

# 2019-2020

# Fort Collins High School

# Band Handbook

## “Where Excellence Is Expected”

Congratulations! Welcome to Fort Collins High School! The FCHS Band program has a rich history, is full of tradition, and has high expectations of its students. All of our band students have a chance to reach their highest possible level of excellence. In becoming a member of this organization, you assume the responsibilities of continuing the proud traditions that have been established by others like yourself through dedication and hard work. The members of the FCHS Bands are proud of their accomplishments, and it is in this spirit that new members are welcomed.

First know that this is YOUR band program! As a member of the FCHS Band program, you are expected to set high goals for yourself and the program. YOU must be 100% dedicated and committed to doing your part in reaching our goals! In addition, it is my belief that “the process is just as important as the product.” This means that the emphasis is on the development and growth of each individual student, not just on specific concerts or other performances. Objectives include character building, commitment, cooperation, dependability, determination, discipline, leadership, punctuality, respect, responsibility and self-control.

This handbook is designed to give you and your parents information that will enable you to be successful in your band classes here at FCHS. You will find policies and information that will help you to raise your level of proficiency. Remember that because this is YOUR band program, the most important part of the FCHS Bands is YOU and your willingness to uphold the high standards and ideals that are FCHS. Congratulations, and I wish you the very best of luck in this school year!

David D. Miles  
Director of Bands  
(FCHS Class of 1995)

My email address: [dmiles@psdschools.org](mailto:dmiles@psdschools.org)  
My office phone: 488-8247

Band Website  
[WWW.FCHSBANDS.WEEBLY.COM](http://WWW.FCHSBANDS.WEEBLY.COM)

# Band Calendar of Events 2019 - 2020

As much notice as possible will be given in the event of a change. The following is a list of all known performances:

## Symphonic Band

September 30th	Band Concert with Boltz 8 <sup>th</sup> Grade, 7:30 PM
October 2nd-4th	CSU Honor Band Auditions, Time TBA
November 4th-8th	NoCo Honor Band Auditions, Time TBA
November 15th	Rocky Mountain Concert Band Festival (at RMHS), Time TBA
November 20th	Band & Orchestra Concert, Symphonic Band & Symphony Orchestra, 7:30 PM
December 2nd	All State Band Auditions (required of juniors/seniors for lettering), PHS All-Day
December 6th	Holiday Gift Concerts, 5:00 PM and 7:30 PM
February 24th	Pre-CBA Concert Concert Band, Symphonic Band & Symphony Orchestra, 7:30 PM
March 4th	CBA Northern Regional Concert Band Festival, Symphonic Band, Time TBD (at FCHS)
April 20th-21st	CBA State Festival (at CSU, contingent upon the results of the Regional Festivals)
May 11th	Graduation Music Rehearsal, 8:00-9:00 AM
May 19th	Honors Concert, 7:00 PM
May 22nd	Graduation Practice, Moby Gym, 12 PM - 2 PM
May 23rd	Graduation, Moby Gym, 5:30 PM

## Concert Band

September 30th	Band Concert with Boltz 8 <sup>th</sup> Grade, 7:30 PM
October 2nd-4th	CSU Honor Band Auditions, Time TBA
November 4th-8th	NoCo Honor Band Auditions, Time TBA
November 21st	Band and Orchestra Concert with Jazz Combo, 7:30pm
February 24th	Pre-CBA Concert Concert Band, Symphonic Band & Symphony Orchestra, 7:30 PM
March 4th	CBA Northern Regional Concert Band Festival, Symphonic Band, Time TBD (at FCHS)
March 5th-11th	Band Auditions for next year, during class
May 11th	Graduation Music Rehearsal, 8:00-9:00 AM
May 18th	End of the Year Concert, 7:30 PM
May 22nd	Graduation Practice, Moby Gym, 12 PM - 2 PM
May 23rd	Graduation, Moby Gym, 5:30 PM

## Intermediate Band

September 30th	Band Concert with Boltz 8 <sup>th</sup> Grade, 7:30 PM
November 4th-8th	NoCo Honor Band Auditions, Time TBA
November 21st	Band and Orchestra Concert with Jazz Combo, 7:30pm
March 5th-11th	Band Auditions for next year, during class
March 30th	Contest Concert, Intermediate Band, Signori and Anima, 7:30 PM
May 18th	End of the Year Concert, 7:30 PM

