

Hume-Fogg Academic High School Band Program

2010-2011 Handbook

- *Excellence is never achieved by accident. It is always the product of focused, long-term work toward a goal.*
- *The definition of the word “band” is “to unite for a common cause.”*

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Why study music? Why give 100%?

I am asked these questions sometimes by band parents. I realize that most of our students are not planning to major in music in college or pursue a career in that field. In fact, if asked I usually try to steer a student away from music as a career. I tell young people that the professional music field is very difficult, and that it requires much work for sometimes little reward. I most often say "Major in music and become a musician only if you have no other choice!" What I mean by that can probably be explained by my own life situation. As a young person, I had an affinity for both physical sciences and social sciences. I entered college as an anthropology major, and I really loved that field (still do). But as time went on, I realized that I would never be truly happy if I wasn't putting the major part of my energies into music. I really felt I had no choice other than to follow my heart and go into music. As it turns out, subsequent studies in music ended up with my earning a PhD in Ethnomusicology, which is sometimes called "the anthropology of music."

I always assume that my students at HFA are NOT going to become professional musicians. But that doesn't mean I feel they should become poor students of the art. My motto: *In music, and in everything else, always give 100%. Why would you ever do less?* For example, at Hume-Fogg we have many fine sports teams, each of which practices after school, and I'm sure the students work on their skills at home as well. No parent would say, "Well, you're not going to become a professional basketball player, so why not give about 50% effort?"

The band program at Hume-Fogg Magnet is very important to the overall academic mission of the school. It has been well established over the last few decades that the study of music greatly enhances the performance of students not only in school, but also in developing overall intelligence and becoming a success in life.

The very best engineers and technical designers in the Silicon Valley industry are, nearly without exception, practicing musicians. — *Grant Venerable, "The Paradox of the Silicon Savior," as reported in "The Case for Sequential Music Education in the Core Curriculum of the Public Schools," The Center for the Arts in the Basic Curriculum, New York, 1989*

"The musician is constantly adjusting decisions on tempo, tone, style, rhythm, phrasing, and feeling-- training the brain to become incredibly good at organizing and conducting numerous activities at once. Dedicated practice of this orchestration can have a great payoff for lifelong attentional skills, intelligence, and an ability for self-knowledge and expression." — *Ratey John J., MD. A User's Guide to the Brain. New York: Pantheon Books, 2001.*

Goals of the Program

The primary goals of the band program at HFA are to develop the highest-level music skills possible in every student who participates, to achieve the highest level possible of performance excellence as a group, and to foster in the student a life-long appreciation for music. My pledge to you is that I will work as hard any student to make this happen.

Our focus during band rehearsal will be on creating, listening to, and learning about music. We will constantly strive for improvement in not only individual playing, but also in the overall group sound. We practice to perfect our skills so that when we give a performance we achieve excellence. In addition, the music curriculum includes the study of the historical style periods of music, music theory, music terminology, and music as a creative endeavor.

Each and every member of the HFA bands owes it to themselves and to the other members of the band to work diligently toward (1) the improvement of their individual musical skills, and (2) the perfection of the music being performed in the band as a whole. Members of the two audition-only groups, Wind Ensemble and Silver Jazz Band, have a particular responsibility to do their best at all times and to maintain a regular practice schedule on their instrument. Members of these groups must sign a pledge indicating their willingness to do what it takes for them to perform the music at a superior level.

Instrumental Musical Ensembles at Hume-Fogg

Wind Ensemble (Symphonic Band). The Wind Ensemble is the flagship band performance group at HFA. It has 50-65 members, selected by audition, and performs works written at grades V-VI for bands. The ensemble offers at least two concerts per school year on campus and performs in the spring at the MTSBOA Concert Festival. The traditional wind ensemble is a smaller and more select version of the Concert Band or Symphonic Band, and typically has only one or two

musicians per part. Thus, the wind ensemble places a premium on excellence in individual performance. A wind ensemble consists of instruments from the woodwind, brass, and percussion sections of the band; piano; harp; and string bass. Private lessons are very strongly urged for all members.

