



Herrick Middle School Band

Course Syllabus 2024-2025

Teacher Contact Information

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Mission

The mission of the District 58 Instrumental Music Program is to provide quality music education for our students. The program is dedicated to fostering aesthetic growth as an essential part of a child's total education, and to developing the highest possible level of musical achievement through a comprehensive curriculum. We strive to provide opportunities to help each instrumentalist improve their performance skills, expand their musical knowledge, and grow personally through music performance.

How to Succeed in Band

- ***Attend required performances on the calendar***
- ***Come to daily class***
- ***Participate in weekly technique class***
- ***Practice your instrument outside of school***

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Required Band Supplies and Equipment

Students should be prepared for all band rehearsals and technique classes with the following items:

- Instrument
- Black, 1-inch (at least), 3-ring binder clearly LABELED with the student's name
- Pencil
- Music stand
- Metronome/Tuner smartphone apps or equivalent Korg tuner

Students also use three method books during the school year. Students should purchase their own copy of these books as they will use them for both 7th and 8th grade.

- **Technique book** - [*Habits of a Successful Middle School Musician*](#) - Scott Rush, Jeff Scott, Emily Wilkinson, Rich Moon & Kevin Boyle - GIA Publications
- **Percussion Only Snare Drum Book** - [*Fundamentals of Rhythm for the Drummer*](#) by Joe Maroni. This book is used for both 7th and 8th grade students. 8th Grade students should have copies from previous years, and 7th grade students will need to purchase a copy.

Instrument-Specific Equipment

In addition to the items listed above, students should have the following **instrument-specific accessories** handy at all times. These items are available through Quinlan & Fabish and most other music stores.

Flute	Cleaning rod and swab
Oboe	Cleaning swab 3-4 medium wood reeds Reed guard Cork grease
Clarinet	Cleaning swab 1 box Vandoren or Rico Grand Concert reeds (strength 2-½ or 3) Reed guard Cork grease Mouthpiece brush and cap Vandoren 5RV Lyre, M13, or B45 mouthpiece <i>Students are encouraged to visit the music store and play test several mouthpieces in order to select the best fit before purchasing.)</i>
Bass Clarinet	Cleaning swab 1 box Vandoren reeds (strength 2-½ or 3) Reed guard Cork grease Yamaha 4c Mouthpiece
Saxophone	Cleaning swab 1 box reeds (strength 2-½ or 3) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 7th & 8th Grade - Alto Sax - #2 1/2 or #3 Vandoren *• 7th & 8th Grade - Tenor Sax - Vandoren #3 *

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 6th & 7th Grade - Bari Sax - #3 Rico Royal Reed guard, Cork grease, mouthpiece brush Comfortable neck strap Step-up mouthpiece recommended <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alto Saxophone <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Selmer C* - Alto Sax 6th-8th Grade ◦ Forbes Debut Mouthpiece - Alto Sax - 6th-8th grade * ◦ Vandoren SM711 AL3 Optimum Series Mouthpiece - Alto Sax - A great step up for 7th or 8th grade to help improve sound • Tenor Saxophone <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Hite Premier Mouthpiece - Tenor Sax - 6th grade ◦ Vandoren T20 Mouthpiece - Tenor Sax - A great step up for 7th or 8th grade to help improve sound • Bari Saxophone <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Yamaha 4c Mouthpiece - Bari Sax <i>(Students are encouraged to visit the music store and play test several mouthpieces in order to select the best fit before purchasing.)</i>
Trumpet	Valve oil Slide grease Cleaning snake Mouthpiece brush Step-up mouthpiece recommended (Bach 3C) Straight Mute BERP
French Horn	Rotary valve oil Slide grease Cleaning snake Mouthpiece brush step-up mouthpiece - Holton Farkas MC BERP
Trombone	Yamaha trombone liquid slide cream for handslide Water spray bottle Slide grease for tuning slide Cleaning snake Mouthpiece brush Step-up mouthpiece: Bach 6-½ AL BERP
Baritone/ Euphonium Tuba	Valve oil Slide grease Cleaning snake Mouthpiece brush Baritone/Euphonium: Yamaha 6-½ AL Mouthpiece Tuba: Conn-Helleberg mouthpiece with mouthpiece pouch BERP
Percussion	Basic Equipment 6th, 7th & 8th Contact Quinlan and Fabish for ordering information <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Personal stick bag • Snare drum sticks (Vic Firth SD1 General) • Yarn marimba mallets (Innovative 1.5 medium or equivalent) • Hard rubber xylophone/bell mallets • General timpani mallets (Vic Firth T1 Medium or Payson)

	<p>Additional helpful sticks (not required but recommended)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Marimba Mallet - ENS260R Latex Covered Mallets - Rattan Handel • Xylophone Mallets - OS3 Innovation Percussion • Brushes - Vic Firth Steve Gadd Wire Brushes • Timpani Mallets - Innovative General Series GT4 Hard Staccato <p>IMPORTANTLY: please clearly LABEL all sticks/mallets with your name!</p>
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Herrick Middle School Band Curriculum

Students enrolled in band focus on developing aesthetic skills and responses to enable them to communicate and express ideas through instrumental music as lifelong learners. At Herrick Middle School, students will develop music fundamentals that enable them to pursue advanced music making in middle school, high school and beyond as well as communicate meaningfully in grade-appropriate ensembles.

