

East Peoria Community High School

Instrumental Music Policies



2011-12

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Visit our web page at EPCHSBAND.ORG

East Peoria Community High School Instrumental Music

The time invested in music is considerable but the wealth of musical skills gained and the responsibility to others our students learn, far out weigh the inconvenience of time. And just as important...making a commitment and "sticking to" whatever someone chooses to do is a valuable life skill.

Band is a skills-based class like other classes at the high school. Therefore, evaluations such as performances, playing tests, quizzes, etc. are an integral and important part of this class.

Classroom Expectations (for rehearsals both in and outside of school)

- Come to all rehearsals on time. Be present at the high school 10 minutes before rehearsals outside the school day. *Early is on time; on time is late!*
- Be prepared—be sure to bring all required materials to every rehearsal. This includes your instrument, any equipment associated with your instrument (reeds, neckstraps, etc.), music, drill charts/dot books (for marching band), A PENCIL, and any other items necessary for rehearsal.
- Please be quiet and courteous when a teacher, staff member, drum major, or section leader is speaking.
- Be respectful of your peers and their belongings.
- Play only the instrument you own or are assigned to. (Stay off the percussion equipment if you're not a percussionist!)
- Be careful with your instrument (especially school instruments) and keep it in good repair.
- No food, drink, candy, or gum is allowed in the classroom or on the field at any time.
- Please refrain from using foul or vulgar language (whether we're at school or away at a performance).

Concert Bands

There are two concert bands at EPCHS that meet daily during the school day:

- Spring – Symphonic Band (by audition only)
- Spring - Concert Band

Symphonic Band auditions take place at the end of marching band season. All students audition for chair placement in Concert Band and Symphonic Band before Winter break.

On campus and off campus performances are an integral part of the class and serve as a way to evaluate student progress. ***Any unexcused absence from a performance will lower the student's grade by two letter grades for that nine-week grading period.***

Marching Band

*Practice and hard work is a standard in marching band.
Students who are willing to make the commitment will find marching band
challenging and rewarding in every facet of their life.*

The marching band is an ensemble that meets as a regular class during the fall semester throughout the marching band season. The marching band involves a musical element but also an athletic component as well. Out of school commitments include a summer band camp, Tuesday night rehearsals in the fall, all home football games, and marching band competitions.

Competitive Marching Band – Mandatory practices including; July full music rehearsals on Tuesday nights from 6:00-8:00PM, marching band camp in August, Tuesday night rehearsals at Eastside from 6:00-8:30PM and Thursday night sectionals from August through October (depending on section). Mandatory performances including; EP Veteran's Day and EP Homecoming Day Parades, all home EP football games, and various Saturday Marching Band Competitions in September and October. Students receive a P.E. waiver for one semester, .50 credit hours, honor points and a letter grade to be averaged into G.P.A.

NOTE: Fall athletes are not allowed to participate in Competitive Marching Band.

Non-Competitive Marching Band – *Optional* July full music rehearsals on Tuesday nights from 6:00-8:00PM, **NO** marching band camp in August, **NO** Tuesday night rehearsals and **NO** Thursday night sectionals. Mandatory performances including; EP Veteran's Day and EP Homecoming Day Parades, all home EP football games (students are required to attend duration of football game but march in **Pre-Game ONLY**), and **NO** Saturday Marching Band Competitions in September and October. Students receive a P.E. waiver for one semester, .50 credit hours, honor points and a letter grade to be averaged into G.P.A. In addition to responsibilities outlined above non-competitive marching band students will be assigned additional assignments to be determined and assigned on an individual basis by Directors.

Band Attendance – Rehearsals are considered "band homework" and performances are considered "band tests." Therefore, missing a rehearsal or performance will affect a student's band grade. More importantly, absences put undo pressure on other students!

1. *Tuesday Night Rehearsals* - 1 unexcused absence – student's grade will be lowered by one letter grade and potential alternate status.
 2. *Tuesday Night Rehearsals* – 2 tardies equal one unexcused absence
 3. *Performances (football games, competitions and concerts)* - 1 unexcused performance – student's grade will be lowered by two letter grades.
 4. *Sport conflicts* – Participating in a sporting event is considered excused. The marching band director, athletic director, and coaches will work closely to solve any conflicts in events.
- Excused: Sport conflicts (events only), extreme student illness, family illness, a death in the family or an excused absence from school.
 - Unexcused: Work conflicts, attending concerts, unexcused absence from school

***You must check with the marching band director
if you're not sure if an absence is excused!!***

- **NOTE:** All excused absences must be accompanied by either a note, email, or phone call from a parent to the band director. Written notification must be provided for all planned absences from REHEARSALS at least ONE WEEK in advance. Written notification must be provided for all planned absences from PERFORMANCES at least THREE WEEKS in advance.

