

OTSEGO HIGH SCHOOL BAND

STUDENT HANDBOOK

2006-2007

Rich Dubler, Director

Jim George, Instrumental Specialist
Elaine Zimmerman, Instrumental Specialist
Bob Smith, Instrumental Specialist
Justin Fujka, Percussion Specialist
Dan Tramte, Percussion Specialist

OTSEGO HIGH SCHOOL BAND HANDBOOK

INTRODUCTION:

Instrumental Music is divided into segments of learning; Marching Band, Concert Band, Pep Band, Jazz Ensemble, and Solo/Ensemble performance. Students who sign up for band are required to be in Marching and Concert Band. Pep Band, Jazz Band, and Solo & Ensemble Contest are not required, but suggested.

This handbook has been put together to make the *group* operate efficiently. The information comes from several handbooks and many, many years of combined teaching experience. Decisions made today affect (positively or negatively) decisions made in the future. There may be decisions made that you do not agree with. While we deal with you as an individual, keep in mind from our perspective the *group* is the more important focus.

The performance of music is the "TESTING" of our students. Since there are no "Make-up" days for our "tests," all students are required to attend all performances and outside rehearsals.

CLASSROOM RULES:

1. Gum, pop, and food are not permitted during rehearsal.
2. Students are expected to be in their assigned seats at 1:50 p.m.
 - a. Attendance is taken at 1:50 pm
 - b. When on the practice field, attendance is taken there, at 1:50 pm
 - c. Three (3) tardies will result in a detention.
 - d. If you must be late to class, get a pass from the teacher or the office for admittance.
3. Hats are permissible outside, but not when we are rehearsing inside the building.
4. Be courteous of others and the director(s) working with you. Talking during rehearsal is extremely disruptive to the educational process.
5. In order for you to succeed, your instrument must always be in good working order. Take care supply needs and oiling valves/slides before rehearsal begins. If your instrument does not work properly, you must get it repaired. A poorly maintained instrument will produce poor tone quality and intonation. This can not be accepted if the band is to maintain excellence.
6. During the marching season be prepared to go outside each day. Please wear appropriate clothing for weather conditions.
7. Students are expected to use appropriate language at all times. The band's reputation is tarnished when foul language is used, especially in the presence of those outside the band. **You may be dismissed from rehearsal for the day if you make the choice to use language that is deemed inappropriate.**

For the most part, band rehearsals are held during the school day. Marching Band rehearsals will be Tuesdays and Thursdays from 2:30 to 4:00 pm. Starting rehearsals on time will guarantee dismissal on time. These rehearsals are an extension of the school day and required. *Please be aware of the band schedule and schedule when making appointments.*

Instrumental Music is
into segments of learning; Marching Band, Concert Band,
p Band, Jazz Ensemble, and
/Ensemble performance.
tudents who sign up for band are required to be in Marching and
oncert Band. Pep Band,
azz Band, and Solo & Ensemble Contest are not required, but suggested.

This handbook has been put together to make the group operate
. The information comes from several handbooks and many, many years of combined teaching experience.
Decisions
de today affect (positively or negatively) decisions made in the future. There may be decisions made that you

- do
not agree with. While we deal with you as an individual, keep in mind from our perspective the group is the more
i possible.
- d. An unexcused absence from a performance will lower student's grades by two (2) letters.
 - e. Other factors will also affect a student's grade. Playing to the student's ability, attitude, discipline, and punctuality will either positively or negatively influence grades. Attitude will play a role in a student's grade.

All absences, whether excused or unexcused, must be accompanied by written notice from the parent or guardian explaining the exact reason for the absence. The *director* will determine whether the absence is excused or unexcused. All of this information will fit into a grading rubric, which will reveal the student grade.

INSTRUMENTS:

Privately owned instruments are the sole responsibility of the student. Every effort is made to insure that the instruments are safe while at school. However, school insurance will not cover these instruments and the band staff recommends that each parent check with their homeowner's insurance policy to cover the instrument for loss or damage. Of course, only a properly maintained instrument will play to its potential. Please keep your instrument clean.

The school does provide specialty instruments. At this time, there is no rental fee for the use of these instruments. However, it is understood that the students using such an instrument is responsible for the care and maintenance of the instrument. This includes the financial responsibility for damages to that instrument.

