

# Tech Tiger Band Handbook 2019-2020

## Band Courses, AP Music Theory, and Other Performance Groups

### **1. Varsity Band:** Grade 9

*Grad Standard: Literary and Arts Creation and Performance*

Most 9th grade band students participate in the Varsity Band. Music for the Varsity Band will include traditional, popular, and contemporary styles for high school bands. This band performs evening concerts during the school year and members may participate in Pep Band events. Varsity Band meets every Day 1.

### **2. Concert Band:** Grades 9, 10, 11, or 12

*Grad Standard: Literary and Arts Creation and Performance*

The Concert Band is for intermediate students or students with limited schedule time. Music will be selected from a variety of standard works for band, orchestral transcriptions, popular, and contemporary music written high school bands. The Concert Band performs evening concerts during the school year. Concert Band members participate in Pep Band. Concert Band meets Day 1 during Trimester 1, and every day during Trimesters 2 and 3.

### **3. Wind Ensemble:** Grades 9, 10, 11, or 12

*Grad Standard: Literary and Arts Creation and Performance*

The Wind Ensemble is the highest level performing band at Tech High School. This group may be limited in size and instrumentation. Music will be selected from the best of traditional and contemporary literature for wind band. The Wind Ensemble performs several evening concerts during the school year and participates in the Central Lakes Conference Music Festival on Friday, April 3, 2020, hosted by Sartell.

All students must audition for placement in the group. Wind Ensemble members participate in Pep Band events. Wind Ensemble meets daily. Doublers will be in Wind ensemble on Day 2.

### **4. Jazz Ensemble:** Grades 9, 10, 11, or 12 (no credit)

Jazz Ensemble generally meets before school on Tuesdays at 7:30am. Instrumentation includes: alto, tenor, and baritone saxophones; trumpets; trombones; bass, guitar, piano, and drum set.

Jazz groups perform on various concerts, Solo/Ensemble Contest, as well as school and community functions throughout the year.

**All students interested in Jazz Ensemble must come to the first rehearsal on Tuesday September 10th.**

### **5. Pep Band:** All Band students will participate (no credit)

The Pep Band performs at a number of school athletic events, pep fests, and possible community events. All band students are asked to play in half the events each season. That's 2 of the four Fall events, and 5 of the 10 Winter Events. Those unable to meet the requirement must provide the director with a parent note or email stating the reason(s).

**A schedule of pep band events will be provided to each student and is also available at [www.techband.weebly.com](http://www.techband.weebly.com).** Students earn points towards a Band Letter for each performance attended (see Letter Points).

**NOTE: Pep Band requires using a lyre and a Band T-Shirt (purchased from the director).** A bus will be provided for hockey games to the game (from Tech) and back to Tech.

#### **6. Dixieland Band:** All Grades (no credit)

The Dixieland Band plays music that centers on the traditional Dixieland style. Membership, rehearsals, and performances will be based on demand and instructor approval.

#### **7. Full Orchestra:** Wind and percussion members with director approval (no additional credit)

Some band students will have an opportunity to play in one of the Tech Orchestras on their wind or percussion instrument. Instrumentation is limited and may vary. Rehearsals generally occur during period 1 and period 2. Concerts have been scheduled and all concert attendance policies apply. Orchestra participants will earn band letter points- the exact number of points is dependent upon the amount of participation.

**8. History of Rock and Roll:** Music Elective. All Grades. Meets the Arts Standard requirement. This course will explore the influences which began and continue to shape the popular music in America. Examine how music reflects the social and historical events of our country. Contributions from world cultures will be emphasized and students will actively participate in related classroom performances. No musical training or experience is needed. Meets for one trimester, every day.

#### **9. AP Music Theory:**

AP Music Theory is offered every other year. It will not be offered this year, but it will be offered the 2020-2021 school year. This course is designed to prepare students to take the AP Music Theory Exam. Students who score well have the opportunity to earn college course credit. Instructor approval is required.

#### **Placement in Bands**

Students will be placed in bands based on: 1) ability, 2) the need to balance instrumentation, or 3) to meet the needs of an individual's schedule. A placement evaluation may be used to determine band placement.

