

***“Without brains, you are a fiasco,  
Without means, you are an amateur,  
Without a heart, you are machine.  
It has its dangers, this occupation.”***

*-Vladimir Horowitz*

*(world renowned professional concert pianist)*

## **Chequamegon High School Band’s Philosophies** (and other thoughts)

To all members of the Chequamegon High School Band Program and their parents:

Since the Park Falls and Glidden community supports our educational efforts through their tax dollars and that there exists a positive community spirit and pride in our band’s accomplishments and achievements and that there is an expectation of our band’s participation in several community events, our band students will be expected to participate with the band at community events whenever possible.

These **events** include but are not limited to: **Memorial Day Parades, the Fourth of July Parade, the Flambeau-Rama Parade, and the Veteran’s Day Program.** (Exceptions and excused non-participation from this list may include: insufficient preparation time, student’s unavailability, or agreement between the director, student(s) and parents well in advance of the event.)

**The Chequamegon High School Band** is a program of a school’s curriculum that does not discriminate against the student’s participation due to grade level, physical stature or gender. The variety of levels of physical, emotional and educational development of our members creates a natural competitive atmosphere which exists in a cooperative union of all members striving to do as well as they can and hopefully, satisfying and complimenting the needs and efforts of each individual as we pursue the goals and standards set by the State, school board, directors and the students.

**Goals** are presented at the beginning of each school year and each grading period in the hopes of motivating the student to develop long range plans. The organization and focus needed to successfully identify and achieve goals is important to the student’s future. This self-actualization process leads to a self-realization about accomplishments, affect and contributions the student had on the various performances. Self-evaluation is the final outcome of a student’s knowing that honest, sincere efforts lead to a satisfying and successful conclusion or performance.

**Band students** become aware of traditional and contemporary music styles through performance and listening. Students are not asked to like or dislike different musical styles but rather appreciate them for their variety, their heritage, their social or political value and their meaning to other cultures. Biased feelings generally reflect ignorance or naiveté.

**The band** goes through several changes throughout the school year. From the street and field marching incorporating traditional and contemporary music with precision marching and maneuvering of mid-Spring through mid-Fall, students gain a valuable experience in cooperation, coordinated visual and audible efforts. This “season” develops a sense of teamwork making the marching season a favorite among many students in the program.

**The Concert season** begins in the latter Fall months and extends through the early Spring. This period of the band program is primarily devoted to the preparation of a “concert sound” which relies on a darker, more sonorous tone quality and texture. The pure energy of the straightforward marching sound is replaced by a more

subdued, richer, more emotionally varied texture that incorporates all of the sonorities of the wind band. Fundamentals that are emphasized during this time include tone development, rhythmic acuity, listening, balance and blend, and knowledge and application of music symbolism and terminologies, key and time signatures.

**Solo and Ensemble** (Spring) preparations follow the concert season with students being able to hone their individual skills and display their talents in solo and small groups performances. Individual effort is rewarded at District and State Music Festivals where students perform for judges in an educationally competitive atmosphere. Students receive written evaluations from the judges and medals are awarded to students who perform in three classes (A, B, and C) at Excellent, Very Good, or Good level. Fair and Poor results are not rewarded except for their written comments from the judges.

**Concert Festival**, also in the spring, affords the band the opportunity to have their efforts adjudicated by a panel of judges from around the State. Our band members also have the opportunity to see and hear other bands of their peers from around the conference perform in a competitive atmosphere that challenges each student's responsibilities to the entire band. Serious music is presented to the students in four classifications: Class A being the most technically demanding requiring the most talented students to performing in this class. Class B music is less technically demanding and is thought to be accessible by most medium sized high school's band programs. Class C music is the least technically demanding for High School Bands and is more suited for the advanced Junior High Bands. Class MS/JR is suited for the typical Middle School Band and advanced Elementary Bands.

Although **Pep Band** is not a requirement for High School Band members, it is expected that those enrolled into the Chequamegon High School Band make every effort to participate in the pep band performances set-up by the students and director at the beginning of the school year. Performances at most home conference games are the goal for the pep band, however student availability will determine a particular performance by the pep band. A majority of band members (50%+) constitutes sufficient student participation allowing the pep band to perform.

**Additional performances** may be scheduled throughout the year as time allows and usually include a Spring "Pops" Concert, a Children's concert, Veteran's Day Program and Graduation Exercises. A complete list of all performances will be given to each student, posted on the school website, and printed in the Park Falls Herald as dates become finalized.

