

“The Music Department is an alternate universe where pupils are often unrecognizable from who they are outside of it. The shy become confident. The agitated become calm. The lonely become included. The quiet become heard. And the lost become found. Music reveals the real child.”

--*Vaughan Fleischfresser*

# *Deep Run High School Bands and Orchestra*

Deep Run High School

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## Handbook and Syllabus 2023-2024

**The director reserves the right to amend and revise this document to address the changing needs of the program.**

### **Email List—IMPORTANT!**

The band/orchestra boosters maintain an email list and is the director's and boosters' primary means of communication with students and parents. To subscribe, please scan the appropriate QR code and complete the Google form.

Band



Orchestra



**Students MUST subscribe to the email list.** Parents are strongly encouraged to subscribe. Not subscribing to the mailing list does NOT relieve parents or students of the responsibility of knowing what information is disseminated through this means.

### **Classroom Procedures and Policies**

#### **Cabinets/Lockers**

The cabinets and lockers in the band room are for band instruments and equipment only. They are not to be used to store books for other classes, clothing, food, or personal items, etc., other than while in band class. Students will keep lockers neat and tidy at all times. Lockers will be checked periodically for adherence to this policy.

Any student who wishes to use a band locker will be assigned one. Locks will be the responsibility of the student and must be a combination lock, not a keyed padlock. Students who bring a lock must give the combination and serial number to the director and will be expected to keep the locker secure while away from the band room. Items damaged or removed from unsecured lockers without the permission or knowledge of the student to whom the locker is assigned are the sole responsibility of the student. The director, the Deep Run Band Boosters and Deep Run High School are not responsible for damaged or missing items. Combinations will be kept by the director; however, it is the student's responsibility to retain and memorize his/her combination. It is suggested that students take a picture of their combination with a cell phone or keep the written combination in a place readily accessed such as a backpack, wallet, etc.

#### **Concert Attire**

Families of students are responsible for providing their concert own attire. This is a change from previous years. Descriptions of appropriate attire will be communicated with parents and students shortly after the opening of the school year.

## Rehearsal/Concert Attendance Policy

As stated previously in this document, rehearsals outside of normal class times, usually before school and occasionally during lunch, are a necessity. In order to properly prepare for upcoming concerts and to perform to the best of our ability, extracurricular rehearsals are strictly mandatory for all students and will be graded on attendance, participation and preparedness. Absence and/or tardiness prevent the student from learning and will adversely affect the entire ensemble. Every member is crucial to our maximum achievement. With proper planning, conflicts can be avoided or resolved.

Reasons for absence or tardiness deemed excusable are as follows:

- Personal illness or injury severe enough to keep a student home
- Major family event such as a wedding or funeral
- Family emergency
- Religious observance
- Legal/court appointment

Other reasons will be considered on a case-by-case basis. **The director reserves the right to accept or deny a request for excused absence or tardiness.** Routine medical and dental appointments should not be scheduled during rehearsal or performance times. Work is **never** considered an excusable reason for absence or tardiness.

For an absence or tardy to be deemed excused, the following conditions must be met:

- 1) The director should be given notice no less than 24 hours in advance except in the case of sudden illness/injury or family emergency,
- 2) The request **must be in writing** (not email), and
- 3) The director must approve the request as an acceptable reason.

Unexcused absence and tardiness will adversely affect a student's grade. Unexcused tardiness will result in a grade of "C" and an unexcused absence will receive a "0" for that rehearsal or performance. In the case of an *excused* absence, students may opt to do an alternate assignment consisting of a three-page paper on a music-related topic such as a famous composer, musician, etc. (see Mr. Pennington for approval). At least two sources must be cited. Web-based sources ending in ".org" or ".edu" are suggested. **Wikipedia may NOT be used.** *Unexcused* absence or tardiness may not be made up.

