



Holicong Middle School Band

A Musician's Guide to Band:

How to be successful as a part of the Holicong Band

Introduction:

Welcome to the Holicong Band Program! I would first like to thank you for continuing your instrumental music education at the middle school level. By continuing to play, you are helping to develop life-skills such as perseverance, dedication, problem-solving, critical/higher-level thinking and cooperation. I would ask that you **think of participation in band as a three-year journey that gets more unique and challenging as you progress.** Only by playing through 9th grade (and even beyond) will you truly experience all that the program has to offer. This is a decision that I am sure you will not regret.

Band is unique. We are, in reality, a team, but one in which **everyone is a starter and everyone is crucial to the success of the ensemble.** There are no “bench players.” There are no “back-ups.” The ensemble will succeed or struggle based on the commitment and dedication of every person involved (myself included). Everyone who plays an instrument is welcome, everyone is important, and everyone will have the opportunity to make incredible and long-lasting memories.

As the pilot of this musical journey, my goal is to do whatever I can to help each student reach their full musical potential and have fun in the process. However, it is not a one-way street. There are expectations, commitments and demands; practicing is both expected and required. All students, regardless of “natural ability,” have the potential to truly achieve musical excellence. It is no coincidence that the ones that do are the ones who have put in the time and effort along the way.

This guide will give you all of the information you need to musically succeed here at Holicong. Please read over the following pages carefully as I truly believe you will find them helpful. The last page is a contract/detach and return form that must be signed by both you and a parent/guardian. This will be your first “graded assignment” so be sure to return it by the due date.

Thanks, in advance, for taking the time to read the following information. I am looking forward to a great year of music and I hope that you are as well.

Mr. C

jchodoroff@cbsd.org

How does band work at Holicong?

Middle school band in Central Bucks operates a bit differently than what you have become used to at the elementary school level. The primary difference is that band is now a class, and not a “pull out” program. Your child will see “band” in their schedule and attend it just like they would English or Social Studies class. The second big difference is that each class consists of a mixed instrumentation. No longer is it a class of just flutes or trumpets – it will essentially be a mini-band rehearsal each time.

Holicong is the proud home of 6 bands, and that number grows to 7 if you include the district-wide Middle School Honors Band. Below you will find an explanation of each group, as well as any pertinent, preliminary information.

- 7th, 8th and 9th Grade Bands: These are the “curricular” bands of Holicong, meaning that they meet as a class during the school day. No auditions are required for these groups – your child must simply sign up for band in order to be included.
 - Band class meets every other day for 56 minutes. It is a full-year class, and not semester based like the rest of the non-music specials.
 - Each band member will be required to attend 3 after-school rehearsals for the winter concert and 3 after-school rehearsals for the spring concert.
- Jazz Ensemble: An audition-based group that focuses on big band jazz and improvisation, the ensemble will generally rehearse on Thursdays from 2:45 – 4:30. Rehearsals may be a bit more sporadic at the beginning of the year due to CB East Marching Band, but it will eventually settle into a regular Thursday routine.
 - Auditions will be at the end of September/beginning of October. All materials will be made available as part of the audition packet. These will be posted online and can be accessed via my teacher site.
 - The group is open to all grades and most instruments (no clarinets, oboes or French horns); drummers must play drum set.
 - Jazz Ensemble will attend several jazz festivals in the area throughout the year. These are primarily in the late winter/early spring.
- Wind Ensemble: The second audition-based band at Holicong, the Wind Ensemble is a more advanced concert band that plays more challenging repertoire. Auditions will also be at the end of September/beginning of October, and once it starts, the ensemble rehearses on Tuesdays from 2:45 – 4:15.
 - The group is open to all grades and all instruments; drummers will be playing concert percussion and not drum set.
 - Wind Ensemble will do several performances and adjudications in and around the area. There is usually 1 in the winter and 2 in the spring.
- Marching Band: This group is made up of **8th and 9th grade students only** and participates in the Doylestown Memorial Day Parade. It is a non-audition group that all eligible students are expected to participate in.

- Middle School Honors Band: This is yet another audition-based group that is made up of the top musicians from each of the 5 middle schools in CB.
 - The group rehearses and performs in a “festival format,” meaning that there will be two long rehearsals (3:30 – 9 PM on a Wednesday and Friday) followed by a Saturday dress rehearsal, banquet and concert.
 - The festival dates are: Wednesday, February 6th, Friday, February 8th, and Saturday, February 9th.

