

Hiland Middle School Band

2024-2025

The Middle School Band is composed of all woodwinds, brass, and percussion. The ensemble rehearses daily in preparation for one marching band parade event and three concert performances per year. It is during this rehearsal students will learn musicality, technique, and performance etiquette. Music history and theory will also be addressed. Additional after-school rehearsals may be necessary and scheduled at the director's discretion.

This handbook serves as an overall guide to the Hiland Middle School Band Program. Please read all the information and be aware of the policies.

Included in this handbook are expectations regarding rehearsal and performance behavior and attendance policies. A successful band program requires a high level of maturity and dedication. This effort also results in a level of bonding that makes the band experience so exciting and satisfying.

I am a firm believer in direct communication and will make every effort to answer emails or phone calls within a day of receiving them. My school email is zachary.rearick@eastholmes.org.

Parents are encouraged to attend and participate in the Hiland Music Booster organization. Through this organization, they will become better informed and positively involved in the unique educational and social opportunities enjoyed by band students. Parent support is crucial to the success of the band program.

Thank you for your participation and dedication to the East Holmes Band Program!

Zachary Rearick
Band Director
East Holmes Local Schools

The East Holmes School System has adopted the following position governing performance groups:

It is important to note that members of music performance groups receive a letter grade in the junior and high school levels. Beginning in grade nine, members of performing groups receive course credit in addition to earning letter grades, which may be applied toward graduation.

A music performance group is a component of the school curriculum. Success and quality of performance comes with commitment and dedication to the group. A music performance group, whether in rehearsal or performance, requires the joint efforts of all. Performance is the natural culmination of the daily learning experience through rehearsal. Each is important, and one is dependent upon the other. A student who misses rehearsals and/or performances not only invalidates his effort, but also the efforts of the entire group.

Membership in a performance group assumes attendance at all performances and rehearsals.

Calendar of Events:

Our calendar of band events, performances, trips, etc. is always presented to students as a part of their syllabus provided at the beginning of the year. However, paper copies of calendars can quickly be changed and go obsolete. Therefore, we encourage you to always check online on our band program website for the most current information.

If you wish to stay up-to-date automatically, we encourage you to add our dynamic google calendar to your calendar app so that you can always have it in view. As changes are made to the calendar online, every event will update seamlessly on your view as well.

Scan the QR codes below or click their respective links to view the calendar, THEN click the + icon in the bottom right to make sure that it is added.

7th Grade Band - [Link](#)



8th Grade Band - [Link](#)



Communication:

In an effort to streamline communication so that you have the information you need, we will be using a mixture of the following communication methods. Make sure you're signed up!

1. Remind - (for students & parents)
 - a. Used for announcements and real-time two-way communication via the Remind app and/or text. I cannot guarantee that I will check my email outside of school hours, so this is a quick way to get in touch with me for any urgent needs.
 - b. Text @hil78band to the number 81010, or use the code @hil78band in the app to join. This code/class will be the same for both 7th and 8th grade students and parents.
2. Google Classroom - (for students only)
 - a. Classroom is used to provide resources for students. Resources include practice tracks, sign-ups, itineraries, form links, warm-up sheets, and any other large items that aren't as suitable for Remind.
3. Email - (for students & parents)
 - a. This is the most consistent way of getting in touch with me. I check my email multiple times a day during working hours.
 - b. Email me at zachary.rearick@eastholmes.org
4. Band Website - (for students & parents)
 - a. There is a link on Classroom, or search "Hiland band program" on Google.
 - b. Link - www.sites.google.com/eastholmes.org/hilandband

General Expectations:

1. Treat yourself and others with respect.
2. Whether in school or at a public function, school policies are in effect at all times.
3. The music rooms should always be left in a neat, organized manner.
 - a. All instruments are to be kept in the instrument storage lockers in your individual locker.
 - b. Music and music folders are to be kept with your instrument in your locker or with you in your book bag.
 - c. Book bags, books, projects for other classes, etc. should not be stored in the band room or its attached rooms.
 - d. Percussion equipment should always be put away, covered, or set aside when not in use.
4. Vandalism with regard to instruments, equipment, and school property will not be tolerated and any students involved will be held financially responsible.
5. Gum chewing, candy eating, food, beverages, etc. are not permitted in the band room.
6. Be prepared. Have all equipment at all rehearsals and performances (instrument, music, oils, reeds, mutes, pencils, sticks, mallets, etc.)
7. Be prompt. For rehearsals, students must be in seats and ready to play two minutes after the bell rings.
8. Follow directions of those in authority.
9. Hats are not to be worn during indoor rehearsals.
10. Turn in all required forms on time.
11. I have an open door policy. If the door is open to the band office, students are welcome to come in. If the door is closed, students must knock before entering.
12. Always bring a positive attitude.

Attendance Policy:

Students are expected to attend all rehearsals and performances. If a student must be absent, they are required to fill out a Request to be Absent Form, which is available on Classroom and the band website. Use the following guidelines when submitting an absence notification.

