



Phillip Claassen,

Director of Bands

Grove City Christian School

4750 Hoover Rd. Grove City Ohio, 43123

**“Creating a Culture of Musical Excellence through
Pride, Vision, Innovation and Christian Values”**

2024-2025 Concert/Symphonic Band Handbook and Syllabus

Schedule:

- **Friday Night Lights (Concert and Symphonic Bands) – October 11**
- **Fall Concert – November 12**
- **Christmas Concert (Symphonic Band Only)- December 12**
- **Solo and Ensemble (9th-12th) – January 25 (optional)**
- **Night of Fine Arts - March 10**
- **OMEA District Contest (Symphonic Band) – March 14-15**
- **Solo and Ensemble (7th and 8th)- April 5 (optional)**
- **OMEA State Contest (Symphonic Band) – May 2-4**
- **Spring Concert – May 8**
- **Kings Island Trip - May 10 (Optional Trip)**
- **Prism Concert - May 13**
- **OMEA District Contest (Concert Band) – May 16-17**
- **Graduation (Current and New Symphonic Band Members) - May 23**

***Dates may be subject to change**

Attendance:

- Each date listed above should be looked at as a class exam grade.
Attendance at each event is mandatory for all students involved in the band program. An unexcused absence will result in a zero for this exam grade.
- Excused absences and tardies include: Death in the family, severe illness (fever, stomach, flu, etc.) and immediate family events (Must contact Mr. Claassen at least two weeks before the event date).
- Solo & Ensemble is an optional event that will give extra credit to those who participate.

Band Students and Parents:

Welcome to the Grove City Christian Band Program! We are going to do some excellent things this year including concerts, competitions, and the Night of Fine Arts. In this handbook you will find all of the information that you need to be a successful member of the band. If you still have questions about how the band works send me an email and I will get back to you as soon as I can. I will respond to your emails and messages within 48 hours Monday-Friday.

Who is Mr. Claassen?

I have lived all over the place but I have lived most of my life in Buffalo, New York. While I lived there I attended Hamburg High School and while I was in high school I discovered my love for music. After high school I attended THE Ohio State University where I participated in Symphonic Band, Wind Symphony, Symphony Orchestra, and Men's Glee Club. My primary instrument is French Horn and I enjoy playing all instruments, but I especially love brass. My hope is that I can show each one of you why music is such an important subject/activity/whatever you want to call it and even if you do not continue playing your instrument after you leave that you use the life skills that we will learn in class together. To get to know me a little better here is a link to my Spotify page where you can see what kind of music I enjoy and you will also find pieces of music for listening assignments later on in the semester.

<https://open.spotify.com/user/rcbrxf8qlnraxupy1q63si8h3?si=Kxlz-9TtReS4Obj48DUljQ>

Respect in the classroom:

1. Respect the teacher.
2. Respect each other.
3. Respect the facilities.

These three rules will contribute to the success and productivity throughout the school year. I also expect high work ethic, a positive attitude, self-discipline, and an open mind that is ready and able to try new things.

Assessment:

Students will be assessed daily on their technical ability, musical expression, and overall fundamental understanding.

Students will be formally assessed at Mid-Semester and at the end of the year. They will be individually tested on their memorization of assigned scales, prepared pieces, and sight reading ability.

Auditions:

Seating auditions for Symphonic Band are at the beginning of the school year. Materials will be handed out two weeks before the audition and the audition day will be determined soon. The Students will be provided with an audition packet complete with scale requirements, two prepared pieces, and information about the sight-reading portion. Students will audition individually and will be assessed on their musicality, technical ability, tone quality, intonation, and musical understanding. Based on the assessment of their scale efficiency, piece preparation, and the "Wakins Farnum Sight Reading Grading scale"; students will be placed in order from first to last chair in their section. This is not to offend students, but to create a sense of competition, leadership, work ethic, and responsibility among the band.

For Concert Band and Jazz Band there will be no seating auditions. Seating assignments will be rotated so everyone gets the opportunity to play in every position. If there is a solo they will be assigned based on a blind audition.