Grading

Band is a full-credit, academic class that meets every morning from 7:00am-7:45am. Students are expected to progress and increase skill throughout the school year, and they are assessed and reported on three standards:

- ***Understands the language of music***
- ***Performs music with artistic expression and technical accuracy***
- ***Analyzes, interprets and reflects upon artistic work***

Assessments will include the following tasks and more:

- Technique assessments every one to two weeks
- Written performance reflections
- Identification and definition of terms of music
- Informational text and responses to the background and composition of music
- Input on the course and musical-decision making of the ensemble as a whole

Assessment Retake Policy

Students wishing to retake a performance assessment must complete the assessment within a week of the original assessment. Students must complete this make-up during their technique class or record themselves at home performing the excerpt and share it with the teacher. The teacher will not take additional class time from the entire group to complete a retake.

They must perform the excerpt when called upon for the retake - students will not be given *additional* class time to practice the assessment. They must complete the following steps to complete the make-up for a performance assessment:

- Documentation of practicing the excerpt at least 15 minutes a day for five days within the week of the first assessment
- Parent/guardian signing-off on the practice record
- Reflection with complete sentences on how they will complete future assessments successfully the first time.

Student Learner Behaviors Conduct

The functioning of any large organization depends heavily on the conduct of its members. It is each student's responsibility to adhere to all rules set forth by the director, as well as those set forth by the school.

Herrick Middle School Band students are expected to conduct themselves in a way that allows all students in the classroom to learn and have a positive experience. This includes (but is not limited to) demonstrating professional behaviors in participating in music:

- Show respect for themselves, the teacher, fellow students, guests, and chaperones at all times
- Demonstrate attention, cooperation, and their best effort during class and to positively represent Herrick Middle School, both inside and outside the school building
- Handle instruments and band equipment responsibly and carefully
- Take ownership in helping to keep our band room clean and organized

Students will have reported standards on behaviors that relate to professional music-making. Expectations for performance in each standard are outlined in the band's [Music Professionalism Rubric](#).

- *Demonstrates Organizational Skills*
- *Actively Participates in Class*
- *Works Cooperatively with Others*
- *Work Completion*

Required Components for Participation in Band

1. Daily rehearsals

Middle School Band is a curricular class which meets daily during the Early Bird period from 7:45am - 8:25 a.m.

- **Daily Class Attendance is a Herrick Middle School expectation. Please notify the office for any absences for Early Bird Classes due to sickness or a scheduled appointment.**
 - Projects, review sessions, and test retakes/make-ups for other classes must be taken care of at other times, such as home base or after school, to be arranged with the teachers of those classes. Herrick Middle School teachers are flexible and accommodating, and we will make every effort to find a time that supports student success both in and out of band and other coursework/extra-curriculars.

- It is the responsibility of each band student to communicate with their other teachers and to be proactive about making these types of arrangements when necessary.
- Students are expected to be on time for class at 7:45am and to be prepared with all of their equipment.
- Any unexcused tardy will be reported to the office, and protocol will follow school tardy policies as outlined in the student handbook.

2. Weekly Technique Classes

Attendance at technique classes is required of all band members. Classes are scheduled on a rotating basis one day per week during the school day, with like instruments grouped together. Students will not miss a particular class more than once in a six-week period.

- If a student is absent from school on the day of their technique class, s/he is responsible for completing a make-up assignment and/or assessment within one week. Assessments should be recorded and emailed to the teacher.
- Students are responsible for meeting the requirements of the class they miss to attend technique class. In the event of a classroom test or science lab, it is the student's responsibility to communicate about obtaining a technique class make-up. All technique class requirements are due by the end of the quarter.

3. Individual Practice

A consistent practice routine is essential to the progress of each of our developing musicians. Practicing should be considered homework for band. We greatly encourage students to take private lessons to further their progress and receive individual feedback specific to their instrument. DGN's private teachers have lessons at the high school and can work with middle school students through their high school experiences. A complete list of DGN private teachers can be found [HERE](#).

4. Written Work

Understanding of musical knowledge will be assessed through occasional worksheets, quizzes, tests, projects, and/or written reflections.

5. Band Performances

The Herrick Band will perform publicly 7 to 8 times throughout the school year. Attendance at all events is an expectation. These performances represent the culmination of our efforts over many months of preparation. Missing a performance hurts not only the absent student, but the band as a whole. Any unavoidable conflicts should be discussed with the director as far in advance as possible. Transportation difficulties will not qualify for an excused absence. Please do not schedule activities that conflict with the performance commitments listed on the band calendar.