## Jazz Band / Combo / Dixieland

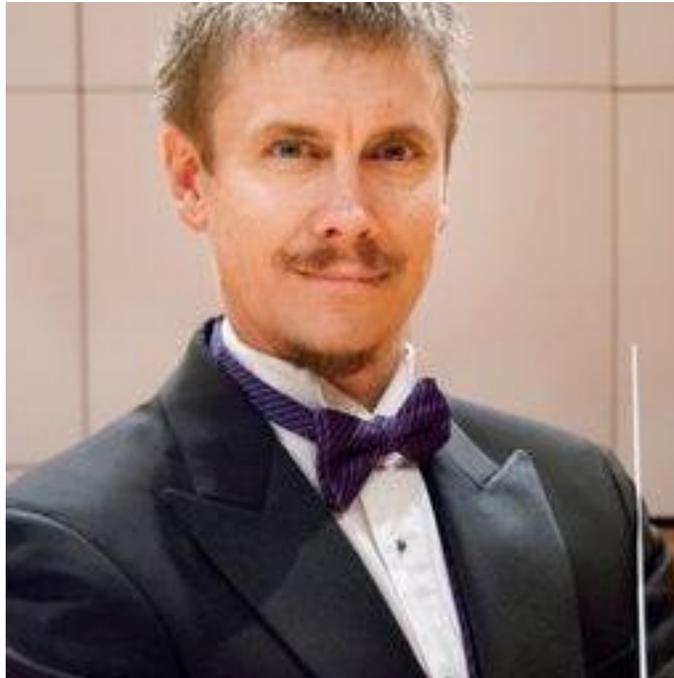
October 28th	Small Ensembles Concert, 7:30 PM (Jazz Band, Dixie, Jazz Combo)
November 20th	Jazz Band, Symphonic Band and Symphony Orchestra Concert, 7:30pm
November 21st	Jazz Combo with Band and Orchestra Concert, 7:30pm
December 6th	Holiday Gift Concerts, 5:00 PM and 7:30 PM (Jazz Band Only, No Combo/Dixie, 2 performances)
(April 6th)	Poudre School District Jazz Festival, Rocky Mountain High School, Date is tentative, Time TBA
April 27th	Lambkin Awards Night, A Cappella & Jazz Band, 6:00 PM (No Combo/Dixieland)
May 11th	Small Ensembles Concert, 7:30 PM

## Tower Winds

October 28th	Small Ensembles Concert, 7:30 PM (Brass Quintet, Woodwind Quintet, Sax Quartet)
December 6th	Holiday Gift Concerts, 5:00 PM and 7:30 PM
March 20th	Small Ensembles Concert, 7:30 PM
May 11th	Small Ensembles Concert, 7:30 PM

# Where Excellence is Expected

**David D. Miles**



**Director of Bands**

A 1995 graduate of the old Fort Collins High School, David D. Miles is entering his eighteenth year teaching instrumental music. He directs the Symphonic Band, Concert Band, Intermediate Band, Jazz Band, Tower Winds and Pep Band.

Mr. Miles earned his Bachelor of Music (Music Education) from Colorado State University and returned to CSU for his Masters of Music (Instrumental Conducting).

Mr. Miles taught part time at Thompson Valley High School, in Loveland, Colorado before spending the next three years as Band Director at Woodland Park High School in Woodland Park, Colorado. Returning to the Northern Colorado area, he then taught band at Windsor Middle School in Windsor, Colorado before joining the staff at Fort Collins High School in 2007. This is Mr. Miles' thirteenth year as a member of the Lambkin staff.

Mr. Miles has performed with the John Phillip Sousa National High School Honor Band, the Fort Collins Symphony Orchestra, the Cheyenne Symphony Orchestra, the Dallas Brass, and the Simply Brass Quintet. He currently performs with the Fort Collins Wind Symphony under the director of Steve McNeal and the Colorado Brass Company.

David, his wife Amanda and their sons Elliot, Jack, and Spencer live in Fort Collins.

