

YCHS Bands Handbook
2019-2020



Ypsilanti Community High School
Ypsilanti, Michigan

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Welcome to the YCS Band Family!

The beginning of your band experience at the high school will start early on in the Summer prior to your first year of high school. Our first commitment of the school year is the 4th of July Parade, followed by Band Camp in the middle of August in order to prepare for the marching season in the Fall. The Concert groups will have several performances throughout the year, including concerts in October, December, March, and May. There will also be opportunities for a trip for the band in early Mid-April, which you will be given more information when it is made available. There are opportunities for fundraising throughout the year to help offset the cost of the trips and band camp.

For Students, you are now given the opportunity to create something incredible. Playing and performing in band class affords you the chance to **create life-long friendships, challenge yourself musically and intellectually, and experience collaboration and performance on a level seldom seen in other areas of school.** Being a contributing member of the band program is a challenging, but extremely rewarding experience.

For Parents/Guardians, **the success of the bands lies within the continued involvement of you.** Throughout the year, we ask that you please show your support for the program by attending football games, band concerts, parent/teacher conferences, fundraisers, and Y.C.B.A. meetings. Please make use and take note of the dates on the band calendar, but please also be aware that dates are subject to change. A great resource for remaining up to date on the band calendar is our website, <https://ychsbands.org> where you can stay up to date on the latest events and announcements from the bands.

Please encourage your student to practice. The performance level of the ensemble is greatly affected by each individual's commitment to working on his or her craft outside of the rehearsal space. Please participate in fundraisers and attend the events that are held throughout the year. Your presence at events and activities is extremely important for the morale of the ensembles and individuals. I would like to emphasize the idea that **no student should be disallowed from participation in the band program due to financial obligation.** If you find the financial obligations to be too great, please contact me or the Y.C.B.A. for us to find ways to make sure that this is not an issue.

I look forward to getting to know all of you and working together to create great music.

Scott Hawkins, Director of Bands

About the Ypsilanti Community Band Association

The Ypsilanti Community Band Association (YCBA) mission is to uphold and advance the tradition of instrumental music education and performance in the Ypsilanti Community Schools. The vision is to have a band program the students cannot wait to join, parents enthusiastically serve, donors are willing to support and the community claims as a point of civic pride.

The YCBA goals are as follows:

Participation: To recruit and retain students in the middle and high school band programs and build a volunteer corp that draws from parents, band alumni and the community.

Fundraising: To raise funds to support current aspirations and sustain them from year to year and to establish an endowment that will benefit the band program over the long term.

Recognition: To intensify the appreciation for the band program's value to the Ypsilanti Community School and shine a light on the band program's connection to Ypsilanti's past and future.

Performance: To create a long term plan for instrument and uniform upkeep/replacement and storage. Support the students who want to participate in band camp and other travel tours as planned.

To accomplish these goals the YCBA needs the participation of all active members of marching band, symphonic band, wind symphony and jazz band. We also need active participation from the family members of all band students. The YCBA meets every second Tuesday of the month at 7pm in the band room of the high school. Every family should plan on attending the meetings and providing their support in organizing and fundraising as needed. There are big jobs, small jobs and lots of jobs in between. As we know, many hands make light work and we are excited to meet the new families who join us every year.

Pursuant to the organization Bylaws, the YCBA is a 501 (c) (3) non-profit tax exempt parent booster organization, and like all such organizations we depend on the generosity of our members and supporters. We are a subordinate member of Parent Booster USA Inc. and use the tax exempt ID provided to us by our membership of that group. Contributions to the YCBA are tax deductible and will qualify for most employer charitable matching grant programs. If you are interested in making a contribution, or know someone who is please contact us.

Thanks for joining and we look forward to seeing you at the meetings!

Fundraising and Guild Accounts

Throughout the year, we offer several opportunities for raising funds for both you as an individual and the program as a whole. These fundraisers vary from selling cheesecake to mailing letters to businesses asking for donations.

