

Hillsboro 6th-8th Grade Band Handbook

2011-2012



Mr. Tim Dedert, Director

Mr. Kevin Blair, Director

Mr. Brett Myers, Director

www.myteacherpages.com/webpages/hillsborobands

Dear Hillsboro Band Students and Parents,

Hello and welcome to the 2011-2012 school year! We hope that everyone has enjoyed their summer break and is looking forward to the coming school year. Last year was very successful and we look forward to building on that success this year.

Everyone should read through this handbook, including returning members of the Hillsboro bands, and keep it throughout the course of the year as a reference. It includes important information about the band program for the entire year. This is essential to keep everyone involved and informed about the band program. For new students and parents, this handbook is what keeps our band program running smoothly. Most questions can easily be answered by consulting our handbook.

This year will include several performance opportunities for the bands, both at school and throughout the community. As we continue to grow the Hillsboro Band Program, it is important that the students have an opportunity to perform for as many audiences as possible.

It is our goal to answer any questions with this handbook. However, if you have any further questions or concerns, feel free to contact us at school. We are available at our e-mail addresses at any time or you may contact us at the Junior High and Intermediate band offices during normal school hours.

Sincerely,

Tim Dedert

Kevin Blair

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blair_kevin@mail.hillsboro.k12.mo.us

Junior High Band Office: 636-789-0000 ext. 2501

Intermediate Band Office: 636-789-0000 ext. 3359

Table of Contents

Hillsboro Code of Conduct	4-5
Responsibilities and Expectations	5-6
Class Preparedness/Tardy Policy	6
Grading Procedure.....	7
Performing Ensembles.....	7-8
Performance Attire & Conduct	9
Performance Attendance Policy	10
Required Classroom Materials	10
Instrument Rental.....	11
School Instruments.....	11
Band Supplies	12
Parent Involvement.....	12
Hillsboro Band Support Team	13
The Importance of Attitude.....	13
Hillsboro Band Website.....	14
Handbook Contract.....	15
Medical Form/Info Sheet	17
Parent Volunteer Form.....	17
Band Schedule.....	19

Hillsboro Code of Conduct

- I WILL NOT LIE, CHEAT OR STEAL, NOR WILL I TOLERATE ANYONE WHO DOES.
- I WILL TREAT EVERYONE WITH DIGNITY AND RESPECT.
- I WILL LEAVE EVERY SITUATION BETTER THAN I FOUND IT.
- I REALIZE THAT THERE ARE CONSEQUENCES TO MY ACTIONS.
- I WILL NOT BLAME OTHERS FOR THE CONSEQUENCES THAT RESULT FROM MY ACTIONS.
- I WILL ACCEPT THE CONSEQUENCES THAT RESULT FROM MY ACTIONS.

While this is the Code of Conduct for the entire school, it is very important to understand how this applies to band.

I will not lie, cheat or steal, nor will I tolerate anyone who does.

There is a lot of expensive equipment in our band room and the majority of it does not belong to you. As a result, if an instrument or other equipment does not belong to you, do not touch it unless instructed to do so by a director. It is also important for you to be honest with yourself as well as your peers and teachers. If you are not prepared for class and you did not practice, lying about it will not make the situation better. We always know who practices. Finally, if you see any of these things going on it is your responsibility, as a band member, to inform the directors so that we may handle the situation properly.

I will treat everyone with dignity and respect.

If you follow the golden rule, this will take care of itself. "Treat others as you want to be treated" is the greatest life lesson you can learn. You are never any better or any worse than anyone else in class. We are all learning and will at some point make a mistake, yes even you, so making fun of others will not be tolerated. This goes for your instructors as well. We are there to make you a better band member but it is important that you allow us to do so. Respect is earned, not given so if you want to be treated with respect you must respect those around you.

I will leave every situation better than I found it.

Each time you leave the band room you should ask yourself if the room itself looks better than when you walked in and if the band is better than when rehearsal started. We understand that you have other classes to get to. However, the band room is your area and if you leave it nice and neat it shows that you care. It is also important that we make improvement every day while in rehearsal. No matter how small the improvement, it is important that we get better. If we spend an entire class period together and make no improvement then that time has been wasted.

I realize that there are consequences to my actions:

Everything you do in life has a direct consequence. Sometimes the consequences are positive yet occasionally they are negative. It is important to realize that anything you do will come with a consequence and you have to be willing to deal with that even if it isn't the consequence you envisioned. It is also very important to know that the consequences don't always affect only you. If you choose not to practice and make a mistake in a performance as a result, you have hurt the entire band, not just yourself.