**Tours** by the High School Band are done every four years with student participation based on interest and financial obligations met. Money for tours may be gotten through various fund raising efforts throughout the student's time in the band or from family contributions or donations.

**Students** are recognized for their exceptional talent and commitment to excellence in the band program and may be recommended for membership in local, regional, and State Honors Bands. Interested students who qualify and apply are periodically awarded scholarships to attend summer camps. Graduating seniors have the opportunity to apply for several local college scholarships that recognize their loyalty, commitment, quality of musicianship and leadership in our band and school.

**Throughout the "seasons"** of the school year, our band serves as a window for the community to see into our school's curriculum. Unlike most other classes in our school, the band program integrates co-curricular offerings with "class" and demonstrates a continuing responsibility to promote excellence throughout our school. Through the many activities and performances, which receive positive, critical evaluations, we will continually challenge while actively bettering ourselves, upgrading and improving our standards in the ongoing pursuit of our potential as music students and people.

**Finally**, it is a privilege to work and live in this community. The students continually impress me with their outstanding musicianship, spirit, pride, capacity to learn and their resilience to change and setbacks. This, I believe, is a reflection on the parents', community members', and students' dedication, loyalty, commitment, responsibility, cooperation and pride in all that we do. I don't teach Band – I teach kids, and even though there are situations that affect the amount of time available to work with the kids, I expect that the positive and continuous growth will continue with this band program, now, and for a long time to come.

Thank you for your continued support and encouragement of the band program. Please feel free to contact me at any time concerning our band program.

Here's to another great year!

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***“Students don't care how much you know until they know how much you care”***  
*-anonymous*

***“Everything yields to diligence” – Aristophanes***

## GENERAL INFORMATION

- 1) Membership in the Chequamegon High School band program is a privilege, which is earned through hard work and sincere interest in instrumental music. Don't forget that the hard work of countless others before you established the reputation, which you now inherit. Improve constantly on these principals and always strive for betterment.
- 2) Policies and regulations are set forth-in fairness to all members of the band and are consistently maintained and enforced without bias for the betterment of the entire program. Deviation from fair and rational decision making negatively reflects on the band and would therefore affect our success.
- 3) As a band student you will be exposed to situations which will encourage you to:
  - a) **think** in a musically sensitive manner,
  - b) creatively **express** yourself,
  - c) **cooperate** in groups efforts,
  - d) **attend** to details,
  - e) **strive** for accuracy and perfection, and
  - f) **learn** to accept constructive criticism.

The situations that present these challenges are intended to not only develop good musicians but also good students and citizens of the Chequamegon High School.

- 4) The basic goal of the Chequamegon Band Program is to simulate interest in the arts and specifically instrumental music. There are several performing groups that serve to accomplish this goal – Concert Band, Jazz Ensemble, Marching Band, and Solo and Ensemble.
- 5) Because we are **expected** to perform at various events, each band student is expected to be a part of the whole group's efforts.
- 6) My door is always open to discuss anything and I always put the school's and home telephone number on all of my correspondence. Please call if you ever have questions or concerns.

## GENERAL RULES AND REGULATIONS

- 1) Attendance is required and necessary by all students at all rehearsals and required performances.
- 2) Unexcused absences will not be tolerated and could result in an individual being dismissed from a performing ensemble. All work related to an absence must be made-up.
- 3) All assigned music and materials must be properly prepared. **Practice outside of the classroom!!** Rehearsal times are for group learning and not individualized instruction. Private lessons will address specific problem area(s). It is your responsibility to prepare for performances.
- 4) Instruments, music and all other necessary equipment must be kept in proper working order and be brought to every rehearsal and performance.
- 5) All members of the band program are expected to conduct themselves in a manner that is deemed appropriate by the school policies, regulations and laws that govern good behavior. Band students are expected to be positive role models for others and serve the community as a "window" into the positive, educational offerings of this school district.

***"If you're not fired with enthusiasm, you'll be fired with enthusiasm!"***

*-Vince Lombardi*

## CHARACTERISTICS OF MATURE MUSICIANS AND MUSICIANSHIP

- 1) Spend time reflecting on life, not just living it and taking it for granted.
- 2) Be interested in human nature and behavior – in the ideas and problems of others.

- 3) Everyone has the potential for creativity. Convince yourself of this and replace the “I can’t” with “I’ll try.”
- 4) Have confidence in what you do. Don’t put yourself (or others) down.
- 5) Learn to accept responsibility and exercise discipline over yourself.
- 6) Establish goals and know that you have a purpose in life.
- 7) Develop and nurture rapport with your peers and those with whom you work.
- 8) Listen to music.
- 9) Seek and accept constructive criticism.
- 10) Be enthusiastic about your work.

***“Some students drink at the fountain of knowledge, others just gargle”***

– *anonymous*

## **GRADING**

Your grade in band is in large part what you have earned and how you apply yourself. All students can earn an “A” for a grading period by successfully completing the required work, attending required performances and displaying the positive qualities that make up a successful, productive band student (i.e. dedication, loyalty, commitment, pride, responsibility, care and love).

**Music “pass-off”, attendance and attitude constitutes a majority of a student’s grade. Points are awarded for each lesson attended, performances, and a variety of other band activities. IF A STUDENT DOES NOT ATTEND A REQUIRED PERFORMANCE VALUABLE GRADING POINTS WILL NOT BE EARNED. A PORTION OF THESE POINTS MAY BE “MADE-UP” THROUGH WRITTEN ASSIGNMENTS ASSIGNED BY THE INSTRUCTOR. Extra credit points may be awarded for pep band, jazz ensemble, solo and ensemble participation and other non-required performances.**

If you earn an “A”, then you have done the required work with *outstanding* results and present a positive attitude at all functions of our band.

If you earn a “B”, then you have demonstrated appropriate skill development in most areas but had problems in some (probably, a lack of appropriate or sufficient practice time outside of class).

If you earn a “C”, you have significant musical problems to be addressed and attended to. I would like to see you and your parents prior to the next grading period to discuss what work is needed and how you can earn a better grade. Please call and set up an appointment.

If you earn a “D”, you should seriously consider doing something else during band hour. Please discuss this with your parents, the principal, and the guidance counselor.

If you earn an “F”, you have not done anything for yourself or our band. You should consider other class options.

Students will earn valuable grade points for attending one weekly lesson (up to 45% of their grade). Also, required performances will be 55% of a student’s grade. Additional written work may be assigned. The assignments will equal the value of weekly lessons. Extra credit can be earned through a student’s participation in other performing groups and non-required performances.

## **ATTITUDE**

1. You, as a Chequamegon High School band member, should be an interested, sincere musician. **Listen, think, and respond** in a positive, musical manner.

2. You are expected to **behave, cooperate, and contribute** to this class in a positive, creative, and musical manner, which encourages and promotes the goals and philosophies of this class.
3. **Remember**, rules are established for the good of the whole and are impartial. Your understanding and following the rules will prevent future problems from occurring.
4. It is hoped that you will **continue to grow** in your appreciation of music as an art form and take pride in your own musical accomplishments and development.
5. You will be exposed to a variety of musical forms. Try not to get too opinionated about something until you can justify your feelings.
6. **Work at your music** with seal of a professional.
7. Be able to **communicate** in musical terms about music and musicians. **Know** terminology in addition to what is needed about your particular instrument and the music we study.
8. The words “**Dedication, Loyalty, Commitment, Pride, Responsibility, Care**” and “**Love**” should not be considered as threatening.
9. Please **allow others to learn** from this class at their own pace. Do not put yourself above others or affect the way they can best be served.
10. **Offer suggestions and encouragement** to others in a positive, rational, mature, and helpful manner.

***“Obstacles are those frightful things you see when you take your eyes off of the goal.”***  
*-Hannah More*

## **REHEASALS**

Rehearsal time is valuable whether working for an upcoming field show, parade, solo and ensemble event, or a concert. Every possible moment must be used for actual rehearsal purposes. If someone interrupts effective rehearsal time even for one minute, it is actually one minute times all of the members who have been affected. With 55 to 60 musicians in a band, between 55 to 60 minutes of time has been wasted. Excessive time spent on an individual's part is considered a waste of time. Students are expected to practice their instruments on their own time. High school students should make or find time to get in at least one hour of practice time each week.

The following are basic to a productive rehearsal. Other rules and regulations are covered in other parts of this handbook.

1. All students need to be at their designated place when the bell sounds for the beginning of the band rehearsal. If you are late, you must have a pass!
2. Instruments, reeds, oil, mutes, and a pencil are needed at every rehearsal.
3. Warm up's should be slow and not too loud. Use scales or long tones.
4. Please take care of your music. Arrangements are expensive and others will use the music after you have left the program. Never write on music in pen...always use pencil!
5. There will be absolutely **NO GUM CHEWING** while playing in rehearsals or performances.

***“Behold the turtle. He makes progress only when he sticks his neck out.”***

–James B. Conant.

## **LESSONS**

Assigned lesson times are available and required of most students. Due to the increase in student participation in the band program, groups of students may be exempt from lessons. Guidelines and requirements are set at the beginning of each quarter. All students must make up missed lessons unless approved by me in advanced.

***“When you think you’re good, you’ve quit thinking.”***

–Anonymous

## **UNIFORMS**

1. The uniform issued to you is part of your equipment and must be maintained in a neat and complete manner. Intentional or even accidental damage may result in fees being assessed to cover the cost of repair or replacement. At over \$400.00 for each uniform, it is necessary that you respect and care for your uniform.
2. Your uniform may be kept at school. If it is kept at home or school, it needs to be hung up properly on a strong hanger. Make sure that you keep all parts of the uniform together. Your uniform includes the following: uniform coat, baldric, bibs, hat and hatbox, plume, and garment bag. **In addition, you will need to supply the following: black shoes, black gloves, and black socks.**  
(If you are a color guard member, you will have an additional uniform issued to you.)
3. Under no circumstances are you to alter the uniform other than tacking up or letting out the bottoms of your pants. **Never cut the material of the uniform!** Uniform problems should be brought to my attention immediately.
4. Never take a uniform that has not been issued to you! Double-check your numbers so that you do not have someone else’s uniform. Check with the uniform people if you have questions.
5. Failure to take care of your uniform in a proper manner, which includes damaging it, not hanging it up properly (ask if you’re not sure), not storing it properly, laying it on the ground when not being worn and/or eating or drinking while wearing the uniform may result in your having to reimburse the school district for replacement costs of the damaged piece(s) or dry cleaning the uniform at your expense.

***“You will have to practice long and faithfully before you realize that you cannot play.”***

- Beethoven

## **INSTRUMENT CARE**

Because we are all working with fairly complex, sophisticated and expensive pieces of equipment, it is very important that we understand the need for basic instrument care and maintenance.

1. Never let anyone else play your instrument. It’s like letting someone else chew your gum!
2. Never let anyone other than a certified instrument repair technician, or myself, work on your instrument.
3. General rules for proper instrument maintenance:
  - a. Keep the instrument clean both inside and out. If you can smell it, so can other people and it’s probably dirty on the inside.
  - b. Keep wind instrument mouthpieces clean.
  - c. Use warm soapy water to remove dirt on brass instruments. Never use water to clean a woodwind or percussion instrument, use a cleaning cloth.
  - d. Apply oils, grease, or other lubricants sparingly to corks, slides, pivot screws, etc.

- e. Swab out flutes, clarinets, and saxophones after every use.
- f. Store wood instruments away from wide fluctuations in temperature and humidity.
- g. Do not store music or medals in your case unless the case is built for that purpose.
- h. Never sit, stand, or set heavy objects on you case.
- i. Make sure you instrument case is readily identifiable (name, address, telephone number, etc.)

**BAND OFFICERS**

At the beginning of each school year band officers are elected by their peers to represent the band and perform non-educational organizational tasks to minimize the loss of rehearsal time. The duties for the officers are, but limited to;

**Band President** – this individual is the student spokesperson for the organization during the concert season. The main duties include; taking attendance at all rehearsals and sectionals, assist or run a rehearsal when the instructor is absent, collect all permission forms as needed assist in the selection of music to be studied.

**Treasurer** - this individual is to handle the monies that are collected pervious to a rehearsal. Monies collected can be acquired from fundraising activities, tour payments and resale items, etc.

**Band Librarian** – this individual is in charge of the printed music that is currently being studied. They will maintain an accurate account of all music and will assist in the distribution there of. This individual will have the permission to make copies, if necessary.

**PARITCIPATION “LETTER”** (chenille letter for a school letter jacket).

All band students will have the oppotunity to letter in band by participating in the co-curricular activities of our band throughout the summer and school year which includes, but in not exclusive of summer marching rehearsals and parades, pep band performances, solo and ensemble participation, early, late or extra practices, etc. All the students can earn a “Letter” if they have participated in almost all of the activities that we take part in as members of this band program.

***“‘Tis is noble to be good, tis’ noble to teach others to be good- and easier.”***  
 – Mark Twain

-----Tear here and return to Mr. Pollock -----

Date \_\_\_\_\_

I, \_\_\_\_\_ (student's name) have read the Chequamegon High School Band Handbook and will abide by these guidelines. I also understand that failure to follow these guidelines will have consequences that may lead to disciplinary actions.

\_\_\_\_\_ Student’s signature

\_\_\_\_\_ Parent’s signature

