**Thomas A. Edison High School**

**Concert Band**

**Handbook & Syllabus**

**2019-2020**

Here is an outline of the course with its objectives, and your responsibilities. Your individual contribution to the ensemble is vital to the success of the whole class. First off, here are the concert dates we have so far. You will be notified of any additional dates as soon as they are set. It is your responsibility to inform me immediately of any conflicts. Your attendance at all performances, in their entirety, is mandatory.

TAE Concert Band (Grades 9 – 12)

This class meets every day and focuses on proper instrumental technique, ensemble technique, and music reading. Emphasis is given to age-appropriate musicianship/aesthetic response including rehearsal and concert etiquette, and the responsibilities associated with membership in a performing organization. Band literature of various forms, periods and genres will be studied and performed. Students are responsible for making up information and class work that is missed during absences.

Students joining performing ensembles are to be aware that performances outside of the school day announced as part of the course are required and constitute a part of the student's grade/evaluation. According to the Elmira Heights Board of Education policy, students need to own their instrument, or may rent from the school (as per instrument availability) for the current rates, or may rent from an outside source. **2 semesters; 1 credit**

**ALL CONCERTS WILL BEGIN AT 7:00 p.m., UNLESS OTHERWISE INDICATED. STUDENTS WILL REPORT TO THEIR DESIGNATED AREA IN CONCERT ATTIRE NO LATER THAN 6:30 p.m.**

Thursday, December 12, 2019 December Concert @ TAE (Alternate: 12/19)

Tuesday, May 19, 2020 District Arts Festival

Thursday, June 4, 2020 TAE Spring Concert

Thursday, June 25, 2020 Graduation Rehearsal/Brush-up 1:00 p.m.

Friday, June 26, 2020 TAE Graduation \*REQUIRED\*

## CONCERT ATTIRE

Solid black dress pants (NO SKIRTS, DRESSES, or SHORTS) with solid white dress shirt/blouse **with sleeves**, tie. Any under-garments (cammies, tanks, t-shirts, etc.) must also be solid white, dress shoes, NO FLIP FLOPS. Clothing should be clean and pressed, if needed.

Although our primary concern is with our **sound**, and not our appearance, we should take pride in presenting ourselves in public as both representatives of the school and of our own families. If you do not own what you need and cannot borrow, please see me as soon as possible. Non-adherence to the required concert attire will result in a lowered grade for the concert. Thank you for your cooperation!

**Grading Procedure**

Band is a unique course at TAE High School. It has curricular requirements, just as any other academic discipline, but it also has out-of-class time requirements. The strength of the band program is the consolidation of these requirements into one performance based, academic course of study. The level of commitment from each individual student is the driving force behind the organization and is reflected in the level of achievement reached by the individual and the program.

Band is a learning activity. Rehearsals, whether during or after school, are the means by which students learn, and by their very nature cannot be reproduced or made-up. Therefore it is imperative that students are present unless the absence is absolutely unavoidable. Excessive rehearsal absences will undoubtedly affect a student's performance. Although we frequently function as conductors, we are primarily teachers responsible for the musical and aesthetic education of each student in the band program. This is the reason we are absolutely insistent upon each student's daily participation.

Rehearsals are not optional, and are reflected in the student's daily grade.

Performances are viewed as major tests: a performance is a learning experience that cannot be duplicated in a rehearsal hall or practice room; the level of concentration required in a public performance assists each student in developing an insight into their own level of performance; a performance is an important evaluation tool, allowing comparison of a student's performance in relation to classroom objectives presented and with past performances. Absences from performances are only excused in the event of an extreme emergency: *serious* illness or hospitalization of the student, death in the family, or other reasons deemed excusable by the band director. Missed performances will result in a zero (0) grade, unless the absence is excused AND is followed by a written excuse from the parent/guardian, at which point a make-up assignment will be at the discretion of the teacher. The band as an organization provides a medium through which students progress academically, musically, and socially. Musicianship, attitude, attendance, punctuality, conduct, and a desire for excellence are absolutely expected from each member of the TAE Band. Therefore, individual **practice** and **preparation outside of class** are essential.

No other discipline in education requires the high level of achievement from all participants as does musical performance. Through the level of commitment required we hope to better prepare our students for the responsibilities encountered throughout their lives.

1. Attendance and participation in class and at concerts. This class is graded almost exclusively on participation. For each class, you earn a grade based on what I see and hear from you. An average grade is 85. If you want a higher grade, make certain I am seeing and hearing above average effort from you. If you are not in the room, you are not participating. This includes being late, and time spent in the bathroom.
2. Preparation: I will be checking your progress occasionally through various methods (solo work, small groups, overall attentiveness and responsiveness within the rehearsal setting, etc). Your cooperation is appreciated.
3. The breakdown for grading is as follows:
* Classwork (materials, participation, attentiveness, effort) 50%
* Major Projects (Performances, Assessments, etc.) 35%
* Other (quizzes, homework, in-class assessments) 15%
1. The grade for performances is calculated by averaging the cumulative student classwork to date and may be adjusted based on what the teacher sees and hears during the evening.
2. Students assigned to ISS may be given work to do for this class. The work will be graded in lieu of your participation for that day and is due before you leave that day.
3. Missed performances will result in a zero (0) grade, unless the absence is excused AND is followed by a written excuse from the parent/guardian, at which point the make-up will be at the discretion of the teacher.
4. Assignments will be accepted by students who are absent the next class for which they are present without penalty.  Late assignments are 10 points off for each class late.  After 2 class periods assignments will be recorded as a zero (0) grade. ISS work is due on the day of ISS; if it not turned in before you leave for the day, you will receive a zero (0).