I will not blame others for the consequences that result from my actions.

You made the decision, you live with the result. Personal accountability is incredibly important. If you make a mistake stand up and admit it. We all make them no matter how embarrassing they may be. It is important that we don't blame others for our own mistakes. It is okay to make mistakes as long as you learn from them and do not repeat them.

I will accept the consequences that result from my actions

Most of the time we know what the consequences of our actions will be before we make a decision. It is how we weigh good vs. bad in our everyday life. If you do something in class that you know is against the expectations or the code of conduct, do not get angry when you are punished. Take the consequence, learn from it and don't repeat it in the future. If you talk in class and you receive detention, don't argue with the director just take your punishment and make sure that you don't talk during future rehearsals.

Band Responsibilities & Expectations

These are some of the responsibilities you will have as a member of the Hillsboro Band Program.

- You are responsible for bringing your instrument, all music books, homework, pencil and a good attitude to class **ON TIME!**
- You are responsible for your instrument storage area.
- You are responsible for the condition of your instrument.
- You are responsible for your practice time at home.
- You are responsible for the quality of your performance.
- You are responsible for the **EFFORT** that you give to the band everyday!

All Hillsboro Band students are expected to store their instrument and any other items needed for class in the assigned storage area labeled with their name. All instruments are to be put back into their cases at the conclusion of band class.

PERCUSSIONISTS ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR ALL PERCUSSION EQUIPMENT. Please inform the directors of any broken percussion equipment at the beginning of class. All percussion equipment must be put away after rehearsal. Please do not let non-percussionists in the percussion section. You are responsible for the percussion area!

The following is what is expected of you every day in class

- Students will enter and exit the band room in an orderly manner.
- Students will be courteous and treat others with respect.
- Students will be prepared for class.
- Students will help maintain an organized band room.
- **NO FOOD, GUM OR DRINKS ALLOWED** in the band room at any time!
- Never handle another student's instrument.

Class Preparedness/Tardy Policy

It is very important that each student come to class prepared and ready to learn everyday. In the past this has been somewhat of a problem and as a result a new preparedness/tardy policy is being implemented this year. Each student earns 10 points a day for class preparedness and participation during the class period. Each day students are to arrive to class before the bell rings and bring their instruments/equipment, books, music and a pencil to band class. Each day that a student is not prepared the following consequences will be implemented. Consequences will be reset at the beginning of each new quarter.

- First offense: Verbal warning and loss of daily points
- Second offense: Phone call home and loss of daily points
- Third and subsequent offenses: Phone call home and zero hour detention and loss of daily points

Grading Procedure

Student grades will be assessed on a total points basis for each quarter of the school year. The following is a general points break down for the entire band program.

- Attendance at required events – 100 points
- Playing Tests – 100 points
- Daily Participation/Preparedness – 10 points per day

Grading percentages are subject to change according to actual events and exams during each semester.

Performing Ensembles

SIXTH GRADE BAND

An ensemble of entirely beginning band students, the sixth grade band program is designed to teach the very basic fundamentals of what it means to be a band member. Students involved in this ensemble will learn how to care for their instruments, how to practice effectively, and how to properly execute the basics of instrumental band music. This ensemble will have two performances, one in each semester of the school year.

SEVENTH GRADE CONCERT BAND

The seventh grade band in the Hillsboro program is comprised of second year band students who are continuing to build on the basic fundamentals they learned as beginners in sixth grade. Seventh grade will be the first opportunity for students to perform outside of the Hillsboro district as this ensemble performs at the Windsor Music Festival every April for a judge's rating and critique. Members of this ensemble may also audition for the East Central All-District Junior High Honor Band as well as participating in solo and small ensemble contest during the spring semester

EIGHTH GRADE CONCERT BAND

Eighth grade band is the ensemble designed to “bridge the gap” between a young ensemble and high school performers. During their time in the eighth grade band, students will be introduced to new skills and literature that will benefit them as they continue their musical career into high school. Like the seventh grade band, this ensemble performs at the Windsor Music Festival every April and the members are eligible to audition for All-District Honor Band. They may also participate in solo and small ensemble contest during the spring semester.

JUNIOR HIGH JAZZ ENSEMBLE

The Junior High Jazz Band is an auditioned ensemble that meets every school day during fifth hour. This ensemble is open to both seventh and eighth grade students who choose to audition and are selected by the band directors. Members of this group will be introduced to the basics of various jazz styles and improvisation while performing on school concerts and at other community events. Enrollment in concert band is required for Jazz Ensemble participation.

