

# Essex High School Band Handbook

2008-2009

Trish Cornett, *director*

*“Music expresses that which cannot be put into words and that which cannot remain silent.” –  
Victor Hugo*

## Course Descriptions, Objectives, and Materials

A variety of materials, including but not limited to, music, method books, instruments and/or instrument accessories will be assigned to students throughout the year. Any items assigned and/or signed out by a student ***must be returned in good condition*** or the student will assume all replacement costs.

## Concert Band

Concert Band is primarily a learning ensemble and is open to all EHS students. Students must demonstrate the ability and interest to learn and grow as individual musicians and band members. The primary goal of this ensemble is to develop the technical proficiency and musical knowledge needed to foster a deeper understanding and appreciation of music as an art form, as well as to make future advancements in the Essex High School band program. It is expected that Concert Band students will have the appropriate classroom materials specific to their instrument. These items may include, but are not limited to the following: reeds, oil, slide cream, mouthpiece covers, swabs, and any other instrument-specific essentials. Music performed at concerts will be selected from method books as well as the standard repertory.

## Symphonic Band

Symphonic Band is an audition-based ensemble intended for students who demonstrate an interest in improving their performing skills and technical proficiency through performance in band. The primary goal of this course is to foster the growth of the individual musician as an ensemble member and enhance his/her knowledge of music as an art form. Mature rehearsal skills, command of individual parts, basic theory knowledge, and good sight-reading skills are crucial. Private lessons are recommended. (see handbook for a list of private teachers) It is expected that Symphonic Band students will have the appropriate classroom materials specific to their instrument. These items may include, but are not limited to the following: reeds, oil, slide cream, mouthpiece covers, swabs, and any other instrument-specific essentials. Music performed at concerts will be selected from the standard repertory.

## Honors Band/Wind Ensemble

Honors Band (sometimes referred to as Wind Ensemble) is an audition-based ensemble intended for those players who demonstrate a high level of technical and musical proficiency. Members of Honors Band are *strongly* encouraged to take private lessons, and auditioning for Districts and/or All State is expected. Mature rehearsal skills, command of individual parts, intermediate theory knowledge, and excellent sight-reading skills are crucial. It is expected that Honors Band students will have the appropriate classroom materials specific to their instrument. These items may include, but are not limited to the following: reeds, oil, slide cream, mouthpiece covers, swabs, and any other instrument-specific essentials. Music performed at concerts will be selected from the standard repertory.

## Pep Band

The Pep Band is made up of **all** students from Honors Band, Symphonic Band, and Concert Band. This year the Pep Band will perform at two home football games and the school pep rally. (see schedule for dates) Attendance at these performances is **mandatory** and will be counted toward your grade. The only excused absences will be for those students on the football team, or students with another sporting event. (game, not practice) An alternate assignment will be provided for these students.

## Marching Band

The Marching Band is made up of **all** students from Honors Band, Symphonic Band, and Concert Band. This year the Marching Band will perform at the All-State Parade and the Memorial Day Parade. (see schedule for dates) Attendance at these performances is **mandatory** and will be counted toward your grade.

## Percussion Ensemble

This year there will be a Percussion Ensemble open to any student regardless of prior percussion experience or enrollment in band. This is a voluntary ensemble, but *once a commitment has been made to your peers it must be kept* until after the scheduled performance(s) are over. Ms. Cornett and the student will try to work out an arrangement with coaches of afterschool sports, much like the small choral groups do. Performances will be decided upon by both Ms. Cornett and the Percussion Ensemble and may include pieces on concerts or other special events such as visits to the middle schools, etc. Percussion Ensemble will meet Tuesdays until 3:45 p.m. in the band room.

## Woodwind Ensemble

This year there will be a Woodwind Ensemble open to any student regardless of enrollment in band. This is a voluntary ensemble, but *once a commitment has been made to your peers it must be kept* until after the scheduled

performance(s) are over. Ms. Cornett and the student will try to work out an arrangement with coaches of afterschool sports, much like the small choral groups do. Performances will be decided upon by both Ms. Cornett and the Woodwind Ensemble and may include pieces on concerts or other special events such as visits to the middle schools, etc. Woodwind Ensemble will meet Wednesdays until 3:45 p.m. in the band room.

