

Tahquitz High School Instrumental Music

2023-2024

8/14/2023

Dear Parents,

First of all, I would like to welcome you and thank you for allowing your child/children to participate in the Tahquitz High School Instrumental Music Program. The purpose of this letter is to inform you of the events, activities, and policies of the THS Instrumental Music Program, and to assist you in being a successful band parent. **The support and encouragement you give to our program and your son or daughter is the single most important factor in our success. With this, I want to invite you to ALL of our events.**

You can find all the information about events, activities, call times, etc., on the THS band website (see below). I will also send home information letters with dates, times, performances, festivals, and fundraisers during the year, **but it is essential that you visit the website often to stay up to date.**

The following information you will find helpful in assisting your child in his/her participation in the band program. Every student and parent must be familiar with the Instrumental Music Department Handbook. The Handbook can be found on the website (please see contact info at the bottom of the page for the web address). **To view the handbook and syllabus, please visit the band website and go to your child's respective band page.** I believe that communication between parent and teacher is of the utmost importance, and I look forward to hearing from you.

Again, welcome to the THS Instrumental Music Program.

Sincerely,

Jeremy Pietsch

Instrumental Music Director

Phone: 951.765.6300 ext. 122

Fax: 951.765.6344

Email: jpietsch@hemetusd.org

Website: <http://TahquitzHighSchoolBand.weebly.com>

Remind 101: Visit the band website for information

THS Music Department Handbook

Welcome to the Tahquitz High School Music Department. Music is an activity for the most dedicated students. You are expected to demonstrate outstanding behavior, punctuality, maturity, and regular practice. In order for you and the music department to succeed, there are specific guidelines in the handbook that must be followed. It is expected that you read and know all the information found within.

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My Goals

- Teach every student how to play their instrument.
- Maintain the Tahquitz music department as a program that the students and community are proud of and the surrounding communities admire.
- Teach students how to be successful in music, school, and life through attributes of respect, responsibility, critical thinking, time management, leadership, and punctuality.

Music Department Hierarchy

1. Director
2. Instructors/Parent Assistants
3. Drum Major
4. Assistant Drum Major
5. Band Officers
6. Section Leaders
7. Performers

Equipment and Supplies

All students are expected to come prepared to every rehearsal and performance with the following items:

Woodwinds: 4 reeds (in good condition), cork grease, and cleaning kit (flutes only cleaning kit)

Brass: Valve oil, cleaning kit, and tuning slide grease/spray

Percussion: Sticks and drum pad

All Students: Instruments, music, worksheets, pencils and lyre/flip folder (marching students).

Behavior and Expectations

The two most important attributes of a successful student are **respect** and **responsibility**. These attributes will not only lead to personal growth and success, but also the success of the entire music program. The following are rules for the Tahquitz Music Department.

- **Being on Time:** In the classroom with your phone in the parking lot and actively getting your instrument, chair, music stand, music, and pencil out when the bell rings.
 - **Being Prepared:** Arriving to class with your instrument, music, and pencil every day.
 - **Being Respectful:** Attentively listening and focusing on whoever is speaking and treating others with kindness.
 - **Being Responsible:** Arriving to class ready to learn with all music prepared.
1. Always be respectful and responsible.
 2. Keep the music room clean.
 3. No gum or food, except bottled water, is allowed in the classroom.
 4. Cell Phones are to be parked in the parking lot before class starts each day.
 5. Airpods, headphones, etc must be put away before class starts.
 6. No hoodies, hats, or sunglasses are to be worn during class.
 7. When you enter the music room, immediately take your seat and begin a sensible warm up. (You will be instructed on how to do this).
 8. When Mr. Pietsch steps up on the podium or in front of you, please come to attention.
 9. Always use good body and instrument posture.
 10. Never let anyone else handle or play your instrument.
 11. Be responsible for your music. Keep it in your folder and in your backpack or locker at all times-do not keep it in your case.
 12. When rehearsal is over, put your instrument, music, and music stand away and return to your seat.
 13. My office, desks, and storage are off limits without permission.
 14. You are expected to have your instrument and music for every rehearsal. Repetitive failure to do so will result in grade reduction and could result in termination of your music participation.
 15. No studying or doing homework for other classes during class, unless instructed to do so.
 16. You are not to leave the classroom unless it is an emergency.
 17. If you do leave or enter the classroom, do so in a discrete manner.
 18. The bell or clock does NOT excuse you, Mr. Pietsch does.