JUNIOR HIGH JAZZ LAB BAND

The Junior High Jazz Lab Band is an ensemble open to all junior high band students without audition. The lab band will meet twice a week after school and is designed to teach the very basic fundamentals of jazz style in preparation for advancement to auditioned ensembles in both junior high and high school. Members of this group will have the opportunity to perform on concerts throughout the school year, mostly during the spring semester.

EAST CENTRAL ALL-DISTRICT HONOR BAND

District Honor Band is a great opportunity for Hillsboro band students to play in an ensemble with the “best of the best” from around our area. Each band director from the East Central District is asked to audition and nominate the top students from their program to be a part of the Honor Band. Students who are selected for Honor Band membership will participate in a rehearsal and performance at an area high school in November. This ensemble is open to seventh and eighth grade band students who choose to audition.

SOLO AND SMALL ENSEMBLE CONTEST

Solo and small ensemble contest takes place in early March at Valle Catholic School in Ste. Genevieve, MO. Any seventh or eighth grade student who chooses to participate will prepare a piece for performance and will present it for judge’s rating and critique. Students may prepare a solo work on their instrument or they may create a small ensemble such as a duet, trio or quartet with other students of their choosing. This is an excellent opportunity for students to build musicianship skills in a medium other than the large band setting they experience every day in class.

Performance Attire / Conduct

Each performing ensemble in the Hillsboro Band Program has a specific performance uniform. Please pay close attention to your required dress.

SIXTH, SEVENTH, EIGHT GRADE CONCERT BAND

Boys:

- White, button up, long sleeve dress shirt
- Black dress slacks with black belt
- Black dress shoes (no tennis shoes)
- Black socks

Girls:

- White dress blouse or nice white top
- Black skirt, dress (must be below the knee), or black dress slacks
- Black dress shoes (no flip-flops)

JUNIOR HIGH JAZZ ENSEMBLE

Boys:

- Black, button up, long sleeved dress shirt
- Black dress slacks with black belt
- Black dress shoes (no tennis shoes)
- Black socks

Girls:

- Black dress top or blouse
- Black dress slacks
- Black dress shoes (no flip-flops)

PERFORMANCE CONDUCT

- Audience members, especially participating band members must sit quietly while giving the utmost respect to the performers. Talking during performance is disrespectful and will not be tolerated.
- NO cell phones or other electronic devices should be on during performance. Cameras and camcorders are acceptable.

Performance Attendance Policy

THE ONLY EXCUSABLE ABSENCES ARE THOSE THAT WOULD BE EXCUSED BY THE SCHOOL FOR REGULAR ATTENDANCE RECORDS (SEVERE ILLNESS, DEATH IN THE FAMILY, OR REGLIGIOUS OBLIGATION)

Individuals who know they will not be present for a performance must address the situation with the directors as the events occur.

For all absences:

- The directors must be notified at least **TWO WEEKS** in advance **IN WRITING**.
- No absence is excused without advance written notice except for the situations listed above. It is important that you are present for every performance, the band depends on you.
- Tardiness to a performance will be handled the same as an absence and will result in a loss of grade points.
- Unexcused absences will result in a “zero” for concert grade points.

Required Classroom Materials

These are the materials that each student must have in class with them every day in order to be a successful and contributing member of the Hillsboro Band Program.

- **YOUR INSTRUMENT!**
- Percussion students will need to have their own mallets and sticks in a stickbag everyday. Please put your name on all equipment as the school will no longer provide you with emergency equipment.
- Band folder with all assigned music and method books
 - 6th grade – Essential Elements Book One
 - 7th grade – Essential Elements Book One and Two and Foundations for Superior Performance
 - 8th grade – Essential Elements Book Two and Foundations for Superior Performance
- At least one pencil on your stand at all times
- One subject notebook for assignments
- Official Hillsboro Jr. High/Intermediate Planner (nobody leaves class without it.)
- **A GOOD ATTITUDE AND HARD WORK ETHIC!**

Instrument Rental

All of our instrument rental and repair services are done through Nottelmann Music in South St. Louis County. A Nottelmann's representative will be in Hillsboro every Wednesday to pick up instruments for repairs and deliver supplies. If you need anything from Nottelmann Music you may contact them with the following information:

Nottelmann Music Company
1590 Lemay Ferry Road
St. Louis, MO 63125
Phone: (314) 631-1486

Hours of Operation:
Monday – Thursday 11:00am – 9:00pm
Friday – 11:00am – 5:30pm
Saturday – 11:00am – 5:00pm
www.nottelmannmusic.com

School Instruments

Many students in the Hillsboro Band Program play school owned instruments throughout the course of the school year. Although the students enjoy the benefits, the school and band directors are responsible for maintenance and repairs on these instruments which can become costly if they are not cared for properly.

