



Classroom Supplies

Each band member should have the following supplies in class each day:

1. Instrument/Sticks/Mallets (percussion players must supply their own practice sticks and mallets)
2. Pencil
3. Warm-Up Book and Music
4. Students are encouraged to get a small three-ring binder and sheet protectors for their music. However, this is not required, and a large folder will be available for students who do not use the binder.

CHARMS

Each student will have an online account at www.charmsoffice.com. From this site, parents and students will be able to monitor financial accounts for extra-curricular activities and class trips, update contact information, view merit point totals, view school-owned instruments that are assigned to a student, download and print important forms and schedules, and do many other things. This is the most important site we use. CHARMS is password protected so you have a level of security and confidentiality with your directory and financial information on a “non-public” website.

Awards

Each year, members of the band have the opportunity to earn a variety of awards within the Hickory Ridge Band program. Awards are given based upon the number of merit points that students earn throughout the year. The form can be found on Mr. White’s website. Awards for both semesters are presented each year at the Band Banquet at the end of the year. The event is open to all band members and their families. To be eligible for an award, you must participate in an ensemble during the year, have good attendance, a good work record, and not have received any formal disciplinary actions during the year. Please see the awards merit system for an explanation on receiving awards and letters.

Band Booster Organization

The Hickory Ridge Band Booster Organization meets regularly in the HRHS Band Room. As parents of children in the band program you are automatically voting members of this organization, so please come out and support the band students. Each month we discuss the important events of the program, organize support for our various functions, and answer any questions you may have.



Grade Evaluation

In every academic class, a passing grade is 60 on a 100-point scale. However, if a musician playing a solo performed only six of every ten notes correctly, an audience would not judge the performance, or the performer, favorably. Now imagine that each member of a large ensemble such as ours missed these notes during a performance. There would be thousands of wrong notes during the concert, and we would never want to perform again in public (or private!) if this were to happen. Therefore, students are expected to rise above the “it sounded okay to me,” or “I got most of the notes right” mentality. Each student must make perfection his or her goal at all times, and work daily to come as close to this goal as possible. Remember, we are an ensemble, and we should all feel the responsibility of doing our very best and contributing as much as possible to the overall group success.

The following areas will be used when making grade and conduct evaluations for progress reports and report cards:

- Consistent improvement on your instrument through at-home practice
- Proper behavior during classroom rehearsals and concerts
- Playing, based on appropriate classroom instruction (this includes playing tests)
- Cooperation, conduct, being on time, and appearance in uniform
- Written exams, aural skills, and classroom theory work
- Attendance at all rehearsals and performances
- Having all materials at each rehearsal

The standard Cabarrus County Schools grading scale will be used to assign all letter grades. Grades for all ensembles will be awarded based on mastery of the following:

- Practice Assignments/Homework
- Playing Tests
- Active Daily Participation
- Concert Performance
- Written Assignments

Cabarrus County Schools Grading Scale:

- A = 90-100
- B = 80-89
- C = 70-79
- D = 60-69
- F = 59 and below

PLEASE NOTE: If a student’s personal instrument is in poor playing condition, he or she is expected to take it to a repair shop immediately. **If a student must take an instrument in to be repaired, get a signed note or voucher from the music dealer.** This will serve as your “pass” for your instrument and you will not lose any points while your instrument is being repaired or serviced.

Percussion Students,

In addition to the \$25 fee that Cabarrus County Schools assesses for use of school-owned instruments, each percussionist will need to own his or her own sticks, mallets, and a bag. These will be YOUR personal property and you should take them back and forth with you to class each day. I have selected a kit that will last you through your high school career. So if you take care of these, they will likely never have to purchase these again. Specialty mallets will be provided by the band (gong, chimes, etc), but otherwise no mallets will be provided.

The kit pictured below can be found on www.steveweissmusic.com, as **Model: SW-BESTPACK1** and sells for **\$99.95**. I've listed it here as an example of what to get, not as a mandate that you have to purchase it from them. Of course, the local music dealers will also help you purchase these items.

The Bestseller Stick Pack #1 includes:

Vic Firth SD1 Snare Drum Sticks – individually sold for \$6.95

Vic Firth SD1 American Custom Drumsticks are ideal for concert band, orchestral and rock work. The SD1 is a legendary practice drum stick. The stick is created from specially selected rock maple, which results in a fast playing drum stick with great rebound and flex. Round Tip.

Innovative Soloist Series IP240 Medium Birch Marimba Mallets –individually sold for \$30.75

The Innovative Percussion IP240 Soloist Series Medium Marimba Mallets are designed for general use on the marimba. The IP240 mallets feature 100% wool yarn, birch handles and hard rubber cores that help to create a full, rich tone and warm fundamental.

