

# Central Bucks High School West

## Large Ensemble Syllabus and Handbook

### 2016-2017

## CBW Concert and Symphonic Bands

### Commitment

#### - Time/Schedule

- Concert Band, 1:00pm-2:30pm (4th block) on "B" Days
- Symphonic Band 2, 9:00am-10:30am (2nd block) on "A" Days
- Symphonic Band 4, 1:00pm-2:30pm (4th block) on "A" Days

#### - After-school rehearsal schedule

- Thursday, November 17, 3:00-6:00 (in West band room)
- Tuesday, November 29, 6:00-9:00 (Winter Concert Dress Rehearsal at **CB EAST**)
- Tuesday, April 4, 3:00-6:00
- Monday, May 1, 6:00-9:00 (Spring Concert Dress Rehearsal at **CB EAST**)
- 1-2 Sectional rehearsals per MP (scheduled by each section leader)

#### - Performance Schedule

- **WINTER CONCERT**: Thursday, December 1, 7:30pm AT **CB EAST** (report 6:00pm)
- **CBW Small Ensemble Chamber Performances**: during school day, dates TBA
- **Tohickon/East/West "Hang"**: Tuesday, December 20, 3:30pm-8:00pm
- **West Wing Concert**: TBA
- **PMEA Adjudication** (at CB East): Wednesday, February 22, 4:00pm\*
- **SPRING CONCERT**: Thursday, May 4, 7:30pm AT **CB EAST** (report 6:00pm)
- **CBW Graduation**: Dates and times dependent on school year weather

#### - Financial Commitment

- Concert Band Performance Attire
  - Ladies: Concert black attire and black dress shoes (your choice)
  - Gentleman: Black tuxedo jacket (provided), black dress pants, black tux shirt, black dress shoes (and socks).
- Spring Trip (for those involved in CBWMB and choosing to travel)
- Participation Fees for any honors ensemble in which you participate (see below for details)

\* Symphonic Band only

## Student Responsibility

### - Attendance

- Students are expected to be present at all class meetings (unless absent from school), rehearsals and performances. All aforementioned meetings should be considered **mandatory**.
- Please see the attached **conflict form** for additional information regarding attendance, conflicts, excused absences, and grading

### - Music Preparation

- All performance literature is to be regularly practiced at home
- Literature is chosen to be challenging and rewarding, but also to be attainable by all members with consistent practice.
- Consistent lack of preparation will adversely effect a student's participation grade

### - Private Study (lessons)

- Many students opt to take private lessons outside of school.
- Private lessons are not required, but many students find lessons very beneficial to their individual development on their instruments, especially those auditioning for exclusive ensembles, honors groups, or college programs.
- If you would like a list of local private teachers specific to your instrument, please contact Mr. Delson directly.

### - Music and Folders

- Students will be assigned a CB West Band folder containing original copies of all performance music.
- Music should never be removed from folders during the school year unless being performed or practiced
- Folders **MUST** be present at all rehearsals and performance.
- Any student who does not have a folder for rehearsal will lose points from his or her participation grade
- All music must be returned at the conclusion of performance
- Students who fail to do so are financially responsible for any music that is misplaced or damaged. Replacement parts typically cost \$5-\$20 per sheet.

### - Punctuality

- In order to maximize class productivity, all warm up activities and/or exercises will begin 5 minutes after the bell rings. Students unprepared to participate in class at this time will lose marking period participation points.
- Students are expected to have a ride home upon conclusion of any after-school rehearsal or performance. If you are unable to get a ride home, please make arrangements to carpool with another band member.

## Performance Policies

### - Performances at CB West

- Be an outstanding audience for other performing groups. **NO TALKING DURING OTHER GROUPS' PERFORMANCES!**
- Carry yourself with the utmost pride while in concert attire or uniform
- Treat all parent chaperones and volunteers as you would a staff member

## PMEA Honors Ensembles

- Open auditions are held for students to participate in the following honors groups:
  - BCMEA County Ensembles, Tuesday, November 15 (Council Rock South), 4:30pm
    - we will take a bus to and from this audition)
  - PMEA District 11 Ensembles, Saturday, December 3 (Upper Dublin HS), 9:00am
    - there is **NO BUS** provided for this audition
- **Audition criteria can be viewed online, via the links below.**
  - <http://www.bcmea.org/Auditions/auditions.html>
  - <http://www.pmead11.net/instrumental-audition-information/>
  - All solos can be ordered through Losers' Music, Music and Arts Center, or on an online sheet music retailer. All students who plan to audition **MUST** have an original copy of the selection.
- Students who are selected for these prestigious ensembles will participate in a 3-4 day festival with the best musicians from surrounding schools, culminating in a performance. Schools listed in brackets will host the festival.
  - **1/26-1/28 (Thur - Sat): District 11 Orchestra (Upper Merion)**
  - **2/9-2/11 (Thur - Sat): District 11 Band (Quakertown)**
  - **3/16-3/18 (Thur - Sat), BCMEA Band/Orchestra (Bensalem)**
- Students who make a District level ensemble will participate in a "re-audition" at that festival in order to advance to the Region level (Bucks-Mont-Chester-Berks). From the Region level, students will "re-audition" for the All-State festival. Dates and locations are as listed below.
  - **3/9 - 3/11 (Thur - Sat), Region 6 Orchestra (West Chester East)**
  - **3/23-3/25, (Thur - Sat), Region 6 Band (Council Rock South)**
  - **4/19-4/22 (Wed - Sat), PMEA All-State Conference (Erie, PA)**
- Students who are missing school for these events are responsible for making up any and all work missed during their absence.
- Each festival carries a fee for festival participation. The CBWBPA will help defer the cost of that fee by covering 50% of the total amount of **each festival listed above**, up to a maximum contribution of \$600. Students are responsible for covering the difference of the fee in order to participate. **CBWBPA will not contribute to fees for any festivals not listed above.**

