

Joliet Central High School



Band Program Handbook

A Tradition of Musical Excellence

Starts with You

www.jolietcentralbands.org

Contents

History and Philosophy
Music Department Grading Policy
Schedules
Attendance
Discipline
Rehearsal Etiquette
Percussion Expectations
Band Newsletter
Pep Band
Uniform Guidelines
Class Offerings
Student Fundraising
Recommended Instrument/Accessories/Supplies
School-Owned Instruments
Football Game Etiquette
Private Lessons
Solo/Ensemble Contest
All-District Band
Information sheet (**PLEASE RETURN**)
Band Fee Information (**PLEASE RETURN**)

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History

The Joliet Township High School Band (later the Joliet Central High School Band) is one of the most storied programs in band history. Beginning in 1912, the band has enjoyed a rich tradition of musical excellence, and served thousands of students in the Joliet area. The Joliet band programs are credited with serving as one of the models for the modern high school band program.

The Joliet Central Band has enjoyed many accolades in its over 100 year history, including National Championships, performances for presidents, and appearances at numerous state and national festivals. Recent accolades include an invitation to perform at the prestigious University of Illinois SuperState Festival in 2017, being named a 2017 Give a Note Foundation Grant Recipient, and receiving recognition from the NAMM Foundation for Excellence in Music Education.



Philosophy

Offering full academic credit in a variety of ensembles, band teaches crucial life skills such as discipline, confidence and leadership. Band is part of the school curriculum because it realizes three of the most important aims in the formal education of our students: the development of hand, head and heart. The development of these aspects is the cornerstone of the American educational system and is essential to the physical (hand), technical (head) and emotional, and social (heart) growth of our students. Band is also a part of our curriculum because of the unique, expressive symbol system (language) that it represents. The importance of understanding this means of expression warrants band, and other music instruction, as an essential part of the school's course offerings.

In the Joliet Central Bands, our curriculum encompasses not only achievement in musical performance, but also understanding classic works of music as well as very basic composition concepts. The Symphonic and Concert Bands are the core of the program. All students must participate in one of these three ensembles in order to participate in any other ensembles offered. Concert Band is a non-auditioned group open to any member, while Symphonic Band members must pass an audition for placement.

In addition to the curricular portion of this offering, the band plays an important role in the community and in the school by performing at community events, at school functions and at athletic events. These performances are opportunities to showcase the talent of our students and program to a public who may not attend a concert. Students should understand the importance of these extra school performances as a necessary service to community and school. These performances are an extension of the classroom and they are also reflected in the student's grade, as explained in the Grading Policy.

Joliet Central High School Band Grading Policies

The following grading policy will be in effect for the school year and represents a general policy for the Joliet Central High School Band.

Habits of Work (40%)

"Habits of work" is a broad idea that encompasses such criteria as daily preparedness and responsibility. Students are expected to make daily improvements in their abilities and work habits. Musical ensembles will define this area further to meet specific expectations unique to their ensemble. An unexcused absence from a rehearsal (during school or outside of regular school hours) will affect this portion of the semester grade.

Testing (30%)

Regular testing will take place in each ensemble as prescribed by its director.

Performances (30%)

This portion of the student's grade is based on attendance. It is expected that every student be prepared both technically and mentally for each performance. The primary focus of daily rehearsals is to prepare for performances. Therefore, the penalty for an unexcused absence from a performance will be significant and appropriate. Each musical organization's performance is judged by our school, community, our families and, in some cases, judges. One person's absence affects the entire ensemble's performance. You will have a schedule of events well in advance; take care of problems before they happen!!

Unexcused absence from a performance - loss of 30% of grade

Excused Absences

In order for an absence from a rehearsal or performance to be excused, a note or phone call from a guardian must be received, reviewed and approved by the director as soon as the student knows of the conflict. In the case of an unavoidable emergency, a note or phone call must be received on the student's first day back to school or rehearsal. Notification as early as possible allows the ensemble to make adjustments so that every other student, and the program, is not affected. You will have a schedule of events well in advance; take care of problems before they happen!! Jobs will not be excused. The only excuses that will be accepted after performances will be those involving unavoidable emergencies and sickness.

* Percentages above will be adjusted to incorporate Final Exam grades each semester.

