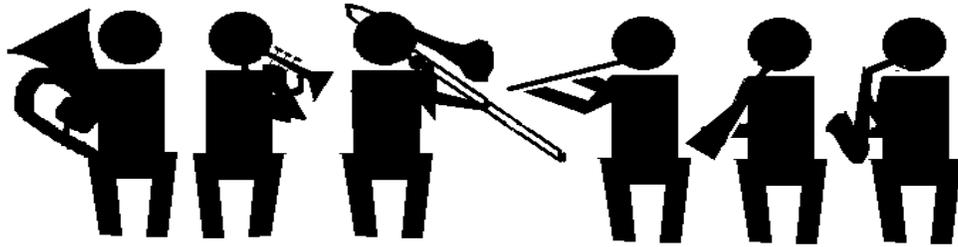
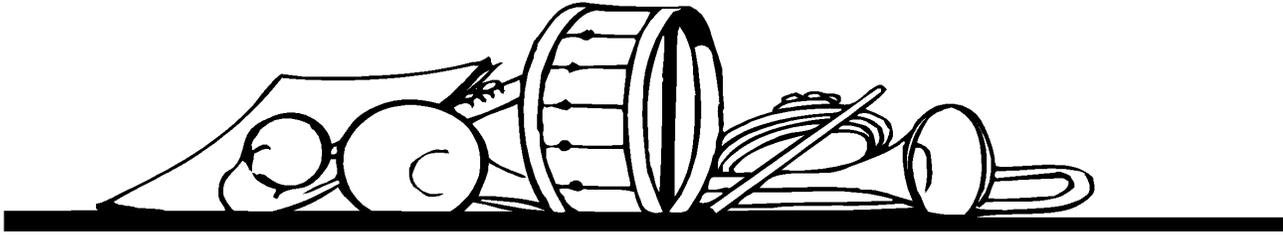


Clinton Yellowjacket Bands



Beginning Band Handbook 2021-2022



Welcome!

Every year we look forward to teaching beginning band students. It is always such a pleasure to see new band students start from day one and witness their development from day to day. We truly believe that band gives students so much more than they realize sometimes. Often, students will look back at their times in band and realize that they were some of the most fun and rewarding times of their lives.

Under the current circumstances, the Clinton band program is taking every directive to return safely back to the classroom seriously and continuing to implement those in our daily practice. We are working diligently to make sure your student has the most normal return to school as possible. This year is one of the most important stages in a musician's life.

These new students are the key to our band's future, and with each class we hope to strive for a bigger and better Clinton Band. Sometimes it is difficult to see how your new band student will so quickly mature into a full fledged musician, but you will be surprised at how soon the squeeking and squaking turns into real music.

Just like most of the beginning students are new to music and band, so are a lot of parents. The following handbook is designed to help you understand a little more about the Clinton Band program, its methods of operation, and our expectations of band students.

Once again, we are thrilled to have your child in band. We look forward to working with you to make your son/daughter a successful musician!!

Sincerely,
Nathan Andrews, director

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW FIRST

Commitment

To be successful in band, commitment is required. A single student's progress affects the entire group. New things can be frustrating at first and take hard work. For this reason students are required to make a one year commitment to band. This is important because to fully understand what band is like a student should experience the group from beginning to end. There will be challenges your child may come across, but it has been my experience that these barriers will be overcome with time and effort making your child even more proud of his or her accomplishments. I will work hard with the parents of any student whose lack of progress continually slows down the class in order to find a solution that is best for that student and the class as a whole. If your child has difficulty at any time, you are asked to schedule a conference with the director. After reviewing the circumstances, I will assist the parents and student in deciding whether the child should continue to participate in band. Under extreme circumstances, students may be allowed to withdraw at the end of the first semester. Before any changes are made from either parent or teacher, a conference must occur.