#### **Chair Placements**

Chair or seating arrangements within sections of the bands will be made on the basis of ability, instrumentation and balance needs. This will be accomplished through Chair Placement performances which will occur during rehearsals. Specifics about this process will be discussed in band rehearsals.

#### **Guidelines for Behavior**

There are three basic guidelines for behavior in band:

1. No one will keep the teacher from teaching.
2. No one will keep another student from learning.
3. No one will in any way interfere with the personal rights of any other student in class.

### **Cell Phones and other electronic devices**

School policies will be followed and enforced during class time.

### **Practice Habits**

A regular schedule of quality practice is essential to development on any musical instrument. Common sense tells us that practicing 30 minutes a day for six consecutive days is more effective than practicing for 2 hours on one day. Suggested MINIMUM practice amount (not including in-school BAND rehearsals) is 30 minutes, five or six days a week.

### **Attendance:**

Rehearsals (regular class): Attendance at all rehearsals is essential to creating a polished performance. Band is a team effort with everyone contributing to that effort. Skipping a rehearsal will be treated like skipping any other class as outlined in the student handbook.

In addition, **the director will contact parents** regarding unexcused absences. Absences will be considered excused for the same reasons allowed by the school for absences from classes. Students who play in the Wind ensemble as well as the Concert Choir or the Orchestra will alternate rehearsal days.

**Performances:** Your attendance at concert performances is mandatory. Your attendance is extremely important as the entire group has grown dependent upon your participation in rehearsals. Any conflicts with a scheduled performance must be cleared at least three weeks in advance in order to be considered excused absences. Only the most serious excuses will be accepted by the director. Students with excused absences only will be allowed to do a make-up assignment. School policy will be followed should school activities conflict with a performance.

**See the Tech Music Calendar at [www.techband.weebly.com](http://www.techband.weebly.com).**

### **2019-2020 Band T-Shirts**

All Tech Band members will purchase a Tech Music t-shirt to be worn for Pep Band and other events. The cost will be about \$10 per shirt. A single order will be placed the first days of school. Fundraising money may be used to pay for the shirt.

### **Concert Attire--Formal Concerts**

**All Band Members:** Formal concert attire will be ALL BLACK (which means 'Solid' black)

**Ladies:** Black skirt of knee length or longer or black dress slacks, black dressy top, black socks or hosiery and black dress shoes.

**Gentlemen:** Black dress slacks, Black long sleeve button down dress shirt, black Socks and black dress shoes. Black or orange tie or bow tie.

### **Lyres- Required by All Wind Players**

Lyres are the small clip-type holders for smaller pep band size music that will attach to most instruments.

**All students must furnish a lyre for their instrument (if needed) as they will be used for Pep Bands, assemblies, and other events. School owned instruments will have a lyre provided.**

Since each instrument differs in size and how the lyre is attached, please bring your instrument to the music store to be fitted for the proper size and type of lyre.

### **Rental of School Owned Instruments**

Some of the larger instruments are available as rentals from the school. An instrument loan contract will be necessary for all students using a school instrument. The \$70 rental fee can be paid in a single payment or two equal payments by September 30 and February 21st. Checks should be made to "Tech High School." Please speak to the director.

### **Percussion Fee**

All percussion students pay a \$30 maintenance fee for the year. The fee will be used to maintain percussion equipment. The fee is due by September 30th.

### **Instrument Care**

The investment in musical instruments is great and so care needs to be taken in handling them at all times.

Here are some basic rules to follow for simple instrument care:

1. Keep it clean- regularly clean your instrument as recommended.
2. Don't trade instruments- untrained people can accidentally damage your instrument.
3. Ask the Director for help- if something is stuck or not working, ask for help. The Director is trained to do simple repairs and can refer other repairs to a qualified person.

