

Johnston High School Bands

2009-2010 Band Handbook

Concert band
Wind Symphony
Varsity Marching Band
Jazz Syndicate
Jazz Band
Jazz Lab Band
Wind Ensemble
Solo and Ensemble
All-State Auditions
Drumline
Color Guard

Patrick J. Kearney
Richard Wolfe

Instructors

www.quia.com/pages/johnstonbands.html

www.johnstobands.org

www.twitter.com/jhsbands

August 2009

Dear Band Students and Parents,

Welcome to the 2009-2010 school year. As always there are a number of changes in our band program, but I hope that the one thing that remains constant is our dedication to excellence. The most important change is the addition of Mr. Richard Wolfe to our high school band staff. Mr. Wolfe comes to us with over 30 years of experience as a band director. He has been the Director of Bands at Lincoln and Roosevelt High Schools in addition to a number of other successful teaching jobs.

I typically write a full page of thoughts at the start of the handbook that I suspect rarely get read. Instead I am going to highlight a few key thoughts below that I hope you will take a look at. The information in the rest of the handbook is intended to provide you with information that will help you to be successful as a member of the JHS Bands.

Some Thoughts:

1) Communication is key. Please contact Mr. Kearney if you ever have any questions about the band program. I can be reached via email at pkearney@johnston.k12.ia.us, or by phone at 278-0449.

2) Please check our web site at www.quia.com/pages/johnstonbands.html to get the most up to date information about the Johnston Bands. It includes a calendar and some other valuable resources.

3) Your attendance at all rehearsals and performances is vital. This course is different than a typical class. By signing up for this course you should be aware that it entails performances and rehearsals outside the normal school day. You must take that obligation seriously, as absences affect the performance of the entire group.

4) Grades are merely a way to reflect your performance in this class. Our grading system is set up to reward both skills you have and will acquire as well as to reward your effort and attitude. Lesson attendance is the biggest factor for most students who are not happy with their band grade. ALL students are required to participate in our lesson program. Listen carefully to announcements about lesson expectations. Please use infinite campus to check on grades regularly.

EVERY member of our band program is important. EVERY member of our band program is critical to our success. EVERY member of our program has something important to offer. EVERY member of our program has the right to expect excellence from this band department. You are an important part of this team our success will be dependent on how much we can get EVERY member of our team to commit to excellence each and every day.

Sincerely,

Patrick J. Kearney

JHS Band Behavior Standards

It is our belief that the students in JHS band program represent the best students here or anywhere. We are proud of the quality of students that participate in the JHS band and proud of the program we all represent. Because of the quality of the students in our band program we maintain very high behavioral standards as well as high performance standards. The following is a partial list of behavioral standards for the JHS bands.

- 1) The individual conduct of each band member reflects directly upon the band, our school, our community and most importantly on you. All students are expected to maintain the highest of behavioral standards, especially when representing the band department. Normal school regulations are always in effect during band activities.
- 2) The use of any controlled substance (alcohol, tobacco or illegal drugs) before or during any band activity will not be tolerated. Such behavior jeopardizes the safety and reputation of not only yourself but also those around you. Infractions of this policy are grounds for dismissal from all JHS band organizations. *The JHS Good Conduct policy, as described in you JHS Student Handbooks, does apply to the JHS band program.*
- 3) Each student will be on time to all rehearsals and performances. "On time" means being in the designated location with the appropriate materials and appropriate attire to participate. Being on time is a matter of respect for your classmates and instructors. Being on time is a part of our daily grading process. In addition, excessive tardies will be forwarded to the main office. We expect students to be on time and ready to work every day.
- 4) Because each member of the JHS bands is crucial to the success of our program, it is essential that you attend all rehearsals and performances. Any unexcused absence from a rehearsal or performance will result in a lowering of your grade as determined by the instructor. The band program is a co-curricular activity that by definition requires attendance at events outside of the normal school day. Band students should understand that the performances and other required events in this handbook are mandatory in order to sustain a quality program and experience for everyone. Obviously serious illness or family emergencies will be dealt with as they occur in relation to this policy. It is our standard policy that if you are able to be in school, you should be able to participate in band. An unexcused absence from a performance may result in a failing grade for the semester. If you are going to miss a scheduled band activity, you must inform one of the band directors at least *three weeks prior* to that event.
- 5) Rehearsal times are work times. In order to be the best musical ensembles we can be, we must use our rehearsal time wisely. Outstanding musical organizations are built during rehearsals. Our ability to use our rehearsal time wisely is crucial to our ability to be the best we can be.
- 6) The band room is a classroom and should be treated that way. **NO FOOD** or **DRINK** (other than water) should be brought into the band room. Instruments should be put away after each rehearsal and all equipment returned to its proper location. Because of the size of the band, each individual must take responsibility for the condition of the band room.