Calendar

The full calendar is posted on www.jolietcentralbands.org. You may view, download, and print this calendar. Additionally, you can subscribe to this calendar on your phone or computer.

Please be aware that some dates are subject to change – please read our periodic email updates for any date changes!

Attendance

Please examine the enclosed calendar carefully to avoid conflicts. Work schedules, other non-school activities, and family trips must not interfere with the schedule. Students that enroll in other school activities such as athletics, choir, drama, etc. need to plan ahead to resolve unavoidable conflicts. **Ask to receive a complete semester calendar from all of your activities so that you can have the maximum amount of time to work out potential conflicts.** The Director of Bands will work together with other teachers, coaches, directors of various activities to work out conflicts. Each student will be given every opportunity to participate in other activities. Other groups, organizations or businesses that may change schedules or make demands of students on short notice should not interfere with the JCHS Band long term plans. Similarly, any short notice changes in the Band schedule should not affect other activities! Long term plans, non-school sponsored activities, teams, organizations, jobs **MUST NOT CONFLICT WITH THE PERFORMANCE SCHEDULE OF THE BAND.**

Discipline

Discipline is a quality that must come from within the individual. Because of this fact, each student is responsible for his or her own actions as a member of the JCHS Band. Any student who shows an inability to work effectively in class may be re-assigned to another non-music class at the discretion of the director.

The Band is governed by School Board policies anytime we are together for any band function whether it involves all students or only one. Any student that violates school rules while with the JCHS Band will be subject to all official school disciplinary action. ***In addition,*** those students will be subject to dismissal and will not continue to perform or travel with the band.

Rehearsal Etiquette

All members will be present in their seats or in “block band” (marching band) at the designated time for rehearsal. This simple procedure involves each member arriving 10 minutes before the scheduled after-school rehearsal time. They should assemble equipment and music, take their place in the rehearsal setup and perform their personal warm-up or work on “trouble spots” in the music to be rehearsed. During regular class, five minutes will be allotted to assemble equipment, find their spot and go through their personal warmup.

All talking and warm-up should cease when the director steps on the podium. During the rehearsal you will be expected to give your undivided attention and cooperation to the director. When rehearsing of individual sections takes place, all other sections should sit quietly and listen to instructions being given to that section. Stops happen to advise individuals and sections on problems that are heard during the rehearsal. Unnecessary talking cuts down on the effectiveness of the rehearsal and it wastes all of our valuable time. Pencils are required at each rehearsal.

Percussion Expectations

1. If you do not have a part to play during a band rehearsal, perform a supplied part on keyboards. Constantly work up technique, including four mallet technique!
2. Each item has a storage area and should be in that location when not in use.
3. Use the proper equipment for the proper instrument.
4. If something is broken or missing, advise the director immediately so that the problem can be fixed.
5. Big equipment can be left out after rehearsal, all other equipment is to be put away before leaving the band room.
6. Under no circumstances is any item of percussion equipment to be removed from the premises.
7. Percussion students are expected to own their own set of mallets and equipment, as described below. These items will be bulk ordered in the fall for any percussionists that are interested in participating at that time.

Band Updates

Each and every student should receive band updates regularly through email and social media. These updates contains important information from the director as well as from our booster organization, the Joliet Central Band Parents Association. Most importantly, **any changes from the original schedule will be indicated in this newsletter. Students are responsible for any schedules printed in the updates.** If the updates are not being received, it is the student's responsibility to notify the director, so that address changes can be made. Extra copies of the updates will be available in the band room.

Pep Band

The Pep Band plays a vital role to promoting school spirit, good sportsmanship, and a sense of pride in the community. The Pep Band will perform at 8-9 boys and girls basketball teams from December through February. This component of the Band Program is an important part of each student's commitment. Members are expected to wear the appropriate spirit wear for all performances.

Uniforms

Band students at Joliet Central High School represent the entire school and community when performing at games, concerts and festivals. The overall appearance of our Band members communicates the level of pride that we take in our program, school and community. It is crucial that uniforms for all ensembles reflect this pride.

