

# INDIAN CREEK HIGH SCHOOL BAND

## HANDBOOK

### 2008-09

**Instrumental Music:** Our goal for Instrumental Music is to learn and be confident on a band instrument while meeting State and County Instrumental Music Standards. Students will develop lasting friendships and build camaraderie in band class with other students and staff. There is no doubt that each one of you will work hard in band class. With hard work will come discipline, character, and self-gratification. This in-turn will lead to good habits and set the tempo for the rest of the school year.

#### **Attendance Policy:**

Attendance at summer, after school practices and performances **is mandatory**. June, July and Pre-Camp Practices, Band Camp, and August practices are an essential part of Marching Band. *A written explanation as to why the performance must be missed is to be submitted to the director **at least two weeks prior to the performance or rehearsal**.* Exceptions inside the two weeks notice will be addressed by the director on a case by case basis. **Director's approval must be received in order for the performance or rehearsal to be excused.** *Should an emergency arise during the two weeks prior to the performance, the director must be **notified by telephone**.* Again, **Director's approval must be received in order for the performance to be excused.** Poor attendance can result in the loss of third quarter privileges at football games and **will** affect the student's grade. Discipline is the foundation for the success of our band.

#### **It is mandatory to attend Band Camp to be in Instrumental Music!**

Listed below are examples of excused and unexcused absences.

#### **Excusable absences are:**

Sick: not present at school that day and excused in the office (*Work to be made up*)

Death in the Family

Family Engagement - *Wedding & Vacation only!! (one only!!!)*

Religious Holiday

## **Non-Excused Absences are:**

### **Work!!!**

Doctor/Dentist appointments that are not emergencies (Please schedule around band rehearsals and performances)

Driving Classes/Test

Birthday/Birthday Parties

Concerts or Sporting Events

Homework (better time management is needed)

Not Having a Ride (Carpooling is a great idea, work this out in advance of rehearsal or performance time)

\*Students participating in ICHS sports practices that conflict with band practices should split practice times. The Director works hard with the other coaches to arrange a workable schedule. **It is the student's responsibility to make that arrangement work!** Students are expected to provide a copy of their sports schedule to the band director.

After school practices are **mandatory** and are from 2:45 – 3:30 p.m. Monday thru Thursday. (**Friday if needed!!!**)

## **Grading Policy for Marching, Concert & Jazz Bands:**

The grading periods are broken down into trimesters. Students will receive three grades for taking Band in one year's time (Jazz Band two). The Grading System for the ICHS Instrumental Music will be determined as follows:

Rehearsals will be worth 3 points. Being prepared, being productive, following rehearsal procedures and passing music in marching season. (Students that **do not** pass music by memory may be benched for that upcoming football game, grade deduction, and loss of third quarter privileges.

Performances will be worth 10 - 50 points.

1. Performances will be assessed by the Director's for a grade.
2. The assessment will include the ability to play one's instrument demonstrating technical and stylistic accuracy with musical expressiveness with appropriate responses to a leader's cues and gestures. In marching season, a student will also be graded on marching drill accuracy.
3. If a student misses a performance the student's make up work will include a seven page paper APA or MLA style assigned by the director. The student will have three days to complete the paper and turn it in or receive a zero for the assignment.

4. Tests and Performances will be worth 10-50 points and Quizzes will be 5-15 points. (Concert Season)

(Graded or Pass/Fail)

ICHS Grading Scale

100% - 95% = A	76% - 73% = C
94% - 90% = A-	72% - 70% = C-
89% - 87% = B+	69% - 66% = D+
86% - 83% = B	65% - 60% = D-
82% - 80% = B-	59% - 0% = F
79% - 77% = C+	

**Classroom Guidelines:**

1. Students are expected to report to class on time
2. If they are late for any reason, they must have an accompanying note or pass to be excused for the late arrival.
3. Students should report to class, ready to learn, with a working instrument, music, and a pencil
4. Students must have a 3-ring binder with plastic sleeves for their music
5. No gum, food, or drinks will be allowed during band except for bottled water.
6. PDA will not be tolerated during class, on trips, on the bus, in the bleachers, or anywhere else during a band function.
7. Expect just as much RESPECT as you give.
8. Do not play instrument or talk when the director(s) is giving instructions or working with small groups or individuals.
9. Tennis shoes are required for practices that include marching. Flip-flops or sandals are not permitted due to the potential danger they pose.
10. Raise your hand for questions or comments.