General Band Supplies: What does every child need for band?

- All students need to have a musical instrument in PROPER WORKING CONDITION. If you own your own instrument, please take a moment and be sure it is in good shape. If you need to rent one, see below:
- All students must purchase the “official” Holicong Band Folder. This is a high-quality black folder complete with the Holicong logo. **The cost is \$8, and orders can be placed through *My Payments Plus*.**
 - The folder design does not change. Once a folder is purchased, your child will not need to buy another one providing they don’t lose or damage it.
 - For those doubling in orchestra, they use the exact same folder so there is no need to buy two. For those doubling in choir, Mr. Glaser will provide cardboard folders for you.
- All 7th and 8th grade students must purchase the in-class warm-up book(s). You will need *Standard of Excellence, Book 1 and Book 2*.
 - The books can be ordered from/delivered to school by Russo’s or Zeswitz, purchased at Music and Arts Center, or ordered from an online site such as Amazon.com.
 - The cost varies depending on where you buy from, but they are under \$9 each at both music stores.
- All 8th and 9th grade students will be required to purchase the Holicong Band t-shirt if they are participating in the Memorial Day Parade. **The cost is \$10, and it is purchased from Mr. C.**
 - The shirt design does not change so it should only need to be purchased once.
 - This will be handled in the spring.
- ***All students should have a minimum of two pencils for each class. One should be kept in the folder and another in the case.***

Supplies by instrument: What does each instrument require at the middle school level?

- Flute: Cleaning rod/rag
- Oboe: Cleaning swab; at least 2 medium hard reeds
- Clarinet: Cleaning swab; cork grease; at least 1 box of 2½ strength reeds (or stronger) with multiple reeds available in your case in case one breaks or chips
- Saxophones: Cork grease; at least 1 box of 2½ strength reeds (or stronger) with multiple reeds available in your case in case one breaks or chips
- Brass Instruments: Valve oil (except for trombones); slide cream/slide grease
- Percussionists: At least 2 pairs of **matching** sticks. 1 pair should be left in the student's locker at school (WITH THEIR NAME ON BOTH STICKS) and the others should remain at home for practicing.
 - *Percussionists are not required to rent the snare drum kit providing they have something to practice on at home. This could be a drum set, snare drum or practice pad.*
 - *If a student does not have something to work with at home, a snare kit must be rented from Zeswitz.*
- It is not required that each student have a metronome and tuner, but they are both very helpful. There are numerous "apps" available, some free and some paid, that are easy to use and convenient. Also, there is a great free metronome site that students can use as well. It is: www.metronomeonline.com.

Communication

There are three primary ways that I will be communicating with everyone throughout the year. I strongly believe that good communication is a key to success, and will do my best to get you dates, times and other various sorts of information well in advance so that you can plan accordingly. I would simply ask that you review information that is sent out in a timely fashion and mark your calendars. With that said, here are my main methods of communication:

- **Remind:** This is a free program that makes use of text messages or the Remind app. Each student will be joining Remind, and I ask that at least one parent or guardian does so as well. I promise to send out only information that is important and/or crucial and will not fill up your inboxes with needless messages. The beauty of the program is that text messages can be exchanged **without ever knowing anyone's personal cell phone number**. Also, you as a student do not have the ability to text anyone else except me. There is no opportunity for student to student messaging using Remind. This service is for the exchange of relevant band information only and it is not a cyber-playground. To join:
 - Open a new text message and enter 81010 in the "To:" field.

- Type one of the following groups into the “body” of the message and then follow the directions. **You must use the @ symbol!!**
 - @holband7
 - @holband8
 - @holband9
 - @holjazz (**only if you/your child makes the group**)
 - @holwind (**only if you/your child makes the group**)
 - When the message comes back to you from the random phone number, please save that number in your contacts as “Holicong Band.”
- **My Teacher Site:** Everything you will need can also be found on my site. Perhaps the most important page there is the Google Calendar, which has every crucial band date on it for the entire year and is updated as new information becomes available. You will also find, among other things, .PDFs of any documents, a *weekly* schedule, links to performance recordings and links to important and/or interesting sites.
- The site can be accessed by using the following address, or by searching for my name on the district or school websites.
 - <http://www.cbsd.org/Domain/1528>
- **Hard Copies:** For those a bit more “old school,” I also send home hard copies of just about everything I send out electronically. These will be given out in class and (hypothetically) brought home.

