Quakertown Community High School

Band Handbook

2016 - 2017

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QCHSBAND.WIKISPACES.COM

Band Students and Parents:

WELCOME to what will be one of the most exciting experiences in which you can be a part – THE QUAKERTOWN COMMUNITY HIGH SCHOOL BAND! Now, more than ever, we have information to justify why we do this demanding (yet extremely rewarding) activity. Experts have concluded that the study of music helps with spatial reasoning, test taking, and overall quality of life! Factor in social skills, emotional development, leadership training, group interaction, aesthetic perception, music making, and the discipline of being in a band program, and I don't know why anyone would not want to be involved in a successful band program like the one here at Quakertown! The ultimate goal is a lifelong understanding and appreciation for quality music and music making!

EVERYONE SHOULD READ THE INFORMATION IN THE HANDBOOK, including veterans of the program. Some of the information has changed, so make sure that you are informed. For new folks, this is your "go to" resource that keeps us running smoothly and efficiently throughout the entire year. Most questions can be answered by consulting THE HANDBOOK. Policies will be adjusted from year to year as the need arises to clarify issues within the program. It is our hope that the information contained in this handbook will be both INFORMATION and INSPIRATION; sections are written with both the student and the parent in mind. You will quickly find that band is truly a FAMILY in and of itself!

This handbook is designed to answer any questions you might have concerning the instrumental music program at Quakertown Community High School. Please read all of the information and sign the form located in the back of THE HANDBOOK.

This form should be turned in to Mr. Parker no later than Friday, September 9, 2016.

In addition to this handbook, your "go to" resource for all band related questions is our website, found at qchsband.wikispaces.com.

I look forward to working with you as we continue the rich musical tradition of the Quakertown Community School District!

Frank Parker
Director of Bands
Senior High School
Freshman Center

QUAKERTOWN COMMUNITY HIGH SCHOOL
BAND HANDBOOK
2016-2017

- STATEMENT OF POLICY-

In order to assist band members and parents in understanding areas of responsibility, a statement of band policy is herein set forth. Becoming familiar with this policy will enable each individual to make the most of this great opportunity to be a member of the QCSD High School Band program, becoming a better person and a better musician.

We firmly believe that the student should improve through regular practice. In the QCSD High School Band Program, we feel that when the student has lost the will to improve him/herself or make a better contribution to the band, he is wasting the time and efforts of his/her fellow members and the community by continuing in this program. The HAPPIEST student is the one who is improving through regular habits of practice and daily progress. He/she must not only know right from wrong, but must be able to stand for principles. He/she must develop a high sense of purpose toward which he/she is willing to work. RESPONSIBILITY is the focus behind any level of achievement within the program. We intend to conduct ourselves in a manner that will facilitate all students in learning and bettering themselves.

- STATEMENT OF PURPOSE -

The goal of the QCSD High School Instrumental Music Department is to provide the instrumental music student with the opportunity to participate in an outstanding high school band. With the help and support of the school administration, we endeavor:

- To teach music by its actual performance
- To help each student to play to the best of his/her ability
- To provide for the musical needs of the school and the community
- To teach each student to read music fluently
- To assist each student in becoming a strong instrumental musician
- To expose each student to GREAT music, chosen from a wide variety of styles and time periods
- To allow each student the opportunity to become familiar with the music of our greatest composers and arrangers
- To provide each student with opportunities to perform for a public audience
- To foster leadership skills within each student
- To develop student music ensembles of the highest quality within a public school setting

- CO-CURRICULAR STATUS -

In order to allow these goals to be attained, the courses in instrumental music have been given a ‘co-curricular’ status. It is important for music students and their parents to understand that not all of the required activities for instrumental music occur during the school day. Evening rehearsals, summer band camp, football games, parades, and concerts are also required parts of these courses. Students will be assessed on their participation and performance in all of these events. In addition, many extra-curricular activities are offered to instrumental music students. These activities are outlined in the section, “Extra-Curricular Activities.”

- QCHS BAND CURRICULUM IN BRIEF -

It is our goal to offer the students of Quakertown Community High School a comprehensive instrumental music program with a wide variety of opportunities – music-related travel, attending professional performances, and performing in outstanding instrumental music ensembles. The following is a brief description of the instrumental opportunities at QCHS.