JCHS Marching Band Uniform

The JCHS Marching Steelmen uniform will be kept in the JCHS Band Hall. In addition to the school uniform provided, students will need to furnish the following parts:

1. Black shoes that should be purchased from the Joliet Central Band Parents Association at cost. Everyone will wear the same matching uniform shoe.
2. Black socks will be furnished by the student. No patterns; all black.
3. White gloves that can be purchased from the Joliet Central Band Parents Association at cost. Flute and clarinet players should cut finger tips to gain appropriate control of their instruments.

Also, the following guidelines should be followed in wearing the uniform:

1. Absolutely no jewelry or makeup should be worn by boys or girls, including earrings.
2. Absolutely no makeup. Color guard will wear face makeup.
3. Hats are to be worn with the front brim directly over the eye brows.
4. The entire uniform is to be worn at all times, unless directed by the director.

A cleaning fee will be assessed for each student for a uniform cleaning during marching season. Cleaning of marching uniforms will be organized and processed by the Joliet Central Band Parents Association.

JCHS Concert and Symphonic Band Uniform

Students in the Symphonic Band and Concert Band will wear formal concert clothes at all home concerts, contests and festivals. The school will provide a tuxedo to boys and uniform dress to girls. Each student will need to furnish:

1. A white tux shirt with wing collar for boys
2. A medium (2") black bow tie for boys
3. Boys - Black dress shoes and black dress socks (no patterns)
4. Girls – black dress shoes (no heels – you have to maneuver through chairs and stands on stage!)
5. Girls - black hose

Band Classes

Symphonic Band

This ensemble is the top performing group comprised of students who have shown superior performance abilities. This ensemble will perform at top state and national music festivals and will work with outstanding professional musicians who are asked to guest conduct. This group combines with the Concert Band, Percussion Ensemble, and Drill Team to form the Marching Steelmen during Football season through the beginning of October. After Marching Band, Symphonic Band performances occur 4-6 times from November through May. Students in this ensemble are heavily encouraged to study privately, participate in Solo/Ensemble, and audition for District Band. In the event that the music calls for additional attention, sectionals may be called outside of class time.

Concert Band

This ensemble has two purposes. The first is to provide an outlet for students who have not reached an advanced level of performance and have no intention of reaching that level, but enjoy participating in music and playing their instrument. The other purpose is to serve as a training band for those students interested in eventually reaching an ability level allowing them to audition into Symphonic Band. This group combines with the Symphonic Band, Percussion Ensemble, and Drill Team to form the Marching Steelmen during Football season. After Marching Band, performances occur 3-4 times from November through May. Students are encouraged to study privately and participate in solo ensemble. In the chance that the music calls for additional attention, a few sectionals may be called before school.

Marching Steelmen

The Marching Steelmen provide entertainment for all home Football games and local parades. 5-8 marching band performances occur from August through October. This ensemble begins rehearsing at four to six non-mandatory rehearsals in June prior to the fall season. Mandatory band camp begins two weeks prior to the first day of school. Once school begins, all students will practice two evenings a week to avoid conflict with athletic practice. "Shared spots" may be assigned to some students based on conflicts with rehearsals or performance struggles or may be a result of instrumentation constraints. Students sharing spots alternate marching the same coordinates in rehearsals and performances.

Big Band (Extra Curricular)

Big Band provide students with an outlet to explore the history and performance of the jazz idiom, America's "Classical Music". Approximately 3-6 performances will occur throughout the school year. This ensemble meets outside of school. Every interested student must be a member of the Symphonic Band or Concert Band, unless approved by the director.

Jazz Lab (Extra Curricular)

Jazz Ensemble II will provide students with an opportunity to perform Jazz music and, if desired, allow them to improve skills with the intention of eventually moving to Big Band. This ensemble is open to all instrumentation; however, non-traditional jazz instruments (clarinets, violins, etc.) may be required to transpose/write out their own part.

Pep Band

The Joliet Central Band provides entertainment at all home boys' basketball games. The schedule is included on our calendar.

Student Fundraising

Students will be asked to participate in fundraising throughout the year. The majority of profits from most fundraisers will be deposited into the student's "account" which can be used to pay for lessons or trips. This student account will be managed by the Joliet Central Band Parents Association Treasurer. **PROFITS FROM ALL FUNDRAISERS ARE VITAL TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE BAND PROGRAM!** The portion of profits designated to the JCHS BPA are used to fund scholarships, clinicians, trip chaperones, misc. equipment.

Recommended Instrument/Accessories List

It is recommended that high school students do not use their "beginning band" instrument past the 8th grade. Those instruments are designed for smaller bodies and are built to withstand the physical abuse that young students may inflict on them. Better quality instruments enable all students to learn more quickly and with greater ease. They are a necessity for each student to reach their full potential. The instruments and accessories listed below are recommended (BUT NOT REQUIRED!)

Flute:	Yamaha 581, 581H
Oboe:	Loree
Bassoon:	Fox or Renard
Clarinet:	Buffet R-13, Van Doren M13 Mouthpiece, Rovner Dark Ligature, Van Doren reeds
Saxophones:	Selmer SA-80, Larry Teal mouthpiece
Trumpet:	Bach Stradivarius 180S (43 bell), 3C mouthpiece or larger
French Horn:	Conn 10D or Holton H181
Trombone:	Bach 42BO, Bach 61/2AL or 3C Mouthpiece
Percussion:	Stick bag with snare sticks, assorted mallets and pitch pipe

Parents and students – there are many other great instrument brands and models – please see the director if you have questions/concerns with your specific instrument.

No student should drop band due to not having a quality instrument! Please see the director to work something out – there is always a solution!

Supplies

All students should have access to following supplies/accessories for their instrument:

Brass:	A quality metal Straight Mute (trpt, tbn), and cup mute (trpt, tbn, fh) , cleaning cloth, cleaning snake, mouthpiece brush, valve oil or slide cream, tuner and metronome
Woodwinds:	Cleaning cloth, swabs, 6 or more good reeds at all times (keep a good reed separated for performances!), tuner and metronome
Percussion:	Snare sticks, timpani mallets, xylophone mallets, stick bag (all brands and types to be specified in the fall)

Please note: most reeds are supplied by the program (which also means that it is important that you fundraise, as we are saving most of you a lot of money!)

Use of School Owned Instruments

A limited number of the more expensive instruments are owned by School District 204 for the purpose of balancing instrumentation and maintaining performing bands. All normal maintenance and repair costs will be borne by the school district. **However, in the event of negligence on the student's part (in the opinion of the director), a bill will be sent to the**

student/parents and they will be asked to cover the expense. Such repairs as dents, misalignment of keys due to improper care, etc., will be covered by the student.

Please note: most schools charge a rental fee for school instruments, but we do not – again, the importance of fundraising!

Football Game Etiquette

1. **STAY INVOLVED IN THE GAME.** It is easy to forget that a football game is actually taking place! When the team scores a touchdown, we will play the school fight song (after the extra point attempt). We will perform pep tunes throughout the game and the drum line will be playing as well.
2. **Fourth quarter:** The band supports the football team for the entire game.
3. Stay with the band the entire game. Students are to remain in the bleachers, away from the fence.
4. If you need to use the rest room, ask an adult for permission. No abuse of this rule - we need to know where you are at all times.
5. Make sure that you have your flip folder and lyre with you at all games. You should have pre-game and pep band music in them.
6. **ONLY BAND MEMBERS SIT WITH THE BAND!!!**
7. Throw your garbage away.

Individual Growth Opportunities

One of the important goals of our program is the development to the individual musician to the limit of his/her potential. To assist in reaching this goal, *we strongly recommend participation in the following activities:*

Applied Private Instruction

Excellence and achievement can be directly related to the quality of **individual private instruction**. The achievement of the JCHS Band Program and the students that choose to participate can be directly linked to participation in private lessons. **Private instruction is offered as enrichment, not remedial instruction.** It is highly encouraged for the complete development of each student's potential, but it is not required. A recommended list of private lesson teachers will be available in the fall. Most instruments have a private teacher available to them at JCHS. Cost of the private lessons is borne by the individual.

Illinois High School Association Solo and Ensemble Contest

This takes place the first Saturday in March and results in non-competitive ratings and medals. All students taking private lessons should participate in a solo or ensemble. This activity is an IMPORTANT part of our year and is important to the development of individual independence and confidence.

