

**ALLEGANY-LIMESTONE MHS
BAND HANDBOOK
2022-23**



Welcome!

Last year, I had the privilege of getting to know the students at Allegany-Limestone Middle-High School and enjoyed working with them to set the groundwork for a rising music program. Together, we were able to accomplish many great things. The 7th and 8th Grade Band and High School Band provided audiences with impressive concerts, showcasing the talents of Allegany-Limestone's students. Members of these ensembles competed in the NYSSMA Solo Competition in Salamanca, NY with students achieving Excellent, Outstanding, or even Perfect Score ratings from state-renowned judges. We even had representation at the state-wide level with one of our students performing with their peers in an honor band consisting of some of the best students in the state!

This year, things are already kicking off strong with fantastic musical news. The 7th and 8th Grade band has grown to over 50 members once more. Our Music Boosters program is already coming up with fantastic events and benefits for families and students. And to cap it all off, certain popular ensemble opportunities are returning in full swing this year: Pep Band and Jazz Band.

For those I have already met, it was an absolute pleasure getting to know you. Your warm welcomes and kind compliments still put a smile on my face and only make me all the more eager to share this second year with you. For those I have yet to meet, I encourage you to come say 'hello!' whenever you have a chance between classes or after concerts. I look forward to our conversations and seeing how I can best work alongside the Middle and High School Bands and their families to help the program grow even more.

Inside, please find a general guide to the school year coming up. You'll learn about my grading procedures, class expectations, concert information, and more. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out. This band program is as much about me serving the community and it is about serving the musicians involved.

Cheers!

Dr. Cyril Bodnar

Director of Bands, Allegany-Limestone MHS

How do I get a 100%?

It is my firm belief you have to actively try to fail this class. Here are the easiest ways to earn a 100% in band each Quarter. This grading system applies to both the 7/8 and HS Bands:

Rehearsal Attendance/Participation: 40%

Lessons: 40%

End of Quarter Assignment/Performance: 20%

Band Rehearsal

Musicians are expected to attend band rehearsal regularly. 7/8 Band meets every B, D day rotation during 7th Period and the HS Band meets every A, C day rotation during 9th Period. If a musician needs to miss a rehearsal, they should pre-emptively let Dr. Bodnar known as soon as possible. Excused absences include, but are not limited to: sickness, a school-sanctioned field trip/event, and bereavement. Unexcused absences include, but are not limited to: family vacations, truancy, and failure to report an absence to Dr. Bodnar. Unexcused absences are graded as a zero for that day's participation.

Because we only get to meet every other day for band, it's important for musicians to practice their music at home. Band rehearsals are meant for ensemble work (blend, tuning, dynamics, etc) instead of personal work (correct notes, tempo, etc). We are **All One Band**, which means we all have to do our part to make our band sound its best together!

There is a strict no cell phone policy in rehearsal. Please respect the time and effort your fellow musicians have put into creating music together!

Lessons

Lessons are an important time where musicians are given private and group instruction to help focus on personal growth. Musicians are separated into lesson groups based on grade level, instrument, and availability in their schedule. Each musician will have their lesson on the same day, but will follow a rotating schedule where they will attend their lesson during a different period each week. Here is an example of a trumpet lesson group's schedule:

Trumpet lesson group A – Mondays

Week 1 – Period 2

Week 6 – Period 3

Week 2 – Period 3

Week 7 – Period 5

Week 3 – Period 5

Week 8 – Period 8

Week 4 – Period 8

Week 9 – Period 2

Week 5 – Period 2

Week 10 – Period 3

Musicians are responsible for keeping their other teachers informed of when they have a lesson during class. Each lesson will be graded based on attendance and preparation of music for that lesson. Unexcused absence from a lesson will be marked as a zero in the grade book and must be made up within one week of missing the lesson. **Make-up lesson forms are available outside Dr. Bodnar's room (Room 282) that must be filled out and returned in order to schedule a make-up lesson.** Excused absences – quarantine, being on a field trip, absence by Dr. Bodnar, or snow days – may be made up at the discretion of the musician, but it is not required. They will simply be entered into PowerSchool as an Excused Absence and not be counted toward the Quarter's grade.

Because school can be hectic, homework can build up, and test and quiz study can take up time, each musician is allowed to miss one lesson each Quarter without it affecting their grade. If a student attends all of their lessons during a Quarter, the lowest graded lesson will be dropped. Remember, each musician is responsible for making up any unexcused, missed lessons within one week. Failure to do so will automatically count as the one 'freebie' lesson for the musician and lessons going forward for the rest of the Quarter must be attended or made up to avoid any zeroes being entered as grades.

