



Holy Family Catholic School

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Band Handbook

**Band Director – Kathy Bernal
2019 - 2020**

Holy Family Catholic School is committed to providing a Catholic education that teaches the way of Jesus Christ. With the helping hands of the school learning community, each child is encouraged to grow in spirit, mind, and body. Through a Christ-centered environment, Holy Family strives to enrich the students with love and knowledge by living the Catholic faith.

Introduction

The purpose of this handbook is to acquaint and inform all students and their parents with the band program available to the students of Holy Family Catholic School. With an emphasis on fundamental teaching and a demand for excellence, the Band Department of Holy Family Catholic have established themselves as one of superior quality. In an effort to maintain these high standards and to continue the tradition of outstanding accomplishment, all band members and their parents are requested to read this handbook thoroughly, complete the attached consent forms and obtain parent signatures. After reading this handbook, put it with your other records so that it will be available as a ready reference if a question should arise. If you are not able to find an answer to your question, consult your director.

Philosophy

In keeping with the philosophy of Holy Family Catholic, all students who have the desire are given the opportunity to participate in the Band Program to learn, and to progress musically as far as his/her abilities and desires permit. If he/she accepts the challenge, has the self-discipline required, and feels his/her responsibility towards the band, he/she undoubtedly will succeed.

Objectives

To develop the technical skills necessary to play a musical instrument satisfactorily in an instrumental group based on the knowledge needed to attain success at the Intermediate, Middle and High School levels.
To cultivate and develop cultural and aesthetic values in order to possess an understanding of beauty, expression, and the ability to appreciate the finer things in life through actual participation in a performing organization.
To develop leadership qualities, responsibility, and citizenship in students through their dedication to a cause and service to both school and community.

Aims and Functions of the Band

1. *ATTITUDE*: The greatest single factor determining the success of an individual or organization is attitude. A positive attitude toward you, each other, and the band as a unit will make the difference between a fine musical organization and a mediocre group. A positive attitude means self-control and acknowledgment of the discipline it takes to be a fine performer. It takes intense dedication to reach goals. Discipline yourself to daily practice on materials designed to improve your basic skills. Those that make the decision to better themselves through music will be glad they did. Make the most of every rehearsal and performance.

2. *DISCIPLINE*: Because of the nature of the organization, discipline must be a necessity. Band students and parents must be willing to accept the ideals, principles, and rules of the organization. Instrumental music students are constantly on display. Each must always be aware of the importance of good behavior. Students should always remember that they represent their organization, school, parents, and community when they are in the public eye. Any misconduct casts a direct reflection on our school and community and may well undo the good work of hundreds of loyal students. Discipline is order. There is order in all things physical, material, spiritual, and intellectual. With orderliness comes attainment of things worthwhile.

The Student Responsibility to the Band

1. Be regular in class attendance.
2. Never miss a performance.
3. Make sure that you have your instrument and music with you at every lesson and rehearsal
4. Make a real effort to learn and improve every day.
5. Be responsible for and expect to assume the consequences of your actions.
6. Be personally clean, neat, and properly dressed.
7. Show respect to those in authority.
8. Follow all classroom rules, school regulations and all travel instructions issued for trips.

9. Be honest and fair with others concerning equipment, music and school life in general.
10. Label the instrument case with name, address and phone number.
11. Bring a pencil with an eraser to class every day.
12. If a student is unable to play for medical reason (ie: orthodontic work) please send a note of explanation to the director. If the student is at school, he/she should plan to sit with the instrument and at least finger through the music. Observation is a major portion of the learning process.
13. Chewing gum and candy damage instruments. No food, drinks or gun allowed in band rehearsal room.

Instrument Needs for the Beginning Band Student

To ensure a successful band experience for your child, a reliable instrument, in good working condition is a must. The instrument should meet certain minimum standards for musical performance and mechanical reliability. **Music and Arts** are always available for any of your instrument needs. All you have to do is give them a call and they will take care of everything.

Please be aware that there are many beginning band instruments of unacceptable quality in the marketplace today. These instruments do not meet our performance, mechanical, and maintenance reliability standards.

