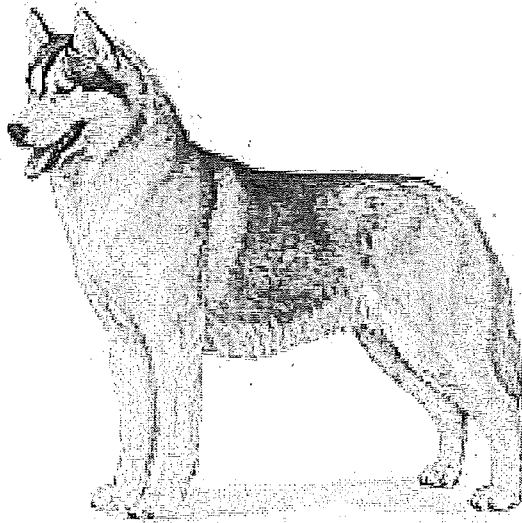
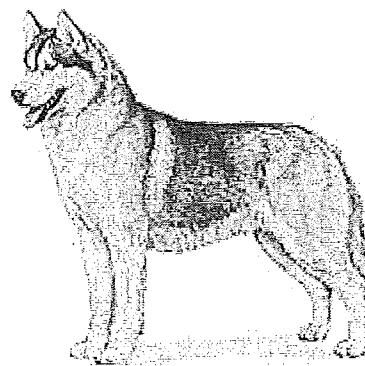


Highland School District # 305
Music Department Student Handbook '15-'16



Director: Mr. C.F. Cowan, M. Mus.

Highland School Music Department
Mr. C.F. Cowan, Director of Music



Dear Students and Parents,

I would like to welcome you for another year in the music department and look forward to working with you to make this a productive school year. I would ask you to go through the handbook, sign it and return it to me as soon as possible. If anyone has any questions or concerns please feel free to contact me at the school, 208-925-7282 or email me at ccowan@sd305.org.

Sincerely,

Christopher F. Cowan, M. Mus.

Director of Music

Music Classroom Daily Procedure

1. Enter the music classroom through the main double doors, on time and in a purposeful and orderly manner.
2. Band students obtain musical instruments from the storage area; all students obtain their music folders from the cabinet, and are prepared to begin warm-ups three minutes after the bell rings.
3. Look to the whiteboard for specific pieces, or assignments we will be playing in rehearsal.
4. If a student's instrument is not in working order for the rehearsal or if a student has a doctor's note that they can't participate due to a medical condition, this does not excuse the student from taking notes or assignments that are given during the rehearsal. It is up to the director to give in-class assignments or projects to students who will be unable to participate in more than one rehearsal.
5. When the director gets up behind the director's stand, which is the student's cue that rehearsal is ready to begin. On this cue students will give the director undivided attention and be ready to play.
6. Recognizing all individuals at times need reminding of appropriate behavior, the director is committed to providing a safe and orderly environment for learning. The following steps will be consistently used.
 - a. Simple pause... eye contact with the individual(s) needing to exercise personal restraint in conduct.
 - b. Verbal comment from director in non hostile manner..... "Please lower your voices"
 - c. If first two steps failed, director will talk to individual(s) after class.
7. The director has the responsibility to enforce all school rules as articulated in the Highland Schools Student Handbook. The director will not hesitate to assign student detention, notify parents, or refer a student to the school principal when appropriate.
8. The conclusion of rehearsal will be announced by the director, giving students enough time to put instruments and music away.
9. **NOTICE TO ALL STUDENTS NO ONE IS ALLOWED TO PLAY THE PERCUSSION INSTRUMENTS WITHOUT PERMISSION OF THE DIRECTOR.** Also students should not make it a practice to let other students play their wind instruments. Loaner and replacement instruments will be sanitized prior to assigning the instrument to a student.
10. There will be a 25.00 deposit for anyone who checks out a school instrument.

Student Rights and Responsibilities:

A successful music program is dependent upon the degree of pride students within the program are willing to demonstrate during daily rehearsals and performances. Self discipline, enthusiasm, integrity, and cooperation are all hallmark characteristics of school programs which have built a legacy of excellence in performance.

Student Rights: Every student has the right to...

1. A safe and friendly environment within the classroom.
2. Qualified, inspirational instruction.
3. The opportunity for creative expression within the cooperative effort of the group, ensemble, and individually through solo, ensemble, and large group performances.

Student Responsibilities: Every student has the responsibility to...