The JHS bands operate under very simple rules that make our environment a pleasant place to live and work in. The most important rule that we operate under is to respect everyone that comes in contact with our band program. The band staff will constantly seek to make the JHS band program and the JHS band hall a place where you feel welcome, comfortable, and have every chance to be successful.

JHS Bands Grading System

Johnston High School recognizes band as a curricular course receiving credit and a grade. The grading policy is designed to recognize all of the elements that go into being a successful band member. We want all students to succeed and we believe that by achieving success in our grading system, students will achieve greater success as musicians and the band will improve as well. Please read and understand this system; if you have questions, please ask them.

The grading system is broken down into these elements:

- 1) Rehearsals
- 2) Rehearsal Skills
- 3) Lessons
- 4) Performance Checks
- 5) Written Work

1. Rehearsals/Performances (25%)

Each student is graded during each rehearsal. Maximum credit is earned by being on time, having all equipment, being attentive and giving full effort. Points are deducted for any tardy or for forgetting equipment. Also, assume that if you have to be corrected for inappropriate behavior during a rehearsal you will not receive full credit. Inappropriate behavior can range from unnecessary talking to chewing gum in rehearsal. We believe that rehearsals are the core of our program and your performance in those rehearsals ultimately defines our ability to grow as musical ensembles

2. Rehearsal Skills (25%)

It is our belief that rehearsals are at the core of what we do in the band program. In order for our rehearsals to be productive it is important that students display appropriate rehearsal skills. Those skills include being on time, having necessary equipment, listening attentively, using appropriate posture, being an active participant in each rehearsal, and displaying evidence of having understood the concepts that are being taught.

3. Lessons (20%)

All students will be required to take lessons. Students will be responsible for attending up to six lessons during each nine week quarter. A lesson schedule will be posted regularly that will let students know when they are expected to attend lessons. It is the **student's responsibility** to make sure that they attend the required number of lessons. Students taking private lessons will receive credit for those lessons. Mr. Kearney or Mr. Wolfe will provide students with a form to fill out to receive this credit. Lessons are meant to develop practical playing skills and to work on ensemble music as necessary. Full lesson credit is achieved by showing progress from lesson to lesson. A variety of materials will be used for each student to improve playing skills. Lessons may also include occasional structured practice time in the band room.

4. Performance Checks (20%)

Periodically throughout the year each student will be required to take performance checks. As with all other classes students are accountable for the information that is taught during class time. During these performance checks students will be asked to play material that has been assigned by the band director. Directors will be checking for complete performance of the requested material. All performance skills including accuracy, intonation, tempo, dynamics, articulations, posture, tone and support will be evaluated during these checks.

4. Written Work (10%)

Over the course of the year students will be asked to do a variety of written work. The written work will include such things as concert evaluations, tests over material covered in rehearsals, as well as self-evaluations. We believe that having students analyze their own performances will improve their problem solving and communication skills.

Performing Ensembles

Marching Band

All band members participate as members of the Johnston High School Varsity Marching Band. The marching band is active from early August until the middle of October. The marching band appears at all home football games, several marching contests and local parades. The marching band does require a commitment beyond normal school hours. Students are expected to attend our marching band camp which is held during the first full week in August as we learn our marching music and much of our marching drill during that time. During the marching season the band also regularly rehearses at 7 a.m. These rehearsals are necessary in order for us to perform at our best. The marching band will rehearse in all types of weather, so please come prepared with appropriate clothing. The Marching Dragons are an important part of the fall football atmosphere at JHS as well as a highly regarded marching unit at the contests we attend. Pride, discipline, and dedication make this group a success.

Concert Band

We will be continuing to experiment with our concert band configuration this year. For much of the year we will be split into two bands. There will be a small select wind ensemble and a larger concert band that will meet and rehearse separately. We may at times combine both groups into one large concert band. Our hope is that all students will play in an ensemble that matches their ability level and provides them with appropriate challenges.