## Weighted Band:

# Weighted Band Class Contract

Band class will have the option of being weighted during second and third trimesters of junior and senior years.

**Criteria:** In order for students to receive the weighted class during junior and senior years (second and third trimesters), the following criteria must be met:

1. Students must take band for four years.
2. Students must perform a solo at Solo and Ensemble Contest during junior and senior years. During junior year, students must play at least Grade Class B music. During senior year, students must play at least Grade Class A music. At solo and ensemble contest, students must receive a superior or excellent rating.
3. Students must attend an individually pre-approved professional or collegiate musical performance (i.e., Wheeling or Pittsburgh Symphonies, West Liberty Wind Ensemble, etc.) during second trimesters of junior and senior years. Students must submit a three (3) page paper, APA Style, critiquing each attended performance.

The paper must include the following:

- A. Description of the performance (When, Where, and the Repertoire that was performed).
  - B. Describe the musical value of this performance.
  - C. What did you gain from the performance as a musician?
  - D. How would you use what you have learned from this performance in the future?
  - E. What is your evaluation of the performance?
4. Students must compose a musical composition with simple melody and chordal harmony, in score order following proper music theory and integrating computer software (i.e., Finale or Music Time). A rough draft must be submitted by completion of the third trimester of junior year. The final musical composition must be submitted by the first day of May during third trimester of senior year.
  5. Failure to comply will result in the loss of weighted credit that trimester.

**Weighted Band Contract Signature Page**

This contract must be submitted, signed by students and parents, agreeing to the terms of weighted band class, turned in by the end of the first week of the second trimester junior and or senior year.

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

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

### **Squad Leaders:**

Our band marches in squads of four members during marching season. One student will be chosen by the directors to lead this group. Student's that show good leadership skills will be selected for this honor. **Student's attending Solo & Ensemble Contest will receive preference in the selection process.**

### **Solo & Ensemble Contest:**

Students will have the opportunity to attend Solo & Ensemble Contest at the end of January or early February to perform a prepared piece of music either by their self or in a small group and be rated by a judge. (This is mandatory for students trying out for Field Commander or Majorette.)

### **Summer Uniform:**

1. Gray T-shirt, red **band** athletic shorts, white ankle socks, and white tennis shoes. (or Dinkles)
2. Shirts are **not** to be tucked in, sleeves unrolled, undergarments or anything else worn underneath should **NOT** be visible!
3. Long hair is to be braided (Girls) or pony tailed (Boys) when specified.
4. One "Stud" ear ring will be permitted per ear. (**Students with more will be asked to take others out!!!**)
5. All uniform parts **must be neat and clean.**

### **Marching Uniform:**

1. Clothing worn underneath should not show when in full uniform.
2. **White socks** and **clean White Dinkles** are mandatory.
3. Summer Uniform should be worn underneath the uniform in order to be allowed to take the jackets off in public.

4. Long hair is to be braided (Girls) or pony tailed (Boys) when specified.
5. White gloves (**Clean!!!**) are required, except for percussion (cymbal's optional), & are part of the uniform.
6. Jacket and slacks must be neatly hung on hangers when turned in and placed in garment bags in proper order.
7. Raincoats, uniforms, & hats should be hung up and allowed to dry before being placed in garment bag.

### **Concert & Jazz Ensemble Uniform:**

#### **Ladies**

*Plain* Black Pants (No Skirts)

White Button down Blouse, Long Sleeves, (Little to no frills)

Black Dress Shoes (Heels no larger than 2 inches)

#### **Men**

Black Pants

Black Dress Belt

White Button down Shirt, Long Sleeve

Black Tie (Long)

Black Dress Shoes

Black Socks

### **Instrument Care**

It is extremely important to maintain your instrument and clean it properly throughout the season and school year. Minor repairs can sometimes be made by a director. Major repairs are the responsibility of the student, parent, or guardian.

**Brass** players should keep all moving parts properly greased and oiled.

The instrument should be bathed in warm soapy water and dried with a soft rag. Polishing cloths can be used to maintain the lacquer finish or a cotton or flannel cloth can be used. **Do not use** automotive polish or other harsh cleaners. Water keys, corks, springs, and pivot pins should be periodically checked and oiled.

