternoon/Evening
13	Concert Band Rehearsal w/ Guest Conductor	7:00-8:30PM
14	Concert Band Festival @ BGHS	7:00PM
11	Jazz 2 and Combos to MUNDELEIN JAZZ FESTIVAL ALL DAY	
25	Spring Break begins	

April

2	Classes Resume	
11	CICBF Parent Volunteer Training Night	7:00-8:00pm
13	Dress Rehearsal w/Guest Conductor TBA	7-8:30pm
14	Chicagoland Band Festival Set-up	PM

15 Chicagoland Concert Band Festival All Day/Evening**All students AND parents (1 per student) help**

24	Spring Jazz Concert	7pm
30	Spring Music Dept Concert	3PM

May

6 (tent)	Symphonic Band to Superstate	All Day/Evening
8	Concert Band concert with Thomas feeder schools	7pm
15	Night of Percussion dress rehearsal	3:30-7:30PM
16 (Tues)	Night of Percussion	7:00PM
19	Formal Band Awards Banquet	
24 (WED)	Graduation	
29	Memorial Day Parade	Morning

June

2	Last Day of Classes	
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Attendance

Please examine the enclosed calendar carefully to avoid conflicts. Work schedules, other non-school activities, and family trips must not interfere with the schedule. Students that enroll in other school activities such as athletics, choir, drama, etc. need to plan ahead to resolve unavoidable conflicts. **Ask to receive a complete semester calendar from all of your activities so that you can have the maximum amount of time to work out potential conflicts.** The Director of Bands will work together with other teachers, coaches, directors of various activities to work out conflicts. Each student will be given every opportunity to participate in other activities.

Discipline

Discipline is a quality that must come from within the individual. Because of this fact, each student is responsible for his or her own actions as a member of the JHHS Band. Any student who shows an inability to work effectively in class may be re-assigned to another non-music class at the discretion of the Director.

The Band is governed by School Board policies anytime we are together for any band function whether it involves all students or only one. The General Release form that you sign at the end of this handbook will be in effect throughout the year for trips related to Band. Any student that violates school rules while with the JHHS Band will be subject to all official school disciplinary action. ***In addition,*** those students will be subject to dismissal and will not continue to perform or travel with the band.

Band Newsletter

Every student and parent should receive the band newsletter every month during the regular school year, except December. This newsletter contains important information from the Director of Bands as well as from our booster organization, the Hersey Instrumental Association. Most importantly, **any changes from the original schedule will be indicated in this newsletter. Students are responsible for any schedules printed in the newsletter.** If the newsletter is not being received, it is the family's responsibility to register their email address at the Hersey band website. If your email address changes, you should register the change at the hersey band website. If you are not receiving the newsletter please email our corresponding secretary: hia.correspondingsecretary20@gmail.com

Student Fundraising

Students will be asked (not required) to participate in fundraising throughout the year, except for the Chicagoland Band Festival. The majority of profits from most fundraisers will be deposited into the student's "account" which can be used to pay for trips and other band related items/activities. This student account will be managed by the Hersey Instrumental Association Treasurer. **PROFITS FROM ALL FUNDRAISERS ARE VITAL TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE BAND PROGRAM!** The portion of profits designated to HIA are used to fund the Band Awards Banquet, scholarships, clinicians, trip chaperones, the monthly newsletter and misc. equipment. **In addition, each student will be asked to contribute at least one advertisement to the Chicagoland Band Festival program book. 20-40% of all ad revenue is given to the student's account.** Students that do not contribute to financially (get an ad from a business) will be asked to work two shifts at the Chicagoland Band Festival (approximately 8 hours of work).

Band Program Structure

Symphonic Band

This ensemble is the top performing group of students who have shown superior performance abilities. This ensemble will perform at top state and national music festivals and will work with outstanding professional musicians who are asked to guest conduct. This group combines with the Concert Band, Percussion Ensemble, and Drill Team to form the Marching Huskies during Football season through the beginning of October. After Marching Band, Symphonic Band performances occur 4-6 times from November through May. 100% of the students in this ensemble study privately, and most participate in Solo/Ensemble, and audition for District Band. In the event that the music calls for additional attention, sectionals may be called outside of class time.

Concert Band

ALL FRESHMAN SHOULD BE ENROLLED IN CONCERT BAND (unless they are percussionists). This ensemble has two purposes. The first is to provide an outlet for students who have not reached an advanced level of performance and have no intention of reaching that level, but enjoy participating in music and playing their instrument. The other purpose is to serve as a training band for those students interested in eventually reaching an ability level allowing them to audition into Symphonic Band. This group combines with the Symphonic Band, Percussion Ensemble, and Drill Team to form the Marching Huskies during Football season. After Marching Band, performances occur 3-4 times from November through May. 75-80% of students in Concert Band study privately and participate in Solo/Ensemble. In the chance that the music calls for additional attention, a few sectionals may be called before school.

Percussion Ensemble

All percussion students should be enrolled in "Instrumental Ensemble", as it is stated in the Curriculum Guide. This class, because of the lunch hour placement, allows students to move between rehearsing with the band to which they are assigned and working separately on band music, sectionals and/or Percussion Ensemble. They also are part of the "Marching Huskies" in the Fall.