## Music Department Expectations

- Attendance is a vital part of every musical ensemble. All excused absences/tardies can be made up through extra work given by the director. Unexcused absences/tardies will affect your grade greatly because participation points, as well as any other graded work, for that day can only earn partial credit through make-up work. Make sure that you do not skip class and that all legitimate absences/tardies are excused through the school attendance office.
- All musicians are to perform in all of their ensemble's concerts. Excused absences from concerts may be granted for personal illness, family emergency, or prearranged important occasions. **Jobs are not an acceptable reasons for missing a concert.** If a student chooses to miss any performance, and that student does not have a reasonable reason for his/her absence, then the director does have the right to severely mark down the student's grade. Even down to a failing grade if felt necessary. Performing is a vital part of the curriculum and it should be considered as such. If any student feels that he/she needs to be excused from a performance, then there should be advance notice, (at least two weeks if possible) given to the director.
- Please check your attendance on PIV regularly. Mistakes are easier to fix if they are found quickly.
- Come to class prepared. Make sure you have your music, a pencil, and your instrument. Display a helpful and eager attitude and always do your best.
- If you lose or damage a piece of original sheet music you will be expected to pay for it.
- No gum, food or drink, other than water, is allowed in the music rooms, practice rooms, or the stage.

## Concert Etiquette

- Absolutely, positively, NO GUM CHEWING on stage!!! It is very difficult for an audience member to listen to the music while they are watching an individual perform their best, "Bertha the Dairy Cow" impression.
- Make every effort to arrive to performances at least 30 minutes before the concert begins.
- Please fight the urge to douse yourself with cologne and perfume. The mix of heavy smelling fu-fu juice and hot lights can be extremely difficult for some to perform in.

## **FCHS Concert Attire**

The instrumental music tradition at Fort Collins High School is a rich and strong one. Our program has a statewide reputation for excellence both on and off the stage. Part of this excellence is established not only by the way we act, but also by the way we look. Band members will be responsible for purchasing their own individual formal concert attire.

Our desire is that **no student** be placed in financial difficulty. Funds for the following costs of concert attire can be raised through fund-raising sales of varying items throughout the school year. All fund-raised or paid monies for concert attire will be recorded and students will receive a receipt. Each student is responsible for the following band-specific amounts. Payment plans are available by contacting Mr. Miles.

Fundraising for concert attire is optional. Checks should be made payable to **FCHS Music**. Unless you are on a payment plan, all attire money is due **Friday, August 30th**. Ensemble members are eligible to sell their attire to the subsequent year's band students at a pro-rated amount. To help support the department, donations may also be made above and beyond the following amounts, and are tax deductible. Both new and used concert attire will not be issued until it is paid for (used outfits are limited). The first band concert is **Monday, September 30th at 7:30 PM in the McNeal Theater**. Students will not perform unless they are wearing their assigned concert attire.

**\*\*\*All outfits must be hemmed to the indicated length, pressed and/or dry cleaned!\*\*\***

### **Symphonic Band Women**

Long, Black Dress

New: \$90.00 Used: N/A

DRY CLEAN only

\*Hem 1" from the floor

\*Black comfortable DRESS shoes

\*Nude pantyhose

### **Symphonic Band Men**

Black tuxedo pants, jacket, bowtie, white tux shirt

New: \$105.00 Used: Varies

DRY CLEAN (Shirt is washable)

Hem pants so the seam falls to the shoe-top without breaking while you stand

\*Black DRESS shoes and BLACK SOCKS

### **Concert/Intermediate Band Women**

Standard Music Department Dress

\* New: \$65.00 Used \$40.00

**Black** dress shoes

### **Concert/Intermediate Band Men**

Standard Music Dept. dress pants, shirt, vest, tie

\* New: \$80.00 Used: Varies

\* A Tie will be provided (check in/out each concert)

\* Socks and dress shoes must be **all black**

(No tennis shoes)

## **Pep Band Uniform**

The Pep Band uniform consists of the Purple Regiment Polo Shirt (tucked in), Ball Cap, blue jeans and closed toe shoes. Shirts and hats can be purchased with the school bookkeeper or on SchoolPay for \$45.