**Excessive absences, even if excused, may result in a student not being allowed to perform. An unexcused absence from a *performance* may result in the student's removal from future performances.**

## Daily Classroom Rules and Procedures

- 1) Students are to have all materials—instruments and accessories such as rosin, reeds, mouthpieces, slide oil, cork grease, mutes, etc.; technique books; sheet music; and a pencil. These are required for class *and* rehearsals. Not having these items will negatively impact the student's participation grade.
- 2) Doing homework for other classes during band class is strictly forbidden.
- 3) Once the tardy bell rings, students will have 3 minutes to be seated with all materials and be ready to play.
- 4) Students are to be polite and responsive at all times.
- 5) No food, gum, or drinks other than water, are allowed in the band room.
- 6) Students will be respectful of the director, guest conductors, clinicians, other students, instruments and equipment, music and other materials, and all facilities used.
- 7) The Henrico County Public Schools Code of Conduct and Dress Code are in effect at all times, including field trips away from school or outside of normal school hours.
- 8) Cell phones, ear buds/headphones, and all other electronic devices are to be in backpacks and out of sight unless specifically directed to use them.
- 9) Students should not ask to use the restroom except in the case of emergency. In the case a student is allowed to use the restroom, only the facilities on the opposite side of the auditorium from the band room are to be used.
- 10) Students may not leave the room without a pass. Only one student may leave class at a time.
- 11) Leaving class without permission will be considered skipping, except in the case of emergency.
- 12) Upon the conclusion of a class period, students must put away and properly store their instruments, equipment, and materials, then place chairs and stands on the appropriate racks.

**The director reserves the right to revise the daily classroom procedures in order to meet the needs of the class.**

## Sheet Music

Sheet music for concert selections will be provided by the band director. Whenever possible, students will receive original copies, not photocopies. Individual parts for each selection will be numbered and assigned to specific students who will then be responsible for returning ALL assigned sheet music in good condition. Students **MUST** keep sheet music in the provided folders to avoid damage. **Any missing or damaged sheet music must be replaced by the student.**

To order a replacement copy, students or parents should contact JW Pepper & Son, Inc., by phone at (800)345-6296, to inquire about availability. If individual parts are not available through JW Pepper, the phone representative should be able to tell you how to order it. This may involve contacting the publisher directly. Be sure to get the publisher's name and contact information. **COPIES RECEIVED ELECTRONICALLY ARE NOT ACCEPTABLE.**

Any student who does not return his/her sheet music or provide purchased copies of missing or damaged sheet music, will have a hold put on their school financial account until it is returned, or a copy is received by the band director.

**The director reserves the right to amend and revise this document to address the changing needs of the program.**

# Adv. Band/Jazz Band/Orchestra Syllabus

## Materials

Students must have the following materials in class every day:

- Technique book
  - All members of the Wind Ensemble (course #9234) and Jazz Band (course #9241) will use **Sound Innovations Ensemble Development for Advanced Concert Band** by Peter Boonshaft and Chris Bernotas (**purple cover**). To be purchased by student.
  - All members of the Symphonic Band (course #9234B, #9234P and #9234W) will use **Sound Innovations Ensemble Development for Intermediate Concert Band** by Peter Boonshaft and Chris Bernotas (**green cover**). To be purchased by student.
  - The orchestra technique book is “TBA.”
- Any sheet music that has been distributed in class
- Pencil with an eraser
- Instrument and appropriate accessories (extra reeds, valve oil, neck straps, sticks, drum pads, rosin, etc.)
- Any other materials deemed necessary by the director

## Grading Categories\*

30% --Participation. Students will be graded on their daily participation in class. They are expected to participate to the best of their ability, adhere to the Classroom Policies and Procedures as stated in the Daily Classroom Rules and Procedures section, and be fully prepared for class.

Students will also be graded on their attendance and participation in all extracurricular rehearsals. A student's grade will be adversely affected by unexcused tardiness or absence, a failure to be fully prepared, or an unwillingness to participate to his/her fullest ability. Students may request to complete an alternate assignment in order to make up any missed activities, **but only in the event of excused absences**. This request must be initiated by the student and completed within one week of the absence. See the Attendance Policy section of the Band Handbook for further clarification.

30% --Playing/Written Assessments and Performances. Playing and written assessments will take place periodically in order to monitor the improvement of technical abilities and mastery of sheet music and theory concepts. If a student fails a playing or written assessment, he/she may request to retake the assessment according to DRHS and HCPS policy. **A request for a test retake must be initiated by the student**. Grades for attendance of performances will also be entered in this category.