CONSEQUENCES

If problems do occur, the following is the order of consequences that will be taken unless the problems require immediate parent involvement or suspension.

- 1st Occurrence: Verbal Warning
- 2nd Occurrence: One-on-one Talk
- 3rd Occurrence: Call Home/Work/Cell phone of Parent(s)
- 4th Occurrence: Referral to the Office
- 5th Occurrence: Parent/Teacher Conference
- 6th Occurrence: Suspension from the music department

PERFORMANCES AND REHEARSALS

Since we are a musical group, performances and rehearsals are a very important part of our learning and growing experience. Performances are the goal that we work towards. In order to do the best job possible in any performance it is important that all Music Department members attend and participate in all of the rehearsals and performances. All members must arrange with their parents/guardians/teachers to be on time for rehearsals/performances. **Missing any performance or rehearsals is unacceptable and unexcused, unless it is a family or medical emergency.** It is your responsibility to know when our performances are and plan ahead (you can find all dates on the band website). If you discover that you must miss a performance or rehearsal you and your parent(s) must notify Mr. Pietsch as far in advance as possible (2 week minimum) explaining why you will miss the performance. **If the excusal is approved, you will then need to submit a video performance of yourself performing the pieces of music we performed at the concert.**

- **REQUIREMENTS FOR VIDEO**

- Videos must be submitted within 48 hours of the concert
- Video of each song must be played in its entirety (including rests)
- I recommend that you record yourself with screencastify.com
- You must perform with an audible metronome that I can hear in the video. I recommend downloading a free metronome app or using your Chromebook for the metronome at <https://www.metronomeonline.com/> (you may pause playing briefly to adjust the metronome for a tempo or time signature change when needed)
- You will need to save the video to your Google Drive and then share the video with me.
- If you have any questions or difficulties please ask...don't let a missed performance drastically affect your grade.

PERFORMANCE ATTIRE

Every student must wear all standard attire for every performance. It must be clean, presentable, and pressed. Hair must be worn up and off the collar of the uniform jacket (marching band only). No extreme cosmetics are to be worn while in uniform especially during performances. Jewelry is not to be worn at marching performances (including bracelets and visible watches). Shoes must be clean and of the approved attire (not tennis shoes). Students who fail to follow the attire and grooming policy will not be allowed to perform. If you have any questions regarding your performance attire, please consult Mr. Pietsch at least one week before any performance to verify acceptability. Take pride in your appearance.

MARCHING BAND

1. **UNIFORM-** Always transport your uniform on a hanger in the uniform bag provided. If allowed to change out of uniform, students must not allow the uniform to touch the ground. When not wearing your uniform, it must be stored on a hanger. Should the uniform become wet due to rain, allow the uniform to air dry before storing it in your uniform bag. The uniform cannot not be worn except during THS Marching Band performances. The uniforms will be collected at announced times at the end of the season. **Each member is financially responsible for any damage or lost parts of the**

uniform. Please check buttons often and sew as necessary. Along with the marching uniform, students must wear black socks and black shoes. While in uniform, water is the ONLY beverage allowed. When in the football stands, the complete uniform must be worn unless otherwise directed. Sunglasses are not permitted unless otherwise directed. If shakoes are not worn, they are to be carried in the left hand and the instrument in the right.

2. **UNIFORM T-SHIRT**-To be worn underneath the uniform coat AT ALL TIMES. In addition, we may schedule events that will make the T-shirt the “OFFICIAL” uniform for the event.

CONCERT BAND/SYMPHONIC BAND/BEGINNING BAND/PERCUSSION ENSEMBLE

The following is the required dress code for all concert band performances.

Men: Black button down long sleeve shirt, black slacks (not black jeans), black socks, black dress shoes (not tennis shoes), and a tie of your choosing (school appropriate).

Women: Black blouse (long or short sleeved-the sleeve must reach past the cuff or your shoulder) with black dress pants (not black jeans, stretchy pants, or spandex), and black dress shoes (black sandals are okay but flip flops are NOT).

JAZZ BAND I

The following is the required dress code for all Jazz Band I performers.

Men/Women: Black button down long sleeve shirt, green vest (checked out from Mr. Pietsch), black slacks (not black jeans, stretchy pants, or spandex), black socks and black dress shoes (not tennis shoes).

JAZZ BAND II

The following is the required dress code for all Jazz Band II performers.

Men/Women: Black button down long sleeve shirt, black slacks (not black jeans, stretchy pants, or spandex), black socks, black dress shoes (not tennis shoes), and green bowtie (checked out from Mr. Pietsch).

Music Department Fees

(All prices are approximate and subject to change)

Marching/Concert Band

\$10– Band T-shirt for performances (Advanced Band only)

\$30-Marching Band Shoes (Advanced Band only)

Uniform Replacement Costs (subject to change)

Jacket.....	\$300
Pants.....	\$200
Shako.....	\$50
Shako box.....	\$20
Plume.....	\$30
Plume tube.....	\$5
Garment bag.....	\$20
Hanger.....	\$3
Music.....	Priced individually
Instrument.....	Priced individually

Fundraisers

Fundraisers are the best way for your child to raise money for the end of the year trip and festivals. It is essential that every student participates in every fundraiser in order to allow the band to raise the required funds for trips, festivals, and supplies. There will be multiple fundraisers during the year each with their own profit margin.

Grading

The final grade will be made up of

1. **Performances (30%)** are 100 points each. It is the responsibility for each student to arrive on time, be dressed in performance attire, and stay until dismissed. If a student arrives late, they will automatically be deducted 15%. This grading procedure will be used for students who arrive on time but are not dressed or prepared. If a student leaves prior to dismissal, the student will lose 30% of their performance grade. All students must stay through the entire performance and until *everything* is put away. ***If a student misses a performance without being excused and completing the video performance assignment, their FINAL SEMESTER GRADE will drop 1 letter grade for every missed performance.***
2. **Playing and Written tests/quizzes (50%)** will be given on a weekly or biweekly schedule. The total points will vary depending on the size of the performance section and number of questions.
3. **Rehearsal Skills(10%)** will be made up of attendance, participation, and sectionals in class.
4. **Homework (10%)**
 - a. **Video Practice Logs.** To receive full credit, video practice logs must be turned in every Friday to the Google Classroom. Video practice logs may not be turned in late.

Video Practice Log Requirements

Students must complete weekly Video Practice Logs. Students must record themselves practicing and completing the requirements for practicing. Students will need to record themselves either on their phone, tablet, or Chromebook. Once completed, students will need to turn in their Video Practice Log via the Google Classroom.

1. Video must be a minimum of 30 minutes in length
2. Students will use Screencastify.com to record videos
3. The following must occur in this order for credit
 - a. State the date which you are practicing (i.e., September 12th)
 - b. 2 Minutes of Long Tones
 - c. 5 minutes of Scales (With a Metronome)
 - d. Remainder of time is to be worked on any section of the music that you struggle with the most (the majority of this time should be done with a metronome)

Awards and Achievements

Students are able to earn their letterman's music letter and patches upon meeting the following qualifications. In order to earn each achievement and award, students must be able to complete each semester in band with an 80% or higher, have no unexcused absences from performances, and have no severe discipline issues. Semesters do not need to be consecutive but it is necessary to meet the required expectations to receive all possible awards and achievements. Please see below for each band's awards and achievements.

Band

- 2 Semesters:** Certificate of Completion
- 4 Semesters:** Music Letterman's Letter
- 6 Semesters:** Instrument Patch
- 8 Semesters:** THS Band Patch
- 8 Semesters of Straight A's:** Music Graduation Chord

Jazz Band

- 2 Semesters:** Certificate of Completion
- 4 Semesters:** Music Letterman's Letter
- 6 Semesters:** Treble/Bass Clef Patch
- 8 Semesters:** THS Jazz Patch
- 8 Semesters of Straight A's:** Music Graduation Chord

A Note to Parents

Band Lockers

Students are given band lockers to keep their instruments in if they choose. A lock is checked out to each student for their Band Locker.