Symphonic Band

The Symphonic Band is comprised of students in grades 10-12 and meets during first period, year-round. The Symphonic Band focuses on developing advanced levels of musicianship and performs Grade 4-6 (out of 6) level literature. In addition to performing at all Quakertown High School Band Concerts, the Symphonic Band also enjoys performance opportunities at band festivals and adjudications around the area, giving students the opportunity to perform for varied audiences.

Freshman Concert Band

The Freshman Concert Band is comprised entirely of students in grade 9 and meets year-round during period six. The Concert Band focuses on the introduction of advanced musicianship concepts and performs Grade 3-5 (out of 6) level literature. In addition to performing at all Quakertown Community High School Band Concerts, the Freshman Concert Band also enjoys performance opportunities at band festivals and adjudications around the area.

Marching Band

The "**Panther" Band** is the state of the art marching band that participates in **USBands, TOB, Cavalcade of Bands, and BOA** marching band competitions each fall. The "**Panther" Band** rehearses extensively throughout the summer and fall months. Membership in the "**Panther" Band** is optional and is determined by audition and director recommendation. The color guard is open to any student. The marching band season begins in early August and runs through the Thanksgiving holiday. **"Panther" Band** students receive an additional .25 academic credit.

Students who are not able to participate in the **"Panther" Band** will fulfill their commitment to school and community by performing in the stands with the **"Football" Band at a minimum of 2 home football games**. The **"Football" Band** performs in the stands at all home football games with the **"Panther" Band**. The time commitment is minimal. **All band students will perform at the Fall Band Night game on 10/14/16** as one of their two games and will **attend rehearsal for Fall Band Night on October 11, from 6:00 PM – 8:30 PM** at QCHS to meet their obligation. **"Football Band" students** will choose one more game from the following dates: 9/9, 9/23, 9/30, 10/28, 11/24. Students will be given copies of "stand tunes", but must provide their own instrument lyre to hold the music. Students can use the lyre that they purchased for fall band night as middle school band members. All Students are required to participate in the Quakertown Memorial Day Parade on May 29, 2017. The Quakertown School District and community support our music students. It is our responsibility to be involved in school and community events.

- EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES-

Wind Symphony

The QCHS Wind Symphony will feature outstanding band students in grades 9-12, selected by audition. The Wind Symphony will rehearse and perform challenging wind band literature. The Wind Symphony will travel to events such as the PMEA Concert Band Adjudication at CB East High School, the West Chester University Concert Band Symposium, and the USBands Concert Series at the Kimmel Center in Philadelphia, PA. A schedule of after-school rehearsals will be available in late September.

Jazz Ensemble and Jazz Lab

The jazz bands of QCHS have enjoyed a strong tradition of success. In addition to performances at the 'home' jazz festival and the QMPO spaghetti dinner, the jazz bands also compete in several other high school and collegiate festivals in the region. The Jazz Ensemble has performed at the PA Music Educators Association All-State Conference, the Music Educator's National Conference, and the National Association for Music Education Eastern Division Conference six times.

Participation is open to any band member. Placement in either Jazz Band is based on a recorded audition evaluated by members of the QCSD Instrumental Music Faculty.

- Jazz season runs from October through early May.
- An emphasis is placed on style and historical context
- Improvisation is a key element

Indoor Drum Line
The Indoor Drum line is a performing organization comprised of the members of the band's percussion section. Under the direction of Mr. Davies and Mr. Boucher, the percussion ensemble performs at various competitive and community events.

- Open to percussionists in the band
- Season runs December through May
- Extensive evening and Saturday rehearsal schedule
- Additional rehearsal and performance schedule will be published

Color Guard
The **Color Guard** is the unit responsible for the visual interpretation of music played by the marching band. Under the direction of Mrs. Santanello, the Color Guard will practice during each marching band rehearsal.