Malletech Bob Becker BB34 Medium Rattan Xylo/Bell Mallets “Becker Blues” – sold individually for \$29.95

Malletech BB34 Bob Becker Series Xylophone and Glockenspiel Mallets are a medium-bright lightweight xylophone mallet with a clear, but not overly bright tone. Sometimes referred to as “Becker Blues” these mallets were designed for solo xylophone and are light, similarly weighted and easy to maneuver quickly around the instrument.

Vic Firth T1 American Custom General Timpani Mallets – individually sold for \$24.50 The Vic Firth American Custom T1 General Timpani Mallets are for all-around playing. Produces rich sound yet is capable of rhythmic clarity. Vic Firth American Custom Timpani Mallets are turned from a single piece of rock maple, which eliminates a core that could rattle and the need for a screw-on washer to secure the head.

Liberty I Basic Stick Bag – individually sold for \$7.95

A basic bag at a great price!



Please purchase these exact materials. I don't care if you get the online kit from Steve Weiss Music or from a local music dealer. If you already own some of these, then just purchase what you don't already have.



There are several fees associated with each of our three concert ensembles, and descriptions of each are listed below.

Parents should navigate to the CCS Payment Portal to pay Fee #1 and, if applicable, Fee #2 (listed below).

1. **Course Fee** - \$20 per semester – this is a fee that Cabarrus County Schools assesses each student in band to help offset the cost of music and supplies used during the semester. These funds may NOT be paid from the student’s band booster account as this is a SCHOOL fee. Students in multiple band classes per semester must pay the fee for each class in which they are enrolled. This fee should be paid online using the CCS Payment Portal.
2. **School-Owned Instrument Fee** - \$25 per instrument, per semester – if you are using a school-owned instrument (*piccolo, oboe, English horn, bassoon, clarinet, bass clarinet, contra clarinet, soprano saxophone, alto saxophone, tenor saxophone, baritone saxophone, trumpet, French horn, trombone, euphonium, tuba, or percussion*) you will be required to pay this fee before receiving an instrument. The fee is assessed by Cabarrus County Schools and helps offset the cost of the general maintenance, cleaning and repair. Please remember that all brass players using school-owned instruments should also purchase his or her own mouthpiece, and all woodwind players should provide their own ligature and reeds. This fee should be paid online using the CSS Payment Portal.

Each band at Hickory Ridge uses the “Habits of a Successful Musician” method book. Each student is required to have his or her own copy of the book. You can purchase these at Music and Arts (near Concord Mills mall), or online. When ordering, please make sure you DO NOT purchase the middle school, beginning band, or strings version. If you have questions, please ask me

3. **Warm-Up** - “Habits of a Successful Musician” – if you already own this book you will NOT need to purchase another copy. *If you are new, you will need to purchase this book.* You are responsible for this purchase. Please get this book as quickly as possible as we will be playing out of it daily in class.

Only Wind Ensemble will purchase concert formalwear. Concert attire for Concert Band and Symphonic Band will be outlined for each ensemble.

4. **Concert Black Formal Wear** – only students in WIND ENSEMBLE will be fitted for formal concert wear. Ladies will wear a formal black concert dress and men will wear full tuxedos (both will also need to provide black dress shoes). If you currently own a formal from last year (and it still fits), you do not have to purchase again. Fundraisers will be available to help offset these costs. More information will follow and payment is NOT REQUIRED at this time.



Honors Credit Requirements For All Concert Ensembles

All students who participate in a band class during the school day are eligible to receive honors credit. The honors credit is applied to your GPA at the end of the semester and appears as an honors course on your transcript. This is the same transcript you will use when you apply for colleges or jobs after high school, so the ability to receive honors credit in band is VERY advantageous to you.

Students in Concert Band and Symphonic Band are not automatically enrolled for honors credit. Instead, you are required to complete additional requirements which go "above and beyond" the established curriculum for your ensemble. If you complete the additional requirements before the end of the semester, then you will be changed to "Concert Band – Proficient" or "Symphonic Band – Proficient", which both receive the additional point to your GPA.

To receive honors credit in Concert or Symphonic Band, all students must complete the following additional items:

- Must play all scales on the 9/10 All-District Band scale sheet. All scales should be performed from memory and must include all octaves listed on the sheet.
- In fall semester, students must learn all (or in some cases, a portion of) the All-District Band solo for their instrument. Students are encouraged, but NOT required, to audition for All-District Band.
- In the spring semester, students must learn an additional etude or solo for their instrument. Students are encouraged, but NOT required, to participate in Solo and Ensemble MPA.
- Complete all assignments and earn a grade of 90 or above on all assignments
- Attend all required performances and concerts.
- Attend at least ONE Wind Ensemble concert per semester.

Because Wind Ensemble is an honors level class, all students automatically receive the honors credit. Therefore, all students are expected to complete all the requirements of the course.