The success of a band program is largely dependent on the involvement of the families of the students who participate. There are many ways for many people to help grow the program, financially and otherwise, and we ask for your help with many of these.

The easiest and simplest way to get involved with our fundraising efforts is to attend the Y.C.B.A. meetings. At these meetings, we discuss the current state of the program as well as the direction we want to head, and the means of getting there. Your voice is important. The more input we have from our community, the better idea we have as to how we can reach the greatest amount of people possible.

As stated earlier, many of the funds raised will be dependent on the success of the individual, which you are then allowed to put towards future opportunities. These include band camp, spring tours, and solo and ensemble.

Remind

I use the app “Remind” to contact parents and students during the school year. This helps keep students and parents updated and reminded about concerts, schoolwork, and other events during the year. To join, all you have to do is text “@ychsband” to the number “81010” and it will sign you up to receive messages from me AND you will be able to send me messages through the app/number.

Calendar

For the most up to date and more detailed calendar, please visit www.ychsbands.org/calendar

Important Dates

8/30	5:00 p.m.	MB	Football vs. Jackson (Community Night)
9/6	5:00 p.m.	MB	Football vs. Dexter (Hall of Fame Game)
9/10	7:00 p.m.		Y.C.B.A. Meeting
9/25	5:00 p.m.	MB	Marching Band Exhibition @ Chelsea HS
10/8	7:00 p.m.		Y.C.B.A. Meeting
10/11	5:00 p.m.	MB	Football vs. Lincoln (Homecoming Game)
10/24	7:00 p.m.	All	Band-O-Rama
10/25	5:00 p.m.	MB	Football vs. Pioneer (Senior Night)
11/12	7:00 p.m.		Y.C.B.A. Meeting
12/10	7:00 p.m.		Y.C.B.A. Meeting
12/19	7:00 p.m.	SB	Holiday Concert
1/14/20	7:00 p.m.		Y.C.B.A. Meeting
2/11	7:00 p.m.		Y.C.B.A. Meeting
3/10	7:00 p.m.		Y.C.B.A. Meeting
3/11-3/12	T.B.D.	SB	MMEA Clinic
3/19	7:00 p.m.	SB	Festival Concert
4/14	7:00 p.m.		Y.C.B.A. Meeting
4/23-26	T.B.D.	WE	Toronto Trip (Tentatively)
5/12	7:00 p.m.		Y.C.B.A. Meeting
5/14	7:00 p.m.	SB	Spring Concert
5/20	6:00 p.m.	MB	Parade Rehearsal
5/22	6:00 p.m.	MB	Parade Rehearsal
May T.B.D.	7:00 p.m.	All	Band Banquet
5/25	T.B.D.	MB	Memorial Day Parade
6/2	T.B.D.	SB	Graduation (tentative)
6/9	7:00 p.m.		Y.C.B.A. Meeting
6/12	½ Day		Last Day of School
7/1	6:30 p.m.	MB	Parade Rehearsal
7/3	6:30 p.m.	MB	Parade Rehearsal
7/4	T.B.D.	MB	Fourth of July Parade

MB=Marching Band

SB=Symphonic Band

WE=Wind Ensemble (The Tour Group)

Grading Procedure

Grades will be based on the following:

- Daily classroom participation (attitude and effort) - 40%
- Proficiency tests (written and playing) - 60%

Daily Classroom Participation

- Five points will be awarded per day, meaning a total of 25 points per week, and 225 for the marking period.
- Tardy arrival to class will result in a loss of one point per day.
- Unexcused absences will result in a zero for the participation portion of the day's grade.

Proficiency Tests

- All playing tests graded on a rubric. This will give the student a grade based on their performance of correct notes, rhythms, techniques, tempos, and expressions.
- Playing tests will be done in person or turned in digitally when in person is not possible.
- Playing tests will consist of selected portions of music for the class, as well as scales and other etudes/fundamentals.