**Woodwind** players should swab their instruments after each use. A polishing cloth or other soft cloth can be used to keep the exterior of the instrument clean. All corks should be periodically checked and greased to maintain their shape and

performance. Reed players must have **two good reeds** in their case at all times. Reeds should be purchased at times other than right before a performance. All screws, springs, and pivot pins should be checked, oiled, and tightened periodically for proper service.

**Percussion** players should maintain and keep their equipment clean. Heads, shells, lugs, rods, clamps, hoops, and cymbals, should be wiped-off with a soft cloth and a mild cleaner. Drum sticks will be the students' responsibility. Drum heads will be replaced as needed. If it is determined that the equipment has been abused or misused, charges will be assessed to the student.

**Anyone misusing or abusing a school instrument will be held responsible for its replacement or repair!**

The above maintenance or care kit items can be purchased at local music stores and occasionally through the band office.

### **Bus Trips**

1. All regular school bus rules apply.
2. Buses will be inspected by directors or chaperones and cleaned by students after the trips if needed **before students are released.**
- 3. Personal Displays of Affection will not be tolerated!**
4. Anyone not complying with these rules should expect standard school policy for discipline.

### **Alternative Transportation Request Form**

It is understood that the usual Indian Creek school policy regarding school sponsored student trips is that **students leaving school by bus must also return by bus. (It is against school policy for students to drive themselves to and from school events!!!)** It is understood that students requesting an "Alternative

Transportation Request Form" that unusual circumstances have arisen, and the student either needs to meet at the performance or leave from the performance as described on the form by means other than the above-mentioned school bus.

**Students should be leaving with parents or guardians and will not be released unless approved by the directors one rehearsal day prior to the performance.**

Forms are available in the band room.

## Field Commander Audition Requirements and Scoring Procedure

- I. All prospective Field Commander's must be in good standing with the Indian Creek High School Marching Band and have marched at least one year prior to auditions.
- II. All prospective Field Commander's must try out each year.
- III. Scoring Procedures
  - A. All prospective Field Commander will be evaluated and scored by non-partisan judge(s) who will be overseen by the Band Director. This score will include musical competence on their respective instrument, citizenship, and conducting routines in comparison with all other applicants.
  - B. The scoring will be as follows:
    - Part played:

1 <sup>st</sup>	10 pts
2 <sup>ND</sup> /3 <sup>RD</sup>	5 pts
    - Band Grade:

A	5 pts
B	4 pts
C	3 pts
D	2 pts
F	0 pts
    - Solo & Ensemble: (**Must Attend**)

Class A – I	10 pts
Class A – II	7 pts
Class A – III	5 pts
Class A – IV	3 pts
Class B - I	7 pts
Class B – II	5 pts
Class B – III	3 pts
Class B – IV	0 pts
Class C – I	5 pts
Class C – II	3 pts
Class C – III	1 pts
Class C – IV	0 pts

- Citizenship:
  - Leadership 5pts
  - Character 5pts
  - Attitude 5pts
  - Discipline 5pts
  - Attendance 5pts

- C. Any deviation from the acceptable standards of behavior and citizenship of Indian Creek High School will lower the Director's scoring or possibly exclude that student entirely from auditioning.
- D. Every participant will be evaluated and scored by non-partisan judge(s) who will be overseen by the Band Director. The Band Director does not score in this area.
- E. The conducting, music and citizenship scores will be averaged for the final score. (Music and Citizenship will receive 25% each and conducting will receive 50% to equal 100%.)
- F. In the event of a tie, the student with the highest conducting score will be selected to be the Field Commander. In the event of a tie in conducting scores, the student with the highest music score will be selected. If the tie persists, both students will be re-judged in conducting.
- G. The results of the audition are **FINAL**.

### *Conducting Scoring*

The conducting judge(s) will score students in the following areas:

- a. Conducting Patterns
- b. Conducting a Prepared Song
- c. Voice Commands
- d. Marching
- e. Interview

### *General Information*

- I. Music & Citizenship scores will be tabulated prior to auditions.
- II. The conducting judge(s) will not have access to the Music & Citizenship scores.
- III. The Field Commander is required to be at all practices and performances. Emergencies will be handled on a case by case basis.
- IV. Field Commander Attire will be determined by the Band Director.
- V. Field Commander Audition Date: First Friday of May, at 3:30pm in the bandroom.