In order to offset the yearly maintenance costs associated with school owned instruments, each student using one will be required to pay a \$40.00 instrument fee for the entire school year. Checks should be made payable to "Hillsboro Bands"

A school instrument rental form can be found at the back of the handbook. This must be filled out and turned in with payment to Mr. Dedert or Mr. Blair before an instrument will be checked out to you.

Supplies

We realize that it may not always be possible to make a trip to South County of Festus to get the supplies you need for class every day. In order to help our students with this, we have a limited amount of supplies in each band office for purchase BEFORE OR AFTER CLASS, not during rehearsal. These supplies will not be sold on credit. If you are unprepared and unable to pay upfront this will result in a loss of daily participation points. Students are highly encouraged to buy their own supplies and only buy from the band directors in an emergency.

The following is a list of supplies that are available for purchase in the band office:

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|--------|
| • Clarinet Reed | \$3.00 |
| • Alto Saxophone Reed | \$4.00 |
| • Tenor Saxophone Reed | \$5.00 |
| • Baritone Saxophone Reed | \$6.00 |
| • Cork Grease | \$1.50 |
| • Clarinet Thumb Rest Cushion | \$1.50 |
| • Valve Oil | \$2.00 |
| • “Blue Juice” Valve Oil | \$5.00 |
| • Trombone Slide Grease “Superslick” | \$4.00 |
| • Brass Tuning Slide “Slid-eze” | \$4.00 |

Parent Involvement

While most of the work in a band program falls on the students and directors, no band can be truly successful without the help of the outstanding parents who allow us to teach their children. Your student’s musical progress will be the direct result of a partnership between student, parent and teacher. We as directors ask that you please be supportive of your child by providing time and space for practice, necessary supplies, any repair of the instrument when needed and **frequent words of encouragement**. This last request may seem miniscule, but letting your child know that you see their hard work result in improvement can go along way in building their confidence. If you have any questions or need anything from us, please do not hesitate to call us. It is through communication and common interest that we can ensure your student a successful band experience.

There may be a couple events throughout the year that will allow the seventh and eighth grade band students an opportunity to travel. When we travel with the students it is always helpful to have parent chaperones. If you would be interested in helping chaperone band trips or events, please fill out the volunteer form in the back of this handbook and return it to the band staff. Our goal is to compile a list of parent volunteers so that we may call on some of them when we have such an event.

Hillsboro Band Support Team

The Hillsboro Band Support Team is the lifeblood of our entire band program. This is a tremendous group of dedicated volunteers whose goal it is to see that every student in our program has the necessary tools to be a successful band member. The Support Team works tirelessly during the marching season, concert/jazz season and indoor percussion season. While there is a common misconception that this organization is only for the high school band, these wonderful volunteers work tirelessly for all band students sixth through twelfth grade. If you would like to volunteer your time to the Hillsboro Band Support Team, you may contact any of the following executive board members as they would love to have you aboard.

Brett Myers - President	myers_brett@mail.hillsboro.k12.mo.us	636-789-0000 ext. 1314
Tim Dedert – V.P.	dedert_timothy@mail.hillsboro.k12.mo.us	636-789-0000 ext. 2501
Kevin Blair – V.P.	blair_kevin@mail.hillsboro.k12.mo.us	636-789-0000 ext. 2501
Joe Emily – Financial Ways and Means	jemily62073@yahoo.com	314-825-0040
Karin Chester – Support Services	karinchester@aol.com	636-797-2988
Lisa Keating - Secretary	lisa.keating@libertymutual.com	314-609-5087
Janet Farwig – Treasurer	djfarwig@yahoo.com	314-707-6193
Shelby Callahan, Director Liaison	sshcalla@yahoo.com	314-609-5087

Importance of Attitude

The greatest single factor that will determine the success of any individual or organization is attitude. The kind of person that you are is an individual choice and how we feel about something, which involves attitude, is one of the few completely independent choices we have in life. It takes complete dedication to reach goals. It is important that students learn to discipline themselves to daily practice on fundamentals, much in the way that athletes do. The “right attitude” must be present along with sincerity, concentration, and dedication as the basic foundation. Such an attitude makes a great artistic performance inevitable and is the difference between a winning organization and a mediocre group. Being a member of the Hillsboro Band Program can be a great experience if you make the most of it in every rehearsal and performance.