- Must play all scales on the 11/12 All-District Band scale sheet. All scales should be performed from memory and must include all octaves listed on the sheet.
- In fall semester, students must learn all (or in some cases, a portion of) the All-District Band solo for their instrument. Students are encouraged, but NOT required, to audition for All-District Band.
- In the spring semester, students are encouraged, but NOT required, to participate in Solo and Ensemble MPA.
- Complete all assignments with a grade of 90 or above
- Attend all required performances and concerts
- Be responsible for learning your part. The parts are challenging, and you are expected to practice as needed to learn your part.



2022-2023 Merit Point Form

Name: _____

Current Grade Level (circle one): 9 10 11 12

Merit points are used to determine eligibility for band awards that are given at the banquet each year.

Fall Semester (Check all that apply)

- _____ 50 Marching Band Member
- _____ 20 Drum Major/Leadership Member
- _____ 10 Harrisburg Parade Participation
- _____ 10 Concord Parade Participation
- _____ 40 Concert Band Member
- _____ 40 Symphonic Band Member
- _____ 40 Wind Ensemble Member
- _____ 40 Jazz Ensemble Member
- _____ 40 Small Ensemble Member
- _____ 30 Private Lessons (minimum of ten 30
minute lessons during the semester)
- _____ 20 Audition for All-District Band
- _____ 20 Participation in a Summer Music Camp
(Cannon, UNCG, etc.)
- _____ 20 Participation in College Honor Band Clinic
(Winthrop, UNCC, etc.)
- _____ 20 Tri-M Honor Society Member
- _____ ? Extra items (list on back).
Director will assign points

Spring Semester (Check all that apply)

- _____ 40 Winter Guard/Winter Percussion Member
- _____ 40 Concert Band Member
- _____ 20 Superior at Concert Band MPA
- _____ 40 Symphonic Band Member
- _____ 20 Superior at Symphonic Band MPA
- _____ 40 Wind Ensemble Member
- _____ 20 Superior at Wind Ensemble MPA
- _____ 40 Jazz Ensemble Member
- _____ 20 Superior at Jazz Band MPA
- _____ 20 Superior at Solo and Ensemble MPA
- _____ 40 Small Ensemble Member
- _____ 40 Musical Orchestra Member
- _____ 20 All-County Band Member
- _____ 30 All-District Band Member
- _____ 40 All-State Band Member
- _____ 40 Charlotte Youth Wind Ensemble
- _____ 30 Private Lessons (minimum of ten 30
minute lessons during the semester)
- _____ ? Extra items (list on back).
Director will assign points

150 Points	Band Letter
450 Points	Service Bar
850 Points	Service Pin
1150 Points	Merit Plaque
1400 Points	Hall of Fame

Points and Awards	
Total Fall Points	
Total Spring Points	
Total Points	
Award Received	



Other Regional and National Opportunities

North Carolina Music Educators Association Young Professional Symposium

- <https://www.ncmea.net/ncmea-conference/young-professionals-symposium/>
- Occurs in November as part of the NCMEA Professional Development Conference
- No more than three students from HRHS may apply (includes band and chorus)
- Students must complete the application process to be selected

Honor Band of America, sponsored by Music for All

- Thursday, March 30 - Sunday, April 2, 2023
- Indianapolis, Indiana
- Application / audition materials due October 1, 2022
- <https://festival.musicforall.org/honor-band/>



How to access parent/student information in **CHARMS**

PLEASE NOTE: If we have not yet received and entered your child's information you will not be able to access your CHARMS account. Please make sure you complete the information sheet and return it to Mr. White or a Booster Board member so we can set up your account.

- Log on to **www.charmsoffice.com**, and click the "ENTER/LOG IN" link at upper right.
- Locate the "PARENT/STUDENT/MEMBERS LOGIN" section of the web page.
- Login to your child's program account using the following School Code:

HickoryRidgeHSB

- This will bring up the main parent page.
- When you enter your child's ID NUMBER (Cabarrus County Schools student ID) as a **Student Area Password**, another more detailed screen appears with even more options to view your student's uniform assignments, music assignments, financial records, forms and inventory. Once you have first entered this ID number, you may create your own, unique password by clicking on the "lock" (**Change Password**) icon.
- You can keep track of your child's finances:
 - **Check your finances** – you can see up to date financial information on fundraising activity, payments received, as well as the balance due on your student's account. This will replace your student's monthly statement so please check this regularly. Click the **Finances** button.
- You can help the director maintain his/her records:
 - **Update Personal Information** – you may help make changes to your child's student information page (such as updating phone numbers and email addresses if they change) to help the teacher communicate with you more effectively. Click the **Personal Info** button.
- Most importantly, the parent page assists both you and the teacher to communicate with each other. Stay up to date on what's going on with your student!
- Questions? Contact **Chris White** at: christopher.white@cabarrus.k12.nc.us