

“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 Wildcat Bands

Deep Run High School

4801 Twin Hickory Road

Glen Allen, Virginia 23059

(804) 364-8000

Jim Pennington, Director of Bands

japennin@henrico.k12.va.us

Handbook and Syllabus 2022-2023

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

Email List—IMPORTANT!

The band maintains an email list and is the director's primary means of communication with band students and parents. To subscribe, use the QR code below, or go to <https://forms.gle/h1ia3Ta4k5FB26gL7> and complete the Google form.



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.

Description of Band Classes

Symphonic Band—9234B (brass), 9234P (percussion) and 9234W (woodwinds)

The Symphonic Band is the entry level concert ensemble. As members of the Symphonic Band, students will gain a greater understanding, respect, and love of a wide variety of musical genres and performance practices. The main objectives of this class are 1) to continue to develop musical talent on an individual level, 2) to learn and implement the musical responsibilities required to be productive members of a musical ensemble, and 3) to develop the skills necessary to learn and perfect music independently. These concepts will be taught and reinforced during class; however, regular home practice is **essential** if students are to gain proficiency in these areas.

Because this ensemble is split between three classes, rehearsals outside of normal class time will be necessary, and will be communicated prior to the start of the concert cycle. Once called, these rehearsals are **mandatory and graded**. A set of guidelines regarding excused and unexcused absence/tardiness is put forth later in this document.

Wind Ensemble (9234)

The Wind Ensemble is a highly advanced musical group comprised of the most adept wind and percussion players in the school. Students become members of the Wind Ensemble through rigorous auditions or by appointment by the director. The director reserves the sole right to appoint students to the Wind Ensemble. Such appointments will be made according to instrumentation needs of the group

and only if the director deems the appointee's abilities and motivation to be such that he/she is capable of handling the difficulty of the literature performed.

In this class, students will explore concert literature of very high caliber and will become familiar with the standards and masterpieces of the wind band repertoire, as well as newer, more contemporary pieces. This ensemble will likely perform more often than the Symphonic Band and do so with less rehearsal time; therefore, students MUST practice and perfect parts at home, and come to class prepared to rehearse as an ensemble.

Jazz Ensemble

The Jazz Ensemble, like the Wind Ensemble, is comprised of the most advanced wind and percussion players in the school. Instrumentation is typical of the American big band (five saxes, four trombones, four or five trumpets, piano, drum set, guitar, and bass guitar). Membership, therefore, is extremely limited. Acceptance to this ensemble is only through audition or appointment by the Director. The Director reserves the sole right to appoint students to the Jazz Ensemble. Such appointments will be made according to instrumentation needs of the group and only if the Director deems the appointee's abilities to be advanced enough to handle the difficulty of the literature performed.

In this class, students will explore the many subgenres of jazz, including swing, bop, fusion, funk, rock, and various Latin styles. Emphasis will be on developing idiomatically correct playing styles for each genre as well as improvisation, an essential and defining characteristic of jazz.

The Jazz Ensemble may participate in various school and community functions and may perform more frequently than any other ensemble. In addition, the members of this ensemble will perform as part of the Wind Ensemble and must attend rehearsals outside of normal class time. For these reasons, students are expected to spend considerable time practicing at home.

Classroom Procedures and Policies

Band 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.

Attendance Policy

As stated previously in this document, rehearsals outside of normal school hours, 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
- Mandatory quarantine due to COVID
- 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 including reeds, mouthpieces, slide oil, cork grease, mutes, etc.; technique books; sheet music; band binder; and a pencil. These are required for class *and* rehearsals. Not having these items will negatively impact the student's participation grade.
- 2) Students should NOT share materials due to the potential spread of COVID or other germs and viruses.
- 3) Doing homework for other classes during band class is strictly forbidden.
- 4) Once the tardy bell rings, students will have 3 minutes to be seated with all materials and be ready to play.
- 5) Students are to be polite and responsive at all times.
- 6) No food, gum, or drinks other than water, are allowed.
- 7) Students will be respectful of the director, guest conductors, clinicians, other students, instruments and equipment, music and other materials, and all facilities used.
- 8) 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.
- 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) If a student leaves the room, he/she must scan the posted QR code, complete and submit the travel log Google form, AND obtain a written hall 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 sanitize chairs and stands with provided wipes before placing them on the 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. **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.

Communication

Effective communication is vital for any organization as large and dynamic as the Deep Run Band program, and the director and band boosters have several means of conveying important information. Communication is a two-way street, however, and will only be effective if parents and students are thoroughly plugged into these channels, reading messages and making note of any relevant information.

www.deeprunband.com –The band maintains a web site for the purpose of providing easily accessible information regarding band events and happenings and other important information such as calendars, schedules, booster info, class forms, etc. Parents and students should check the web site often for updated information.