**Rehearsal Technique / Rehearsal Etiquette**

1. Be on time. In your assigned location with music, pencil and instrument ready to go.

2. Be actively and intently involved in the class/rehearsal

* Just “going through the motions” during rehearsal is as bad as not being there. **Always be thinking about your performance**.
* Your only focus should be the objectives the ensemble is trying to achieve during that rehearsal. **There is to be no unnecessary talking**.
* Members are expected to give their utmost efforts during rehearsals in the pursuit of excellence in performance — **any less is an insult to your peers, your staff, and yourself.**
* Instructions given by directors and staff should be followed not just to the letter, but also in the spirit of the intent.

3. The proper attitude during rehearsal affects the value of that rehearsal

* **An instruction that has to be given twice robs the band of rehearsal time and focus**. Don’t cheat us all because you are not paying attention.
* **Be cooperative**. Even if you don’t understand the motivation for a rehearsal activity, have confidence that your director does and execute as you are asked.
* Disrespect towards directors, staff, and student leadership will never make the band more successful; **all students should show the proper respect for their peers, staff, and leadership,** and avoid exhibiting disrespectful attitudes such as eye-rolling, pouting, talking back, being unsupportive of directors and staff or in any way questioning any instruction or direction given.
* **Offer encouragement to your peers, instead of criticism**. It takes a lot of pats on the back to erase the sting of a kick in the pants.

4. You can’t be effective in rehearsal if you are unprepared

* Arrive early enough to be in place, with all necessary equipment and materials, BEFORE rehearsal starting time. There is to be nothing in your mouth (gum, candy, snacks, drinks, lozenges, etc.). Use the bathroom before or after class.
* Know all music/work that is due to be worked on in rehearsal. It is your responsibility to catch up should you miss a rehearsal.
* Have your materials organized – music and pencil in folder, coordinate sheets in order and readily available.
* Be certain your equipment is always in good working order.
* Never be an obstacle to the success of others. If you are keeping someone else from achieving their objectives, the entire organization is losing ground.

**The TAE Band can only reach its highest level of success when each individual, each section, and each element are all at their highest possible effectiveness. It is the responsibility of each individual to do everything possible to reach that level and to do nothing that would keep themselves or others from reaching their goals.**

**Instrument Care**

School-owned instruments become the responsibility of the student to whom they are issued. A yearly rental fee for school-owned instruments is at the discretion of the Board of Education and students are responsible to pay this as well as for their own lesson books, reeds, cork crease, valve oil and other incidentals related to maintaining the instrument. Any damage other than normal wear and tear will be repaired at the student's expense.

Individual instruments must always be maintained in top playing condition. Always show the director your instrument before taking it for repairs.

Remember that horseplay can cause damage to instruments and equipment. Be careful with your own instrument, place it out of harm's way if it is necessary for you to put it down, and never play around with or play on anyone else's instrument.

Students playing a reed instrument will have at least 2 reeds at all times (Vandoren size 3 is recommended). These are your own responsibility and can be easily purchased at Robert M. Sides in the mall, or online. It is more cost effective to purchase a box of reeds as opposed to individual reeds. Consider splitting a box with someone else.

At the end of each rehearsal, it is expected that students will swab/empty the inside of the instrument, disassemble and place the instrument securely in the case, with all of the latches secured. Instruments will be locked in assigned lockers along with all music and any other accessories. Not doing so will affect your grade!

**Local Repair & Maintenance:**

Alan Lefkowitz, Finger Lakes Woodwinds (607) 425-4013 fingerlakeswoodwinds@gmail.com

Robert M. Sides (Arnot Mall) (607) 739-1559

**Return this page with signatures to Mr. Cornell by the end of the week**

I, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, have read and understand the ideas as outlined in the TAE Concert Band Handbook. I understand my responsibilities and am willing to commit myself for the 2019-2020 school year.

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 (Student signature)

I/We have read and understand the ideas and expectations as outlined in the TAE Concert Band Handbook. I/We will do our best to encourage \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to honor their commitment to the Band by following the rules and guidelines and by making sure that they are present at all required rehearsals and performances, and encouraging them to put forth their best effort.

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 (Parent/Guardian) (best phone number)

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 (Parent/Guardian) (best phone number)

Parents e-mail(s) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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 Check here if you desire to have notification to 2 separate households, and provide any/all contact information on the back of this form. Thank you!

rcornell@gstboces.org