## Annual CB West Band Tour (April 27 - April 30, 2017)

Each year, the band travels to a destination with the goal of enriching each members school education through unique performances, cross-curricular historical experiences, and work with professional clinicians and ensembles. This Spring, the CBW Marching Band will be joined by the CBW Choir on a tour of Orlando, Florida. Only those students enrolled in the Marching Band are permitted to travel on this trip. A trip for ALL band members will be offered during the 2017-2018 school year.

### Fundraising

All CBW Band members (Marching, Concert, Symphonic, and Jazz) are encouraged to fundraise to both support the program AND their own student accounts. Fundraising efforts support the following and more:

- Purchase of new equipment and the repair and maintenance of existing equipment
- Performance literature for all ensembles
- Marching and Concert uniform maintenance and replacement
- Adjunct staff and clinician compensation

### Student Accounts

Many of our fundraisers offer opportunities to earn money towards your student account. Money in this account may be used to pay for our annual trip, student fees, purchase equipment, or other band-related costs.

Students/parents may check the status of your account on Charms at any time.

### CBW Band Materials (stuff you'll need)

- Class Meetings and after-school rehearsals
  - Instrument/equipment (sticks, reeds, oil etc.)
  - Equipment must be kept in good working condition
  - Pencil
  - Music (in your folder)
- Performances
  - All of the above
  - Full Uniform
  - See above for specifics
- The following are PROHIBITED while in class or at performances
  - Foul language
  - PDAs (public displays of affection)
  - Gum-chewing

Please jump to **page 9** for important info for students in ALL ENSEMBLES and well as information for all BAND PARENTS.

# Central Bucks High School West

## Large Ensemble Handbook

### 2016-2017

## CBW Jazz Ensemble

### Commitment

#### - Time/Schedule

- Class meeting: 10:55-12:20 (3rd block) on "A" Days (C lunch)
- **After-school rehearsal schedule**
  - After-school rehearsals scheduled as needed (with 3-4 weeks advance notice)
  - each section required to meet no fewer than 2 times per marking period for sectionals
- **Performance Schedule**
  - **WINTER CONCERT:** Thursday, December 1, 7:30pm AT **CB EAST** (report 6:00pm)
  - West Wing Concert: TBA
  - CB District Jazz Fest (Holicong MS): Wednesday, February 1 (report 6:00pm)
  - Cheltenham Jazz Fest: Friday, February 17 (times TBA)
  - Lenape Jazz Fest: Saturday, February 25 (1:00pm report) ... then ...
  - CBW Jazz Fest: Saturday, February 25 (4:00pm report)
  - CB South Jazz Fest: Saturday, March 3 (times TBA)
    - note: there is NO BUS provided for this festival, since it is in-district
  - West Chester East Jazz Fest: Friday, March 17 (times TBA)
  - Council Rock North Jazz Fest: Saturday, April 7 (times TBA)
  - **SPRING CONCERT:** Thursday, May 4, 7:30pm AT **CB EAST** (report 6:00pm)
  - Jazz Ensemble in Doylestown: June 2017 (date, location, and time TBD)

#### - Financial Commitment

- Jazz Ensemble Performance Attire
  - Ladies: Black dress attire of choice
  - Gentleman: Black dress shirt, black dress pants, gold tie (\$10 each...see Mr. Delson if you need a tie)
- Participation Fees for any honors ensemble in which you participate (see below for details)

## Student Responsibility

### - Attendance

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### - Music Preparation

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- If you would like a list of local private teachers specific to your instrument, please contact Mr. Delson directly.