Grading Scale:

50% Concerts (concerts, competitions)

30% Playing Tests (scales, excerpts, etudes)

20% Participation (attendance, attentiveness, preparation)

Concert Attire:

Students will be asked not to perform if they do not meet the proper concert/competition attire requirements. Student grades may also be affected as a result of the violation.

Concert Attire:

- Men
 - White long-sleeved button up
 - Black belt
 - Black dress slacks
 - Black dress shoes
 - Tie themed to specific concert (or black)
- Women
 - White blouse
 - Black dress slacks
 - Black heels/flats/dress shoes
 - Accessories themed to specific concert (or none)

Competition Attire: (No Exceptions)

- Men
 - White long-sleeved button up
 - Black belt
 - Black dress slacks
 - Black dress shoes
 - Solid black tie
- Women
 - White blouse
 - Black dress slacks
 - Black flats
 - No accessories

Class Materials:

- Black Music Folder (Provided)
- Pencil
- Instrument (either owned or rented. If you are purchasing an instrument, the vendor must be approved by Mr. Claassen.)
- Warm up book
 - Concert Band: Superior Bands in 16 Weeks (purchase your own)
 - Symphonic Band: Foundations for Superior Performance (provided)

Dedication to Musical Excellence

Participation in the concert band is a yearlong commitment. Students are expected to consciously progress as a musician throughout the course of the year. This will occur through the implementation of classroom instructions during practice time outside of the school day. If a student is consistently struggling there will be a parent teacher conference scheduled to remedy the issue. As a result, students may be required to complete weekly practice logs or receive private instruction on their specific instrument.

Solo and Ensemble:

Solo and Ensemble Adjudicated Events provide individual performers (soloists) and small groups of performers (ensembles) with an opportunity to perform for a qualified adjudicator. The adjudicator will provide written comments and suggestions for improvement, along with assigning an overall rating to the performance.

OMEA Large Group Contest

Large group band ensembles perform three prepared compositions for a panel of three adjudicators. High school groups also perform a piece they are seeing for the first time. Students will receive a rating to indicate the performance level of the ensemble.

Pep Band:

The GCCS Pep band performs at home basketball games and pep rallies. Students are required to attend the after school pep band rehearsals that are scheduled during the week of the game they are signed up to perform at. More information about pep band will be announced as we get closer to basketball season.

Jazz band:

The GCCS Jazz Band is full year class that will happen during the flex period. If you are interested in joining let me know so we can talk about getting you into the class.

Instrument Rental:

Beginning band parents are not required to rent from the recommended company. However, *Music and Arts* and *Buckeye Brass and Winds* are both well-known musical organizations that provides GCCS with quality instrument repair, rental, and have shown much support for our program. The instrument rental prices are fair but do vary depending on the size and type of

instrument being rented. There will be an after school zoom meeting for beginning students, in which all of this will be discussed in greater detail, as well as there being a representative of Music and Arts and Buckeye Brass and Winds to answer any questions or concerns. We also have some instruments that can be rented out from the school instrument supply. If a parent is not financially able to rent an instrument or band book, please contact me as soon as possible so we can work something out. Students may also rent an instrument from GCCS if there is one available. However, it may not be at the same quality as one from a company such as Music and Arts.

Graduation Cords:

Students that have been a part of the GCCS Band Program all four years of high school will be awarded with a pink honor cord to wear during graduation.

Where can I find Band information?

Almost everything that you will need to know can be found on the band's website. You can find concert recordings, calendars (for marching and concert bands), private lesson info, booster information, and so much more.

gccsbands.grovecitychristian.org

In Closing:

Thank you for supporting the GCCS band program. It is because of you that the program is succeeding and growing. I strive to make the classroom accessible to everyone and I look forward to an amazing year with all of you. I can't wait to see how the band program grows together!

Go Eagles,

Phillip Claassen

Grove City Christian Symphonic/Concert Band

Parent and Student Contract 2024/2025

PLEASE PRINT

I _____ (student) and
_____ (parent/guardian) have read and
understand the GCCS Band Contract.

By signing this sheet, I agree to comply with all the rules and regulations
and understand the expectations of the Grove City Christian Concert
Band Program.

Student Signature _____

Date _____

Parent Signature _____

Date _____

List and explain any known Conflict Dates:
