

Hamlin Upper Grade Center

2024-2025



Band Director:

Mr. Greg Miller



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Music Policy

Participation in any music ensemble is viewed the same as any other curricular class. Each program is offered to any student that wants to be a part of it. Most of all, each music program is student centered to where everything is aimed to make it an enjoyable, as well as educational experience. Students are expected to complete a full year once it has been started.

Without music, life would be a mistake.
~Friedrich Wilhelm Nietzsche

Band Programs Offered

Some opportunities for the students to participate in band include the following:

- Beginning Band
- Concert Band

All Concert Band rehearsals will be held in the small gym at Hamlin. Lessons will be held in the band room. Beginning Band rehearsals and lessons will be held in the designated room by the director at Meadow Lane.

Beginning Band

The Beginning Band program is designed for any 5th grade student attending Meadow Lane and 6th grade students attending Hamlin. 7th grade students may also enter this program at the discretion of the band director.

In September, all students will get a chance to select their instrument of choice to be played. All of the instruments will be demonstrated to the students. They will then get an opportunity to try out the instrument they are

interested in learning. All students that decide to participate will be given a letter discussing an informational meeting for all parents regarding the cost of the instruments and the commitment required on their end. This presentation will be given by both the director and Instrument Rental Company. Parents are not required to attend, but it is recommended that they do. If you cannot make this meeting, you can receive all of this information from the band director.

An alternating schedule will be followed each week for the various instrumental groups. Students are required to attend each lesson and full band rehearsal unless excused by their teacher or band director. Also, students are responsible for making sure their instrument and music is at school the day of their lesson or band rehearsal. Parental involvement in this will be encouraged. The collective Beginning Band members will perform at the Spring Concert in May.

***When joining band, it is recommended that it be a commitment for the student to stick with it until graduating from middle school.**

Concert Band

The Concert Band is composed of all 6th, 7th, and 8th grade students that had previously completed the beginning band program. This band is the highest performing ensemble available at Hamlin.

A rotating schedule for classes will be followed each week. Attendance is mandatory for all band lessons unless excused by the band director. All lessons that are missed must be made up by each student by scheduling a new time with Mr. Miller. A note from a legal guardian is required for missing any band related activities unless you are not in attendance at school that day. However, not all notes will excuse the student from receiving a 0. Band lessons this year will be much smaller and will work more on individual playing as opposed to prepping music for performances.



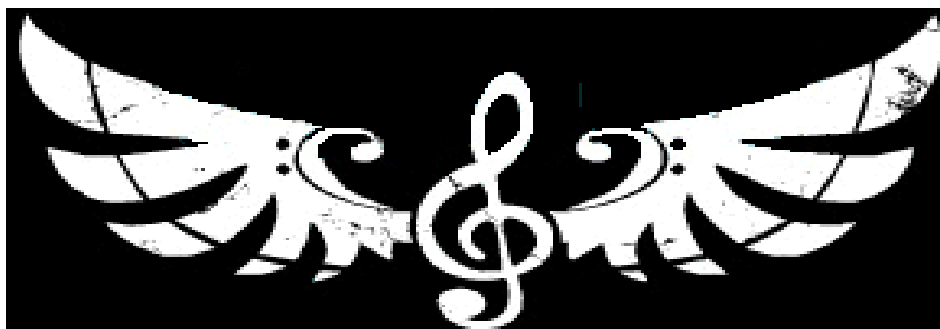


Rules and Regulations

- ☐ When the band director is speaking, no one is allowed to talk, everyone must be ready to play, and attention must be to the director.
- ☐ Attendance is required at all band related activities.
- ☐ Respect other people's property. The only property you are to touch is your own property. That includes music, instruments, and any other belongings.
- ☐ It is everyone's responsibility to care for their instruments and if there are any problems you must let the band director know.
- ☐ No eating food or drinking liquids other than water in the classroom unless an exception is made by the director.
- ☐ Practicing is required for all lessons. A practice log is kept each week and must be turned in to verify your practice time.
- ☐ Students are required to maintain their own instrument. This includes the playing condition, reeds, valve oil, etc.
- ☐ All other school rules will be enforced as well in the band room.

Attendance Policy

At this school, the band program is viewed as any other class period or extra-curricular activity. Attendance is expected of every student. In order to be excused from attending band on the scheduled day, it must be an excused absence authorized by the attendance office. All unexcused absences begin affecting your classroom grade. If there are any questions regarding this, please contact the band director.



Instrument Policy

All students are encouraged to have their own instruments. However, if this is not possible, the school will provide the student with an opportunity to rent an instrument. The cost for the student will be for the rental price and any repairs needed to the instrument. All repairs and purchases can be made through:

PM Music Center
4411 Fox Valley Center Dr.
Aurora, IL 60504
Phone: (630)978-9927

For larger instruments that the school owns, students will not be required to rent the instrument on their own.

Another option for parents to look into themselves is through Quinlan & Fabish. They may have a bigger selection of instruments and you might be able to find instruments cheaper.

Quinlan & Fabish
6827 High Grove Blvd.
Burr Ridge, IL 60527
Phone: (630)654-4111

***It is recommended that the band director approve any instrument that you plan on getting before you purchase it.**

Equipment

For all equipment and accessories needed for your instrument, you can purchase products at Jake's Music (as well as Treble Clef Music). They are open Monday-Saturday starting at 1:30pm. I will only have certain supplies available for emergencies. If you do not have your own equipment, it will be reflected against your grade.

Jake's Music Service
11624 South Pulaski Road
Alsip, IL 60803
(708)597-2210

Practicing

Practicing is one of the most importantly stressed aspects in the band program. Students are required to practice for all band activities. Parent involvement is vital in this happening. The more the student is pushed at home to do this, the better musician they will become. Each week, every student will have to turn in a practice log as part of their weekly grade.

****Practice time is given at school each Wednesday during rotation classes.**

Grading

-Beginning band students do not receive a grade as part of their report card, however in order to stay in the band, they must participate in all band responsibilities.

-Concert Band students receive a band grade as part of their regular report card. Attendance and effort will strongly affect a student's grade. Band grades do affect the student's grade point average.

***Grading is primarily based on attendance. Students can expect an excellent grade depending if all attendance requirements have been met. Practicing, as mentioned before, is the other large portion of the grade. Extra credit is given to students who participate in musical activities not associated with the school such as with church or the community, as well as extra practice hours.**



Sheet Music/Folder Policy

Responsibility is a key concept associated with the ensembles. When it comes to sheet music, every student is responsible for the condition of their music. If lost or ruined, the student is required to pay the price for the music to be replaced. Each student will be provided with the supplies to keep their music neat and organized. You can purchase a professional band folder for \$10 from Mr. Miller.

Performance Dress for Concert Band

BLACK DRESS SHOES & SOCKS – No gym shoes allowed! Standard concert wear usually includes a pair of black dress shoes and black dress socks.

BLACK DRESS SLACKS – No jeans of any kind! In order to be in uniform with each other, everyone must be wearing the same form of pants.

BLACK COLLARED SHIRT - All students must wear an all black collared shirt. It can be a standard polo or button down shirt.

Band Parents

Parental backing can be an invaluable aid to any instrumental organization. The success of the band is due, in large part, to the active participation of parents.

This year, we will need your help once again. All beginning and concert band parents can take an active part of this group. Your involvement with the band would be appreciated by the students, the band director, and the other parents.

Some of the activities where parent help will be needed are as follows:

- | | |
|------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| -Holiday Dinner | -Transportation of big instruments |
| -Chaperone for Band Festival | -Refreshments for all Concerts |
| -Ice Cream Social | -Fundraising |

If you can help out with any of these activities, or if you have any other ideas for band related activities, please contact Mr. Miller at school at 708-597-1550 or by cell at 708-539-5358. I will be sending out emails to all the parents about these activities and what help will be needed. Thank you in advance for your support of our instrumental band program.

Contact Information

Below is a list of ways to get in contact with me or receive announcements from me. On the sign-off sheet on the last page of this packet, please make sure to leave your contact information so I can add you to my address book for all band related notifications. The school phone number is listed below as well. You can also find out any information on my school webpage (www.ahsd125.org), or get announcements from me by text, email, or by the phone app called "Remind" on the App Store. Follow the directions listed on the bottom to join the group.

School: (708)597-1550

Email: gmliller@ahsd125.org

Remind: Download the Remind app and search for class code: @hugcband
OR

Scan the QR Code below to join!



How Parents Can Help

At School

1. Notify the teacher for absences.
2. See that your child takes their instrument to school when needed.
3. Impress upon your child the necessity to be punctual.
4. See that your child keeps up with class activities.
5. Attend all band activities where allowed.
6. Help out with the Band Booster organization.
7. Volunteer to help out at band activities.

At Home

1. Show an interest in the music study of your child.
2. Arrange a regular practice time.
3. Find a quiet place to practice without interruption.
4. Help them with their practice as much as possible.
5. Help them care for their instrument and keep it safe.
6. Keep the instrument in good repair with reeds, oil, etc.
7. Be very careful of school owned and rented instruments.
Replacement is costly.
8. Assist them to be consistent in attending rehearsals.
9. Assist them to be at rehearsals on time.
10. Make faithful attendance to all events important.
11. Encourage them to play for others at home, school and church/community events.

I have read, understand, and will follow everything that has been stated in this handbook. **Please sign this sheet, tear it off, and return it to the band director no later than Friday, September 6th.**

Students Name: _____

Parent Signature: _____ Date: _____

Cell (Parent): _____ Cell (Student): _____

Email Address: _____

Calendar

August 30th:

Beginning Band Instrument Fittings @ Meadow Lane
(9-11am)

September 4th:

Beginning Band Parent Night @ Hamlin
(6pm)

October 9th:

Middle School Marching Night @ Eisenhower (6-7:30pm)

October 18th:

Middle School Marching Night @ Marist
(6-8:30pm)

November 22nd:

Eisenhower Co-op Winter Concert @ Eisenhower
(7pm)

December 12th:

Holiday Dinner & Fine Arts Night @ Hamlin
(Dinner: 6pm/Performance: 7pm)

March 5th:

SSJHSC Band Fest @ Arbor Park
(Bus to AP @ 4pm, bus home by 9pm)

March 15th:

Chicagoland Classic Band Festival @ Eisenhower (TBD)

May 8th:

Spring Concert & Ice Cream Social @ Hamlin
(6pm)

May 28th:

Graduation Ceremony @ Hamlin
(6pm)