## Field Commander Signature Page

I have read and understand all requirements to audition for Field Commander at Indian Creek High School. I agree to abide by and to follow the rules and guidelines put forth in this Handbook.

Student's Name (Please Print): \_\_\_\_\_

Student's Signature/Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent's Name (Print Please): \_\_\_\_\_

Parent's Signature/Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## Majorette Audition Requirements and Scoring Procedure

- I. All prospective Majorettes must be in good standing with the Indian Creek High School Marching Band and have marched at least one year prior to auditions.
- II. All prospective Majorettes must try out each year.
- III. Scoring Procedures
- IV. All prospective Majorettes will be evaluated and scored by non-partisan judge(s) who will be overseen by the Band Director. This score will include musical competence on their respective instrument, citizenship, and twirling routines in comparison with all other applicants.
- V. The scoring will be as follows:

- Part played:
 

1 <sup>st</sup>	10 pts
2 <sup>ND</sup> /3 <sup>RD</sup>	5 pts
  
- Band Grade:
 

A	5 pts
B	4 pts
C	3 pts
D	2 pts
F	0 pts
  
- Solo & Ensemble: (**Must Attend**)
  - Class A – I 10 pts
  - Class A – II 7 pts
  - Class A – III 5 pts
  - Class A – IV 3 pts
  - Class B - I 7 pts
  - Class B – II 5 pts
  - Class B – III 3 pts
  - Class B – IV 0 pts
  - Class C – I 5 pts
  - Class C – II 3 pts
  - Class C – III 1 pts
  - Class C – IV 0 pts

- Citizenship:
  - Leadership 5pts
  - Character 5pts
  - Attitude 5pts
  - Discipline 5pts
  - Attendance 5pts
  
- a. Any deviation from the acceptable standards of behavior and citizenship of Indian Creek High School will lower the Director's scoring or possibly exclude that student entirely from auditioning.
- b. Every participant will be scored by an official N.B.T.A. or equivalent baton judge. The Band Director does not score in this area.
- c. The baton, music and citizenship scores will be averaged for the final score. (Music and Citizenship will receive 25% each and Baton will receive 50% to equal 100%.)
- d. In the event of a tie, the student with the highest baton score will be selected to be a majorette. In the event of a tie in baton scores, the student with the highest music score will be selected. If the tie persists, both students will be re-judged in baton.
- e. **The size of the majorette line will be determined by the Band Director.**
- f. The results of the audition are **FINAL**.

### *Baton Scoring*

- VI. The majorette judge will score students in the following areas:
  - a. Baton Routine (Duration - 2 minute maximum)
  - b. Strut
  - c. Basics (optional)
  - d. Impromptu (optional)
  
- VII. The baton scoring will be in the following captions:
  - a. Variety
  - b. Difficulty
  - c. Smoothness & Gracefulness
  - d. Baton Speed
  - e. Showmanship & Presentation
  - f. Drop Penalties
  
- VIII. The Head Majorette position will be awarded to the candidate with the highest audition score when there are three or more.

## *General Information*

- VI. Music & Citizenship scores will be tabulated prior to auditions.
- VII. The baton judge will not have access to the Music & Citizenship scores.
- VIII. All majorettes are required to be at all practices and performances. Emergencies will be handled on a case by case basis.
- IX. Majorette Attire will be determined by the Band Director and the Majorette Instructor.
- X. Typical Majorette Expenses: (These are Approximant Figures.)
  - Pep Rally Outfit: \$50
  - Cold Weather Outfit: \$50
  - Warm-ups: \$80
  - Sequence Outfit: \$150
  - Boots: \$30
  - Shoes \$25
  - Accessories \$40
  - **Approx. Total Expenses = \$425**

***This list is not all inclusive. Additional expenses may occur.***

- XI. The Majorettes will be responsible for participating in various fund raising activities that will help offset the expenses.
- XII. Majorette Audition Date: To Be Announced

## **Majorette Signature Page**

I have read and understand all requirements to audition for majorette at Indian Creek High School. I agree to abide by and to follow the rules and guidelines put forth in this Handbook.

