



**2009-2010 Falcon Band Handbook**

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**Mr. Bruce Zeiger, Band Director  
Mr. Vince Aquila, Principal  
Mrs. Cathy Lennartz, Vice Principal**

## **Purpose**

Welcome to the Catholic High School Band! The purpose of the Catholic High School band is to promote the performing arts among the students as an enhancement to their other studies. The band fosters discipline, teamwork, and an appreciation for fine music. We will present at least three concerts a year – Sacred Arts festival, Christmas and spring. This is a minimum number of performances. As the band progresses and matures, we will schedule more performances. Band students have the opportunity to go to the District Festival, and if eligible, to perform at the State festival. Individuals may play for Solo and Ensemble contest and audition for All-District and All-State bands. The band also serves to support the mission and activities of Catholic High School.

We are building on years of tradition. Our goal is to make superior ratings at every contest and assessment we enter. For this tradition to continue, there needs to be an attitude of success. This attitude rests not only with the students, but also the parents, the administration and the director. We are very fortunate at CHS to have an enthusiastic and supportive staff and faculty. We want every student to have a positive experience in band. This positive experience begins with an understanding of the expectations of those who will participate.

## **General Information**

At present we have one band – the Concert Band. The concert band performs at least three concerts per year, as well as the District Assessment. In 2008 the band had the distinction of being the first band in CHS history to not only score all Superior ratings at District, but was also the first band in CHS history to go to the State assessment.

Other groups that we have used in the past, and would like to use again, would be a Pep Band for basketball games and pep rallies. Other opportunities for the students would be to play in smaller ensembles such as a brass or woodwind quintet, if there is interest. The Drama department presents a musical in the Spring that I would hope we will be able to support with our players within the next couple of years.

## **Band Activity Calendar for 2009-2010**

The band will play at least three concerts this year plus MPA and whatever school functions we are asked to play for. The calendar to date includes the following performances:

October 19, 2009 – Sacred Arts Concert with CHS Concert Choir (@ CHS)

November 15, 2009 – CHS Open House

December 14, 2009 – Christmas Concert with CHS Concert Choir (@ CHS)

February 26, 2010 (T) - MPA at Huntsville High School

March 16/17 – 21, 2010 – Spring Break Trip (T)

April 12 -17, 2010 – Spring Musical (rehearsals and performances) (@ CHS)

April 26-27, 2010 – Feeder School Concerts

May 10, 2010 – Spring Concert (@ CHS)

May 28, 2010 – Graduation (VBC)

July 28-30, 2009 – Band Camp

### **BAND CAMP**

This camp will go from 9:00 – 12:00 and is **mandatory** for those registered for band. We will have clinicians for brass, percussion and reeds as well as full band. Parents will be asked to provide snacks each day, and we will provide lunch on Friday. Dress is casual, but within school regulations.

## **Concert Band**

The concert band is the main performing group for the instrumental department at Catholic High School. As stated earlier, we will perform at least three formal concerts per year, plus school related activities – open house, step up day, Catholic Schools day.

Since we have limited time to rehearse, the following rules for conduct and attendance are necessary.

1. Attendance at all rehearsals and sectionals (during, and after school) is mandatory. You must let the band director know at least **2 weeks** prior to a rehearsal that you will miss. This absence must be documented by a signed note from you parents. You must make this absence up by coming in early on the next rehearsal day to play your music for the director. If you fail to come in within one week of the absence, your grade will be reduced by one letter grade. Within two weeks of a performance we request that no rehearsals are to be missed unless there is a family emergency. If you do miss, you will not be allowed to perform with the band and will receive a failing grade for the reporting period.

### Excused Absences:

1. sickness
2. death in the family
3. pre-arranged conflict – must be cleared at least 2 weeks ahead of time with the director.
4. emergency doctor's appointment

### Unexcused Absences (not an exhaustive list)

1. skipping
2. forgetting
3. employment conflict
4. detention
5. club meeting
6. Sporting event not sponsored by Catholic HS
7. make-up test that could be scheduled at another time
8. doctor and other appointments that could be scheduled at a different time
9. trip made in disregard of band commitment
10. any other conflict not cleared with the band director.

## **Rehearsal/Class Procedures**

1. Class begins within three minutes of the start of the class period. This means you are to be in your seat with your instrument and music ready. You should also have all of your accessories – pencil, reeds, mutes, oil. The rehearsal order will be posted on the board at the front. This is the time to make sure your music is in rehearsal order. During warm-up time the percussion section should be setting up their equipment and getting ready for the first piece by warming up on practice pads and studying your music.

2. Since we have such limited rehearsal time, talking will not be tolerated. Whether your section is being addressed or not, you should pay attention as the information will pertain to you in some way. Everyone is important to the rehearsal and performance and needs to know what is going on.

