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**A Note From The Director:**

Dear Harrison Band Members and Parents,

I am Seanne Danielak, director of bands at Harrison Community Schools. Welcome to band class this year! This will be my first year at Harrison and I am excited for the opportunity to work with the students in this beautiful community.

I grew up in the New York City Metropolitan area and was privileged to spend my free time watching and meeting some of the greatest musicians from all over the world while studying there. I have been teaching music for seven years and have been assigned to various exciting educational courses during that timeframe such as High School Choir, Middle School Choir, 5th/6th Grade Band, K-4 Elementary Music, 1st Grade Drama, and Middle School Music Technology. I have also served on a technology board, coached the instrumental portion of the ‘Head To Head’ competition, organized many successful musical events and concerts, volunteered time at the MSBOA and MSVMA festivals, aided in extracurricular academic programs and I continue to perform in many musically rigorous ensembles. All of these experiences have been terrific resources as I prepare a well-rounded musical curriculum for the band students this year. I truly am delighted to be sharing this next phase in my career with all of you!

I look forward to a wonderful year ahead with my students as we tackle many performance challenges together. Please feel free to contact me anytime with questions about the band program. I am excited for a collaborative and positive experience this year at Harrison Community Schools.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Seanne Danielak

**Contact Information**

Mrs. Seanne Danielak, Director Of Bands

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**Purpose Of The Handbook:**

The purpose of this handbook is to acquaint all members and parents with policies and activities of the Harrison Band Program. All students and parents should read the handbook thoroughly in order to understand all that is expected. Any questions about this handbook should be directed to Mrs. Seanne Danielak.

**Philosophy:**

It is our philosophy that music is an integral part of a quality school curriculum. We also firmly believe that anyone who wants to learn a musical instrument should have the opportunity to do so in an organized and structured classroom setting.

**General Objectives:**

To furnish members with an invaluable experience in music as an art form

To serve the school and community through quality musical performances

To develop individual responsibility, self-discipline and teamwork

To encourage and develop leadership

**Band Program Objectives:**

1. *6th Grade Beginning Band*

The band program begins in 6th grade at Harrison Community Schools. Participation in this group will introduce students to their instruments. The students will learn proper care of their instrument, basic tone production, fundamental music reading skills, essential beginning music theory concepts and music history. The beginning band program REQUIRES students to participate in three evening performances (a Christmas concert, Mid-Winter concert and a Spring concert). Other performance opportunities may become available and parents will be notified of these possibilities far in advance.

1. *7th/8th Grade Intermediate Band*

The intermediate band program is a continuation course to the 6th grade beginning band class. Participation in this group will further the students’ musical abilities with more advanced techniques for their instrument along with additional music theory concepts and more music history connections. The intermediate band REQUIRES students to participate in three evening performances (a Christmas concert, Mid-Winter concert and a Spring concert), and a weekend festival performance. Other performance opportunities may become available and parents will be notified of these possibilities far in advance.

1. *High School Marching/Pep/Concert Band*

The High School Band program is a well-rounded musical experience which will further the students’ musical abilities with advanced techniques for their instrument as well as advanced music theory concepts and continual music history connections.

\*Marching Band begins prior to the start of the school year at Band Camp and lasts approximately nine weeks into the school year. Marching Band students will be REQUIRED to attend the camp, all home football games for performance and a possible Marching Band Showcase trip at the end of the marching season.

\*Pep Band is an outreach of Marching Band and students will be REQUIRED to perform at various Varsity Boys and Girls basketball games (twelve games altogether). Students may only miss one of these important school community performances.

\*Concert Band REQUIRES participation in several evening performances and rehearsals over the course of the year (including the Christmas concert, Mid-Winter Festival concert, Spring concert, MSBOA Festival concert, Solo and Ensemble Festival, etc.). At the end of twelfth grade, students should be ready to perform with college and civic instrumental groups. High School Band is open to all High School students with previous band experience or with the director’s permission. Other performance opportunities may become available and parents will be notified of these possibilities far in advance.

**Performance/Rehearsal Attendance:**

There will always be high expectations for members of a performing ensemble at Harrison Community Schools. Good attendance at school is imperative because every member of the band is an important part of our team. Occasionally there will be after school rehearsals and performances that students will be required to attend. Students may also be asked to stay after school to receive musical assistance after school. However, the most important attendance requirement will be performances, as EVERY PERFORMANCE IS ABSOLUTELY REQUIRED. Be sure to check the band calendar and contact the director immediately if you become aware of any conflicts with performances.

Excused Absence Policy: For all performances, a written excuse from the parent/guardian only must be submitted to the director no later than fourteen days prior to the absence. The director is not required to accept excuses submitted at that time, but may do so in the case of a sudden extreme emergency. The make-up assignment for an excused absence is after school time spent in the band room doing band-related work in the classroom (the time spent working will correlate to the event’s timeframe). Tasks will be assigned by the director and will be scheduled at the director’s convenience. Non-Excused absences will result in a parental conference as well as a reduced grade in Skyward.

**Commitment:**

Band is a class that continuously prepares students for another upcoming performance year. Band directors worry about instrumentation and preparation for the future immediately with beginning band class enrollment. It is worrisome when our only tuba player moves to another district or a trumpet player runs into a scheduling issue and doesn’t sign up for band during a trimester. While it is understandable that every student will not be able to continue band through all of High School, we ask that you consider band as a multi-year commitment. There are many students that are counting on your musical support and we will help you to prepare your academic schedule so that band can be a possibility for you throughout your entire High School career.