End of Quarter Assessment/Performance

During the last two weeks of each quarter, musicians will be required to either perform music assigned to them by Dr. Bodnar or turn in a written project. This is meant to serve as a way to measure individual growth. The following Quarters and their requirements are listed below:

Quarter 1 – Band music

Quarter 2 – All-County Solo OR a written project for the HS Band, written music test for the 7/8 Band

Quarter 3 – Band music

Quarter 4 – NYSSMA solo

In Quarters 1 and 3, musicians will be required to perform small snippets from their band music to show they are putting in effort to help our ensemble sound its best. In Quarter 2, high school musicians may either choose to perform a solo at the All-County Music Festival OR submit a written project based on a topic provided by Dr. Bodnar. In Quarter 4, all musicians will perform a chosen solo from the NYSSMA manual. Musicians who choose to participate in the Area All-State Music Festival may use the grade they receive from that as their performance grade for the Quarter instead of needing to perform it in school.

Concert Information

Please place the following concert dates on your calendar:

7/8 Band

November 17 @ 7pm

March 9 @ 7pm

May 25 @ 7pm

HS Band

November 17 @ 7pm

December 15 @ 7pm

March 9 @ 7pm

May 25 @ 7pm

May 29 @ 9am (Memorial Day Parade)

CONCERT ATTENDANCE IS MANDATORY. Any musician who misses a concert shall have their grade for the Quarter automatically set to a failing grade. The only excuse for absence from a concert is for a health-related issue (sickness, quarantine, etc) or bereavement. In this case, it is the student's responsibility to produce a signed note from their parent/guardian to Dr. Bodnar. From there, the musician and Dr. Bodnar will work together to come up with an alternate project meant to substitute for missing the concert.

Concert dress

Concert dress for both groups is white on top, black on bottom. Examples are white blouses, white dress shirts (long or short sleeve), black pants, black ankle-length skirts, black socks, and black shoes (flats or heels are fine). Please AVOID the following: polos, anything sleeveless or sheer, short skirts, leggings/yoga pants, sneakers, boots, and sandals. If assistance is needed in obtaining proper concert attire, please reach out to Dr. Bodnar as soon as possible!

Extra credit opportunities

As listed before, it's hard to fail band. There will be several extra credit opportunities available throughout the year to further boost a musician's score for the Quarter. Here are just a few examples of different activities that can be done to earn extra credit:

Attending a school concert – If you attend an ALCS concert you or a family member are not directly participating in, you may turn in a signed music program to receive one (1) point on top of your grade for the Quarter. Signatures may be given by any music teacher present at that concert (Dr. Bodnar, Mr. Fancher, Ms. Scalise, Mrs. Voegelin). There is no limit to the number of times you may do this.

Attending a non-school concert – If you attend any concert and turn in a program/ticket stub and a two-page write up of the concert, you will receive one (1) point on top of your grade for the Quarter. You may do this up to two times per Quarter.

Participating in an extra-curricular music group – If you participate in any group that is a part of ALCS (jazz band, pep band, etc) or associated with ALCS (such as the Allegany Alumni Concert Band), you may receive two (2) points for each Quarter you are active in the group. You will only receive one (1) point if you miss two to three practices. You will not receive any points if you miss more than three practices or one performance. You may only receive credit for one extra music group each Quarter.

Joining the Music Boosters – If you want to know what is going on with the music program throughout the year, have your parent/guardian sign up for the Music Booster email listserv (as seen on the final page of this handbook). You will receive one (1) point for each Quarter and you get to learn what's happening in our music program as events develop.

Volunteering at events – Sometimes it may be necessary to look for volunteers for music events that occur within the school district (All-County Music Festival, school concerts, etc). This will only be offered on a case-by-case basis by Dr. Bodnar himself.

PLEASE TEAR THIS PAGE OFF, SIGN, AND RETURN IT TO DR. BODNAR NO LATER THAN MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 12 FOR HS BAND AND TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 13 FOR 7/8 BAND

My parent/guardian and I have read through the Musician's Code of Conduct and agree to follow the guidelines outlined within.

Musician: _____ Date: _____

Parent/Guardian: _____ Date: _____

_____ YES! Please add me to the Music Boosters Listserv so I will receive more information about the music program at ALCS.

My email address is: _____