30% --Practice Records. Students have homework in math, English, etc. **Regular, individual practice outside of class IS homework**. It is an expected and necessary component of any quality music program and absolutely necessary for a student's progress. Students are to practice and reinforce any exercises or music covered in class. This includes scales, warm up and technical exercises, sheet music, music theory concepts, etc.

Each student is required to practice for a total of 180 minutes (3 hours) per week **on the instrument(s) he/she plays as part of the school ensemble to which they belong**. A student's practice record grade is based on the percentage of the 180-minute requirement that has been completed. For instance, if a student completes 160 minutes, or 89% of the required 180 minutes, the grade will be “89”. Practice records must be completed in pen, hand-signed by a parent/guardian and submitted via Schoology by 11:59 p.m. on the due date. One letter grade will be deducted for each day it is late. **Late practice logs**

**will not be accepted after ONE week and will be permanently assigned a grade of “0”.** Digital copies of practice logs may be obtained on Schoology and the band web site at [www.deeprunband.com](http://www.deeprunband.com) and are the sole responsibility of the student. The director does NOT provide copies. If students do not have access to a printer at home, they should print in the library during normal school hours.

**Falsification of practice records will be considered an honor violation.** Parents are asked to hand-sign practice records only if they are able to verify the time logged. Lack of noticeable improvement may call into question the validity and authenticity of a student’s practice records, regardless of a parent’s signature.

10% --Outside Activities. For each grading period, students are expected to invest time in an activity that extends and enhances the music education they receive in class. Proof of completion of the activity must be submitted prior to the end of each grading period using an “Outside Activity Completion” form available on Schoology and at [www.deeprunband.com](http://www.deeprunband.com). In the case of concert attendance, a “Performance Critique” form (also available on Schoology and at [www.deeprunband.com](http://www.deeprunband.com)) must be completed and submitted in addition to the “Outside Activity Completion” form along with a concert program. A letter grade will be deducted for each day the assignment is late. Outside Activity forms will NOT be accepted after the Director has electronically submitted grades for the marking period. Points will also be deducted for failure to submit the correct forms.

A list of possible Outside Activities is listed below:

- Regular private lessons on your band/orchestra instrument (minimum of 4 lessons per grading period)—**signature of private teacher or parent is required**
- Regular piano lessons (minimum of 4 lessons per grading period)—**signature of private teacher or parent is required**
- Auditioning for extracurricular ensembles such as All-District Band, Senior Regional Orchestra, All-State Band/Orchestra, the Greater Richmond Youth Wind Ensemble (GRYWE), The Greater Richmond High School Jazz Band (GRHSJB), the Richmond Symphony Youth Orchestra Program (YOP) or other comparable extracurricular ensembles
- Performing in any of the extracurricular ensembles listed above
- Attending a performance by a professional wind, orchestral, choral or jazz ensemble (no rock bands). A program must be submitted, signed by a member of the ensemble if possible. Completion of the Performance Critique form (located in Schoology and on the band web site) is required.
- Attending a performance of any college, semi-professional, or university level wind, orchestral, choral or jazz ensemble (no rock bands). Please check for approval beforehand. A program must be submitted. Completion of the Performance Critique form (located in Schoology and on the band web site) is required.
- Write a three-page paper on a music-related subject (composer, instrument, genre, etc.) on which you and the director have agreed.

To add to this list please consult Mr. Pennington. **An activity submitted must take place during that grading period.**

*\*The director reserves the right to adjust the grading categories in order to reflect the changing needs of the class and its students.*

## Band Calendar for 2023-24 School Year

Participating ensembles/students are noted for each event.

### August

- 1-4 Band camp week 1 (continued) 8:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m.
- 7-11 Band camp week 2 8:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m.
- 14-17 Post band camp 4:00-8:00 p.m.
- 25 Home football game vs. Mechanicsville HS (marching band only)
- 31 Home football game vs. Atlee HS (please note this is a Thursday) (marching band only)

### September

- 8 Home game vs. Prince George HS (marching band only)
- 15 Away football game @ Meadowbrook HS
- 22 Away football game @ Douglas Freeman HS
- 23 Senior Regional String Auditions—Journey Middle School, Charlottesville (orchestra only)
- 23 Possible competition (marching band only)
- 29 Away football game @ Hermitage HS (marching band only)
- 30 Competition—Hermitage HS (marching band only)