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### - Punctuality

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## Performance Policies

### - Performances at CB West

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### - Performances at off-campus Jazz Festivals

- Students may **ONLY** be in one of the following locations during the festival
  - Auditorium watching bands
  - Concessions area
  - Band "holding" room (subject to change)
- **DO NOT ROAM THE HALLWAYS UNSUPERVISED**
- Rhythm section is responsible for setting up, breaking down, and loading all equipment before and after performance
- All equipment must be returned to the bus at the conclusion of our performance

### - PMEA Honors Ensembles

- See above handbook for non-jazz honors ensemble information
- PMEA **All-State Jazz Ensemble** materials have not yet been released online. Check with Mr. Delson early in the fall to see when these materials are available for practice.
  - 3/30-4/2 (Wed - Sat), PMEA All-State Conference (Hershey, PA)
- Each festival carries a fee for festival participation. The CBWBPA will help defer the cost of that fee by covering 50% of the total amount of **each festival listed above**, up to a maximum contribution of \$600. Students are responsible for covering the difference of the fee in order to participate. **CBWBPA will not contribute to fees for any festivals not listed above.**
- Students may also wish to audition for the **University of the Arts Philadelphia HS All-Star Jazz Ensemble**, led by Randy Kapralick. Contact Mr. Kapralick for full details via email at [rkapralick@uarts.edu](mailto:rkapralick@uarts.edu).
  - CBWBPA cannot cover any portion of the cost for the Uarts All-Star Band.

## Stuff you'll need for...

(see above sections for details)

Please jump to **page 9** for important info for students in ALL ENSEMBLES and well as information for all BAND PARENTS.

# Course Grading, Policies, and Guidelines

Information below is applicable to all large ensemble courses

## Course Grading

- Performance assessment accounts for 70% of your final grade
  - Formal literature assessments
  - Sight-reading assessments
- Preparation assessments account for 20% of your final grade
  - Musicianship exhibitions
  - Classroom assessments and activities
  - Homework assignments
  - Practice records
- Daily participation and preparedness accounts for 10% of your final grade
  - all students begin at 100% and with consistent daily participation, remain at that grade.
  - points will be deducted in the following increments for failure to fully participate.
  - unexcused absence from after-school rehearsal - 10 point deduction.
  - no instrument (includes reeds, sticks, etc.) - 5 point deduction.
  - no music - 3 point deduction.
  - failure to adequately perform daily assignments - 1 to 3 point deduction.
  - other deduction at discretion of Mr. Delson.

## Important Attendance Information

Concert performances, adjudications, and rehearsals are a critical part of the learning process. It is impossible to replicate such experiential learning. Failure to attend an event without receiving prior approval is unacceptable. Sickness must be verified by a doctor's note. Family emergencies are understandable, but final approval is determined by the director and, when necessary, administration. Employment is never an excuse. Athletic conflicts are always worked out between the director, coach, and athletic director. **All conflicts that can be predicted in advance must be approved with an official CONFLICT FORM, submitted no later than one week prior to the event.**

Any unexcused absence from a performance will result in a deduction of 10% from the final marking period average. Any unexcused absence from a dress rehearsal or similar event will result in a deduction of 5% from the final marking period average.



## Band Room Rules and Guidelines

- Students are to be in their seats, with instruments, 5 minutes after the bell rings. Attendance is taken at this time. Students not in their seats at this time will be marked late.
- There is to be no gum, food, or drink (except water) in the band room.
- Cell phones are not to be used during class unless teacher permission is granted.
- The band room is to be kept free of clothing, shoes, and other detritus after you have left.
- Cases (unless given special permission), must be stored in lockers and not on floor.
- Band room must be kept clean at all times.
- Only percussionists may use percussion equipment (including drum set).

## Locker Policies

- All students will be issued a locker at the beginning of the school year.
- Please see attached for full locker policies and procedures

## Charms and Dropbox/OneDrive

- Visit [www.charmsoffice.com](http://www.charmsoffice.com) for information about student accounts, fundraisers, volunteer opportunities, our full calendar, and more. Log-in info is provided separately.
- Both Dropbox and OneDrive are used to share important files, lessons, recordings, and other valuable information with our students. Both give direct access to folders for our classes. Links for these folders will be provided via email.

## Important Band Parent Information

### Volunteer Opportunities

- All of our ensembles regularly are seeking interested parents to help fill volunteer duties throughout the year. Some of these opportunities include:
  - bus chaperones, trip chaperones, marching band equipment helpers, jazz and marching festival helpers, Friday night concession stand assistance, and more!
  - If you are interested in volunteering, you can look for events on our Charms calendar with the "helping hand" icon next to the date to sign up OR contact our BPA president Lorri Resuta ([lorriresuta@verizon.net](mailto:lorriresuta@verizon.net)) for more details!
- **All volunteers MUST complete the new CBSD volunteer clearances requirements prior to volunteering. Please visit <http://cbsd.org/Page/355> for full details.**

### Monthly Band Parents' Meetings

- Each month, our Central Bucks West Band Parents Association Board and Mr. Delson host a parents meeting. During this meeting, we discuss current band events, fundraisers, honors, budget, trips, volunteering needs, and more!
- We encourage ALL BAND PARENTS to attend as many meetings as they are able. **Meetings typically occur on the first Tuesday of each month** and last **no more than 60 minutes**.
  - Meetings from Sept. 1 - Nov. 10 will begin at **8:00pm** (to coincide with the end of marching band rehearsal)
  - Meetings from Dec. 1 - June 20 will begin at **7:00pm** (unless otherwise noted)
  - Please visit [charmsoffice.com](http://charmsoffice.com) for a full list of meeting dates.