Jazz Bands

There will be three jazz bands this year at JHS. Auditions occur in the preceding spring for the following year's jazz bands. Students must be a member of the concert band in order to participate in jazz band. All jazz bands will rehearse in the mornings following the end of the marching season and will also have regularly scheduled evening rehearsals. All three ensembles will perform at concerts and contests throughout the year.

Solo and Ensemble Contest

Every student is invited but not required to participate in solo and ensemble contest. We hope to put together a variety of ensembles for students to become a part of. Because staff time is at a premium, many of these groups will be largely student led. Students who wish to prepare solos for contest will be required to pay a fee for an accompanist and will be expected to put in considerable practice time in order to have success at this event. All students will work on a solo during the 3rd quarter, but do not have to take it to contest.

All-State Auditions

We hope to take the maximum allotted 28 students to this year's All-State auditions in Indianola. This means that the 28 selected students must make a strong commitment to attend the auditions and to prepare appropriately. We are hoping to make the All-State audition process an even more important part of our curriculum for our top students.

Pep Band

This year all students will be required to attend at least one pep band performance during the winter basketball season. This will hopefully insure that we always have a reasonable sized pep band for home basketball games. We intend on scheduling four pep band performances for the winter. Students who perform at more than two pep band games will receive letter credit.

Concert Band Uniforms

In an effort to build a more uniform and unified look we are going to all black concert attire. For gentlemen, this means that you will wear a long sleeved black shirt with no tie. Gentlemen will also wear long black pants, black socks and black shoes. Ladies will wear either a long black dress or a black blouse and black pants. No sleeveless blouses will be allowed. In addition black dresses or skirts must come below the knee when you are seated. Ladies wearing a dress or skirt must wear black pantyhose. Ladies must also wear black shoes. No tennis shoes will be allowed. The look should be formal and conservative.

Performance and Rehearsal Conflicts

The JHS band program takes great pride in the diversity of our membership. Because our members represent such a broad cross-section of the JHS population, we understand that conflicts may occasionally occur between activities. When this situation arises it will become the responsibility of the band directors, activity sponsors, coaches and Activity Director (Mr. Ross) to resolve the conflict. Students do not unilaterally decide which activities they are going to attend. As such, students are expected to respect the resultant decision. It is important to note that in accordance with the district's activity policy, school events take precedence over non-school events. The key element of this process is to let the band staff know of any potential conflicts as soon as possible. We will go out of our way to avoid putting students in the middle of uncomfortable situations regarding conflicts. If a student is aware of a potential conflict outside of the school we ask that they try to resolve it as soon as possible. **We require three weeks notice for an absence to be possibly considered excused.** It is our hope that by providing student and parents with our schedule well in advance of performances that most conflicts can be worked out long before the performance dates.

JHS Bands Lettering Policy

Lettering is considered to be an honor earned by participation in the band above and beyond the normal classroom. Daily work in band is reflected by grades, lettering is recognition of time and effort spent outside of the regular classroom expectations. You must attend all required performances to letter in band.

You must have 200 points to letter.

Freshmen Band Members	50 points	_____
Sophomore Band Members	65 points	_____
Junior Band Members	80 points	_____
Senior Band Members	100 points	_____
"A" Grade per/semester	50 points	_____
Drum Major/Field Commander	50 points	_____
Section Leaders	30 points	_____
Selected for the All-State Band	100 points	_____
"I" rating at Solo/Ensemble Contest	40 points	_____
"II" rating at Solo/Ensemble Contest	30 points	_____
"III" rating at Solo/Ensemble Contest	25 points	_____
Audition for All-State Band	40 points	_____
Audition for the SCIBA Honor Band	25 points	_____
Jazz Bands	50 points	_____
Chamber Ensembles	20-40 points	_____
Honor Bands	25 points	_____
Private Lessons (all year)	20 points	_____
Participation at every pep band performance	80 points	_____
Participation at one pep band performance	10 points	_____

Other: Please list

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

Total:

Band Contract/Permission Slip

We have read the JHS band handbook and understand and accept the expectations, policies and procedures outlined here for the Johnston High School Bands. We further understand that the band staff is always available for consultation should the need arise.