Concert Band. The HFA Concert Band offers the student an opportunity to experience the joy of making music in a traditional band setting. The ensemble is open to all interested students—with at least one year of previous band experience—who desire to become proficient on an instrument, and who are willing to put in the effort required to be part of a musical organization. The HFA Concert Band offers at least two concerts per year on campus. The group typically performs music in the grade III-IV range. Membership in the Concert Band is an important step for the student who eventually wishes to earn a seat in the HFA Wind Ensemble and/or the HFA Jazz Bands. Members in good standing of the Concert Band, and who have made significant improvement over one or more years, will enhance their auditions scores for the Wind and Jazz Ensembles. To this end, much Concert Band rehearsal time is spent in the pursuit of excellence in performance skills for every member involved. Private lessons are strongly urged for all members.

Beginning Band. The HFA Beginning Band was created to fill two important needs. (1) To provide an opportunity for those students who desire to learn an instrument, but have never had the chance, for whatever reason, and (2) To provide an opportunity for those students who quit band in earlier years (i.e., middle or elementary school), but who now regret that decision. Beginning Band moves at an accelerated pace, as compared to a middle school beginning band, and most of the students are prepared to join the HFA Concert Band in their second year of playing their instrument. Students select from the following instrument categories: flute, clarinet, saxophone, trumpet, French horn, trombone, baritone, and tuba.

Silver Jazz Band (meets daily). The HFA Silver Jazz Band is the top jazz big band at HFA. Seats are earned by audition, and practice and dedication is expected of all members. This 25-piece group (approx.) plays numerous concerts on and off campus each year and typically participates in fundraising concerts on behalf of the entire band program. The group consists of 6 saxes, 5 trumpets, 4-5 trombones, 2 guitars, 2 keyboards, 2 basses, 3 drums/aux percussion, 1 vibraphone, and 1-3 vocalists. ALL members of Silver Jazz Band are also required to participate in concerts with either the Wind Ensemble or Concert Band (directors discretion). Private lessons are very strongly urged for all members.

Blue Jazz Band (extracurricular) The Blue Jazz Band consists of players who want to learn to play jazz and R&B in a big band setting and who wish to improve their jazz skills so that they can earn a spot in the Silver Jazz band. The Blue Jazz Band plays at least two concerts per year on campus. Membership in either the Wind Ensemble or Concert Band *is required* of all brass, woodwind, and percussion players. Private lessons are strongly urged for all members. The Blue Jazz band meets Mondays after school, 3:10 to 4:30 p.m., in the upper band room.

Jazz Combo (extracurricular) The HFA Jazz Combo is a 6-12-piece jazz group which plays music from across a wide spectrum of jazz, fusion, and rhythm & blues. This group emphasizes improvisation, building a large repertoire, and learning how to perform in a professional setting. The Jazz Combo plays numerous concerts on and off campus each year and typically participates in fundraising concerts on behalf of the entire band program. Membership in either the Wind Ensemble or Concert Band *is required* of all brass, woodwind, and percussion players. The Jazz Combo meets Tuesdays after school after school, 3:10 to 4:30 p.m., in the upper band room.

Small Ensembles (extracurricular): Woodwind Quintet, Trumpet Ensemble, Low Brass Ensemble, Flute Trio/Quartet, Saxophone Quartet. Small ensembles are very important in the development of the skills of the instrumental musician. These groups meet once per week after school, depending on student interest. All of these ensembles will perform at various concerts on and off campus throughout the year and at one of the MTSBOA solo and ensemble festivals in spring. Membership in either the Wind Ensemble or Concert Band *is required* of all brass, woodwind, and percussion players. All small ensembles meet Wednesdays after school, 3:10 to 4:30 p.m., in the upper band room.

Class and Rehearsal Rules and Behavioral Expectations

General Class Rules

1. Keep chairs in the same formation each day.
 - a. If you are one of the first to arrive to class, help move out-of-place chairs and stands into their proper place.
2. Arrive on time and immediately take out class materials and get prepared for class.
3. We will study our music only in this class.
 - a. No other books or material should be read during class, nor should work from another class be done.
 - b. No CD players or cell phones are allowed. Put them away or they will be confiscated
4. No food or drink (except water) is allowed in the band area. Items will be confiscated.

- a. AM/PM is our band community work detail. If you are caught with food or drink in the band room, you will be required to serve in the morning or afternoon to clean the band room.
5. Never move equipment *of any sort* from any room in the band area without specific permission. Equipment is put in a certain place for a reason. Breaking this rule may result in AM/PM duty.
6. Never enter the director's office without specific permission.
7. Always ask before borrowing something.
8. If you break something, admit it *before* it is discovered.
9. If you move something, you are responsible for putting it back
10. If you make a mess, clean it up.
11. Practice rooms are for instrumental practice only, not "hanging out."
12. Students are expected to keep up with their own belongings.
13. Disrespectful language will not be tolerated.