### Brass Ensemble

This year there will be a Brass Ensemble open to any student regardless of enrollment in band. This is a voluntary ensemble, but *once a commitment has been made to your peers it must be kept* until after the scheduled performance(s) are over. Ms. Cornett and the student will try to work out an arrangement with coaches of afterschool sports, much like the small choral groups do. Performances will be decided upon by both Ms. Cornett and the Brass Ensemble and may include pieces on concerts or other special events such as visits to the middle schools, etc. Woodwind Ensemble will meet Thursdays until 3:45 p.m. in the band room.

### Saxophone Ensemble

This year there will be a Saxophone Ensemble open to any student regardless of enrollment in band. This is a voluntary ensemble, but *once a commitment has been made to your peers it must be kept* until after the scheduled performance(s) are over. Performances will be decided upon by both Ms. Cornett and the Saxophone Ensemble and may include pieces on concerts or other special events such as visits to the middle schools, etc. Saxophone Ensemble meeting time is TBD.

### Jazz Band I

The Jazz Band is a credit class that meets once per week at night. It is an audition-based group intended for students with high technical and musical proficiency. With the exception of certain rhythm section instruments, (drum set, guitar, and bass) all students *must be enrolled in Honors Band, Symphonic Band, or Concert Band* in order to be eligible for Jazz Band. It is expected that Jazz Band students will have the appropriate classroom materials specific to their instrument. These items may include, but are not limited to the following: reeds, oil, slide cream, mouthpiece covers, swabs, mutes, and any other instrument-specific essentials. Music performed at concerts will be selected from the standard jazz repertory. The Jazz Band's meeting time is TBD.

### Jazz Band II

*Pending enough student interest*, a second Jazz Band will be started this year. It will be open to all interested students regardless of concurrent enrollment in any other band class. Though it is an audition-based group, it is intended for students who would like to improve their jazz skills. It is expected that Jazz Band II students will have the appropriate classroom materials specific to their instrument. These items may include, but are not limited to the following: reeds, oil, slide cream, mouthpiece covers, swabs, mutes, and any other instrument-specific essentials. Music performed at concerts will be selected from the standard jazz repertory.

## Student Expectations

- Expand and improve proficiency on his/her instrument.
- Treat the band room, stage, and practice rooms with respect at all times.
- Have all necessary materials at each rehearsal including instruments, music, pencils, and all necessary accessories (reeds, mutes, oil, swabs, etc.)
- Complete all homework and/or class work assigned.
- Attend and participate in all rehearsals. If extenuating circumstances do not allow for this, students must fill out a Rehearsal Observation form. If there is an unexcused reason for missing rehearsal (such as a forgotten instrument), you will have one point deducted from your final grade for each time this happens.
- Model mature and appropriate conduct as well as exhibit a positive attitude toward all undertakings throughout the course.
- Students signed up for a Split Block are responsible for communicating with Ms. Cornett about music or

concepts missed.

## Concert Dress

**Gentlemen:** white collared shirt (no t-shirts or sweatshirts); black dress pants (no jeans or athletic pants); black socks and shoes; no ties, please

**Ladies:** Long (floor length) black skirt, or black pants (no denim). Long-sleeved or  $\frac{3}{4}$  sleeved white blouse. Black/off-black hose (or black socks with pants), black dress shoes, and simple jewelry. No décolletage, no bare midriffs, no bare shoulders, and no scooping necklines.

*\*This dress code will be strictly enforced. Students not wearing the appropriate clothing will not be allowed to perform on stage. Do not take this risk—if you are unsure if your clothing is acceptable, please bring your outfit to Ms. Cornett prior to the concert for approval.*

## Band Council

Band Council officers will be voted on within the first month of school. Students wishing to hold a position will apply, then be chosen by other members of the band. You must be available for weekly meetings before homeroom. Positions available include the following:

- President
- Librarian
- Equipment Manager
- Concert Band Representative
- Symphonic Band Representative
- Honors Band Representative
- Jazz Band Representative
- Section Leaders

## Grading Policy

Performances	15 points
Dress Rehearsal	10 points
Pop Quizzes	10 points
Playing Tests	20 points
Blue Box	5 points
Habits of Work	25 points
Classwork	15 points
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Total	100 points

**Performances:** Attendance at the performance earns you the full 15 points. In terms where there is more than one performance, the points will be divided evenly among performances.