1. Respect other students and their teacher by refraining from behavior that is disruptive, threatening, demeaning, or hostile.
2. Demonstrate a spirit of cooperation through participation and individual practice.
3. Treat school property, equipment, and instruments with respect for their value.

Director's Rights: The director has the right to...

1. To teach and impart knowledge and experience to students who demonstrate a teachable attitude.
2. To teach without interruptions or disruptive behavior from students.
3. To lead, motivate, and inspire students to continually improve the overall quality and level of performance within each class or ensemble.

Director's Responsibilities: The director has the responsibility to ensure that ...

1. Every student is afforded a safe and friendly environment which promotes the learning process.
2. Every student is prepared for classroom learning activities and to provide competent and qualified individual and group instruction.
3. Students are provided with the tools (instruments, instructional resources) necessary for student achievement.

Music Department Grading Policy

Making Music is best learned through performance and acquiring musical literacy at the point of use. Student assessment and evaluation should first and foremost reflect the effort the student is willing to demonstrate in the exercise of individual and group performance and practice activities. Consequently, grade distribution and weight will be proportionally greater for practice and performance involvement.

Formal assessment of grade level appropriate performance skills and rudiments will be factored into the grading equation. Opportunity will be given to each student in class and during individually scheduled times to demonstrate the ability to satisfactorily perform scales, etudes, and rhythmic studies

Daily rehearsal participation and performance participation will factor into the student performance grade.

Students will be assessed regarding music literacy through formal instruction, class assignments, quizzes, and tests to measure their understanding of music theory, as well as any music history that they might learn.

Please note musical skill and innate ability is highly individualized. To a great extent, a lack of natural ability can be compensated for by superior motivation and determination. The director will, to the extent that is practical with group instruction, attempt to develop a baseline assessment of each student's playing ability at the beginning of the school year. Consideration will be given for the effort and degree of improvement a student makes during the course of the school year when determining an appropriate grade.

Highland Schools Music Classroom Grading Criterion

- If any High School student has to take a final, this will account for 10 percent of their grade as stated in their Highland High School Student Handbook.

7th - 8th Band

Assessment Activity:

Percent Distribution:

- Daily classroom participation 20
 - Concert and Festival Participation 50
 - Music Theory/ History & Playing Quizzes 30
- (Students are not required to play pep band in Jr High Band, but are welcome to join us)

9-12th Band

Assessment Activity:

Percent Distribution:

- Daily classroom participation 10
- Concert and Festival Participation 40
- Pep Band Participation 25
- Music Theory/ History & Playing Quizzes 25

5th Band & 6th Grade Band

- Daily classroom participation 20
- Concert and Festival Participation 50
- Playing quizzes, music theory, and music history quizzes 30

Letter grade distribution:

A	95 - 100 %
A-	90 - 94 %
B	85 - 89 %
B-	80 - 84 %
C	75 - 79 %
C-	70 - 74 %
D	60 - 69 %
F	68- 0 %

General Elementary Music Classes

K-4- Based on participation and assignments.
Letter grade distribution:

A	95 - 100 %
A-	90 - 94 %
B	85 - 89 %
B-	80 - 84 %
C	75 - 79 %
C-	70 - 74 %
D	60 - 69 %
F	68- 0 %

Concerts/ Pep Games

9/18- Football Game
10 /14- Jr High Mass Band Festival(7th and 8th Graders only)
10/30- Football Game?
11/18- High School Mass Band/ Choir (Tentative)
12/3- Elementary Concert
12/9- Girls' BBall
12/10- 7-12 Grade Band Concert
12/15- Boys BBall
1/5- Boys BBall
1/8- Boys BBall
1/14- Boys BBall
1/23- Girls BBall
1/26- Girls BBall
2/8- Boys BBall
Girls' Districts TBA
Boys' Districts TBA
2/25, 2/26,2/27- Lionel Hampton Jazz Festival(High School will be going on one of these dates)
3/3- Jazz Dessert Night and Silent Auction
3/9- Solo/ Ensemble Festival- Those Chosen
4/20- High School Festival- Lewiston
4/27- Jr High School Festival- Highland
5/5- Elementary Concert
5/10- 7-12 Grade Band Concert
5/11- 6th Grade Festival, Lewiston
5/28- Graduation

Note: Tentative Schedule, this may change throughout the year. Band Members 7-12 are required for all the dates above, unless they are participants in the selected sport or if there is a signed note by a parent or a guardian one week in advance. Unforeseen events (death in the family, sickness, etc) will be taken on a case to case basis.