Performance and Rehearsal Requirement

- **All performances are required!!** - All performance dates are in this handbook, as well as on the website (www.ychsbands.org/calendar)
- Unexcused absences from performances will result in the lowering of the semester grade by at least one full letter (ex. A- is now a B-) for each unexcused performance.

How to receive an A in Band

- Prompt, attentive and alert at all rehearsals and performances.
- Assumes musical responsibility in band; consistent practice in class on a daily basis to ensure excellent performance.
- Exercises good self-control, self-discipline, and conduct.
- Full completion of weekly playing assignments.

How to fail Band

- Demonstrate consistently poor attendance, preparation, and participation.
- Fail to demonstrate adequate learning and improvement.
- Disrespect Mr. Hawkins and/or the other members of the band class.

Picture Permission

As a Parent/Guardian of a member of the Ypsilanti Community High School Bands, I give my permission for my child to be photographed or videotaped and allow the YCHS Bands and YCBA to release said pictures for publicity purposes.

Calendar Agreement

I have read through the 2019-2020 Calendar and understand the obligations imposed upon me as a contributing member of the YCHS Band Program. If I am unable to attend any of the events in the calendar, as well as any event added with proper and timely notice, that I will let Mr. Hawkins know, at a minimum, two weeks prior to said event.

Uniform Agreement

Band Uniforms are school property and are classified in the same category as textbooks. These will only be used on the trip in April. Failure to return all assigned uniforms, for both marching and concert season, will result in the student's family being billed for the missing pieces by the Ypsilanti Community Schools. The pricing for these items are as follows:

<u>Men's Concert Pieces</u>		<u>Women's Concert Pieces</u>		<u>Marching Band Pieces</u>	
Coat	\$100	Dress	\$75	Coat	\$145
Pants	\$75			Pants	\$85
Cummerbund	\$12			Shako	\$50
Bow Tie	\$6			Plume	\$15
Tuxedo Shirt	\$25				
Garment Bag	\$12				

Shoes, socks, and gloves are to be supplied by the individual students. These items are not part of the uniform owned by the Ypsilanti Community Band Association, and can be purchased for use throughout the student's involvement in the band program.

Instrument Use Agreement

We agree that it is our responsibility to maintain the current condition of the instrument listed above, instrument case, and any mouthpieces, swabs, lyres, cork grease, valve oil, etc. that may come with it. We understand that if this instrument is in any way lost, stolen, or receives any damage caused by misuse, abuse, or neglect on behalf of the student or anyone who may come in contact with this instrument, that we will be held responsible for any fee the repair(s) and/or replacement may costs.

Please initial and sign the following, and return this page to
Mr. Hawkins the next school day.

_____ I have read and understand the picture permission form and agree to allow
(Initial) for release of my student's photograph for official band purposes

_____ I have read and understand the obligations imposed upon me as a member of
(Initial) the band program and agree to the dates listed on the calendar.

_____ I have read and understand the uniform agreement, and agree to return all
(Initial) parts of the uniform at the conclusion of the school year.

_____ I have read and understand the instrument use agreement form, and agree to
(Initial) return any school instrument in the condition in which it was issued to me.

I will be making parent communication as much as possible to ensure the commitment and
quality of our performing ensembles. Please fill out the area below:

Parent/Guardian Name: _____

I would like to be contacted....

Best time for contact....

_____ Every 2 weeks.

_____ Morning.

_____ Every Month.

_____ Afternoon.

_____ Each Quarter.

_____ Evening.

_____ Only when needed.

Phone: _____

Email: _____

I, _____, have read and understand the rules and guidelines of

(Print student's name)

this handbook, and agree to fulfill all agreements herein. Should I be responsible for damage to
any of the school owned property, I commit to paying, in full, any repair or replacement fee that
may be incurred.

Student Signature

Parent/Guardian Signature