Illinois All-District Band

This activity involves the finest students from schools in the Northwest suburbs and is the first step in advancement to All-State. All students must pass a preliminary audition with the Director before they are allowed to audition for this activity. Only 16 students from each of the 70+ schools involved are allowed to audition. Auditions will occur the second Wednesday in October and the District festival will occur the third Saturday in November. The top chairs from All-District will be selected to participate in All-State and will then audition for placement in either the All-State Band or All-State Honors Band in January.

Joliet Central High School Bands

Information Sheet *Please print*

Last Name _____ First Name _____

2017-2018
Grade _____ Instrument(s) _____

Parents' names _____

Fathers Vocation _____ Mothers Vocation _____

Home Mailing Address _____

City _____ Zip _____

Home Phone (____) _____ Father Work Phone (____) _____

Mother Work Phone (____) _____ Parent Cell phone (____) _____

Parent e-mail address _____

Student e-mail address (if different than parent) _____

Private lesson teacher _____

Other anticipated school activities _____

PLEASE READ THE HANDBOOK CAREFULLY BEFORE SIGNING BELOW

"We have read the JCHS Band Handbook and our student has our permission to participate in the Band activities as described in this handbook within the guidelines described. We understand that our student is responsible for all performances and rehearsals as printed in the Band Newsletter."

Parent/Guardian Signature _____

"I have read the JCHS Band Handbook and agree to abide by the policies stated. I realize that failure to follow policies or directions will result in disciplinary action that could lead to dismissal from the JCHS Band. I understand that I am responsible for attending all performances and rehearsals as printed in the calendar and band updates."

Student signature _____

Date of both signatures _____

SIGN AND RETURN THIS FORM AND THE RELEASE FORM. KEEP ALL OTHER PARTS OF THIS HANDBOOK.

2017-2018 Band Fee Form

The band fee covers a variety of different costs not covered by the school budget. Those costs covered by the band fee include:

- A pair of marching band gloves
- Cleaning of the marching band and concert band uniform
- Alterations of the concert band uniform
- Repairs of the marching band and concert band uniform
- A T-Shirt required for each band member that will occasionally be worn as a uniform
- Catered meals at some band events
- Snacks during some band events
- Clinicians who work with the students throughout the year

All incoming members and anyone who lost or outgrew shoes will need to purchase the marching/concert band shoes. The price for the Drillmaster marching shoe is \$30.00. Your shoe size would be the same as you would buy for tennis shoes. You will be responsible to have black socks to wear with the shoes. Please note that students cannot wear regular dress shoes for marching band due to safety reasons.

The Band T- Shirt will be the same as last year - navy blue with Central Band Logo screen printed on the front. This shirt will be \$15.00. Everyone must wear this shirt underneath the marching uniform coat for all marching performances. Color guard members should also have a Band T-shirt.

The band fee will be \$45.00 this year. Uniform fittings will be done during the week of July 31, during Marching Band Camp. Schedule on www.jolietcentralbands.org/calendar. Please tear off the order slip below and bring with you to the fitting, with the payment for shirt, shoes, and band fee, as needed. Everyone will pay the band fee. Freshmen and upperclassmen needing a new shirt will also pay for the shirt. Those needing to order marching band shoes will also pay for the shoes.



Joliet Central Band Fee Payment Form - due during uniform fittings (week of July 31)

Student Name: _____	
Shoe Size: ___ Mens ___ Womens ___ No Shoes Needed ___	Note: Womens size 5-18, including half sizes (except 13 ½ -17 ½). Womens wide sizes 13-17, full sizes only. Mens sizes 3-16, including half sizes (except 11 ½ - 15 ½). Mens wide sizes 11-16, full sizes only.
T-Shirt: (please check)	<input type="checkbox"/> S <input type="checkbox"/> M <input type="checkbox"/> L <input type="checkbox"/> XL <input type="checkbox"/> XXL <input type="checkbox"/> No t-shirt needed
Please Check Amount Enclosed: (Shoe and band fee only: \$75. Shoes, band and t-shirt: \$90.)	_____ Shoes \$30.00 _____ T-Shirt \$15.00 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Band Fee \$45.00 (required of all – see above for inclusions) _____ / _____ Total Amount Due/Included
Checks payable to Joliet Central Band Parents Association.	

If you have money in your account, and would like the Band Parent Association to charge your Student Account, please contact Mr. Stinson at dstinson@jths.org