**Dress Rehearsal:** Before each concert there is a mandatory evening dress rehearsal. Attendance at the rehearsal earns you the full 10 points. Unexcused absences will result in the loss of these points. Excused absences include illness or a sporting event (game, not practice). Please mark these dates on your calendar now and arrange for transportation as needed.

**Pop Quizzes:** Two pop quizzes will be given every term, each worth 5 points. Material will be topical.

**Playing Tests:** There will be two playing tests every term, each worth 10 points. You will be recorded and graded using an objective rubric.

**Blue Box:** Once per term your name will be drawn from the “blue box” and you will be asked to play a short excerpt for the class. Prior notice will be given as to what the excerpt will be. After this your name goes into the “white box” where it can be drawn again, but for extra credit.

**Habits of Work:** This portion of your grade is determined by Ms. Cornett. It is based on your preparedness, attitude, and general work ethic.

**Classwork:** You will have at least two in class worksheets per term, each worth 5 points. They could be self assessments, peer assessments, listening assignments, theory worksheets, etc. These will be graded using the following rubric/scale:

- 5 points=student answered all questions thoroughly and thoughtfully
- 4 points=student answered most questions thoroughly and thoughtfully
- 3 points=student answered questions moderately well
- 2=student work shows some lack of effort; some questions incomplete
- 1 point=student work shows lack of effort; many questions incomplete
- 0 points=no points awarded for this assignment

## ***What should I do if my instrument breaks???***

If your instrument breaks, it should be sent out for repair immediately. There are two good options should this occur.

### **Ellis Music**

Ellis is located in Bethel, VT, however they send a representative to EHS once per week on Wednesdays. If your instrument breaks, you should call Ellis **PRIOR TO THE NEXT WEDNESDAY** and tell them about the problem. They will pick up your instrument and leave a loaner instrument for you to use in the meantime.

***P.O. Box 437, Route 107***

***Bethel, VT 05032***

***802-234-6400***

### **MusiCraft (located *inside* Contois Music)**

I have found MusiCraft to do excellent repair work. They are also convenient because they are located right in Essex Junction. This is a good option if your instrument needs only minor repair, or if it breaks right before a concert. They have been very cooperative and accommodating about these situations in the past.

***217 Pearl Street***

***Essex Junction, VT 05452***

***802-371-9528***

**PRIVATE LESSON TEACHERS**

All students are strongly encouraged to take private lessons on their instrument. Below is a list of some of the area's private teachers. This is a list provided by the VYO; I do not know many of these teachers personally.

**FLUTE**

Lois Price  
802-658-5630

[tooter21@verizon.net](mailto:tooter21@verizon.net)

Laura Barbieri  
802-264-5405

[musiclearningstudio@yahoo.com](mailto:musiclearningstudio@yahoo.com)

Dominique Gagne  
802-224-6751

[dominiquejazz@yahoo.com](mailto:dominiquejazz@yahoo.com)

Jodi Perkins  
802-660-8704

[jperkins@mt-mansfield.com](mailto:jperkins@mt-mansfield.com)

Barbara Wager  
802-860-1514

[bbwager@mindspring.com](mailto:bbwager@mindspring.com)

Rebecca Watson  
802-878-1189

[kmwatson@adelphia.net](mailto:kmwatson@adelphia.net)

**OBOE**

Deane Calcagni  
802-238-6262

[calcagnid@yahoo.com](mailto:calcagnid@yahoo.com)

Nadine E. Carpenter  
802-658-4349

Gretchen Owens  
802-878-0541

[gobluebird@gmail.com](mailto:gobluebird@gmail.com)

**CLARINET**

Laura Barbieri  
802-264-5405

[musiclearningstudio@yahoo.com](mailto:musiclearningstudio@yahoo.com)

Heather Finlayson  
802-318-8199

[heather.finlayson@gmail.com](mailto:heather.finlayson@gmail.com)

Steven Klimowski  
802-849-6900

[clarinet@together.net](mailto:clarinet@together.net)

Deborah Lackey  
802-899-1293

[deblackey@comcast.net](mailto:deblackey@comcast.net)

**BASSOON**

Rachael Elliott

646-286-2326

[Rachael@clogsmusic.com](mailto:Rachael@clogsmusic.com)

