

TOHICKON BAND HANDBOOK 2018-2019

Concert Dates:

- Winter Instrumental Concert: Tuesday, Dec. 18, 2018 @ 7:00pm, student call time 6:15pm.
- Spring Instrumental Concert: Monday, May 13, 2019 @ 7:00pm, student call time 6:15pm.

After School Rehearsal Dates, all rehearsals 2:30pm – 4:00pm:

- 7th Grade Band: Dec. 10, May 6
- 8th Grade Band: Dec. 12, May 9
- 9th Grade Band: Dec. 14, May 10

NOTE ABOUT GRADING: Concert and after school rehearsal dates are mandatory and graded. The music department and athletics department will share students who have practices the day of a rehearsal. Students absent from a rehearsal/concert for **any other reason including games, doctor appointments, and vacations, must let Ms. McGahey know before the rehearsal/concert, and submit a make-up assignment to earn full credit for the missed rehearsal/concert. Students who are absent from a rehearsal/concert and do not let Ms. McGahey know before the rehearsal/concert can complete a make-up assignment but will only be able to receive a maximum of 50% credit for the missed rehearsal/concert upon completion of the make-up assignment.*

Concert Attire:

- Boys: Black dress pants, white button-down shirt (NO t-shirts), black tie, black socks, black dress shoes
- Girls: Black dress pants (leggings are ok, no jeans), white dressy shirt (no spaghetti straps, tank tops, or t-shirts), black dress shoes
- Jazz Band: black button up shirts with black ties, black pants, black dress shoes, black fedoras

Other mandatory events:

- East/Tohickon/Holicong side-by-side rehearsal: Thursday, Jan 3, 2:30 – 7:30 at East (students will be bussed from Tohickon). Mandatory event for all 8th and 9th grade East-bound band students.
- West/Tohickon/Lenape side-by-side rehearsal: Wednesday, Jan 23, after school time TBA at West. Mandatory event for all 8th and 9th grade West-bound band students.

Select Ensembles:

- Jazz Band: The Jazz Band is a competing jazz band that performs at the band concerts, 4 to 6 jazz festivals throughout the winter/spring, and attends the Dorney Park music festival at the end of the year. Jazz band rehearsals will be held Tuesday afternoons from 2:45 – 4:30. Audition packets will be sent home with the students and via Remind. Auditions are open to students grades 7-9 on flute, clarinet, saxophone, trumpet, french horn, trombone, tuba, drum set, mallets, piano, guitar, and bass. The student's Jazz Band audition will also be their Wind Ensemble audition.
 - Tohickon Jazz Festival "Toh Jam:" Friday, March 22, 2019
 - Dorney Park Music Adjudication: Friday, May 17, 2019
- Wind Ensemble: The Wind Ensemble is an advanced level concert band, performing music on a higher level than the regular grade-level concert bands. The Wind Ensemble performs at the spring band concert, a PMEA sponsored concert band adjudication, and attends the Dorney Park music festival at the end of the year. Wind Ensemble rehearsals will be held Wednesdays after school from 2:45 – 4:00. Auditions are open to students grades 7-9 on all instruments.
 - PMEA Concert Band Adjudication at East: Thursday, April 25, 2019
 - Dorney Park Music Adjudication: Friday, May 17, 2019

- Honors Band: The Central Bucks Middle School Honors band was established in 2003 and is made up of the best middle school musicians from the 5 Central Bucks middle schools. Each director selects students through an audition process and those musicians form the district-wide honors band. The group has two condensed days of rehearsals and a concert. Due to the condensed nature of the ensemble, attendance at each rehearsal is mandatory.
 - Honors Band Festival dates: February 6, 8 and 9 at Holicong.

Remind:

- All band communication will be through Remind. Signing up is very easy, you do not need to download the app unless you want to, and communication is safe and secure. Parents and students should sign up for their grade level remind group on their phones:
 - 7th Grade Band: text the message @9bc3a3 (don't forget to include the @ symbol) to the number 81010.
 - 8th Grade Band: text the message @gdgek (don't forget to include the @ symbol) to the number 81010.
 - 9th Grade Band: text the message @74hkh (don't forget to include the @ symbol) to the number 81010.

Instrument Storage:

There are instrument storage lockers in the band room available to all band students. There are also sports closets on each grade level hallway where students can store instruments during the day. Students who would like a band storage locker must do the following:

- All instruments stored in the band room must have a nametag with your name attached to the case. If an instrument is found without a nametag, that student will lose the privilege of storing their instrument in the band room.
- Students using band lockers must provide their own combination locks (no key locks) for their band locker and share the combination with Ms. McGahey.
- You may not store your instrument in any of the band practice/storage rooms UNLESS given permission from Ms. McGahey. Those rooms are for Tohickon instrument storage only.

**PLEASE NOTE: Students are responsible for their instruments at all times at Tohickon. Students are responsible for any lost instruments or damages to their instruments while at Tohickon. The band room will be locked after school each day, but may occasionally be used by outside groups throughout the year in the afternoons/evenings. Students should never leave instruments out unsecured. Students assume liability for their instruments in the band room at all times.*

Instrument Repair:

- This year we are changing music vendors from Russo Music to Zeswitz Music. However, Russo will continue to service families in Central Bucks in the same manner. If you choose to switch music vendors this year, Zeswitz Music will offer the same services provided by Russo Music. Zeswitz Music and Russo Music will visit schools weekly to drop off/pick up instruments. They will also pick up instruments for repair, drop off free loaner instruments, and bring student's instruments back in a week. Russo visits Tohickon Tuesdays, and Zeswitz will visit Tohickon Wednesdays. If your instrument requires repair, please call your music vendor first to let them know so they will be prepared with a loaner for you, then give the instrument to Ms. McGahey who will label the it and leave it in the appropriate location in the band room to be picked up.
 - Zeswitz Phone: 610-406-4300
 - Russo Phone: 609-888-0620