While attendance at performances is a required part of Herrick Middle School music classes, unexpected and emergency instances do arise that cause a student not to be in attendance. To make up an excused missed performance students will have to do a make-up assignment as listed below to earn the points for the concert.

*Within 5 school days of the concert/performance the student will need to...

- Video themselves performing the pieces from the concert in its entirety
- Be dressed in concert attire for the video
- Submit the video via google classroom
- Student who don't submit the above mentioned video will receive no credit for the performance
- It is the student's responsibility to submit the video due to a concert absence.

Please note: It is intended that those enrolling in band do so for the entire school year. If it becomes necessary for a student to withdraw from the course, the student may do so with the parent notifying the director and the school office (occurring at the end of a trimester or marking period).

Solo and Ensemble Day

All middle school instrumental music students are required to participate in Solo and Ensemble Day, which provides an important opportunity to develop and demonstrate individual ability, and to receive feedback from a professional adjudicator.

Students are required to have an accompanist for their solos. Band directors will assign district accompanists to students and families, or families can arrange to have their own accompanist. The compensation for school-assigned accompanists is \$40.

The District 58 Solo and Ensemble Day will be held on Saturday, February 11th, 2023 from 8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at Herrick Middle School.

Concert Dress

Required concert dress for all Herrick Middle School musicians is as follows:

- Black dress pants or a skirt (at least knee length), black dress socks or tights, and black dress shoes, black blouse/shirt. Tops should be formal, without any distinguishing marks or logos, and should cover chest, torso and undergarments.
- Students are expected to wear concert attire for all performances unless otherwise indicated. Failure to wear or bring proper attire may impact a student's ability to participate in the performance.
- Students will receive Herrick Music Polos for specific events, and information about polos will be given in advance of distribution.

Students must also purchase a DG58 Music T-Shirt for casual events (i.e. DGN Band Night, In-School Performances). These are available at HolyCow Sports and online.

Yes, you can be in band, choir and sports!

It is possible for students to participate in both band and choir. Those students who choose to perform in both ensembles will attend band rehearsals on Monday, Wednesday and Thursday each week, and choir rehearsals each Tuesday and Friday. Students are expected to participate in all performances for both ensembles.

Students who are involved in sports that practice before school (basketball, volleyball, track, etc.) are expected to be at daily early bird rehearsal by 7:45 a.m. Arrangements will be made with the coach for students to leave practice early enough to attend rehearsal on time.

Additional opportunities for students involved in band:

The Illinois Music Education Association District 1 Concert Band and Jazz Ensembles

ILMEA (the Illinois Music Education Association) offers a concert band and a jazz band festival every year for select students in our District. Approximately 120 students in the south/western suburban District 1 participate in the concert band festival, and approximately 50 students are chosen for the jazz festival. Students are required to audition virtually for selection into the ensemble.

Information about ILMEA festivals will be distributed at the beginning of the school year.

Jazz Band

Jazz Band focuses on performance in traditional jazz styles, and it is open to all band students at Herrick. Jazz Band rehearses from 7:00am-7:40am on Tuesday and Thursday beginning in September. No audition is required for students who are planning on playing their primary instrument of study or a needed secondary instrument. Once admitted and enrolled into the ensemble, students must commit to the entire year of being in the ensemble.

Students who are not already enrolled in band or are auditioning on a secondary instrument (other than their primary instrument in Herrick's band) will need to take part in an audition, and placement will be based first on availability in the ensemble and then based on proficiency during the audition. Preference is given to students already enrolled in concert band.

Please note that additional performances and festivals will be added based on the make-up of the ensemble and opportunities that are available throughout the year. Advance notice of all additional performances will be given as soon as possible.

Student Instruments, Supplies, Instrument Care - Contact for Quinlan and Fabish

District 58 is pleased to be working with *Quinlan & Fabish* in Burr Ridge (www.qandf.com, 630-654-4111) to provide our students with quality rental instruments and materials. A representative from Quinlan & Fabish visits our school on a weekly basis and can drop off supplies and equipment ordered from the store.

Students are expected to properly maintain their instruments by keeping them clean, handling them carefully, and oiling valves as appropriate. If a student instrument breaks, please contact Quinlan and Fabish and complete the repair request form online: <https://www.qandf.com/repairpickup>

School-Owned Instruments

School-owned instruments are available to band members. To request a school instrument, families must complete a [School Instrument Contract](#) and a District Instrument Maintenance Fee of \$40 per school year (which helps defray the cost of upkeep and repair). Damage which occurs due to negligence or deliberate abuse will not be covered by this fee. Repair costs for such damage will be the responsibility of the user.

Instrument Storage and Locker Room

All band students will be given a locker and a lock for their instrument. Students are expected to keep all band belongings in their locker when possible. Students are expected to regularly take home their instrument to practice.

Students' instrument cases should be clearly labeled with their names.

Welcome to Herrick Middle School Band! It will be a great year!

2025-2026 Herrick Band Performance Calendar

All performances listed are required unless a student is not present at school due to an emergency. Put these dates in the calendar NOW!!!