3. Demerits will be given for infractions and will reflect on your grade. See Grading Policy toward the end of this handout.

## **Uniforms**

The Concert Band uniform consists of the following:

### **Guys:**

Black tux, white tux shirt, bowtie, cummerbund, cufflinks, black shoes and socks. No black athletic shoes or sandals.

### **Girls:**

Black floor length dresses, black hose, black shoes – no stiletto heels or open toed shoes, sandals. No jewelry except a tasteful watch and a ring.

## **Individual Practice**

The band is only as great as its weakest player. Therefore, it is imperative that you take your music home and learn it before each rehearsal – this is called practice. If you aren't able to play your parts in rehearsal, you will be asked to come in before school for remedial training until the music is learned.

The best way to learn your piece in your practice session is to start off SLOWLY. Reduce everything to the slowest you can play it without making a mistake. Remember, your brain doesn't know the difference between right and wrong notes or rhythms, so you need to train it properly from the start.

Practice logs will be used each week and are to be turned in each Monday. You are expected to practice at least 30 minutes a day, 6 days a week.

Grading for the practice log is as follows:

180 minutes or more – A

150-179 – B

120-149 – C

90 – 119 – D

>90 - F

## **Private Lessons**

Private lessons are not required, but are HIGHLY encouraged. A private teacher can help diagnose faults in your playing habits and also help you with your performance music. There is a list of teachers on the bulletin board. If you need further recommendations, ask the director.

## **Challenge Procedure**

If you think you should be sitting in a higher position in your section, you may challenge the person directly above you. The whole idea of challenging is to help you with your overall improvement and ultimately the improvement of the band.

No challenge will be allowed within two weeks of a performance. To challenge you must notify the person you wish to challenge and you and the other person must come to the director and sign the challenge list. The challenge will take place within one week. The challenge test will consist of any scale(s) including chromatic and minor scales, performance music and a sightreading piece. The challenger will play first. If the challenger wins, you may challenge the next person up the line. If the challengee loses they may challenge you the next week. This is not to be used for any type of cruel purpose. If this is deemed to be the case, you will not be allowed to challenge for the remainder of the semester.

## **Band Rules and Regulations**

These rules are for your safety and well being, as well as your instrument's safety.

1. No gum, food or drink in the band room. The only exception is bottled water.
2. All instruments are to be stored in the storage area – nothing left out overnight.
3. Music should be taken home and practiced, but if you don't practice, then the music needs to be placed in the storage cabinet.
4. This is your bandroom. Keep it neat and clean by picking up trash whether it belongs to you or not.
5. Percussion section will clean their area after each rehearsal, making sure that all equipment, sticks, mallets, etc. are put away.
6. No student is allowed to play another person's instrument without permission. NO ONE is to play the percussion equipment except percussionists, whether they give permission or not.
7. Only band members are allowed in the band room. Because of the cost of our equipment, if anything is broken we won't know who did it.
8. No books or homework are allowed in the band room during rehearsals. You will be asked to put them in the hallway before rehearsal.
9. DO NOT LEAVE VALUABLES OR MONEY IN THE BAND ROOM.
10. Band students are expected to participate in all band activities.
11. The use of alcohol and/or tobacco products are strictly forbidden at any band function.
12. CHS rules and regulations apply to all band functions.

## **Trips**

Every other year the band will take a trip. Fundraising will take place to help each student offset the cost of the trip. Trip policies that follow are also in effect for away games, District/State Assessment: and feeder school trips.

### **For same day trips – Games, Assessments, feeder school concerts:**

1. Bus lists must be signed before each trip.
2. Bus captains are assigned before each trip.
3. No one loads the bus until roll is checked in the bandroom and announcements are made.
4. All equipment to be loaded on the truck needs to be back by the loading doors by the person who will use the equipment during that particular performance.
5. Once we arrive at the performance site, no one unloads until released by the director.