Grading

Band is a graded academic class. Many people do not realize this. In upper grades, students receive credit toward graduation for band. Usually, band grades are good because it is an elective class. However, students will have requirements that they must meet in order to earn this grade. Grades will be assigned at the end of each grading period, or if a student no longer participates in band they will be assigned their average as of their last day in class. Please refer to the "Grading" section of this handbook for more details.

Instrument Selection

Your child will be assisted with choosing his or her instrument. Several issues are considered when helping him or her find an instrument with which he or she would have a high chance of success. I take into consideration physical characteristics, natural talent, student choices, and the band program's instrumentation needs. Rarely are instrument changes made. Occasionally when a student is working hard and reaching success, I will work with you and your child to reexamine the choice to help with your child's achievement.

Instrument Purchase

Each student must have their own instrument. Parents may purchase a quality instrument from anywhere they wish as long as the instrument is an approved brand name and in acceptable condition. This is to help insure the student's success. A student on an inferior instrument will be unsuccessful and frustrated. At the beginning of the year, there will be a meeting for beginner parents. A representative from Amro Music stores is available to assist you in selecting a quality instrument. Not only do they provide an instrument, but they provide the specific package for the Clinton band program. This ensures that your child has everything they need by the first time they open the case. This is just for your convenience and there is no obligation to purchase from them. They are highly recommended because they provide a convenient rent to own program. We have dealt with them for years and highly trust them.

If you wish to acquire an instrument somewhere else, we ask that you select an instrument from our list of recommended brands and allow us to examine the instrument. Any reputable dealer

or salesmen will allow you to have an instrument on approval for such a situation. If you have an instrument, please bring it by as soon as possible. It may need minor repairs that need to be completed before playing instruction begins. Students who do not have quality, functioning instruments will not be able to participate in band. Unfortunately there is much junk out there today being marketed as “Ideal for School” instruments. Some brands are unacceptable for band use.

To insure instrumentation, some instruments such as tubas, baritones, and the like must be provided by the school. The instruments are provided to the students by the school at no charge. These instruments will be examined before they are checked out to the student and when the student returns them. Repairs for any damage while the instrument is in the student’s possession will be charged to the student.

EXPECTATIONS

Band is very different from traditional classes. The band classroom environment is not like that of any other. For this reason, it is very important that students be aware of what is expected of them. Responsibility in band is crucial. Musical ensembles work like a team activity in which everyone contributes all of the time. One student’s lack of participation or preparation affects everyone in the group. By deciding to be in band, students have made a commitment to themselves, to the director, and to every student in that particular band. Following are some guidelines for individual band members. Without such individual responsibility and commitment, group success is impossible.

- Attend all rehearsals and performances
- Be on time
- Respect others and their belongings EVERYTHING IS EXPENSIVE!
- Always try your best
- Strive to work with others and for excellence
- Always do it better the next time
- Practice your individual part and skills
- No gum, food, or drink when playing your instrument
- Display proper conduct at rehearsals and performances
- Follow directors’ instructions.

SUPPLIES

Naturally the main supply a beginning band student must have is his or her instrument. Depending on which instrument your child has selected, he/she will also have other required supplies. Students will also be required to purchase their beginning band book (\$10). All other necessary music will be issued to them. Students are expected to keep up with all of their music. A three-ring binder is required.

At every class period or rehearsal, students are expected to have the following:

- Their instrument in proper working order
- All supplies necessary for their particular instrument (reeds, valve oil, etc)
- All necessary music or books
- A three ring binder
- 20 sheet protectors
- PENCIL (ink pens are NOT acceptable)—out on your stand.

GRADING

All performances will count as a 100 point test grade. Students showing up on time with all proper equipment will receive the full points. Points will be deducted for tardiness and lack of equipment. Absences will be excused for personal illness or death in the family. Extenuating circumstances will be considered on an individual basis by the directors. Students who are aware that they will miss a performance should notify the director as soon as possible. If a student misses a performance, they must bring a note from their parents within 1 week of the absence for it to be considered excused.