Band Website

The Hillsboro 6th-8th grade band website can be found at:

www.myteacherpages.com/webpages/hillsborobands

This website is updated regularly with current band news, and calendar events. There are also many resources that are designed to help with home practice. The band website has a link to the high school band boosters home page and also contains all contact information for the directors in the Hillsboro district. A copy of the band handbook can always be found on the website in addition to any other forms or letters that come home with your student. We encourage you to check the website often throughout the school year. If there is anything you would like to see added to the website please do not hesitate to let us know.

Band Drop Policy

In the event that a student wishes or needs to be removed from band, the following procedure will be followed.

- A conference will be held with the student, band directors, and principal or counselors
- After the conference if the student still wishes to withdraw from band they will receive a withdraw form
- The form must be filled out including a reason for withdrawing and signed by the student, a parent or guardian, the building principal, and, in the 6th grade, the classroom teacher
- Finally, the form is signed by the band directors and filed with the counselors or office

Hillsboro Hawk Bands Handbook

Student Contract of _____

(PRINT NAME OF STUDENT)

The undersigned confirm that they have read and understand all of the information contained within the Hillsboro Hawk Bands Handbook. It is understood that both the band and school rules and regulations will apply during any music function sponsored by the Hillsboro R-3 School District. The undersigned agree to make any and all necessary arrangements to attend each function.

The student assumes responsibility for reading the Hillsboro Hawk Bands Handbook and all rules contained therein. In addition, the undersigned student and parents understand that any rules set forth by the Hillsboro R-3 School District will be binding on the student.

Signature of Band Student _____ Date _____

Signature of Parent/Guardian _____ Date _____

Questions and Comments:

THIS SHEET IS TO BE SIGNED, REMOVED FROM THE HANDBOOK AND RETURNED TO MR. DEDERT OR MR. BLAIR BY FRIDAY AUGUST 26, 2011

Hillsboro Bands Parent Volunteer Form

Name: _____

Parent/Guardian of: _____

Address: _____

Phone: Home: _____ Cell: _____

Email: _____

If you are interested in being a parent volunteer please detach and return this form by August 27, 2010 Information for specific events will be sent home at a later date.

2011-2012 Hillsboro Intermediate/JH Band Calendar (Tentative)

September	9	8th Grade Band 9-11 Assembly	During School (8th)	
	19-23	JH District Honor Band Auditions	After School	
November	1	JH District Jazz Band Auditions	Festus High School	
	5	JH District Honor Band Performance	Sullivan High School	
December	9	JH District Jazz Rehearsal	Jefferson College	
	TBA	JH Jazz Band at Jefferson College BB	Jefferson College (Jazz)	
	10	JH District Jazz Performance	Jefferson College	
	16	Sixth grade band assembly/perf.	Intermediate TBA (6)	
January	19	Intermediate/JH Holiday Concert	7:00pm-JH Gym (6, 7, 8, Jazz)	
	TBA	JH Jazz Band at Jefferson College BB	Jefferson College (Jazz)	
	February	10	SEMO Phi Mu Alpha Jazz Festival	SEMO (Jazz)
	March	3	Valle JH Solo & Ensemble Festival	Valle HS Ste. Genevieve
10		Mineral Area College Jazz Festival	Mineral Area College (Jazz)	
13		JH Concert	7:00 PM – JH Gym (7,8)	
April	14	Windsor MS Festival	TBA	
	20	Hillsboro Jazz Dinner Night	7:00pm-HS Commons (Jazz)	
	26	JH Jazz Audition Clinic	After School-JH Band Room	
May	1	JH Jazz Ensemble Auditions	After School-JH Band Room	
	3	JH Jazz Ensemble Auditions	After School-JH Band Room	
	14	Intermediate/JH Spring Concert	7:00pm - JH Gym (6, 7, 8, Jazz)	
	18	Music in the Parks Festival (8th and Jazz only)	Time/Venue TBA (8 and Jazz)	
	19	8th Grade /Jazz Band Six Flags Trip	All Day - Six Flags St. Louis	

All items that are **bolded** are required performances for the participating ensembles listed. All other performances are optional for students in participating ensembles.