The Importance of Home Practice

Home practice is the beneficial way for your child to earn a high grade. Your support, encouragement, and guidance will be the key factors in establishing the practice schedule ensuring the attainment of their musical goals.

The most effective home rehearsal programs are based on a minimum daily twenty to thirty minute routine dedicated to quality practice. It is suggested that you and your child mutually agree on a practice time and special area of your home that is designated as their area of musical study. (Mine was the living room.) Every effort should be made to establish a disciplined pattern, which is encouraged and acknowledged by you. A final five to ten minute recital of the new material to family members is always effective in building performance responsibilities. Every musician enjoys the opportunity to display his/her talents. Remember, positive reinforcement is the most effective communication you can share in this important quest.

It is vital to develop the personal discipline, which makes home practice a natural part of the day. Although many new concepts will be taught during the music rehearsals, the limited time does not afford the personal attention, which is vital in developing technical facility required for the

upcoming years of musical growth. The cooperative efforts of the director, the student musician, and the willing parents constitute the proven recipe for success.

Music means more to your child than just playing an instrument. It offers an opportunity to experience a new level of communication. This artistic language will be with them for a lifetime. These formative years of music education can open up a world of aesthetic possibilities that will bring a new meaning to the growth and development of your child. Please create a disciplined practice schedule early in their musical career to ensure these positive results.

If you would rather purchase your own instrument, here are some things to think about when purchasing instruments:

1. Instruments that are old or hand me down can often be great. Just bring it in for me to inspect and determine what kind of repairs or tune-ups may be necessary for acceptable performance.
2. Instruments bought from retail stores such as Sears, Costco, Target, or Wal-Mart may be more inexpensive than music stores, but these instruments are FAR more shoddily put together and usually break often requiring multiple expensive repairs by an instrumental repair shop; so I strongly DO NOT recommend these.
3. Please do not go out and buy a top of the line instrument. So many things can change in the course of a very short time. Plus, during a student's first couple years in band, a lot of "breakage" can take place. Many music stores have a guarantee that while you are renting from them, any repair you need is fully paid for and included in the rental price.
4. **You may also ask the music store for the option of "RENT TO OWN," which allows you to make monthly installments without any interest in order to purchase your instrument.**

Remind-Text Alerts

I use Remind to help students and parents know about important activities and events via text messages. All you need to do is text the below message to the number below. Once you have done that you will be set to receive the texts. I not only encourage my students to use Remind, but I also encourage you the parents to also. I will only use it for important events.

Each instrumental group has its own Remind code. Please see the website for instructions.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Mr. Pietsch. Welcome to the Tahquitz High School Instrumental Music Department!

Contacts

Jeremy Pietsch

Room 119

jpietsch@hemetUSD.org

951.765.6300 ext. 122

Fax: 951.765.6344

<http://TahquitzHighSchoolBand.weebly.com>

MUSIC DEPARTMENT CONTRACT/BAND PARENT INFORMATION SHEET

Please go to the following website and click on “Classes” and go to your child’s respective band class (Symphonic, Concert, Marching, Jazz I, Jazz II, Percussion Ensemble, or Beginning) and scroll to the bottom of the page to find the syllabus.

<http://TahquitzHighSchoolBand.weebly.com>
(You can also just Google “Tahquitz High School Band.”)

Your signature and your child’s signature below indicate that you:

1. Read and understand the guidelines, procedures, performance requirements, and grading system discussed in the syllabus and music handbook.
2. Allow your child to check out a Tahquitz High School band instrument (if needed) and agree to the instrument contract (separate page).

HUSD INSTRUMENT CONTRACT (see attached sheet)

****** If you need to borrow an instrument from the school, you agree to take care of the instrument and are financially responsible for damage (i.e. dents, cracks, breaks) or if it is lost or stolen (Regular wear and tear of the instrument does not pertain). Your child will receive the HUSD Instrument Contract which needs to be returned.

Band Student Contact Information

PLEASE PRINT NEATLY

Student Name _____

Parent or Guardian Name _____

Address _____

Parent Email _____

Phone: Home _____ Parent/Guardian Cell _____

Grade _____ Language Spoken at Home _____

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

Student Signature

Date

Please return the instrument checkout sheet and this sheet filled out to Mr. Pietsch by Friday, August 18th.