### **Grading Criteria for Tech Bands (note that this is DIFFERENT than lettering criteria)**

#### **Rehearsals (10 pts each):**

- Demonstrates punctuality and preparedness. Daily attendance is taken.
- Demonstrates proper playing position.
- Exhibits proper care of instrument, equipment, and materials in the music area
- Exhibits appropriate behavior in a group setting

#### **Lessons (25 pts each):**

- Demonstrates punctuality and preparedness.
- Knows and applies proper practice habits and procedures.

#### **Playing tests (25 pts each):**

- Meets the deadline for the test.
- Demonstrates rhythms, tone, technique, intonation, articulation, and expression relevant to current material and experience.

#### **Written work (point values vary):**

- Band rehearsals will cover information relevant to understanding music theory, history, technique, etc. Such information may be given orally or written. Occasional written work will be scored and graded.

#### **Performances (see point values below):**

Concerts, contests, and festivals: 250 pts each

Pepfests and other in-school performances not previously categorized: 100 pts each

Pep Band performances: 25 pts each

-Performances are the culmination of all aspects of musical training and are one of the most important group functions of band.

-Only the most serious excuses will be considered for absences. Students with excused absences must make arrangements to do make up work for missing a performance.

**-Please notify the director far in advance of a performance if you know you will be absent.**

**\*\*PLEASE NOTE:** Concert and Pep Band dates are set. See music and pep calendars and mark your calendars at home. **See calendars at [www.techband.weebly.com](http://www.techband.weebly.com).**

### **S/U Grading for Band**

Students have the opportunity to take a limited number of classes at Tech for S/U grading. Band may be taken for S/U grading. Students must complete the S/U grading form at the beginning of the grading period to be eligible. (See Director)

### **ISD 742 Policies**

All District and School policies are to be followed by all students. Infractions will be dealt with by the teacher and other school staff as necessary.

### **The Band Room and Music Area**

**The Band Room is arranged for maximum efficiency. It is filled with specialized and expensive equipment. Here are a few guidelines to follow:**

-Please take special care of chairs (no rocking back), stands, tuners, instruments, stereo and other equipment. Use these only for their given function.

-Percussion should be put back in the correct spots after every rehearsal. These instruments are extremely expensive and can be damaged by untrained use. **ONLY PERCUSSIONISTS ARE ALLOWED TO PLAY THESE INSTRUMENTS.** Any others playing these or other instruments without permission will be dealt with immediately.

**-Only water is allowed in the music area including rehearsal rooms, practice rooms, and hallways.**

Practice Rooms are available for individual or small group practice. Students are encouraged to use these rooms for practicing assigned lesson material during school hours. Only water is allowed in practice rooms at any time. Access to practice rooms must be approved by a music teacher. No personal belongings may be stored in practice rooms.

Instrument Lockers are found in the band room for school and privately owned instruments and belongings. All students will be assigned a band locker at the beginning of the school year. Students are responsible for keeping lockers, neat, clean, and in good repair. Any locker exchanges or changes must be approved by the director! Please do not store music in your instrument case. The music area may not always be open-- Plan accordingly!

### **Lesson Books**

District 742 has developed a band curriculum to best teach students instrumental music in a progressive manner. Varsity Band members will be provided the "Tradition of Excellence" Book 3 for class as well as a theory workbook.

### **Private Lessons Outside of School**

Students are encouraged to take private lessons outside of school. Teachers at area Universities, advanced post-secondary instrumental students, as well as other professionals give private instruction. Private teachers may be contacted by the band director to monitor student progress. All assignments for band are still required to be completed. You may also find a teacher via this website: [www.unite4music.com](http://www.unite4music.com).

### **Student Leaders**

Each section of the band will have a student leader as determined by each section or the director may designate a student to be a section leader. The section leader will be responsible, trustworthy, and mature. Any qualified student may be selected or designated as section leader. Bands may have other officers and leaders selected by the ensemble or appointed by the band director.

### **Supplies- reeds, oil, grease, etc**

Students who perform on an instrument that requires a reed will need to furnish their own reeds. Students will also need to provide their own oils, grease, lubricants, swabs, etc.

### **Individuals MUST purchase reeds and other items OUTSIDE of school.**

Reed strength and brand will vary with individuals.