**Practice:**

All band students are expected to practice daily. It is important to practice every day (including weekends) to develop endurance and consistency. Some students need to practice longer than others to meet performance objectives, but each student should be pushing themselves to their greatest musical potential. Please schedule time during your daily routine for practice, and attempt to make it the same time every day. Students will learn more on their instruments on their own through practicing concepts covered in class and experimentation than they will during the class time with various sections working collaboratively at once. Students should learn their individual parts so that rehearsal time can be used to listen to how their part fits in with the rest of the ensemble. Balance and blend are the two biggest hurdles to master together in band class.

**Instruments/Accessories:**

Students are expected to have their instrument in class every day. Students who forget their instruments will lose all participation points for that day. Be sure that wind instrument cases are labeled and that personal percussionist sticks/mallets are stored in school lockers to avoid confusion with school purchased items (which may become damaged from other student usage).

School Instruments: Students who use school instruments are expected to keep them in good playing condition at all times. Problems with any of these instruments should be brought to the director’s attention immediately. Students using school instruments will be required to pay for any necessary repairs during the time that the instrument is assigned to them. It is strongly suggested that students using school instruments will purchase their own mouthpiece. This is a minimal fee compared to the cost of a rental or purchased instrument and gives the student a sense of ownership for the instrument they are playing.

Reed Players: Reed players are REQUIRED to have at least two quality reeds in reed protectors at every rehearsal and performance. Students typically purchase a box of reeds at the beginning of the year and keep track of when they are down to two reeds so that another box can be purchased. The director will not permit the sale of individual reeds and they must be a pre-paid purchase. Please plan ahead for these purchases. Reeds and other supplies may be purchased through the school at a discount from our local distributors or may be purchased at a music store. Please be aware that online purchases may not be the highest quality items or best value. If you ever have questions about a purchase for band, please contact the director for assistance.

Brass Players: You will also be REQUIRED to purchase your own valve oil/slide oil/Rotor Oil/Etc. in advance. Again, please be aware that online purchases may not be the highest quality items or best value. If you ever have questions about a purchase for band, please contact the director for assistance.

**Music/Folders/Composition Book:**

The director will issue sheet music, folders and composition books. Beginning Band and Intermediate Band students will be REQUIRED to purchase a method book. All students are expected to keep their music folder in good condition and have it present for every class and performance. Do not fold your music or store it in your instrument case. All music must be kept in the designated folder to preserve the music. Music will be collected after the final performance of the piece and students will be expected to pay for lost or damaged music.

**Rules/Consequences:**

In order for each performing ensemble to reach its full potential, there must be a set of guidelines for students to follow. The rules ensure that everyone has an equal chance to participate and learn.

RULES:

1. Respect Yourself
2. Respect The Teacher
3. Respect Others
4. Respect School Property

CONSEQUENCES:

1. First Offense: Warning
2. Second Offense: Student’s Parent/Guardian will be contacted
3. Third Offense: Student will be sent to the office with a discipline referral (which will also be posted into Skyward)

**Uniform Policy:**

When students are out in public, they are ambassadors for Harrison Community Schools and will be expected to behave respectfully and look professional at all times. When you represent your community, your school and your band program at performance events, it is critical that your uniform is in exceptionally clean condition. Wearing a uniform incorrectly is a sign of disrespect and will not be acceptable at Harrison Schools.

*6th Grade Beginning Band Uniforms*:

Performance attire for Beginning Band members will include…

* $30.00 REQUIRED purchase of ‘Harrison Hornet Bands’ polo shirt (this may be worn for several years and is less expensive than many other required uniforms for other organizations)
* Nice black pants for concerts
* Nice black shoes for concerts
* Black socks for concerts

*7th/8th Grade Intermediate Band Uniforms:*

Performance attire for Intermediate Band members will include…

* PREVIOUSLY PURCHASED $30.00 ‘Harrison Hornet Bands’ polo shirt (this may be worn for several years and is less expensive than many other required uniforms for other organizations)
* Nice black pants for concerts
* Nice black shoes for concerts
* Black socks for concerts

*High School Band Uniforms:*

Performance attire for High School Band members will include…

* PREVIOUSLY PURCHASED $30.00 ‘Harrison Hornet Bands’ polo shirt (this may be worn for several years and is less expensive than many other required uniforms for other organizations)
* Nice black pants
* Nice black shoes
* Black socks
* Nice collared long-sleeved white shirt (tucked in and used for band festival performance paired with bowtie and cummerbund)
* Dry-Cleaned Marching Band attire (jacket, pants, plumes and hats will be provided but families are REQUIRED to have the uniform dry cleaned after the season is over)
* $2.00 white marching gloves

**Grading Policy:**

The band class is considered a co-curricular course. The REQUIRED work for this class includes both in class and out-of-class activities. All band students will be evaluated and graded on the basis of work completed both in school and after school.

Daily Work: (Daily Work-Weekly Grade)

Bellringers: 10pts./Week

Warm-Ups/Introduction Activities: 10pts./Week

Group Sight-Reading: 10pts./Week

Current Repertoire: 20pts./Week

Weekly Work:

Writing Across The Curriculum: 30pts./Week

Compositions: 20pts./Week

Individual Assessments:

‘Smart Music’ Individual Performance Assessments: 50pts./Bimonthly

Performance Examinations:

Concerts/Festivals: 100pts./Perf.Exam

Written Examinations:

Final Trimester Evaluations: 100pts./Tri.Exam

**Calendar:**

\*Please view the attached calendar for this year’s band program dates