- Open by audition to any HS student
- Auditions held in the Spring of each year
- Rehearses with the marching band
- Additional rehearsal and performance schedule will be published
- Indoor season runs from November through early May

PMEA Band and Orchestra Festivals
The Pennsylvania Music Educators Association sponsors several instrumental music festivals during the school year. To be chosen for one of these ensembles is truly an honor. The groups are 'all-star' ensembles made up of 120 of the best instrumentalists from dozens of area high schools. These festivals offer the advanced music student the opportunity to perform music of high quality with advanced music students from other schools under the direction of an outstanding guest conductor.

Selected students must learn their music in advance, largely on their own. The festivals are held in the winter and early spring and are generally three-day events (Thursday-Saturday). Students miss two days of school in order to participate. A public performance is given on Saturday afternoon. Students stay in hotels. Transportation to the festival (but not from), all meals, and expenses are provided by QCHS and the host school.

- Open by audition to any band member in grades 10-12
- Auditions are scheduled for **December 10th, 2016** at **Upper Dublin High School**
- Selected students must be highly motivated and disciplined

District 11 Band/Orchestra –
Comprised of the best students from Bucks and Montgomery Counties (ca. 45 schools), students selected for District Level ensemble will be re-auditioned on their music as soon as they arrive at the festival. The results of that audition will be used to determine if the student will be invited to participate in Region VI Band/Orchestra. *Quakertown High School will host PMEA District Eleven Band, February 8 – 10, 2017. We will need many volunteers to help the festival run smoothly.

Region VI Band/Orchestra
Comprised of the best students from Bucks, Montgomery, Chester, and Delaware Counties (ca. 85 schools), students selected for this group will be re-auditioned on their music as soon as they arrive at the festival. The results of that audition will be used to determine if the student will be invited to participate in the PMEA All-State Concert.

PMEA All-State Band/Orchestra
Comprised of the best students from the state of Pennsylvania, students selected for this group will be re-auditioned on their must as soon as they arrive at the festival. The results of that audition will be used to determine if the student will be invited to participate in the MENC All-Eastern Festival. This concert is held the following year and only every other year so seniors and juniors may not be eligible for participation.

- A complete schedule of PMEA festivals can be found at www.pmead11.net.

- AFTER SCHOOL REHEARSALS AND PERFORMANCES - 2016-2017 SCHEDULE

Students are required to attend all after school rehearsals and performances. These requirements are outlined in the *Fall Performance and Rehearsal Schedule* (distributed independently of this document) as well as the following schedule.

Marching Band

During the months of September-November, the QCHS "**Panther"** Marching Band will rehearse on Tuesday and Thursday evenings from 6:00 – 8:45 PM. Students will be ready for pickup after storing all equipment upon dismissal. Performances will include football games, competitions, and parades. A detailed schedule is available at qchsband.wikispaces.com. All marching band practices and performances are required for all "**Panther"** Band members. In general, the report time on game days is 4:30 PM for home games and 4:00 PM for away games." **Football Band"** students report to QCHS at 6:00 PM for home games. Check the board in the band room for specific report times each week. Also, use qchsband.wikispaces.com as a reference.

Symphonic Band (Grades 10-12) **and Freshman Concert Band** (Grade 9)

The following is a list of the **REQUIRED** after school rehearsals and performances for the QCHS Symphonic and Concert Bands for the 2016-2017 school year. Please mark your calendars and make arrangements to be available for these events now. All events occur in the QCHS Performing Arts Center unless otherwise indicated. Students will be notified of any additional rehearsals/performances well in advance of the event.

QCHS Winter Concert

December 5th – Dress rehearsal, 6:00 – 8:00 PM (Freshman Concert Band only)

December 6th – CONCERT

Report Times: Freshman Band at 6:00 PM on the QCHS stage
Symphonic Band at 6:30 PM in the QCHS Band Room

ALL STUDENTS ARE TO REPORT IN CONCERT ATTIRE!

- The concert will run from 7:30 – 9:00 PM.

QCHS Spring Concert I

March 6th - Dress Rehearsal, 5:30 – 7:00 PM (Concert Band)
7:00 – 9:00 PM (Symphonic Band)

March 7th – CONCERT

Report Times: Freshman Band at 6:00 PM on the QCHS stage
Symphonic Band at 6:30 PM in the QCHS Band Room

ALL STUDENTS ARE TO REPORT IN CONCERT ATTIRE!