Marching Huskies

The Marching Huskies provide entertainment for all home Football games and are competitive, as well. 5-8 marching band performances occur from August through October. Two of these performances will happen on a university campus. This ensemble begins rehearsing at four to six non-mandatory rehearsals in June prior to the Fall season. Mandatory band camp begins two weeks prior to the first day of school. Once school begins, all students will practice one evening a week to avoid conflict with athletic practice. "Shared spots" may be assigned to some students based on conflicts with rehearsals or performance struggles or may be a result of instrumentation constraints. Students sharing spots alternate marching the same coordinates in rehearsals and performances. Oboe and Bassoon players get to play in the marching percussion front line and learn some easy percussion techniques unless they choose to play another instrument that marches or Color Guard.

Jazz Ensemble I

Jazz Ensembles provide students with an outlet to explore the history and performance of the jazz idiom, America's "Classical Music". Jazz Ensemble I is a select top performance group that will participate in festivals throughout the State of Illinois and the Midwest. Approximately 3-6 performances will occur throughout the school year. This ensemble meets daily as a class, and students receive graduation credit for their participation. Every interested student must be a member of the Symphonic Band, Concert Bands, except for guitar players.

Jazz Ensemble II

Jazz Ensemble II will provide students with an opportunity to perform Jazz music and, if desired, allow them to improve skills with the intention of eventually moving to Jazz Ensemble I. This ensemble is a full year ensemble and it is extra-curricular. They will rehearse one day a week in the Fall and Spring. During the "competitive season" they will rehearse (usually) on Tuesday and Thursday after school from 5:00-7:00 PM. Every interested student must be a member of the Symphonic Band or Concert Band, except for guitar players. Fall and Spring athletes will attend every other week

and Mr. Hile will communicate appropriately with the concerned coach. It is the student's responsibility to notify Mr. Hile and the Jazz Ensemble II Director, Cesar Mendoza, of any athletic conflicts.

Jazz Combos

Jazz Combos rehearse before and after school and provide students with the opportunity to develop the most important aspect of jazz performance: improvisation. Students on wind instruments and piano participating in these ensemble take improvisation private lessons. Auditions for these groups take place at the end of September and run from October through the end of the school year.

Recommended Instrument List

It is recommended that high school students do not use their "beginning band" instrument past the 8th grade. Those instruments are designed for smaller bodies and are built to withstand the physical abuse that young students may inflict on them. Better quality instruments enable all students to learn more quickly and with greater ease. They are a necessity for each student to reach their full potential. The instruments and accessories listed below are recommended:

Flute:	Azumi AZ3
Oboe:	Howarth s50C
Bassoon:	Fox Model IV
Clarinet:	Buffet R-13, Van Doren M13 Mouthpiece, Rovner Dark Ligature, Van Doren reeds
Saxophones:	Yanigasawa AW01 Alto Sax, Van Doren Optimum mouthpieces Yanigasawa TWO1 Tenor Sax, Van Doren Optimum mouthpieces
Trumpet:	Bach Stradivarius 180S (43 bell), 3C mouthpiece or larger
French Horn:	Conn 8D or Yamaha H181
Trombone:	Bach 42BO, Bach 5G Mouthpiece
Percussion:	Stick bag with snare sticks, assorted mallets and pitch pipe (Purchased Through Mr. Hile)

Supplies

All students should have the following supplies/accessories for their instrument:

Brass:	A Denis Wick metal Straight Mute (trpt, tbn, horn), and Denis Wick cup mute (trpt, tbn), cleaning cloth, cleaning snake, mouthpiece brush, valve oil or slide cream, TE Tuner APP
Woodwinds:	Cleaning cloth, swabs, 6 or more good reeds at all times (keep a good reed separated for performances!),
Percussion:	Sticks to be ordered from Mr. Hile

Individual Growth Opportunities

One of the important goals of our program is the development to the individual musician to the limit of his/her potential. To assist in reaching this goal, *we strongly recommend participation in the following activities:*

Applied Private Instruction

Excellence and achievement can be directly related to the quality of **individual private instruction**. The achievement of the JHHS Band Program and the students that choose to participate can be directly linked to participation in private lessons. Over 95% of students audition into Symphonic Band annually study privately and more 80% of the Concert Band annually study privately. **Private instruction is offered as enrichment, not remedial instruction.** It is highly encouraged for the complete development of each student's potential, but it is not required. A recommended list of private lesson teachers will be available in the Fall. Most instruments have a private teacher available to them at JHHS. Cost of the private lessons is borne by the individual. In 2019-2020, a new payment process through the D214 Community Education department was put into place. Teachers in this program are considered D214 faculty members and carry all of the benefits and safeguards like any other D214 teacher.

Solo and Ensemble Contest

This takes place in mid-January and results in non-competitive ratings. All students will participate in a solo or ensemble. This activity is an IMPORTANT part of our year and is important to the development of individual independence and confidence.