### October

- 1-8 Audition window for All-Virginia Jazz Band
- 6 Away football game @ Tucker HS
- 7 Competition—Cavalcade of Bands, Charlottesville HS (VMBC-affiliated) (marching band only)
- 13 Homecoming football game vs. Thomas Jefferson HS (marching band only)
- 20 NO FOOTBALL GAME (marching band only)
- 25 VBODA State Marching Assessment—Williamsburg (please note that this is a Wednesday) (marching band only)
- 27 Home football game vs. Godwin HS (marching band only)
- 28 VMBC State Championships—Lynchburg, VA (marching band only)

### November

- 4 Possible marching band competition
- 10 Possible Veterans Day assembly
- 10-11 Senior Regional Orchestra—Harrisonburg HS, Harrisonburg, VA (orchestra only)

### December

- 5 Winter Concert 7pm (all ensembles)
- 9 All-District Band Auditions—Hanover HS (mandatory for wind ensemble and jazz band students. Symphonic band students are strongly encouraged to audition)
- 14-15 Winter Assemblies (all ensembles)

### January

- 17-18 All-County Orchestra—Deep Run HS (select orchestra students only)
- 18-19 All-County Band—Deep Run HS (select band students only)

### February

- 1-3 All-District Band—Highland Springs HS (select band students only)
- 22 Orchestra pre-assessment concert 7pm (orchestra only)

- 24 All-Virginia Band and Orchestra Auditions—James Madison University (select students only)  
27 Band pre-assessment concert 7pm (symphonic band and wind ensemble)

### March

- 7-8 Orchestra Concert Assessment—Hanover HS (exact performance date/time TBD)  
14-16 Band Concert Assessment—Glen Allen HS (exact performance dates/times TBD)

### April

- TBD Trinity School Jazz and Arts Festival (jazz band only)  
18-20 All-Virginia Band & Orchestra—Richmond Convention Center (select students only)

### May

- 4 Jump Start pt. 1 (tentative) (marching band only)  
11 Jump Start pt. 2 (tentative) (marching band only)

### June

- TBD Graduation  
TBD Marching band Tuesday clinics 4-8pm

### July

- TBD Marching band Tuesday clinics 4-8pm  
29-31 Band camp week 1 8am-6pm (mandatory for all marching band members)

### August

- 1-2 Band camp week 1 continued 8am-6pm (mandatory for all marching band members)  
5-9 Band camp week 2 8am-6pm (mandatory for all marching band members)  
12-15 Post band camp 4-8pm (mandatory for all marching band members)

### General Notes About the Band Calendar

- Exact performance times for marching band competitions and the State Marching Assessment are usually sent out approximately 10 days to 2 weeks in advance. **Please consider these as all-day events until an itinerary is sent out via email list.**
- District Band auditions are mandatory for all wind ensemble and jazz band members. Symphonic band members are strongly encouraged to audition. This is strictly mandatory for all students receiving honors credit, period.
- Only those students who place at the top end of All-District Band will be eligible for All-Virginia Band and Orchestra Auditions. Students who are eligible will be notified after audition results are released.
- Exact dates and times for District Concert Assessment performances are received approximately 2 weeks prior to the event. Performances may take place during the school day or in the evenings or on Saturday. Please keep these dates open until you receive specific performance times via email list.
- The exact day and time for graduation is not yet known. That information will be sent out via email list after it becomes available.
- For those interested in joining the Marching Wildcats in 2024, please note the dates for band camp. These dates are MANDATORY for all members.



**Signature Page**

**Please sign and return**

I have read and understand the policies and procedures put forth in the Deep Run High School Band/Orchestra Handbook and Syllabus.

My child and I are subscribed to the band email list or have submitted a request to be added to the band email list.

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Student's Name (print) \_\_\_\_\_

Student's Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian's Name (print) \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian's Signature \_\_\_\_\_

**This Signature Page is to be submitted for a grade no later than  
Thursday, September 1.**

***Please retain the Band Handbook and Syllabus for  
future reference. Digital copies are available on  
Schoolology and at [www.deeprunband.com](http://www.deeprunband.com).***