Furthermore, we grant permission for our son/daughter to participate in school-sanctioned JHS band activities. Specifically, we grant permission for our son/daughter to attend band related performances that occur outside of regular school hours and off school district property. My son/daughter also has permission to travel in transportation provided by the Johnston Community School District busses or a school employee. Specific information regarding each trip and event will be provided at least one week prior to the date of performance. All school policies and regulations apply on any JHS band trip.

Please sign and return to the band office by Friday, August 28th. A signed band contract is required for participation in band activities and to receive a passing grade in band.

Student Signature

Date

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

Parents email address (if you would like to be added to the JHS Bands email list)

Students email address (if you would like to be added to the JHS Bands email list)

Please contact the band staff at any time if you have questions or concerns. We hope that you find that we are available and interested in making students and parents comfortable and confident in our program. We can be reached at 278-0449 or email us at pkearney@johnston.k12.ia.us or rich.wolfe@johnston.k12.ia.us.

All high school band students are assessed a \$50 band fee. This fee can be paid to our building bookkeeper Mrs. VonHagen (checks made out to Johnston High School. The fee can also now be paid online at the following web site: <http://johnston.revtrak.net>. This fee covers the purchase of the band t-shirt, gloves, and uniform dry cleaning and maintenance.

Students also need Drillmaster marching shoes. Please note below if you need a pair of marching shoes. The fee for the marching shoes will be collected at a later date.

I already have a pair of Drillmaster marching shoes

I need to have a pair of Drillmaster marching shoes ordered for me

Shoe Size

Johnston High School Bands
2009–2010 Calendar

Friday, August 21	PM	*Fall Preview Show	JHS Stadium
Friday, September 4	6 pm	*Home Football Game	JHS
Friday, September 11	6 pm	*Home Football Game	JHS
Saturday, September 19	AM/PM	*JHS Marching Invitational	JHS
Saturday, September 26	PM	*Marshalltown Marching Show	Marshalltown
Thursday, October 1	5 PM	*Homecoming Parade	Johnston
Friday, October 2	6 pm	*Home Football Game	JHS
Saturday, October 10	PM	*Valleyfest Day and Night Show	Valley Stadium
Saturday, October 17	PM	*State Contest/Waukee Marching Show	Waukee HS
Tuesday, October 20	PM	Concert Band Auditions	JHS
Friday, October 23	6 pm	*Home Football Game	JHS
Saturday, October 24	PM	All-State Auditions	Indianola HS
November 19-21		All-State Music Festival	Ames
Thursday, December 3	PM	SCIBA Honor Band Auditions	Waukee HS
December 4-5		Drake Honor Band	Drake
Sunday, December 6	7 pm	Jazz Concert	JHS
Monday, December 7	7 pm	Jazz Ensemble at Adventureland Inn	A-Land Inn
Saturday, December 12	TBA	SCIBA Jazz Festival	Waukee HS
Monday, December 14	7:30 pm	*Winter Band Concert	JHS
Saturday, January 9	All Day	SCIBA Honor Band	Drake
Thursday, January 21	PM	Simpson Jazz Festival (jazz ensemble)	Indianola
Saturday, January 30	AM	Jazz Clinic	JHS
Tuesday, February 2	All Day	Drake Honor Jazz Band	Drake
Saturday, February 6	TBA	Jack Oatts Jazz Fest	Earlham
Saturday, February 6	TBA	Urbandale Jazz Colloquium	UHS
Monday, February 8	7 pm	Jazz Band at Adventureland Inn	A-Land Inn
Tuesday, February 16	4 pm	Johnston Solo and Ensemble Night	JHS
Friday, February 19	TBA	Tallcorn Jazz Festival (ensemble and band)	UNI
Saturday, February 20	TBA	Indianola Jazz Festival (all jazz groups)	Indianola HS
Thursday, March 4	7:30 pm	*Masterworks Concert	JHS
Monday, March 29	7 pm	Jazz Ensemble at Adventureland Inn	A-Land Inn
Tuesday, April 6	TBA	Iowa Jazz Championships	Civic Center
Saturday, April 17	TBA	State Solo/Ensemble Contest	TBA
Friday, April 23	PM	*Drake Relays Band Festival	Waukee HS
Saturday, May 8	TBA	*State Large Group Contest	JHS and JMS
Tuesday, May 11	7:30 pm	*Spring Band Concert	JHS
Wednesday, May 12	6 pm	Awards Night	JHS
Sunday, May 30	5 pm	*Commencement	Knapp Center

*-required performance by all band students