1. Absence known ahead of time (i.e. wedding, vacation, sport equivalent)
 - a. Students must turn in a Request to be Absent form no later than 2 weeks prior to the event.
 - b. Absences for equivalent events will be considered excusable if the student cannot reasonably be present at both events with at least a 30 minute break in between (excluding travel time).
2. Emergency absence (i.e. illness, injury, funeral)
 - a. Students must contact the Director and alert them to their absence PRIOR to the event. This can be done via email or Remind.
 - b. Students must turn in a Request to be Absent Form no later than 2 days upon returning to school.
 - c. Failure to communicate or submit a form may result in restrictions for future performances or trips.

Unacceptable absences include work, detention, observance of an inequivalent school event or sport activity, doctors appointments that can be scheduled at another time (check-ups, yearly exams, etc.), and lack of transportation (see about getting a ride from a friend or contacting the Director). Examples of an inequivalent event include participating in a practice instead of a musical performance or watching a game instead of participating in a musical performance.

Tardiness will not be tolerated. "If you are early, you are on time, if you are on time, you are late..."

Use of Band Facilities:

The band director will be available at certain times throughout the normal school day, as well as potentially before/after school for monitoring individual practice or providing private lesson instruction.

1. Students may come to the band room to practice only when the Band Director is present.
2. A schedule will be posted by the second week of school that shows the Director's availability at periods throughout the day. Students may request a time to come practice or schedule a weekly lesson time.
3. No students may come to the band room outside of regular rehearsals without a pass from the Director.
4. Any type of food or beverage (excluding water) are not permitted in the band room or practice room.
5. Any room that is used should be left in the same, or better, condition than when it was used.

Rehearsal Conduct:

1. Be prompt and ready to start at designated times (2 minutes after the bell).
2. During school time, passes are required to excuse tardiness.
3. While the director is on the podium, there is no talking or playing unless otherwise instructed.
4. Gum is not permitted in any rehearsal at any time!
5. Be prepared by having your instrument in working order, a pencil, and music.
6. Marching rehearsal: Athletic shoes must be worn to be permitted to march – no sandals/flip flops. Students will be notified in advance of any outside marching rehearsals.
7. No phones may be out during rehearsals. Phones must be stored in their "holster" in the back of the room. Phones that are out during rehearsals will be confiscated by the Director and held until the end of the school day. Phones can be picked up from the Director's Office.

Instruments & Lockers:

All students need working instruments for rehearsal and performances. This includes having reeds, oil, etc. If you are borrowing a school-owned instrument, any damage done to the instrument will be your financial responsibility. Do not touch or play another person's instrument and do not let anyone touch or play yours. This includes percussion equipment. Only percussionists are permitted to play percussion instruments.

All instruments must be properly labeled with a nametag and will be stored in one of the lockers in the band room. A locker will be provided to you by the Director. Lockers must be kept clean at all times and sharing lockers is prohibited. If you play more than one instrument, you may store both instruments in one locker if the locker can reasonably accommodate both instruments.

Students should have the following supplies at all times. Extra supplies should be purchased by the student, not the school.

- Woodwinds
 - Unbroken reeds (have a few to rotate)
 - Cork grease (clarinets and saxophones only)
 - Swab
 - Neck strap (if necessary)
- Brass
 - Clean mouthpiece
 - Valve oil – USE DAILY
 - Slide grease/oil (tuning slide must move)
- Percussion
 - Snare sticks
 - Mallets

Travel Expectations:

The Middle School Band does not travel often, but when we do, school bus transportation will be provided to and from the event. If you need to use transportation other than what is provided, you should notify the Director in writing by completing and turning in a Transportation Release. Whenever a time is given to arrive and load the bus, you are responsible for being there at that time. Only you are responsible for your instrument being loaded on the bus, so if you are not present, your items may not be loaded. If you need to use the restroom, do so before we leave.

When riding the bus, you are expected to respect and adhere to the directions of the bus driver and all chaperones. Be respectful of those around you by maintaining appropriate conversation and music levels. Students must stay on the bus until told to unload. While on the bus, instruments must stay in their cases at all times.

Concert Attire:

We will utilize a variety of concert attire for performances at school and within the community. Pay attention to each itinerary to know which concert attire is appropriate for each performance.

- Concert (White & Black)
 - Ladies – Black dress or skirt of appropriate length, or black dress pants with a nice white blouse and black dress shoes.
 - Gentlemen – Black dress pants with a white dress shirt and black dress shoes and black socks. Ties are optional.
- Casual with Polos (for marching)
 - Wear a black shirt with black shorts. A red Hiland band polo will be provided for you to wear.

Grading Policy:

It is very important to understand that band is an **academic class**. Students will be awarded points for participation and professionalism during all rehearsals and performances. If a student has an unexcused absence, those points are lost.

1. **PERFORMANCES** – 200 points will be given for all major concerts and performances, and 100 points will be given for all assembly performances, parades, and other minor events.
2. **DAILY PROFESSIONALISM** – Students will receive 10 points per rehearsal for participation in class. 4 points will be for remembering their instrument/equipment, 1 point for a pencil, 1 point for music, and 4 points for behavior. Grades will be entered into Progressbook as a 50-point weekly grade.
3. **PLAYING ASSESSMENTS** – Playing assessments will be assigned at the discretion of the Director. They will assess students' progress toward state performance standards and their ability to play their provided band repertoire. These assessments will be graded using a 25-point rubric and students will be notified at least 1 week in advance that an assessment will be given. Students will then have 1 week to complete the assessment after it is officially assigned in Google Classroom.