All reed players should meet the following minimum requirements:

- purchase own reeds-- these are usually cheaper by the box
- Have at least 3 working reeds available at all times

### **Suggested Strengths for Single Reeds by Brand:**

- Rico= 3 or 3 ½
- LaVoz= Med Hard, Hard
- VanDoren= Med Hard, Hard
- Mitchell Lurie= 3 or 3 ½

### **Major Trips Out of State**

Trips are subject to administration and school board approval. Funds for such trips come through fundraising efforts by the group and individuals, donation, and other sources. Funds for such trips come through fundraising efforts by the group and individuals, donation, and other sources. The school district does not pay for such trips.

### **Field Trips**

Occasionally, field trips may be provided for band students. Such trips may include concerts, music stores, music repair, University music departments, Chanhassen Dinner Theatre or other activities. Transportation will be provided for contest, hockey games, Music Listening Contest, the CLC Music Festival, and the Region 8AA Band Festival.

### **Fundraising**

All band students are eligible to participate in band fundraising activities (students are not required to participate). Fundraising is occasionally done to meet needs such as trips, tours, or purchase of specialized equipment.

Some Fundraising Activities have been planned for this year and will be announced as soon as possible.

### **Solo/Ensemble and Lesson Materials**

Music materials for group rehearsals and performances (other than lesson books) are provided by the school. Each student is responsible for the proper care of their assigned music. Students are responsible for repair or replacement of damaged or lost music materials. Contest is Wednesday, February 12, 2019 at Willmar High School.

Much Solo/Ensemble music is available at Tech. For each solo/ensemble contest event entry at least TWO ORIGINALS of their music must be used: one for the performer(s) and one for the judge (and the accompanist must also use an original!) In some cases, the school has the necessary originals, however if may be necessary for the student to purchase some music. Contest music may take a significant amount of time to order, so selection and orders should be completed by the end of November. **Photo copies will result in automatic disqualification unless original music cannot be purchased or received in a timely manner.**

Lesson materials other than those provided by the school are to be purchased by each student.

### **Music Listening Contest**

Students may choose to participate in the Minnesota High School Music Listening Contest-- a type of knowledge bowl format for teams of three students. There is a \$30 fee for materials which will be available in September (see Ms. Mather). A staff member will help prepare the students for the five round test. The Regional Contest will be held on Friday January 24th at SCSU and qualifiers will participate in the championship on Friday, February 7th, 2019 at Augsburg College in Minneapolis. Letter points may also be earned for participation.

### **Solo/Ensemble Contest**

A solo or ensemble may be entered into the MSHSL Solo/Ensemble Contest. There is no cost for entry fees, however, students may need to purchase original copies of contest music or provide an accompanist. The director will help select appropriate music. Contest is during the day, Wednesday, February 12th at Willmar High School.

Two original copies are required. Publishers do not always stock a large supply of contest music, so it is suggested that music be selected and ordered as early as possible (by November).

Jazz Bands and Dixieland Band may participate in solo/ensemble contest.

Solos may require an accompanist. Students, friends, teachers, or others may accompany a soloist. An accomplished accompanist is suggested so that the soloist may feel comfortable; a solid accompanist will add to the musicianship of a performance. In any case, discuss fees with your accompanist as you are responsible for paying any such fees. Also, discuss the number of practice sessions, times, contest dates, any conflicts with contest performance times, transportation, and any other details.

Judging is based on a 40 point system: Scores of 32-40 earn top rating-- a certificate and a medal. Scores of 28-31 earn a certificate. Judging sheets will be made available to students.

All Tech entries must be approved by the Director well in advance of the contest. Ms. Scherer's contest deadline is Wednesday January 15th, 2020. Contest is Wednesday, February 12th, 2020.

### **CLC Music Festival (Central Lakes Conference)**

A Large Group Festival for Wind Ensemble, Concert Choir, and Orchestra will be held on Friday, April 5, 2020 hosted by Sartell.