Our recommendation is that you secure an instrument from a qualified school music dealer. We hold these vendors accountable for quality instruments that will serve our students well. Many have a rent to own program that will make the instrument affordable. School music dealers will also have an onsite repair facility to ensure a quick and quality repair job. For your convenience, we have listed some brand names with which we are familiar and had a successful experience:

Artley	Armstrong
Bach	Buffet
Bundy	Cannonball
Conn	Gemeinhardt
Jupiter	King
LeBlanc	Ludwig
Pearl	Selmer
Yamaha	

If you have any questions about an instrument, please check with Ms. Bernal prior to purchase.

Instrumental Classes

Holy Family Catholic School offers Instrumental Music classes as a part of the regular classroom instruction.

These classes are designed to be a small group setting. Band meets every Monday and Wednesday.

- 4th Band Monday & Wednesday 9:00am – 9:30am
- 5th / 6th Band Monday 10:30am – 11:15am
- 7th / 8th Band Monday 9:45am – 10:30am
- 5th / 6th / 7th / 8th Band Wednesday 9:45am – 11:15am

There will be an emphasis on fundamental instrumental training, at home practice routines, and performance skills. Essential Element Book 1 will be the required text for this course. Evaluations will be based on at home practice, playing tests, performance requirements, and participation.

Students must have their instrument on the day of their rehearsals. It is the responsibility of the student to fulfill this obligation.

Instrument Maintenance

Instruments, like cars, need regular maintenance. Keys and valves should be oiled regularly, along with tuning slides. Reeds also need special attention for proper care.

To keep your instrument the best it can be, you will need to keep your instrument properly maintained. Please refer to the front of your method book for proper maintenance requirements.

Participation

All students are expected to participate in classroom activities at every rehearsal. They are expected to participate in the concerts that are scheduled. Performance is the assessment tool for a fine arts classroom. Every band will present a Holiday Concert and Spring Concert.

Grading

Each student's grade in band will be based on the following: Class Participation 70%, Home Practice 15%, Performances 15%

1. Daily participation
2. Being prepared for class each day (Instrument, Music, Book, Pencil)
3. Playing tests
4. Worksheets
5. Home practice – Practice records are due every week
6. Participation in Concerts and Contest

How can a Student Practice Effectively?

1. Find a quiet place, away from television, radio, etc. that interruptions will be kept to a minimum.
2. Have a straight back chair, music stand and proper lighting in this practice area.
3. Work to schedule a daily practice routine of approximately 10-20 minutes.
4. Look up fingerings you do not know in your band book.
5. Circle your problem measures and name and finger the notes slowly over and over without playing. (air playing)
This process will help you establish the fingering patterns of a piece of music.
6. Using a metronome, play the problem measure slowly, gradually increasing the tempo.
7. If counting problems persist, take time to figure the counting system syllables and count/clap the rhythms.
If you cannot count a rhythm, you cannot play it with accuracy.
8. Record your practice. The recording will tell you the truth about how you are doing. It will help you assess what you still need to improve. The Measures of Success book comes with a DVD/CD that will enhance the practice sessions.
9. Remember: How you practice is much more important than how much you practice.
“Practice makes perfect, provided the practice is perfect.”

Private Lessons

Every band member would benefit greatly by taking private lessons. Private lessons will advance the individual's playing ability, both technically and tonally and enhances the learning process. It is an investment that will have long-lasting benefits. Free private lessons are provided Monday – Wednesday from 7:00am – 7:50am.

First come – first serve. Students may sign up the first week of school.

Communication

There is nothing more important in a child's study of music than the parents' sincere interest. Parents can help by attending concerts, encouraging home performances, monitoring home practice sessions, and helping student understand that the more he or she practices, the more success and enjoyment will be experienced.

Communication is vital in creating a successful student, school and Band atmosphere. The Holy Family Catholic School Band has a link on the school website in which information can be shared to everyone on upcoming events and progress within the program. If there is any need, please feel free to contact the director: Kathy Bernal – kbernal@hfsfw.org

Closing

This handbook is to serve as a guide to our Band Program. It is offered as a communication tool to help students understand their responsibilities, privileges, and expectations in Band at Holy Family Catholic School. We want this to be a fun-filled, educational, and rewarding experience for each young musician. We hope that each child will make memories and build relationships that will last a lifetime.

Band Information

Band Schedule

4 th Band	Monday & Wednesday	9:00am – 9:30am
5 th / 6 th Band	Monday	10:30am – 11:15am
7 th / 8 th Band	Monday	9:45am – 10:30am
5 th / 6 th / 7 th / 8 th Band	Wednesday	9:45am – 11:15am

Practice Records

Practice Records are due every Monday. Each record is worth 5 points. If you forget to turn one in, you have one week to submit it. Don't forget to get your parents signature.