### **For Overnight Trips**

1. Rooming lists will be posted six weeks from the start of the trip. Once the rooming list is sent to the hotel, there will be no changes.
2. Courtesy prevails on the bus. This means if you take iPods or Gameboys, you must use headphones, and the volume must not disturb those around you.
3. No horseplay or shouting on the bus. Food and drink will be allowed, but you are responsible for cleaning up your mess and taking it with you when you depart the bus.
4. The bus driver is the final authority on all behavior on the bus.
5. No cell phone use on the bus except to contact your parents when we are about to arrive at home.
6. Do not depart the bus until the director says so.
7. Before checking into the hotel the room captains will pick up the room keys.
8. Bus captains are responsible for taking roll on their bus each time we load.
9. All band members will ride the bus to and from each event unless specified by a note from the parents. **NO PRIVATE CARS ALLOWED.**
10. When in the hotel be courteous of the other guests – no loud talking, loud TV or music playing in the rooms. No loud talking or running in the halls or slamming your room door. If your behavior is deemed unacceptable by your chaperone or the director, your parents will be notified and you will be sent home at your expense.
11. You must be wearing acceptable clothing when outside of your room. If you are using the swimming pool, you must wear modest bathing suits – girls, no skimpy bikinis and guys, no “Speedos”.
12. Absolutely no person of the opposite sex will be allowed in your room. We will try to house the girls on one floor and the guys on another. No members of the opposite sex will be allowed on the other’s floor.
13. Any expenses you incur are to be paid by you each morning before we leave. No use of the phone in the room will be allowed.
14. Rooms will be clean and organized before leaving for the day’s activities. Your assigned chaperone will inspect your room before we leave each day. If it is unacceptable, you will be taken off the bus and sent to clean your room. This will give you demerits for the day.
15. There will be people assigned to load and unload luggage and instruments. If you want something placed under the bus, place it by the bays and the crew will load it for you. Please pack sensibly, there is normally not a lot of room under the buses.

## **Grading Procedures**

Each student will begin with 100 points at the start of the grading period. Deductions will be made at the end of each class period for any of the following infractions:

1. Talking out of turn or using profanity .....3 points
2. Chewing gum, eating or bringing drinks into rehearsal.....2 points
3. Failure to have your instrument, music or accessories..... 2 points
4. Late for a performance.....2 points
5. Unexcused absence from a rehearsal.....2 points
6. Poor participation (not playing)..... 1 point
7. Missing a performance.....Automatic Failure

To earn points back you may do the following:

1. Extra practice at school under the supervision of the director. (1 hour of practice erases one demerit).
2. Chores in the band room at the discretion of the director. This could include filing music, cleaning instruments, or anything deemed acceptable by the director. (1 hour of work erases one demerit).
3. No more than two demerits may be erased in one day. They must be worked off within the grading period they were given.

## **Rental of CHS Instruments**

Each student is encouraged to purchase their own instrument, but in reality many instruments are too expensive for some families, so CHS will provide certain instruments for rental. Instruments we have available include:

- 5 flutes
- 1 piccolo
- 3 clarinets
- 1 oboe
- 1 bass clarinet
- 1 bassoon
- 1 tenor sax
- 2 baritone saxes
- 1 Trumpet
- 3 Trombones
- 1 euphonium
- 2 tuba

Each instrument is rented at the cost of \$100 per school year. However, if the student plans to take band the following year, they may keep it over the summer at no charge. All minor repairs are your expense as well as purchasing equipment for the instrument – mouthpieces, reeds, cork grease, valve oil, mutes, etc.

## **Student Leaders**

The band cannot function without students stepping up and taking responsibility for leadership. The following positions are available for those students who demonstrate leadership potential:

Section Leaders – responsible for making sure their section is present for rehearsals and performances, responsible for making sure music is passed out to their section, responsible for tuning their section and enforcing discipline within their section. Also responsible for testing pass off music within their section. Must be a member of the band for at least 2 years.

Librarians – responsible for cataloging, copying, passing out and collecting up all music. They are responsible to make sure the music gets to each performance. Must be a member of the band for at least 1 year.

## **AWARDS**

At the end of each year, the band will vote on a number of awards:

Outstanding Freshman, Sophomore and Junior

CHS Band Spirit Award – given to the student who most exemplifies the attitudes and qualities desirous of the ideal band student.

John Phillip Sousa Award – this award is given to the outstanding senior who exemplifies the ideal band student, and has contributed the most effort and time to make the band a success. The John Phillip Sousa Band Award is a nationally recognized award and is given to only the best of the best.

## **CHS Band Parents**

Obviously the band cannot function properly without the support of our band parents. I will not burden you with a lot of meetings, but will call at least 4 meetings a year – within a week of the start of school to go over activities for the first semester, a meeting right after our Christmas concert to get feedback on the semester and go over the activities for the second semester, a meeting just before District and possibly one just before State if we qualify, a meeting before any spring trip that we take, and finally a meeting after the spring concert to get feedback on the year and let you know tentative plans for the next year.

At times committees will be needed to help us function. These committees will include, but are not limited to:

Fundraising committee

Trip Committee

Refreshment Committee for receptions after each concert

Transportation committee

Uniform committee

Chaperones for trips and band camps

**HANDBOOK ACKNOWLEDGEMENT FORM**  
**2008-2009**

Please sign the statement below and return  
the entire page.

I have read and understand the policies of  
the  
Catholic High School Band.

STUDENT'S NAME (print)

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\_\_\_\_\_  
(Parent or Guardian signature)  
(date)

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(Student's signature)  
(date)