CLASS EXPECTATIONS

1. Respect *all* people in the class *all* of the time.
2. Listen at all times - to musical ideas and teacher directions.
3. When you enter the room you should: get your instrument together quickly, have a seat, and check “The Magic Board” to see what exercise or piece we will be starting with that day.
4. Once everyone is seated, rehearsal has started.
5. No gum, food or drink is allowed. The only exception is a water bottle.
6. Only percussionists touch the percussion instruments.
7. Always be prepared: instrument, music, and pencil (no pens).
8. Please mark your music in PENCIL ONLY – I recommend 2 pencils (one for your folder and one for your case).

9. Please have a nametag clearly displayed on your instrument case at all times (include name and homeroom number).
10. Lockers are available in the band room for instrument storage. Flutes and clarinets have the option to use school lockers, but any larger instruments will need to use the storage area. **Each student is responsible for providing a combination lock for their band locker. The locker number and combo must be given to Mr. C as well.**

Band Attire

The attire below is for all students in 7th, 8th or 9th grade band. Those students who are selected for Jazz Band or Wind Ensemble will need to purchase a uniform that can and should also be used as concert attire. *Please read the list below carefully as students not dressed properly for the concert will not be permitted to perform.*

- Boys:
 - Black shirt
 - Dress shirt, polo shirt, turtleneck or sweater
 - ALL shirts must be tucked in
 - Black pants
 - Black khakis/slacks or dress pants
 - **BLACK SHOES and black socks**
 - **Black sneakers are not acceptable**
 - Ties are optional
- Girls:
 - Black shirt
 - Please observe and adhere to the school dress code when choosing a shirt
 - Tank tops are NOT acceptable concert attire
 - Black pants
 - IT IS SCHOOL POLICY THAT NO SKIRTS ARE ALLOWED FOR CONCERTS
 - Black khakis/slacks, dress pants, capris, leggings, yoga pants
 - Black shoes
 - I have no preference when it comes to open toe vs. closed toe – the only rule is that they cannot be flip-flops or sport sandals.
 - Black sneakers are not acceptable
 - If your shoes require socks, they should be black
- All
 - **NO JEANS**
 - **NO SNEAKERS**
 - **NO T-SHIRTS**
 - **NO SKIRTS**
 - **DRESS NICELY, DRESS APPROPRIATELY AND DRESS PROFESSIONALLY**
 - **BLACK MEANS BLACK – NOT DARK GREY, NAVY BLUE, ETC...**

Rehearsal and Concert Schedule

Below you will find the Concert Band dress rehearsal and concert dates for the entire year. I am asking that you go over them at home and place the dates on your calendar ASAP. All rehearsals will be in the auditorium unless otherwise noted. Please be aware that there will be four additional rehearsals for each grade level throughout the year – two in the winter and two in the spring. These dates will be sent home as soon as the music calendar is finalized.

❖ **Winter Concert**

- **7th Grade Band:**
 - Wednesday, December 12th (Dress Rehearsal; 2:45 – 3:30)
 - THURSDAY, DECEMBER 13TH (CONCERT; 6:15 PM report, 7:00 PM start)
- **8th Grade Band:**
 - Wednesday, December 12th (Dress Rehearsal; 3:30 – 4:15)
 - THURSDAY, DECEMBER 13TH (CONCERT; 6:15 PM report, 7:00 PM start)
- **9th Grade Band:**
 - Wednesday, December 5th (Dress Rehearsal; 2:45 – 4:30 w/Choir and Orchestra)
 - THURSDAY, DECEMBER 6th (CONCERT; 6:15 PM report, 7:00 PM start)

❖ **Spring Concert**

- **7th Grade Band:**
 - Wednesday, May 8th (Dress Rehearsal; 2:45 – 3:30)
 - THURSDAY, MAY 9TH (CONCERT; 6:15 report, 7:00 start)
- **8th Grade Band:**
 - Wednesday, May 8th (Dress Rehearsal; 3:30 – 4:15)
 - THURSDAY, MAY 9TH (CONCERT; 6:15 report, 7:00 start)
- **9th Grade Band:**
 - Wednesday, May 15th (2:45 – 4)
 - THURSDAY, MAY 16TH (CONCERT AND MUSIC AWARDS, 6:15 PM report, 7:00 PM start)

GRADING:

The instrumental music department will be using a “rubric-based” grading system to make grades easier to understand for all involved. Expectations will be clearly defined as will the criteria for each level (Below Basic through Advanced). Please take a few minutes a familiarize yourself with the attached “master rubric” that shows how each category will be assessed.