Students will earn 5 points for each day's class rehearsal. Lack of instrument or proper materials (pencil, music, supplies) will result in the student earning 0 points for that day's rehearsal. (Instruments being repaired or other extenuating circumstances will be considered). These points will be added into a student's average at the end of each grading period.

Students will also earn points from playing tests submitted through **Flipgrid.com** (will be discussed with your student on setting up). They will submit tests through this platform and be able to interact with the different features. Students will be tested on a regular basis. Additional individual help will

be available to students after school. There are also many excellent private lesson teachers available in this area. Contact the director for more information.

It should be noted that a student's grade comes from two things—participation and performance. Students must play at an appropriate level. However, they are also required to put

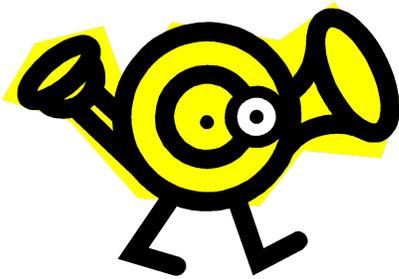
forth a certain amount of effort. A successful band is not made up of only outstanding players, but outstanding musicians. We have worked very hard to insure in beginning band, most of a students' grade is derived from participation. If students follow the requirements of practice and responsibility, a high level of performance will result.

Students are strongly encouraged to participate in other voluntary events such as private lessons, Solo & Ensemble, and other community performances. Students are also encouraged to attend area band and instrumental concerts.

PRACTICE

For any student to be successful, a degree of outside practice is necessary. The more a student progresses, the more this applies. It is important for students to practice regularly. How much a student practices will be reflected in their playing ability. It will consequently have a direct effect on their playing test grades.

It is recommended that students practice a set time per day. This time should, of course, increase as the student progresses. It is also important that students practice regularly. "Cramming" for tests in band is even less effective than in a normal class, because band deals with coordination and physical skills, not just memorization of information.



While practice is essential, improper practice will not produce the desired results. Listed below are a few guidelines for students and parents to help get the most out of daily practice time.

When to Practice

- Approximately the same time each day in at least 15 minute intervals
- At a time when the student is mentally and physically alert
- At a time when the student can find a comfortable location free from distractions

Where to Practice

- In a place as free as possible from distractions such as the T.V., radio, telephone, other people, etc.
- In a place where the student will feel comfortable
- In a place conducive to proper posture and horn position (understanding that not all students will have a music stand in their home, students will need to sit in a straight backed chair and place their music in a visible location)

What to Practice

- Warm-up material (long tones, slurs, rudiments, scales, etc.)
- Band music (materials from class that the student will be expected to be able to play)
- Individual music (solos, ensembles, all-region music, etc...)
- Student music (from church hymnal, pop music, or music from any other source—don't think that when practicing it isn't OK to play something just for fun!!)

Helpful Equipment

- The following are suggestions only, and not at all required. They will, however, help the student to get the most possible from his or her practice time, and likewise will contribute to their overall musical achievement.
- A chair with a straight back and preferable no arms
- A music stand
- A mirror, full length preferred (so student can check embouchure, hand position, and body position)
- A metronome (VERY HELPFUL!!)
- A cassette tape recorder (for the student to listen to himself or herself)

Parents can make such a great difference in a student's practice time. The following are a few suggestions for parents to help students get the most that they can out of practicing:

- Remind the student to practice
- Help provide a distraction free environment
- Listen to your student play things that he/she has been working on. Even if you have no musical background, your interest and enthusiasm are important!
- Remind the student to practice again!!

If you have any questions or are unsure about anything, feel free to call the director.

CARE OF INSTRUMENT

It is very essential that students have instruments in proper working condition. One of the most frustrating things for a student is being unable to play or accomplish something because of a shortcoming of the instrument. For this very reason, good instrument care will be stressed.