- The concert will run from 7:30 – 9:00 PM

QCHS Spring Concert II

April 24th – Dress Rehearsal, 5:30 – 7:30 PM (Concert Band)
7:00 – 9:00 PM (Symphonic Band)

April 25th - CONCERT

Report Times: Freshman Band at 6:00 PM on the QCHS stage
Symphonic Band at 6:30 PM in the QCHS Band Room

ALL STUDENTS ARE TO REPORT IN CONCERT ATTIRE!

- The concert will run from 7:30 – 9:00 PM

Quakertown Memorial Day Parade

Monday, May 29th, 2017

Band members arrive at QCHS 8:00 AM, RAIN OR SHINE! The parade begins at 9:00 AM. We will return to QHS at approximately 11:30 AM.

Senior High Commencement

June, 2016 (*date to be determined)*

- RULES, PROCEDURES, and GUIDELINES -

SECTIONAL GUIDELINES

Here is a brief explanation of how our sectional program works:

Sectional Requirement

All band members are required to participate in small group sectional rehearsals. The small group sectional allows time for individual attention and evaluation of the student's progress. Much of the student's grade is based on musical achievement and performance proficiency as measured during sectionals. A student will be required to attend no more than 5 sectionals per marking period, but are encouraged to attend all 7, if possible.

Rotating Schedule

- Find the letter of your sectional group on the group list
- Find your group's letter on the rotating schedule
- Report to sectionals on the date and time indicated on the schedule

Sectional Procedures

Before class begins on the day of your sectional, remind your teacher that you have a sectional that day and that you will need to be excused at the time indicated on the schedule. Be polite ☺

- You are responsible to hand in your homework before you leave
- You are responsible to get the assignments for the next class and to get the notes and handouts that you may miss
- If your classroom teacher is giving a test or there is some other exceptional reason that your teacher chooses to keep you from attending your scheduled sectional, talk to your director and get permission to reschedule. In this case, your teacher MUST sign your agenda book in order to be eligible for a make-up.
- No student will be permitted to leave a class when that student does not maintain a minimum of a "C" average in that class. Work hard! Strive for excellence!

Make Up Sectionals

If you miss a sectional for any reason, you must make it up before the next scheduled sectional in order to receive credit. See your director as soon as possible to schedule a make-up.

There are several sectional make up options:

For Freshman Band AND Symphonic Band:

- Come in the same period as your scheduled sectional, but on a different day. Often, we'll be able to schedule you with another same or like-instrument group
- Come during a different period with a similar instrument group (with your teacher's permission)
- Come during a scheduled "Make up Sectional." An appointment must be made ahead of time with the director.
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*** You must schedule a make-up in advance – no walk-ins!**

*You must be on time. This may require some additional effort on your part.

***** You must make up any sectional BEFORE the next rotation. Waiting until the end of the marking period to 'stock pile' lessons will not be allowed.

Band/Choir Crossover Students

If you are a crossover student, you will alternate between band sectional and choir sectional each rotation. Check the top of the rotating schedule to see which rotation it is. Go to band during the 'band rotation' and choir during the 'choir rotation.'

Communicate

The most important thing to remember is that things will go much more smoothly if you plan ahead and communicate in advance with your director and teachers. Almost any conflict can be worked out if you talk to your director before a conflict occurs.

STATEMENT OF UNDERSTANDING

I have received a copy of the Quakertown High School Band Handbook. I have reviewed its contents and have given special attention to the sections marked *After School Rehearsal and Performances, Grading and Assessment, Sectionals, and Attendance Policy.* I acknowledge that the information presented herein is vital to my child's success in the Quakertown Community High School Band program and will ensure that I keep this handbook as a reference should questions arise. I understand my responsibilities in this course and how my performance will be assessed.

Student's Name (print)_____

Student's Signature _____

Student E-mail _____

Parent's Signature _____

Parent E-mail _____

Date _____

Students are ineligible for participation in any performance until this form is turned in. Missed performances due to delinquency in returning this form completed in its entirety will be considered unexcused absences.

Please fill in all required information!

Please return by 9/9/16