	<u>Advanced (4)</u>	<u>Proficient Plus (3.75)</u>	<u>Proficient (3.5)</u>	<u>Basic (3)</u>	<u>Below Basic (2.3)</u>
<p>Daily Preparation --Reflects overall preparation for class. --Worth 4 points per rotation --Combined with the In-Class Performance grade</p>	<p>*Consistently prepared for class with all necessary materials throughout rotation (instruments, folder, pencil, reeds, etc....) *All items in working condition for successful participation</p>	<p>*All elements of <i>Advanced</i> however student has forgotten folder, pencil, or other small accessory once</p>	<p>*Mostly prepared for class with all necessary items *Instrument was forgotten once over the course of the rotation *All items in working condition for successful participation</p>	<p>*Multiple instances of missing instrument or accessories *Some items not in working condition which affects participation</p>	<p>*Lack of daily preparation prevents successful participation in class throughout the rotation</p>
<p>In-Class Performance --Reflects daily effort, engagement and participation --Worth 4 points per rotation --Combined with Daily Preparation</p>	<p>*Student is actively engaged and participating at <u>all</u> times *Effort is given on a <u>consistent</u> basis</p>		<p>*Student is actively engaged and participating <u>most</u> of the time *Effort is given <u>most</u> of the time</p>	<p>*Student is actively engaged and participating <u>some</u> of the time *Effort is given <u>some</u> of the time</p>	<p>*Student is <u>rarely</u> engaged and/or participating in class *Effort is <u>rarely</u> given</p>
<p>Playing Quizzes --May be in-class or submitted via video/audio --May be on sections of a piece or exercises from the book --Will have a multiplier of at least 2 (worth at least 8 points)</p>	<p>*Example is performed with 100% accuracy (including notes, rhythms, dynamics, articulations) *Characteristic sound is present throughout</p>	<p>*Example is performed at an “A” level with most elements being correct *Small issues may be present but the overall performance is not affected</p>	<p>*Example is performed at a “B” level *Overall concept is good but some aspects are incorrect or missing *Issues slightly impact the overall performance</p>	<p>*Example is performed at a “C” level *The missing or incorrect elements negatively affect the overall performance</p>	<p>*Example is performed below “C” level *Most elements are incorrect or missing *Performance is greatly affected</p>

Written Work --May be done in class or submitted electronically --May have a multiplier attached based on size of the assignment	*Work is completed with 100% accuracy	*Work is completed at an “A” level	*Work is completed at a “B” level	*Work is completed at a “C” level	*Work is completed at below “C” level
Rehearsals and Concerts --Covers attendance, preparation, and etiquette --Grade level rehearsals are worth 8 points; dress rehearsal is worth 12 points; concert is worth 16 points	*Student either attends the rehearsal/concert or was excused by the director *Proper notification was given if an absence was required *Make-up assignment completed on time if rehearsal was missed *Etiquette is exemplary		*Student either attends the rehearsal/concert or was excused by the director *Proper notification was given if an absence was required *Make-up assignment completed on time if rehearsal was missed *Proficient level of etiquette is demonstrated	*Student either attends the rehearsal/concert or was excused by the director *Proper notification was not given to the director (prior to rehearsal, Remind or email) *Make-up assignment completed but not on time *Certain etiquette issues affect the overall rehearsal	*Unexcused absence *Make-up assignment not completed *Significant behavior issues throughout the rehearsal and performance process

The grade itself will be determined based on the following formula:

Formative Assessment (20%)

- Daily Preparation (4 points per rotation)
 - A rotation is defined as a two-week period of classes. With the A/B schedule, there are typically five classes per rotation.
 - Students will start with the 4-point maximum each class and be “debited” if needed.
- In-Class Performance (4 points per rotation)
 - Please note that this grade reflects effort, involvement, and focus during class. **It is not a “good player/bad player” grade!!**
 - Students will start with the 4-point maximum each class and be “debited” if needed.