The director will guide beginning students on how to properly care for and clean their instrument. Improper care of an instrument can drastically reduce the life of an expensive investment. When students suspect a problem with their instrument, they should bring this to the director's attention immediately. Some minor repairs can be done at the school, but any major repairs must be sent to a specialty shop. It is very important that a student or parent NOT try to repair the instrument on their own. Often more damage is done with the best of intentions. All repair costs will be the responsibility of the student. If a student's instrument becomes damaged, he/she should ask the director for help locating a quality repair shop in the area.

It is the responsibility of students and parents to maintain the instrument in working condition. If a student's instrument breaks, it needs to be fixed as soon as possible. Students who continually come to class with a non-working instrument for 2 weeks or more, will be subject to disciplinary action and loss of points for class materials. These students may not be allowed to make up work missed while their instrument was broken.

INSTRUMENT CHECKOUT

To insure instrumentation, some instruments such as tubas, baritones, and the like must be provided by the school. The instruments are provided to the students by the school at no charge. These instruments will be examined before they are checked out to the student and when the student returns them. Repairs for any damage while the instrument is in the student's possession will be charged to the student.

BAND BOOSTERS

The Clinton Band Boosters are a parent run organization which provides support for the band. Band Boosters are a key to a program's success. Without them, many band activities would not be possible. The boosters assist in fund-raising to purchase necessary materials for the band including uniforms, instruments, music, and travel expenses. Boosters also assist with any events the band may host, travel with the band to away games, and encourage practice at home. All parents are encouraged to take an active role in the group. Notices are sent through the RemindMe system or our Facebook page about monthly meetings. Even if you cannot regularly attend meetings, please help us by volunteering your time and any special skills that you have. If you have questions about the Boosters, please contact the director.

INSURANCE

Each musician is responsible for his or her own instrument. Although we try our hardest at Clinton to insure the safety of each instrument, sometimes accidents do occur. Clinton School District IS NOT RESPONSIBLE for damage or theft of individual's instruments. It is a good idea to check into insurance for your son's or daughter's instrument. Many homeowners' policies offer this coverage. Please check with your insurance provider and make the best decision for your family.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Subject to change

Required Events in Bold Type

Optional Events in Italics

Tuesday, Nov. 16

Tues. Sept. 14

Saturday, April 9

TBD

TBD

Beginning Band Demonstration Concert - Cafeteria

Christmas Concert - Clinton Auditorium

Solo and Ensemble Festival at Vilonia

Spring Concert - Clinton Auditorium

Band Banquet

*Times will be given the closer we get to the event

CLINTON BEGINNING BAND

2021-2022

Student Information Form

Student Name _____ Date of Birth ___/___/___

Street Address _____ Home Phone _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Parent/ Guardian Name _____

Work/Cell Phone _____

(You may not know this yet, we can add it later)

Instrument _____ School Owned or Personal? _____

Instrument Brand/ Model _____ Serial # _____

Ways to get band news and updates:

1. Remind Me App Text messages – Send a text message to 81010 with the message @hhf494 for High School Band Updates. I can send mass texts from this service.
2. Sign up for the Clinton Band Booster RemindMe by texting the number 81010 and typing the code @cegf82f.
3. Like the Clinton (AR) Yellowjacket Band page and the Clinton Band Boosters page on Facebook.

**Clinton Beginning Band
Handbook Agreement Form
2021-2022**

Student Name: _____

By signing this form, I am saying that I have read the Clinton Band Handbook. I am aware of all the things that will be expected of me in band this year. I understand that band is a year commitment. I will do my best to meet all of these expectations.

Student Signature _____ Date _____

PARENTS:

I have read the Clinton Band Handbook. I understand all of the things expected of my child. I understand that band is a 1 year commitment and that instrument purchase/rental will most likely be required. I will do all that I can to encourage my child and make sure he/she meets these expectations.

Parent Signature _____ Date _____