Student's Name (Please Print): \_\_\_\_\_

Student's Signature/Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent's Name (Print Please): \_\_\_\_\_

Parent's Signature/Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## Percussion Auditions

1. Students Required Auditioning:
  - All incoming Freshman
  - Anyone trying to switch from your current position
  - Anyone transferring from another school

\*\*\*\* You are **NOT** required to audition **IF** you keep your current position in the drum line.\*\*\*\*
2. All students will have the opportunity to practice the audition material in a group setting. A schedule will be set up for after school rehearsals. People auditioning will be asked to play the required piece of music and four of eight rudiments assigned.
3. All students will audition on the instrument they wish to play for the marching season.
4. If your score does not warrant you switching to your desired instrument, you will assume your old position. If you are an incoming freshman you will be assigned a spot in the drum line by your score. **This position will not be negotiated; Directors have final say on your position.**
5. ***You must audition on the designated date!!!!*** We have a non-partisan judge/s, (someone who does not know you) coming in to judge. This keeps the judging as fair as possible. Due to time restraints and scheduling, if you are absent for your audition you will be either placed in an open position (probably cymbals) or must wait till next years audition.
6. These rules have been devised by directors and are in place to help develop the best drum line possible.

## Percussion Audition Signature Page

I understand and agree with all the rules set up by the directors for the audition process. In the case that I do not receive the position I want I will move back to my old position, except for incoming freshman. **This portion MUST be signed and returned prior to the Audition date to audition.**

Student \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## **Awards**

1. **Band Letter:** Students must complete all three trimesters of a band to be recognized at the banquet.
2. Band students will receive their "letter" after completing 6 trimesters of band in which two trimesters need to be "Marching Band".
3. Students who do not complete a full year of instrumental music will not be recognized at the end of the year band banquet. Exceptions are: Seniors who complete the first trimester and choose "senior release" of his/her Senior year and JVS students who are not able to schedule band second and third trimesters. All other students are expected to complete a full year of band.
4. Students who transfer into the band program will receive "credit" where credit is due from the school they formally attended.
5. Students that start band in the "middle of the year" will be recognized at the banquet and will receive a Certificate of Participation but will not receive awards until three trimesters of band are completed in which one of the trimesters is marching band.

**Scholarship: (Seniors Only)** The Indian Creek High School Band Booster Organization is offering a scholarship from funds achieved through band concerts this past school year. The Band Boosters would like to help a senior band member further their education. This will be a one time scholarship awarded to the most eligible person.

The following conditions apply:

1. Be an Indian Creek High School band senior.
2. Have a GPA of at least 2.5 or a minimum composite score of 17 on the ACT or a 690 on the SAT.
3. This scholarship will be payable to the student, however, verification of enrollment to the institution of choice will be necessary.
4. Each applicant will write a 500 word essay on why he/she should receive this scholarship, including your major in college, and band bio. (*Do Not*

*Include Your Name on This Essay! Each applicant will receive a number.)*

5. Music Majors **may** receive preference.
6. Essays are due by the last Friday in April.
7. The scholarship winner will be announced at the band banquet.

The Indian Creek High School Band Boosters reserve the right to change the criteria as deemed necessary, including, the rejection of any and all applications submitted.

The Indian Creek High School Band Boosters does not discriminate against race, color, sex, religion, or national origin.

**Band Banquet:** Held annually to recognize the accomplishments of band members in association with the ICHS Band Boosters INC.

**ICHS Band Boosters:**

Our boosters meet on the first Thursday of the month at 7:00 p.m. in the band room. Band members, parents, & other band supporters are always welcome.

**Fundraising:**

Our band program depends on the work of our Band Booster organization to raise the necessary funds to operate. It requires thousands of dollars per year to run the band. This money goes toward music, uniforms, instrument maintenance, equipment purchases, awards, scholarships, transportation, fees, and even individual expenses at times.

**\*Note: This handbook applies to all bands at *Indian Creek High School*.**

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## **Student / Parent Handbook Contract**

I have read and understand the Indian Creek High School Band Handbook. I will do my part in following these rules, policies, and procedures and will encourage others to do the same. I understand that I am responsible for paying all band fees in a timely manner and that my participation in fundraising is necessary. I further realize that not following these guidelines will result in certain consequences that are outlined in this booklet or in the student agenda.

Student: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_