2019-2020 Band Performances

Nolan MS Night	September 12 th
HFCS Fall Festival	October 6 th
Veteran's Day Program	November 11 th
Christmas Program	December 5 th or 12 th
TPSMEA MS Region Honor Band Recording Due	January 30 th
HFCS Open House	To Be Announced
TPSMEA Solo Contest	February 29 th
HFCS Solo Contest	March 5 th
TPSMEA Band Contest	April 3 rd
Spring Concert	May 7 th or 14 th

Parent/Guardian Opportunities

Please contact me if you are interested in helping with the following:

- Field Trip Chaperone (must be on the Approved Volunteer List)
- Field Trip Equipment Vehicle (for hauling large band equipment)
- Help with stage and performance set up
- Help with program for Christmas and Spring Concert

Band Supplies

Bring these items to Band everyday:

- Instrument
- Pencil
- Essential Elements Book 1
- 1" Black 3 ring binder with 8 dividers

Band Supplies

Flute Yamaha, Pearl, Gemeinhardt, Jupiter

- Essential Element 2000 Book 1 (for Flute)
- 1" Black 3 Ring Binder with 8 Dividers
- Lint Free cotton cloth (approx. 6"X6")
(a piece of an old t-shirt works great)
- Polishing Cloth
- Pencil

Clarinet Buffet, Jupiter, Yamaha, LeBlanc

- Essential Element 2000 Book 1 (for Clarinet)
- 1" Black 3 Ring Binder with 8 Dividers
- 10 size 3 reeds (Rico, Vandoren)
- Cleaning Swab
- Cork Grease
- Pencil

Alto Saxophone Yamaha, Selmer, Jupiter

- Essential Element 2000 Book 1 (for Alto Sax)
- 1" Black 3 Ring Binder with 8 Dividers
- 10 size 3 reeds (Rico, Vandoren)
- Cleaning Swab
- Cork Grease
- Pencil

Trumpet Bach, Yamaha, Jupiter, Getzen

- Essential Element 2000 Book 1 (for Trumpet)
- 1" Black 3 Ring Binder with 8 Dividers
- Instrument Brush
- Mouthpiece Brush
- Valve Oil
- Tuning Slide Grease
- Pencil

Trombone Bach, Yamaha, Jupiter, Conn

- Essential Element 2000 Book 1 (for Trombone)
- 1" Black 3 Ring Binder with 8 Dividers
- Slide Cream
- Spray Bottle (must fit inside case)
- Instrument Brush
- Mouthpiece Brush
- Tuning Slide Grease
- Pencil

Percussion Pearl, Yamaha, Ludwig

- Bell Kit (which includes a practice pad and sticks)
- Essential Element 2000 Book 1 (for Drums & Mallet Percussion)
- 1" Black 3 Ring Binder with 8 Dividers
- Pencil

I highly recommend purchasing a music stand to use for home practice. Without a music stand it will be very difficult for students to read their music books and play correctly.

(Please Keep for your Records)

Band Agreement Form

Like any new skill, learning to play a musical instrument takes time and patience. If a student is to be success, he or she must commit to practice and stick with the program. There is no immediate success in playing an instrument. It takes time. We ask that each student signing up for Band make a commitment. Students will encounter difficult times throughout their progress. During those times we want our young musicians to rise to the occasion rather than take an easy out and not continue. The Band Department has developed this Agreement to make sure that everyone involved understands the expectations of the program.

1. The student agrees to work to improve each and every day.
2. The student will come to class prepared with their instrument, book, and supplies.
3. Students will treat their instruments with great care and be responsible for its condition.
4. The student will practice on a regular basis at home.
5. The student will turn in practice records on a regular basis.

student signature

parent signature

date

(Sign and Return to Ms. Bernal)

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1. The student is making a commitment to remain a member of the band for the duration of the school year.
2. The student agrees to work to improve each and every day.
3. The student will come to class prepared with their instrument, book, and supplies each and every day you have band.
4. Students will treat their instruments with great care and be responsible for its condition.
5. The student will practice on a regular basis at home.
6. The student will turn in practice records on a regular basis.

student signature

parent signature

date