**SAXOPHONE**

Laura Barbieri

802-264-5405

[musiclearningstudio@yahoo.com](mailto:musiclearningstudio@yahoo.com)

Lee Gillies

802-434-3922

[yardbird1@aol.com](mailto:yardbird1@aol.com)

Steven Klimowski

802-849-6900

[clarinet@together.net](mailto:clarinet@together.net)

Deborah Lackey

802-899-1293

[deblackey@comcast.net](mailto:deblackey@comcast.net)

Barbara Wager

802-860-1514

[bbwager@mindspring.com](mailto:bbwager@mindspring.com)

**HORN**

Mia Fritze

802-863-5257

[mia@vyo.org](mailto:mia@vyo.org)

Alan Parshley

802-658-2768

[maestrodicorno@aol.com](mailto:maestrodicorno@aol.com)

**TRUMPET**

Stuart Carter

802-660-8524

[octavemode@adelphia.net](mailto:octavemode@adelphia.net)

Bill Karstens

802-233-1696

Jack Phipps

802-893-4943

[Jack.Phipps@verizon.net](mailto:Jack.Phipps@verizon.net)

**TROMBONE**

Stuart Carter

802-660-8524

[octavemode@adelphia.net](mailto:octavemode@adelphia.net)

Bill Karstens

802-233-1696

Robert Wigness

802-372-9211

[crwig@surglobal.net](mailto:crwig@surglobal.net)

**TUBA**

Randy Wheeler

Info upon request

**PERCUSSION**

Info upon request

**Parent/Student Verification and Volunteer Page**

Band students are to present this information to their parent/guardians for their perusal and knowledge. After you have read the material in this handbook and have had any questions answered, please sign on the appropriate lines as verification that you understand the material contained within, *including the performance schedule, performance requirements, and concert dress policy*. Parents, please fill out all the information so we can contact you about upcoming concerts and/or events.

*This signed form is due back to Ms. Cornett by Friday, September 5, 2008.*

*Thank you!*

**Parent/Guardian: I have read and understand the information in the EHS Band Handbook, including the performance schedule, performance requirements, grading policy, and concert dress policy.**

**Signed** \_\_\_\_\_ **Phone** \_\_\_\_\_

**Printed** \_\_\_\_\_ **Parent email** \_\_\_\_\_

**Student: I have read and understand the information in the EHS Band Handbook, including the performance schedule, performance requirements, grading policy, and concert dress policy.**

**Signed** \_\_\_\_\_ **Band** \_\_\_\_\_

**Printed** \_\_\_\_\_ **Grade** \_\_\_\_\_

## **BAND CALENDAR 2008-2009**

September 5	Home Football Game, 7:00 p.m. (ALL band students!)
September 9-11	Jazz Band Auditions, 3:30-5:30 (sign ups)
Week of Sept. 15	First Jazz Band Rehearsals (watch for postings)
October 1	District III Instrumental Auditions; evening time TBA
October 3	Pep Rally (during school hours, ALL band students!)
October 4	Home Football Game, time TBD (ALL band students!)
October 15	Band Dress Rehearsal, 6:30-8:30 p.m.
October 16	Band/Orchestra Fall Concert, 7:00 p.m. (photos, 5:30 p.m.)
November 7-8	District III Instrumental Festival; off campus, day and eve.
November 13	Band Booster Spaghetti Dinner Silent Auction, 5:00-6:45 p.m.
December 9	Band Dress Rehearsal, 6:30-8:30 p.m.
December 10	Band Winter Concert, 7:00 p.m.
January 10	All-State Auditions, SBHS, all day
March 9	IAJE Festival at the Flynn
March 19-21	New England Music Festival, Keene, NH (select students)
March 26	Band Dress Rehearsal, 6:30-8:30 p.m.
March 27	K-12 Fine Arts Night, 6:00 p.m.
April 2-5	Trip to Disney World
May 6	All-State Parade (ALL band students!)
May 7-9	Vermont All-State HOSTED BY EHS
May 19	Band Dress Rehearsal, 6:30-8:30 p.m.
May 20	Band Final Concert, 7:00 p.m.
Date TBD	First Annual Band Banquet
June 12	Band Graduation Rehearsal
June 13	Graduation, 10:00 a.m. (ALL band students!)