

OABCIG

Middle School Music Handbook

2013-2014



Mrs. Schiphoff- Vocal
Mr. Anders- Band

August 20th, 2013

Dear Parent(s)/Guardians(s) and Students,

We are very excited get another great year underway! We hope you have all had a nice long summer and are looking forward to participating in our music program this year. We would like to invite you to become an active member of the OA-BCIG music department and support our program.

We ask you to take some time and familiarize yourself with this handbook. It will inform you about performance opportunities, policies, and schedules along with other information that will be useful throughout the year. After reading through this, please sign the acknowledgement and return by **August 30th, 2013**.

If you have any thoughts, questions, or concerns, please feel free to contact us any time at 712-668-4353 or sschiphoff@oabcig.org or nanders@oabcig.org.

Sincerely,

Sonya Schiphoff
Neil Anders

Purpose of the Handbook

The importance of a music handbook is to inform both students and parents about the structure of the upcoming school year. Policies and guidelines are presented to ensure we have a successful year that runs smoothly. You'll also find schedules and performance opportunities to help you plan your year. It is important for everyone involved to understand responsibilities and follow them!

Performance Opportunities and Ensembles

Concert Band/Choir is open to all students at OA-BCIG, no matter of previous experience. This will be the core ensemble of the music program. Please note that concert dates are a requirement of participating in music, please check dates and plan ahead. Dress for performances will consist of our OA-BCIG Music t-shirts, khaki pants, black closed-toed shoes, and black socks. We plan to pick a variety of literature that will cover different styles and eras.

Jazz Band/Swing Choir will be an auditioned group. We will hold auditions during the first couple weeks of classes, with rehearsal tentatively starting after Labor Day. Rehearsals will be held at 7:20 Mondays through Thursdays. This is a tremendous opportunity for students to learn and perform different styles of music.

Marching Band will consist of all concert band personnel and will take up our band time as needed. It is my hope that we will participate in local parades and engage all opportunities to perform. This is a great way to show the community and other towns our band and school spirit.

Solo and Ensemble contest is a way for individual members of the band to showcase their skills by performing solos and/or participating in small groups. As this is a great opportunity for improvement, I will expect all members to participate in at least one event. We will hold an in-house contest as well as participate at the Buena Vista University contest.

Honor Bands/Honor Choirs are always a great experience for anyone interested. Auditions for the Northwest Iowa Honor Band will be held during the fall semester, and the Buena Vista University Honor Band in the spring semester. Honor bands and choirs bring together top musicians from area schools under one performance venue. These are a lot of fun and are extremely rewarding for those who want to put in the extra time and effort outside of school.

OPUS Honor Choir is an auditioned choir for 7th and 8th grade students. Auditions are submitted via CD recording during the third week of September. This is a prestigious event across the entire state and requires superior skills and practice outside of school.

Guidelines for Excellence

The School Code of Conduct will apply to all OA-BCIG Band Members. All rules and guidelines will be followed and enforced.

Housekeeping is important with the amount of people and instruments we have. The music rooms need to be organized and tidy at all times in order to run smoothly. We will not put away your instrument/folders or clean up after you. You are responsible for your instrument, music, and any mess you make!

Storage of Instruments will be designated for all students. Your music will be placed in individual slots to avoid music getting lost or mixed up. Again, you are responsible--We will not do this for you.

Food/Drink is not allowed in the band room--non-flavored water is permitted.

Homework will not be allowed during music rehearsals. When you are here, you need to be concentrating on rehearsal.

Band Grading

Grading will be based on: (1) attendance and effort in rehearsals and concerts, (2) attendance and effort in private lessons, and (3) practice sheets. For a passing grade, students must show EFFORT in these areas. I will keep records of attendance. Absences can be excused with me prior to their happening. I will use my discretion in judging if they are “excused”.

1) Rehearsals

- Arrive on time to rehearsals and have appropriate materials (instrument, pencil, music).
- Be positive, attentive, cooperative, and respectful; make an effort to contribute.
- DO NOT talk while rehearsal is in session; nothing is more frustrating and progress-hindering than constant chatter.

2) Lessons

- Arrive on time to lessons with appropriate materials (instrument, pencil, practice sheet).
- Assigned lesson exercises and ensemble music is prepared.
- Effort is seen through improvement on goals set in prior lesson.

3) Practice Sheets (5th & 6th Grade)

- Fill in your weekly practice sheet and turn it in at each lesson.
- Practice times must be written down to count for credit and must account for at least 60 minutes of time each week.
- To fulfill practice time expectations, students should take their instrument and music home least one day each week, and on Fridays/Holidays.

Choir Grading

Grading will be based upon attendance, effort, and performance in lessons, rehearsals and concerts.