Ensemble Rules

1. Each student is responsible for their own music, notebook, instrument (with approved name tag), and all accessories. Failure to have these materials results in a lowered grade for that day's class.
2. Each student must have their own ONE-INCH, three-ring binder notebook for concert band/wind ensemble music
 - a. Dark Blue for Concert Band, White for Wind Ensemble
 - b. Insert 15-20 clear page protector sheets. Buy the *no-glare* type
 - c. Write your name, instrument, and ensemble on the inside cover
 - d. Never leave the binder out, always return it to its slot
3. Each student is responsible for having all accessories needed for class, including reeds (min. 3), valve oil, drumsticks, pencils, mouthpiece, ligature, etc. Failure to have these materials results in a lowered grade for that day's class.
4. All music should be put away in its proper place every day
5. Your instrument should be put away in its proper place every day
6. Items left out will be confiscated or thrown away
7. Students using school owned instruments are responsible for that instrument (including repairs) while they have it checked out.
8. All students are expected to contribute to the responsibilities of moving, setting up, and tearing down equipment for performances and rehearsals.
9. Do not leave your instrument in the hallway outside the band room.

Rehearsal Expectations

1. Students should be in their assigned seats no later than the time class officially begins
2. By the time class begins, the student should have done all of the following.
 - a. **Woodwind and Brass**
 - i. Get music notebook from folio box.
 - ii. Get instrument from closet, if you did not bring it with you.
 - iii. Take out and assemble your instrument.
 - iv. Pull out or push in the slide, barrel, head joint, or mouthpiece to the point where you are usually in tune.
 - v. Take your assigned seat in the ensemble.
 - vi. Use the next few minutes to warm-up individually, NOT to socialize.
 - b. **Percussion**
 - i. Get music notebook from folio box.
 - ii. Move bass drum, timpani, and mallets instruments to their proper rehearsal location.
 - iii. Set up two snare drums, suspended cymbal, and the small percussion tray.
 - iv. Set up any additional instruments that are will be used on the pieces listed on the board.
 - v. Make sure that all accessories that might be needed, sticks, mallets, beaters, etc., are placed near those individuals who will use them.
 - vi. Do not play the instruments other than to do a *very quick check*, otherwise you will disrupt the wind/brass players warm-up period
3. Rehearsal will begin promptly at three minutes after the class officially begins.
4. When the director steps on the podium, the ensemble will immediately cease all talking and playing, and direct their attention to the director.
 - a. There should be no talking during rehearsal.

- i. The only exception to this is that a quiet whisper *about the music only* is acceptable on a very limited basis. Use this judiciously.
 - ii. All other questions should be directed to the director by raising your hand and waiting for a response.
- b. The person on the podium—whether it is the director, another student, a guest speaker, or a visitor—should always be treated with respect.
- 5. If the director leaves the podium, musicians are allowed to relax and converse unless the director specifically asks for silence in order to work with a section of the band
- 6. Students will treat one another with respect at all times. No criticizing or other negative comments.
- 7. Never take comments by the director personally.
- 8. Forbidden Behavior
 - a. Talking back to the director. Zero for the day and subject to possible expulsion from band.
 - b. Disruptive rehearsal behavior such as talking, throwing things, making noises, making fun of another student, chewing gum, yelling, etc. 25 point reduction per instance, one warning will be given.
 - c. Doing any other work or reading other materials during rehearsal

Behavior at Concerts

Students must remember that their actions at concerts reflect on not only themselves, but also the HFA band program and the school in general.

- 1. Students will conduct themselves in a mature, professional manner at all times.
- 2. Students should be in attendance for the entire concert to hear the other ensembles, and to show respect and support for their efforts.
- 3. All band members will listen attentively to the music being performed and refrain from any sort of disruptive behavior.

Concert Attire

Ladies: Either of the following: 1) A long black dress or 2) a black pantsuit. Solid black dress shoes are also required. No tennis shoes, clogs, or other casual shoes are acceptable.

