



# Houston County High School Black and Silver Brigade

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***EXPECT EXCELLENCE. BEAR DOWN.***

# *2022-2023 Band Class Syllabus/Handbook*

**PARENTS: PLEASE READ ALL OF THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION *WITH YOUR STUDENT*. WHEN FINISHED, SIGN AND RETURN SIGNATURE PAGE BY AUGUST 23, 2019.**

## **Course Description:**

Instrumental and percussion classes are performance-based classes. The instrumental program at Houston County High School does not offer a non-performing class. If a student registers for a class, he or she is expected to perform with that class at all functions. Students are exposed to elements of music history, music theory, and music performance while participating in a performing ensemble. Students learn various aspects of solo and ensemble playing in a number of musical styles. Music compositions studied in these courses range from grade three to grade six in difficulty level (based on the GMEA scale of 1 – 6). Students, through a spring audition, will be placed according to ability in one of the following performing ensembles: Wind Symphony, Symphonic Band, and one of two Concert Bands. All percussionists are placed in a percussion techniques class. Students, with permission of the director, may audition to be a member of the Jazz Ensemble.

## **Band Objectives:**

1. To provide quality musical education in a safe, structured environment.
2. To recruit and retain hardworking, well-behaved students.
3. To have students participate in all GMEA sanctioned events.
4. To teach musical skills in line with the GPS Standards for band and the National Standards for Arts Education.
5. To teach math and science concepts within the framework of the band class.
6. To teach reading and writing concepts within the framework of the band class.
7. To provide performance opportunities beyond the school day.
8. To prepare students for advanced music and academic study.
9. To involve parents and community in these experiences.

## **Grading Breakdown:**

45% Performance (concert assessments/ rehearsals/ and concert pass-offs) (Major Assessment)  
20% In-class performance (playing tests/ daily material checks) (Minor assessment)  
15% Daily Performance (Daily grade)  
20% Final Exam (this may be either a written or performance-based assessment)

## **Grades:**

Grades will be taken every day in class. This includes material grades and performance assessments. Students should assume that they will be asked to play every day for a grade. Specific instructional materials will be provided based on the individual band classes ability level and will include warm-up routines, scales, technical exercises, and standard band literature based on each classes specific needs. Students may be assigned specific playing tests throughout the year. Concert rehearsals and performances will also be included in the final grade for each semester as outlined in the grading breakdown. Any missed rehearsal or performance can only be made up by making up the time in the band room. Example: Student misses a two-hour rehearsal (excused or unexcused). The grade will go in the grade book as a zero and remain until the student comes in and makes up the time practicing. This must be done before or after school with prior approval from the director. This cannot be done during Bear Time.

### **Performances:**

All band students are expected to perform during the year. Below is a list of guidelines to help parents, students, and band supporters make the HCHS Black and Silver Brigade a shining example in Houston County and throughout Georgia.

1. Students need their instruments EVERYDAY!!!! This includes having all necessary materials with the instrument (reeds, valve oil, neck strap, drumsticks, etc.)
2. Parents should attend every concert.
3. Everyone should dress appropriately for concerts. Students should wear their band uniform (TBA).
4. Stay for the entire concert. Do not plan to leave early.
5. Be on time. Specific reporting times will be announced in advance.
6. Do not enter or leave during a performance. If absolutely necessary, move during the applause, only.
7. Silence all cell phones and other electronics.
8. Take restless children to the lobby.
9. Understand that all concerts require a "tear down" process. Please, do not expect your child to leave until this process is complete.
10. Watch for conductor to put arms down by their side before applauding.
11. In the event that a student must miss a concert, an alternate assignment will be given to make up the concert grade if the absence is deemed excused by the director.

### **Private Lessons:**

It is highly encouraged that you get your child private lessons on their chosen instrument. Private lessons are THE KEY to obtaining scholarships in music for college. Scholarships are available for all musicians regardless of major. Private instructors can isolate and address specific needs that the students have that may not be able to be addressed in a large group rehearsal setting.

### **CHARMS:**

Every member of the HCHS Band program is assigned a login for CHARMS. CHARMS is the program that we use to stay in contact with parents and keep up with the financial responsibilities of the individual student within the band program. It also contains the calendar for all band events. Information for logging into your CHARMS account can be found at <https://hocoband.org/charms/>. Please take a moment and follow the instructions listed in order to ensure that you receive the most up-to-date information.

### **Band Room Expectations:**

*Be better everyday!!!*

*Always assume responsibility for your actions!!!*

*Never be disrespectful of others or other's property!!!*

*Do what is right, always!!!*

### **Examples of Inappropriate Behavior** (these include but are not limited to):

1. Disrespectful language or body language (sucking teeth, rolling eyes, walking away before dismissed, avoiding eye contact)
2. Talking back
3. Talking, whispering, or off-task behavior in class
4. Eating or drinking in the band room. This is ABSOLUTELY NOT ALLOWED!!!
5. Running, chasing, or horseplay
6. Leaving your seat or the room without permission
7. Non-compliance with procedures for entering or exiting the room
8. Calling out without permission (raise your hand and wait for recognition)
9. Touching, kicking, or physically disrespecting another student
10. Vandalism or theft
11. Profanity, name calling, or put-downs
12. Bullying or fighting

**Consequences of Inappropriate Behavior:**

Behavioral infractions will be handled at the discretion of the band director and in line with the policies of Houston County High School. Extreme situations may prevent the student from being able to participate in activities or trips that may occur beyond the school day. **Bottom line: DO WHAT IS RIGHT, ALWAYS!!!!**

**Parental Responsibilities:**

1. Come to concerts and school events!
2. Teach your child to keep a calendar. Put dates for projects, exams, and homework on it as soon as they receive them. Teach them to resolve conflicts shown on their calendars well in advance of events and to work to complete major projects on time.
3. Make sure that your students are practicing EVERYDAY. This is the only way to improve the quality of the band program.

**Material Requirements: (these items are needed in class DAILY)**

1. Instrument
2. Sheet music
3. Pencil (Must have at all rehearsals!!!!)
4. Cleaning equipment (swabs, cloths, etc.)
5. Maintenance equipment (cork grease, valve oil, slide oil, etc.)
1. Student's using a school owned instrument will be responsible for any damages and repairs that become necessary while the instrument is checked out in that student's name.

**Fees:**

Each band class member who uses a school-owned instrument will be asked to pay a fee of \$30.00 per semester to offset the costs of maintenance and repair. If these fees cause any financial issues, please let the directors know and arrangements can be made. Fundraising opportunities are also available to help defray the cost of the band fees. These fees can be paid in the band room.

**Communication:**

All band events will be posted on [www.hocoband.org](http://www.hocoband.org). Please check this often to make sure you are up to date. All info will be sent out using the Remind app, as well as posted on our Instagram account (hocobands) and Twitter feed. We also have a very active Facebook group, which can be found at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/hocoband>.

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Please fill out the Google Form located at the link below to acknowledge receipt of the classroom syllabus.

<https://forms.gle/UvXo8kUGguqYGb156>