Email list—as stated at the beginning of the band handbook, the band maintains an email list which is the primary means of communication used by the Director and the Deep Run Band Boosters. It is crucial that parents and students subscribe. See the bottom of page 2 for instructions.

Social Media—like us on Facebook at Deep Run Wildcat Band and follow us on Twitter @deeprunband. This is nothing mandatory, but we do have a social media presence that’s fun to follow.

Remind—Students are required and parents are encouraged to subscribe to the appropriate groups through Remind. Important messages and reminders will be sent out through this app.

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

Adv. Band/Jazz Band Syllabus

Materials

Students must have the following materials in class every day:

- Sound Innovations 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.
- 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, 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 above, 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 an 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 receive a grade of "0"**. Digital copies of practice logs may

be obtained on Schoology and the band web site at 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 some time in an activity that extends and enhances the music education they receive at Deep Run High School. 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. In the case of concert attendance, a "Performance Critique" form (also available on Schoology and at 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 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, All-State Band, 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 2022-23 School Year

Participating ensembles/students are noted for each event.

September

- 1 Away Football Game @ Atlee HS (tentative) (marching band only)
- 9 Home Football Game vs. Henrico HS (marching band only)
- 10 Possible Rehearsal (time TBD) (marching band only)
- 16 Away Football Game @ Patrick Henry HS (marching band only)
- 17 Possible Rehearsal (time TBD) (marching band only)
- 23 Home Football Game vs. JR Tucker HS (marching band only)
- 24 Band Competition (possibly Hermitage HS) (marching band only)
- 30 Homecoming Game vs. Thomas Jefferson HS (marching band only)

October

- 1 No competition due to Homecoming
- 7 Home Football Game vs. Douglas Freeman HS (marching band only)
- 8 Band Competition (marching band only)
- 14 Away Football Game @ Godwin HS (marching band only)
- 15 Band Competition (marching band only)
- 17 HCPS Marching Band Showcase @ JR Tucker HS (marching band only)
- 18 HCPS Marching Band Showcase Rain Date @ JR Tucker HS (marching band only)
- 21 Band Practice 4:15-6:30 p.m. (NO football game) (marching band only)
- 28 Home Football Game vs. Glen Allen HS (marching band only)
- 29 VBODA State Marching Assessment @ Hermitage HS (marching band only)
- TBA All-Virginia Jazz Band Auditions (date/time/location TBD)

November

- 4 Away Football Game @ Hermitage HS (marching band only)
- 5 Band Competition—VMBC State Championships, Lynchburg, VA (marching band only)
- 7 Marching Wildcats Post-Season Celebration (marching band only)
- 11 Possible Veterans' Day Assembly (wind ensemble only)
- 11 Possible Football Playoff Game (marching band only)
- TBA All-Virginia Jazz Band Event, Richmond, VA (selected students only)

December

- 1 Winter Concert 7:00 p.m., Deep Run Auditorium (jazz band, symphonic band, wind ensemble)
- TBA Winter Assembly during school day (jazz band and wind ensemble)

January

- 7 District Band Auditions, Douglas Freeman HS (mandatory for wind ensemble members, symphonic band members are strongly encouraged)
- 14 District Band Auditions (snow date), Douglas Freeman HS
- 19-21 All-County Band, location TBA (selected members only)

February

- 2-4 All-District Band Event, Highland Springs HS (selected students only)
- 25 All-VA Band and Orchestra Auditions, James Madison University (selected students only)
- 28 Pre-Assessment Concert 7 p.m., Deep Run Auditorium (all bands)

March

16-17 District Concert Assessment, Glen Allen HS

April

TBA Trinity School Jazz and Arts Festival, Trinity Episcopal School (jazz band only)

TBA Wind Ensemble/Jazz Band Auditions

TBA Marching Wildcats Leadership Interviews (for 2023 season)

May

6 Jump Start part 1, times TBA (all interested in marching band)

13 Jump Start part 2, times TBA (all interested in marching band)

18 Band Spring Concert 7 p.m., Deep Run Auditorium (all bands)

TBA Solo and Ensemble Assessment (interested students)

June

TBA Graduation (all members of the 2023-24 wind ensemble)

July

31 Band Camp Week 1 begins (marching band)

August

1-4 Band Camp Week 1 continues (marching band)

7-11 Band Camp Week 2 (marching band)

14-17 Post Band Camp 4:00-8:00 p.m. (marching band)

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 2023, 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 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 8 for blocks 1, 5 and 7 and no later than Friday, September 9 for blocks 2 and 4.

Please retain the Band Handbook and Syllabus for future reference. Digital copies are available on Schoology and at www.deeprunband.com.