Men: Black dress pants, white long sleeve dress shirt, a long dark, solid-colored tie, black dress shoes, and black socks. Wind Ensemble members ONLY also need a black sport coat or suit jacket. No tennis shoes, clogs, or other casual shoes are acceptable.

NOTE: BLACK is BLACK, not brown, blue, or grey. Any sort of causal clothing is NOT acceptable for concert attire. Failure to dress as indicated, which results in student’s inability to perform on the concert (at the director’s discretion), will result in a zero for the semester exam grade.

AM/PM

AM/PM duty is community service due to the band for rules infractions by a student. Work duty for AM/PM will include cleaning band room, vacuuming floors, straightening the instrument closet, cleaning dry-erase boards, filing music, etc. If assigned AM/PM by the director, the student will report to band room work detail for a given number of days at the following times:

AM	7:15 a.m. until 7:40 a.m.
PM	3:15 p.m. until 3:45 p.m.

Academic Passes (Study Days)

The HFA Band will allow two free passes for each student per semester to complete academic work. Students can only use these passes in one of three ways: 1) Work on a project in the band room, 2) Get a pass and go to the library, or 3) Go to another specific location on campus to work on a project. Students should not waste the passes; cash them in only when you really need them. Under no circumstances will a student be allowed to use these academic passes during the week before any concerts, festival, or other performances. Taking a pass on a double day counts as TWO passes.

Grading

For every nine weeks, students will receive a daily grade that is based on a possible 100 points per day. So, for example, one nine-week grading period might have 36 band classes, *for a maximum* of 3600 points. At the end of the nine weeks, this will be converted to a 100-point scale. For example, if a student received all possible points but had one *unexcused* absence, she would have earned 3500 out of 3600 points, or a nine-weeks average of 97.22 (97).

- Points are earned by prompt attendance, adherence to rehearsal and classroom behavioral expectations, and musical preparation.

- Points are also awarded for periodic assignments as follows:
 - Practice records: students in Wind Ensemble may be required to turn in practice records indicating work done outside of class.
 - Playing quizzes on music selected by band director
 - Each assignment is weighted the same as two daily grades.

Point reductions for daily grades are as follows:

1. Unexcused absence. 100 point grade reduction (zero for the day).
2. Unexcused tardy. 25 point grade reduction during first 15 minutes, 100-point reduction thereafter.
3. Failure to have music, instrument, and all accessories (for example, reeds, mouthpiece, drum sticks, name tag on instrument, etc). 50 point reduction per day.
 - a. If your instrument needs repair, take it to the shop immediately and see the director for a loaner.
 - b. A note from your parents explaining the situation will be required.
 - c. Failure to comply with this will result in a grade reduction for every day the instrument is not available.
4. Disruptive rehearsal behavior such as (but not limited to) talking, throwing things, making noises, making fun of another student, chewing gum, yelling, etc. 25 point reduction per instance. One warning will be given.
5. Talking back to the director: zero for the day and subject to possible expulsion from band.
6. Inability to perform at any concert due for any reason other than severe illness or serious family emergency: 400 point grade reduction from nine weeks daily grade (i.e., a zero for four class days).
7. Wind Ensemble and Silver Jazz bands only: failure to perform at MTSBOA Concert Festival or other major festival performances for any reason other than severe illness or serious family emergency: 400 point grade reduction from nine weeks daily grade (i.e., a zero for four class days) AND possible expulsion from the ensemble.
8. Not attending a scheduled after-school rehearsal or sectional for any reason other than severe illness or serious family emergency: 200 point grade reduction from nine weeks daily grade (i.e., a zero for two class days).

Final Exams: Each semester the band will present an evening concert that counts as the semester exam grade (100 points maximum).

1. Point reductions for performances are as follows:

- a. Failure to show up for a performance. 100 point reduction on semester exam (zero).
- b. Inability to perform due to not having instrument, accessories, music, or proper attire. 100 point reduction on semester exam (zero).
- c. Tardy for set-up or warm-up. 1-point reduction per minute late (after a five-minute grace period).
- d. Tardy for Concert. 10 point reduction per minute late (in addition to other reductions).