Rehearsals

- Arrive on time, get your folder, and be ready to sing.
- Sit/stand appropriately and hold music correctly.
- Be positive, attentive, cooperative, and respectful; make an effort to contribute.
- DO NOT talk while rehearsal is in session; nothing is more frustrating and progress-hindering than constant chatter.

Concert Attendance

Since music is a performance-based subject, students must perform at all music concerts throughout the year to ensure a passing grade. Your student may be excused from a concert if:

- He/she is sick from school the day of the concert
- Attending a funeral (please notify us prior to concert date)

All other absences including dance, trap shooting, etc...will be considered unexcused and result in a failing grade!

Grading Scale

E- Exemplary progress. Goes above and beyond the classroom expectations.

S- Satisfactory progress. Makes an effort to learn and to meet the classroom expectations.

U- Unsatisfactory progress. Prevents others from learning, makes little to no effort to meet the classroom expectations, and/or refuses to cooperate.

Disciplinary Policy

If unacceptable behavior should arise, disciplinary action will be taken. Everyone must be responsible for his/her own actions and the consequences that may result. All students must follow these in order to make a positive contribution to the group.

Expectations (These are your promises to each other.)

- I will be in the room and in my seat at the appropriate time.
- I will be prepared with all needed materials.
- I will respect all property.
- I will respect myself and others.
- I will listen during instruction times.

Interventions (These are steps I promise to take in dealing with discipline problems.)

- I will remind you of expectations.
- I will meet with you to discuss the problem/issue.
- I will contact parents if problem persists.
- I will refer the situation to the appropriate school staff.

Students who disregard policies will have to meet with us to resolve the problem or issue. The severity of resolution to a situation is largely up to our discretion. A student will be removed from class if he/she continues to disrupt our capabilities to teach or another student's ability to learn.

Band Resale and Repairs

Resale items such as reeds, cork grease, valve oil, and other items will be available through Mr. Anders to students as they should need them. It is strongly encouraged for students to keep the supplies they will need on hand. To keep this process going smoothly, money is preferred present upon ordering. Starting a tab will be allowed if necessary. Please remember band bills must be paid in order to attend school dances. Any repairs will be taken care of through Ray's Midbell out of Sioux City, IA. A representative will visit the school weekly to pick up any instruments that need work. The student will be billed directly from the store.

Calendar of Events

<i>Date</i>	<i>Event</i>
September 26	7/8 Marching Band in Homecoming Parade @ Ida Grove, 6PM
September 27	7/8 Marching Band in Homecoming game half-time @ Ida Grove
October 12	NWIA JH Honor Band Auditions @ Storm Lake
November 2	NWIA JH Honor Band @ Storm Lake, 6PM
November 5	NWIA JH Honor Choir @ Le Mars
November 12	Grades 6,7,8 Fall Concert (Band and Vocal) @ Odebolt 7PM
November 21	OPUS Vocal Honor Choir @ Ames
December 19	O-A Elementary Holiday Concert, Grades K-2, 4-5 Choir, 5th Grade Band @ Odebolt 7PM
February 17	NWIA Jazz Festival @ Le Mars (TBA if attending)
February 27	Grades 6-12 Pops Concert (Band &Vocal) @ Odebolt 7PM
February 22	BVU Honor Band
March 3	Western Valley Conference JH & HS Honor Choir @ Lawton
March 4	Middle School band solo contest (6,7,8) @ Odebolt, 4-8PM
March 6	MS Jazz Band & Swing Choir perform for Las Vegas Night @ Ida Grove
March 15	Middle School optional band solo contest (6,7,8) @ BVU, Storm Lake
March 24	Western Valley Conference Honor Band (HS & MS) @ Correctionville
April 8	O-A Elementary Spring Concert, Grades 3-5, 4-5 Choir, 5th Band@ Odebolt 7PM (5th Grade Recognition following concert)
April 22	5,6,7th Grade Honor Choir @ Sloan
April 26	Grades 6,7,8 Large Group Band Contest @ Anthon
May 6	Grades 6,7,8 Spring Concert (Band and Vocal) @ Odebolt 7PM
May 8-10	All-Iowa MS Band @ Des Moines IBA Convention
May 26	Memorial Day Band Performances @ Battle Creek & Odebolt

Acknowledgement Form

I have read the OA-BCIG Middle School Music Handbook and understand all aspects. I agree to follow the mentioned policies, and will strive to meet the expectations to the best of my ability. As a parent, I agree to assist my student in his/her music activities. I understand what is expected of my child and will do my best to help and encourage him/her.

Please sign and return by August 30th. Every day late will result in an FDA.

Student Signature _____

Parent Signature _____