UNIFORMS:

MARCHING BAND:

The band uniform, whether marching or concert, is what distinguishes the Otsego band member from anyone else. Students and parents must understand that when worn, there is only one correct way to wear it. The uniform is to unify the look of the band. When someone wears the uniform in an inappropriate manner, it takes away from its effectiveness, and the band's performance.

Band members are fitted for the uniform consisting of coat, pants, hat, plume, and all-weather overcoat. Students are responsible for their own marching shoes, black socks, and white gloves. A Band Fee is charged at the beginning of the year to cover the costs of dry-cleaning, uniform golf shirt to be worn under the uniform, shoes, gloves, and other costs of maintaining the look and uniformity of the band. This fee is determined in August and is payable, in full, no later than the due date as published by the Otsego Music Boosters.

All monies dealing with uniforms and supplies are handled by the Otsego Music Boosters. Please make checks payable to "Otsego Music Boosters."

CONCERT BAND:

Girls - will purchase a black dress and black shoes.

Boys - will purchase black dress slacks, a tuxedo shirt, cummerbund, and bow tie.

All purchases are through the Otsego Music Boosters. Please make checks payable to "Otsego Music Boosters."

OTHER BAND OPPORTUNITIES

JAZZ BAND:

Jazz Band will rehearse Tuesdays and Thursdays, from 2:30- 4:00, once marching band rehearsals end. This is a performance group that is called on to perform at a variety of events, some of which take place on weekends or evenings. Dress will be the same as Concert Band, unless otherwise notified.

PEP BAND:

Pep Band is a voluntary organization for the purpose of providing entertainment for home Boy's Basketball Games. This ensemble performs between the JV and Varsity games and at halftime of the Varsity game. Students are dismissed immediately following halftime of the Varsity Game. The Pep Band performs at all home games, except those that take place over the winter school break. We will rehearse beginning at 6 p.m. before each performance.

SOLO/ENSEMBLE CONTEST: *Saturday, January 27, 2007*

If you are interested in Solo/Ensemble Contest, please check the required list in the director's office during September and October. Scale and rudiment requirements are also posted in the office. The staff will be working with individuals and ensembles during November and December in order to submit applications right before the Christmas Break.

DISTRICT HONORS BAND: *February 25, 2007*

OMEA District I schedules an honors festival with musicians selected by taped audition. This group usually rehearses one Wednesday evening, all day Saturday, and Sunday afternoon dress rehearsal, with a Sunday evening performance at the Stranahan Theater in south Toledo. The guest conductors are usually musicians of high national acclaim and the experience has been a memorable one for those who have participated in the past.

BAND AND CHOIR CONTEST: *District I – March 9-10, 2007*

The Otsego Concert Band has been successful in receiving Superior ratings in recent years, which reflects the individual and collective musicianship of our members. The comments received from adjudicators help us to strive to continually improve our program.

HONORS/FESTIVAL GROUP:

Throughout the year, Otsego students have the opportunity to participate in honor/festival/all-state groups. Some are open through application while others require an audition. These groups allow our students to work with other outstanding musicians and teachers, advancing their own musicality. Please take advantage of these opportunities. Check the Band Office for details.

SUPPLIES:

The Band Office carries a supply of reeds, oils, and other supplies. The band staff wants to help you succeed. If you need a supply, let a staff member know. Payments should be made at the time of purchase. If you don't have the money at the time of your need, we will put you on our debt list. *We ask that you then bring the money in the next school day.*

If there is a need that we do not carry, let us know, we will order it for you.

**PLEASE SIGN AND RETURN THIS FORM TO THE BAND
OFFICE NO LATER THAN AUGUST 25.**

I have read the Otsego High School Band Student Handbook and understand its content, rules, obligations, and calendar for the 2006 - 2007 school year. It is understood that all performances and rehearsals are mandatory. It is also understood that any fees, including fundraising monies, due to the Otsego Music

Boosters will be paid on time and that failure to comply will result in grades being withheld, and that my standing with the band and the boosters could be in jeopardy until paid.

(Student Name (print))

(Student signature)

(Parent signature)

(Date)