Musical Opportunities

Mid-State and All-State Band, Jazz Band, and Orchestra

These opportunities will be a high priority again this year. Each year the MTSBOA (Middle Tennessee School Band and Orchestra Association) holds auditions in December for Mid-state band, jazz band, and orchestra. Making these groups is not only prestigious and musically very rewarding, but also typically results in offers of college music scholarships. Students who make the mid-state groups will rehearse for three days and perform a concert in mid-January. If a student is fortunate enough to make all-state, they will rehearse later in the semester and present a concert in April with the top students in Tennessee. Some colleges award full scholarships to these students. I urge very strongly that every student in our program audition for these groups. To have a decent chance, they should be taking private music lessons on their instrument. As a group, we will begin working toward the goal of making these groups during the band camp in August. The audition fee for mid-state band, jazz band, and orchestra is \$10 per student.

Concert Festival

In March each year, MTSBOA presents a concert festival that marks the high point of most area band's performance achievement for the year. The festival is participated in by the majority of the good band and orchestra programs in Middle Tennessee. A panel of three expert judges listens to each group perform, and then grades their achievement. One of the goals of the Hume-Fogg band is to give a stellar performance of music at the highest levels at the festival in March 2010 (exact details to be given later). The HFA Wind Ensemble will perform at the 2011 MTSBOA Concert Festival and will play music of at least grade level V.

Solo & Ensemble Festivals

Again this year the HFA Band program will strive toward expanded participation at the MTSBOA solo and ensemble festivals. These graded events are held in April and May around the mid-state area and allow students to perform as soloists,

or in any number of small groups. The HFA band program is going to encourage every member of the HFA Wind Ensemble and Concert Band to play a solo at one of these festivals this year. Also participating will be our smaller ensembles, such as the brass quintet, woodwind quintet, jazz combo, saxophone quartet, trombone/tuba ensemble, flute trio, and others. The registration fee for these festivals is \$7 per student.

Other Festivals

Throughout the course of the year, different ensembles may perform at other festivals, such as the Jazz Fest at Cumberland University or the Jazz Festival at MTSU. In addition, there are national concert music festivals held in large cities throughout the country. Performance at any of these events will be decided as the year goes along, based on the students' musical achievement and band finances.

Band Trips

All band trips at HFA are optional. Spots for students are limited, so if you wish to attend a trip, it is important to sign up as soon as possible. Generally, the HFA bands go on one trip per year. On alternating years the trip will generally be organized as follows: 1) a major trip for Concert Band and Wind Ensemble, with Silver Jazz Band members also encouraged to attend, to fill in the ranks, OR 2) a major trip for Silver Jazz Band members. In years where there is no major trip for a given group, those ensembles will instead attend a minor band trip to a regional location.

For examples:

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- (minor trip) in fall, the Wind Ensemble and Concert Band travelled to Chattanooga to hold a joint concert with the Chattanooga School for Arts and Sciences. The cost of the trip was \$100 per student.
- (major trip) in spring, the Silver Jazz Band travelled to Savannah, GA to compete in national-level jazz competition. The cost was \$280 per student

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- (minor trip) in spring, the Silver Jazz band will travel to Louisville, KY to compete in regional jazz competition. The cost of the trip will be approximately \$100 per student.
- (major trip) in fall, the Wind Ensemble and Concert Bands will travel to Disneyworld to record and perform. The cost of the trip will be \$620 per student.

Student Duties

The band officers will be held in charge of making sure band room duties are met during the 2010-2011 school year. These duties include the upkeep of instruments, keeping the band room clean, organization of the instrument storage closet, posting announcements, setting up chairs and stands for rehearsal, etc.

Expenses

Band Budget Donation

Funding for arts programs is limited in most school districts around the country, and ours is no exception. Without the vital financial support generously given by the families of our students, the band program at Hume-Fogg would not exist as we know it. In order to purchase music, buy instruments, repair instruments, provide transportation to events, pay festival fees, etc., the Hume-Fogg band program needs to raise at least \$20,000 per year. This is the minimum amount that we need in order to provide the level of excellence in music that the students at Hume-Fogg deserve.

The band budget this year at HFA is again dependent on your support. Last year, I was very impressed by the generosity of our band parents, *several of whom gave three and four times the minimum amount*. We are asking each of you to donate as a minimum, the figures shown below by **no later than September 1, 2010**.

All members of Wind Ensemble, Concert Band, Jazz Bands, and any small ensembles. **Minimum Donation \$60**
The \$60 donation includes all ensembles in which the student is involved.

Please note: Our band fees are dramatically lower than those at most area high schools. The majority of high schools in our area ask at least \$500 per band student, and some are at the \$1000+ per year level.