Illinois All-District Band

This activity involves the finest students from schools in the Northwest suburbs and is the first step in advancement to All-State. All students must pass a preliminary audition with the Director before they are allowed to audition for this activity. Only 16 students from each of the 70+ schools involved are allowed to audition. Auditions will occur the second Wednesday in October and the District festival will occur the third Saturday in November. The top chairs from All-District will be selected to participate in All-State and will then audition for placement in either the All-State Band or All-State Honors Band in January.

Band Uniform Information Form

Welcome to the John Hersey High School Band program! Most band students will be involved in both the marching band season and the concert band season. The band program will issue separate uniforms to your student for each season. Hersey provides most of the uniform pieces and your student will be fitted and assigned uniforms to use throughout the year at no cost. There are a limited number of items requiring separate payment that the band will order en masse from our uniform distributor, and we will collect size information and payment to do so. Marching uniform orders are collected in the spring and concert uniform orders are collected in the fall.

Marching Uniforms

The marching uniform jacket, pants, and hat issued by the band program will remain at school. Students will be given instructions on how and where to properly store their uniforms. Marching uniforms are cleaned by the band at no additional cost to the student.

Marching Uniform Order Items:

Black marching shoes - New Members - \$35

Black uniform shorts - ALL MEMBERS

Please click here to place your order:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1zFsv2amq82pPRl30-kYqox-Bn40lyh4FTtCS-xQ1JdI/edit>

NOTE: All students participating in marching band need to complete the form and provide their size for the uniform shorts. Freshmen and other new students need to order marching shoes. Returning students do not need to order marching shoes if they have a pair that fits and are in good condition.

Concert Uniforms

The concert uniform consists of either a dress or a tuxedo. Students will store the uniform at home and keep the same uniform until they graduate or change size and need to exchange it. An opportunity to exchange the uniform for a different size is provided each year. **If any part of the uniform that is provided by the school is lost or damaged, the student is responsible for replacement/repair costs.** It is the responsibility of the student to have the concert uniform cleaned at least once a year at the student's expense unless otherwise notified. Concert uniform ordering information will be provided in the fall and will include the items listed below.

Concert Uniform Order Items:

Dress Uniform:

Black Shoes

OR

Tuxedo Uniform:

Bowtie

White Tuxedo Shirt

Jazz Band Uniform

Information regarding required attire for jazz performances will be provided separately to students participating in these ensembles.

Questions?

Please contact the HIA Uniform Committee at: hia.uniformcoordinator@gmail.com

**Chicagoland Invitational Concert Band Festival
Parent/Guardian Volunteer Expectation Form
APRIL 15, 2023**

It is the expectation that every family provide at least one adult to volunteer at the annual Chicagoland Invitational Concert Band Festival held every April. This fundraiser and important educational event hosts 45 bands and 2500 participants each year and will include over 220 volunteer positions to be filled annually. It is the most important fundraiser and educational event of our school year and requires participation from **all** families. Please ensure that this day is included on all family calendars.

By signing this, you are indicating that you simply acknowledge and understand this expectation:

Parent/Guardian Signature _____

Date _____

Band Fee Form

The band fee covers a variety of different costs not covered by the school budget. The band fee also exists to offset the need to run many fundraisers throughout the school year. Those costs covered by the band fee include:

- Clinicians who work with the students during band camp and throughout the year
- Marching Band Props/Equipment
- Catered meals at the various marching band competitions
- Snacks during the football games
- Dry cleaning of the marching band uniforms
- A pair of black gloves
- A T-shirt required for each band member that will be occasionally worn as a uniform
- Marching Band Shorts

Additional Required Items:

For All:

- Marching lyre and flipbook (available at Quinlan & Fabish)
- Black socks
- Marching Band Camp Kit (below)
- Marching band shoes @ \$35 (ordered directly from uniform committee – can use the same shoes later for concert season)
- **Web-based Smartmusic Subscription** (NOT “classic, app-based program) required for all members **\$10** for the year.

**These items will be available for purchase in a band camp kit from the HIA. Watch for additional details.*

Please note that these fees are non-refundable after June 1.

Student’s Name (please print) _____

Parent’s Name (please print) _____

TWO PAYMENTS: Band Fee (Required for all band participants) **DUE NOW:** \$250.00 _____ ***

****** AN ADDITIONAL PAYMENT OF \$150 WILL BE DUE ON AUGUST 1ST**

Band Camp Kit (Water Bottle Lanyard, Ultimate Drill Book App, UDB Phone Lanyard, Chalk) \$20.00 _____
(Front line percussion does not need this)

Smartmusic Subscription (PERCUSSION WILL NOT NEED THIS) \$10.00 _____

TOTAL \$ _____

I have enclosed: Check Number _____ Check Amount \$ _____

Please charge my Student Account \$ _____

Please make checks payable to **Hersey Instrumental Association**

**Return with Information Sheet, Medical Release form, Parent Volunteer Agreement Form
and uniform part payment by Friday, May 13**

**PLEASE EMAIL MR. HILE WITH ANY EXTENUATING CIRCUMSTANCES AND REQUEST FOR
EXTENSIONS OR PAYMENT PLANS**