In the event of a sudden illness, parents are to contact Mr. Schneblin by voice mail at (309) 694-8335 or email (schneada@ep309.org).

Excused absences for All Instrumental Music Performance Classes

Missing any performance, even if excused, is a missed educational experience. Therefore, any student who has an excused absence from a performance is required to perform music from the missed performance in front of class and write an essay on a topic approved by the director. Individual details about the content and form of the essay will be addressed after the excused absence. Failure to complete the make-up performance or essay will result in the lowering of the student's grade by one letter grade.

Semester Grade = 50% Daily Participation + 50% Tests (Performances)

Marching Band Ineligibility – Marching band is unique in that it is a curricular class with an extra-curricular component. Participation in marching band is governed under the IHSA Eligibility Rules and a student's grade is affected by attendance at performances and rehearsals.

- 1st ineligibility for a performance
 - Grade will be lowered by one letter grade.
- 2nd ineligibility for a performance
 - Grade will be lowered by another letter grade.

NOTE: An ineligible student will not be allowed to perform but still must attend the performance.

Other Required Materials for Marching Band:

- Black socks and black marching band shoes for percussion, woodwinds, & brass
- White gloves for woodwinds, & brass
- Flip-folder and lyre for woodwinds, & brass
- *Foundations for Superior Performance* by Richard Williams & Jeff King
- "Dot" book—spiral-bound book of 3x5 cards (optional but strongly recommended)
- Shoelace for "Dot" book
- Two pencils at all times

Discipline for All Instrumental Music Performance Classes

All instrumental music students are subject to the discipline code as outlined in the EPCHS Parent/Student Handbook. Please note that the discipline code is enforced at all instrumental functions on or off campus.

Our parent chaperones and volunteers are an integral part of the program and provide a valuable, irreplaceable service. The parent volunteers are due the same respect as any other EPCHS faculty member, therefore, any student disciplinary problem involving a parent volunteer will be handled accordingly.

Instrument Requirements for All Instrumental Music Performance Classes

A good instrument in good working order is an equal partner to hard work in achieving success. Everyone should have an instrument in proper working condition—"if it doesn't work or feel the same as when you purchased the instrument, something is wrong"—it needs to be repaired! Mr. Schneblin will help you arrange for any repairs.

- *Woodwinds* – Students must have at least five working reeds (at least 2.5 to 3 ½ or medium to medium-hard—preferably *Van Doran*), a swab, and key oil.
- *Brass* – Students should have a mouthpiece brush, valve oil, slide grease and the proper sized mouthpiece (trumpets-Bach 3C; French horns- Holton MDC; trombone/baritone-61/2AL; and tuba-Bach 18).
- *Percussion* – At minimum—Vic Firth Education Pack #2

Do you need an Instrument Up Grade? It's Very Possible. Just as all students must adjust to the transition of High School, so should their instrument adjust to the physical changes of the student. If your son or daughter is playing on a beginning or intermediate level instrument they started on in 5th grade, they will probably need an upgrade. Not sure about your current instrument? It's recommended that you see me before that purchase. This instrument upgrade is an investment in your child's musical future. I will not make any commission on which instrument or where you chose to purchase it. I only want to offer the best professional opinion you can get. Please don't hesitate to speak with me.

Basketball Pep Band

All students enrolled in band are invited to perform at home basketball games. Students are encouraged but not required to play in at least half of the home games. Games typically take place during the months of December, January, and February.

Extra-curricular Instrumental Music Offerings

There are two instrumental groups open to instrumental music students.

- Pep Band
- Jazz Band (by audition only)

These groups rehearse before or after school. Students must be enrolled in an instrumental music performance class in order to participate in the above groups

Students may also participate in IHSA Solo & Ensemble Contest, audition for IMEA District and All-State and other honors organizations announced by the Directors.

2011-2012 Band Commitment

I have read and understand the EPCHS Instrumental Music Policies for the 2011-2012 school year. Please bear in mind, once your decision has been made; you may not switch Marching Band tracks. Decisions must be turned in, along with the \$50, non-refundable, band deposit (of the \$100 total band fee) by May 16, 2011 to participate in either ensemble.

I elect to participate in the COMPETITIVE marching band and fully accept the responsibilities that come with this ensemble.

I elect to participate in the NON-COMPETITIVE marching band and understand I will not participate in marching band competitions and that I will have additional assignments to be determined and assigned on an individual basis by Directors.

Student Signature

Date

Parent Signature

Date