In band, only Wind Ensemble members participate. A clinician will critique and work with the Wind Ensemble during a stipulated period. Students will also observe and critique other school's bands as they perform throughout the day. Non-Honors members will return to Tech after the clinic portion of the day. The CLC Honor Band, Choir, or Orchestra is comprised of the top students from each participating school.

### **Rehearsal for all three honors groups:**

**Monday, March 30th, 2020 from 4:00-8:00pm at Sartell High school-- bus provided.**

**\*\*\*Rehearsal is mandatory for those in the Honors groups-- those not in attendance will not participate in the Honors Concert on Friday, April 3rd, 2020 at Sartell.**

Students are expected to behave in a mature and respectful manner while at the festival. Students will wear all black concert attire for the entire day and evening.

### **CLC All-Conference Jazz Band**

The Central Lakes Conference has a festival for the top jazz band members in the conference. Selection is based on All-State Jazz membership, other higher level jazz performance, and director recommendation. The All-Conference Jazz Band will rehearse and perform all in the course of one day. Music to be performed will be distributed well before the date of the festival and will need to be well prepared.

### **Solar Sound = St. Cloud All-City Marching Band**

Several area schools (Cathedral, Tech, Apollo, St. John's Prep, South, North, Saint Peter, Paul, and Michael, and John XXIII) have joined into a cooperative summer marching band. The St. Cloud All-City Marching Band, formed in 1984, is comprised of students from these 8 schools. The band performs at many area parades and events throughout the summer.

### **Awards and Honors**

Several awards and honors are given to outstanding band students.

The **JOHN PHILLIP SOUSA AWARD** is presented to the Outstanding High School Band Student of the Year.

The **LOUIS ARMSTRONG AWARD** is presented to the Outstanding Jazz Band Student of the Year.

The **ERWIN A. HERTZ AWARD** is presented to the Outstanding Tech High School Senior Band Member of the Year.

### **Other awards possible in band include:**

Solo/Ensemble Contest-- certificates and medals.

All-State Jazz Ensemble Selection

All-State Band and/or Orchestra Wind/Percussion Selection



All-American Hall of Fame Award  
 U.S. National Band Award  
 CLC Honors Band  
 University and College Honor Bands  
 Director's Award-- for the outstanding Varsity Band Member and Concert Band Member of the year.  
 Pep Band Awards  
 Other Awards given by the Director and/or section leaders

**Band Letter Points**

Band students at Tech High will have an opportunity to earn a letter in band by accumulating points through participation in activities related to band as listed below. Points are tabulated throughout the year and up to 1,000 will be carried forward into the next year if a letter has not been earned by year end. Thus, points are cumulative. However, students must earn at least 500 additional points in the next year (which will be added to their accumulated total). Ex- 1,200 points end of year will become 1,000 carryover points so you need 500 new points (for 1,500) to letter. A bar or chevron may be earned in a year after you have first earned a letter by accumulating 750 points in a single year.

To letter: earn 1,500 (cumulates year to year until a letter is earned- 1 per year)

Carry-over: up to 1,000 points may be carried over until you letter the first time.

To bar: earn 750 points (accumulate new each year after lettering- only 1 letter can be earned per school year.)

Letter Points:

<u>ACTIVITIES</u>	<u>POINTS</u>
Band concerts (each).....	50
Solo performance at contest.....	100
Ensemble performance at contest (each).....	50
Orchestra/Chamber Orchestra.....	25 up to 100
Pep Band per performance.....	50
<u>ACTIVITIES</u>	<u>POINTS</u>
Jazz Band.....	50 up to 200
Dixieland Band.....	50 up to 200
Sectionals per rehearsal.....	10 up to 25
Honors Bands.....	50 up to 100
Festivals.....	50 up to 100
Pit Orchestra for the Musical.....	50 up to 200
All State participation (year of selection).....	200
Performance outside of school.....	25 up to 100 (per year)
Reports (concert reviews, history, others).....	10 up to 100
Band Library (per clock hour).....	25
Bulletin Board, Display Case, projects.....	10 up to 100
Solar Sound Marching Band.....	50 up to 200
(summer before current school year)	
Other.....	points will vary (see director)