Summative Assessments (70%)

- These can and will include:
 - **Overall** Daily Preparation and In-Class Performance Grade
 - This is an average of your rotation scores
 - Will be multiplied by 2 (out of 8 points)
 - Playing tests or quizzes
 - Each playing quiz will have a multiplier of at least 2 assigned to it.
 - They will be worth a minimum of 8 points
 - Theory Assignments
 - These may or may not have a multiplier attached based on the size of the assignment
 - Technology Assessments
 - These may or may not have a multiplier attached based on the size of the assignment
 - After School Rehearsals
 - This includes both attendance and etiquette
 - Both “grade level” rehearsals are worth 8 points
 - The “dress rehearsal” is worth 12 points
 - Concerts – 16 points each
 - This includes both attendance, etiquette, AND PROPER ATTIRE
 - There are both excused and unexcused absences for rehearsals and concerts
 - Excused:
 - Sick, appointment, family emergency, Holicong sports conflict
 - Please use *Remind* to communicate ASAP
 - Unexcused:
 - Forgot, chose not to come, could not get a ride
 - There is a new department policy in place for missed rehearsals. All students who miss a rehearsal (either “excused” or “unexcused”) **must complete a make-up assignment (see next page) and turn it in no later than 1 week after the absence.**
 - Until the assignment is turned in, a grade of “0” will go in the gradebook. Once the assignment is turned in, points will be given based on the following criteria:
 - Excused absence with assignment turned in all time – **FULL CREDIT**
 - Excused absence with assignment turned in late – **3 points out of 4**
 - Unexcused absence with assignment turned in on time – **2.3 points out of 4**
 - Unexcused absence with assignment turned in late – **2 points out of 4**

- If the assignment is not turned in, the “0” will remain in the gradebook.

Class Period (example: 1A)	Date of Missed Rehearsal	Due Date of Assignment

1. Please explain your reason for missing the rehearsal.

2. Does your absence count as excused or unexcused? _____

Excused Absences (<u>FULL CREDIT</u> after completing make up assignment)	Unexcused Absences (<u>PARTIAL CREDIT</u> after completing make up assignment)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Absent from school on day of rehearsal • Holicong sports game/match/meet • Paid tutoring, appointment, class (or other excused conflict) that you <u>TOLD YOUR DIRECTOR ABOUT PRIOR TO THE MISSED REHEARSAL.</u> • Last-second family emergency • Please communicate all absences via Remind or Email. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Forgot • Lack of transportation because you did not communicate with a parent or guardian • Sports practice (remember that time should be “split” per Holicong policy) • Paid tutoring, appointment, class or other conflict that you <u>DID NOT TELL YOUR DIRECTOR ABOUT PRIOR TO THE MISSED REHEARSAL</u>

Parent Signature: _____

When a rehearsal is missed, a grade of “0” will be entered into the gradebook. THIS IS JUST A PLACEHOLDER!! To earn points for the rehearsal you must complete and turn in this assignment (on the back) NO LATER THAN 1 WEEK AFTER YOUR MISSED REHEARSAL. You will then be given credit based on the guidelines listed above. Should you not complete the assignment the “0” will remain.

Our after-school rehearsals are an important step towards successful growth as musicians. They provide a limited number of opportunities for our full ensemble to rehearse together on stage before our concerts so that we are comfortable for the big night. Important information (both logistical and musical) will be covered, and it is important that everyone is on the same page. Please complete the assignment below to ensure that you have received all the necessary information that was covered at the rehearsal you missed.

Assignment: Meet with a member or members of the band that attended the after-school rehearsal that you missed. For each piece we rehearsed, find out key elements that were focused on in our rehearsal (trouble spots, musical directions, specific reminders that were given by your director, etc....). Also, find out any and all logistical procedures that your director went over (report time, concert attire, reminders, etc....).

Use the bottom half of this paper or attach a piece of notebook paper to write down what you missed in rehearsal. You should have a few notes about each song that was rehearsed and a list of logistics that were explained at the beginning of rehearsal. Bullet points are acceptable.

STUDENT CONTRACT

Student Name (please print): _____ Class Period: _____

Instrument in Band: _____ Chorus (Yes or No): _____

Student Grade Level: _____ 7th _____ 8th _____ 9th

Other instruments played: _____ Orchestra (Yes or No): _____

Do you take private lessons? Yes / No - What Instrument(s)? _____

Private Teacher Name: _____

Would you like the name of a private teacher if you do not have one? Circle YES or NO

I have read and will abide by all rules and requirements in the handbook. I am also aware of the required attire for both the Winter and Spring concerts.

STUDENT SIGNATURE: _____

PARENT INFORMATION

Name (please print): _____

I have read through the handbook and all the information provided. I am aware of:

- **The necessary supplies**
- **Proper concert attire**
- **Concert/rehearsal dates**
- **Grading policy**
- **Missed rehearsal assignment**

PARENT SIGNATURE: _____

Please return this page no later than Friday, September 14th