## **Concert Dress for Band Ensembles**

### **Symphonic Band**

#### Ladies

- Ladies are to wear our standard, music department dress. Information on sizing and ordering these dresses will be available at the start of school.
- All ladies dresses will be sized in class and must be ordered by August 21<sup>st</sup>. As these are new dresses there are no used dresses available on a first-come first-served basis as there has been in the past.
- Make sure you wear **black** shoes and **nude** stockings.

#### Gentlemen

- Gentlemen are to wear **black** tuxedos with **black** dress pants. Bow ties, socks and dress shoes are to be **black** as well.
- It is also expected that gentlemen wear a white dress shirt with wing-tips.
- All men's tuxedos will be sized and ordered by August 21<sup>st</sup>. Some used tuxedos may be available at a reduced cost. These sell on a first-come first-served basis.

### **Concert Band & Intermediate Bands**

#### Ladies

- Ladies are to wear the standard music department dress. It is also expected that ladies will wear **black** dress shoes.
- Information on sizing and ordering will be provided in class during the first week.

#### Gentlemen

- Gentlemen are to wear **the standard music department black dress pants, white dress shirt, vest and tie.**
- Information ordering will be provided in class during the first week.
- Gentlemen are to furnish their own **black** socks and **black** dress shoes. (No tennis shoes allowed).

### **Jazz Band/Jazz Combo**

#### Ladies

- Ladies are to wear **black** suit pants, a **black** skirt that falls below the knees when sitting, or a solid **black** dress. It is also expected that ladies will wear **black** dress shoes.
- Ladies may also elect to wear a **solid color** dress shirt with their suit pants or skirt.

#### Gentlemen

- Gentlemen are to wear **black** dress pants, **black** socks and **black** dress shoes.
- Gentlemen may wear a **solid color**, long-sleeved dress shirt and a tie.

## **Band Philosophy and Policies**

The philosophy of the Fort Collins High School Band Program is to provide students with varied performance opportunities as part of a comprehensive musical education. The following band policies are stated in order to help band members and parents understand their areas of responsibility.

I believe that each student should improve through daily progress. The most fulfilled band member is one who is improving through regular practice at home, daily progress and who has developed a high sense of purpose toward the goals that he/she is willing to work to achieve... not just getting to the next concert.

### **Each band member's responsibility to the band program:**

1. Be regular in attendance, account for absences (check with teachers for make-up work)
2. Make a real effort to learn and improve daily
3. Be respectful and attentive during rehearsals
4. Become responsible for and assume the consequences for your actions
5. Follow all band rules, school regulations and all travel instructions
6. Be honest and fair with others concerning equipment, music and school life
7. Cooperate with fellow band members and share with them the responsibilities and privileges that are a part of the band program

### **The band director's responsibilities to each student:**

1. Provide a quality rehearsal setting
2. Encourage daily progress of the individual student and the entire band
3. Provide members with a full musical education through rehearsal, performance, and teaching, testing and listening
4. Deal appropriately with members that are not contributing to the band program
5. Supervise the students in class and on school-sponsored band trips
6. Evaluate each band member on his/her musicianship and music education

### **Band Room Policies:**

1. No food, drink, gum, candy, etc is allowed in the band room and practice rooms.
2. As a band member, you have earned the privilege of being allowed in the band room. Non-band students are not allowed in the band room. They would be the first to be accused if any instruments were to be damaged. This also includes our storage room.
3. Instruments are not to be played by anyone other than the owner or renter. If it is not yours, DO NOT TOUCH IT!!
4. The band room should be kept neat and orderly. It should emit a sense of pride and organization at all times. Each member is to clean up around his/her own area.
5. Store your instrument and music in their assigned places – NOT ON THE FLOOR!
6. Do not leave books or other personal belongings in the band room.
7. Be sure to leave any valuables (purses, I-pods, etc) in your band locker when we leave the band room for a performance.

## **Practice**

Regular practice is necessary to ensure musical growth, development and enjoyment. Playing an instrument requires coordinated muscle development just like athletics. These muscles need regular exercise to stay in shape. Each person in the band should practice a minimum of **30 minutes per day – 3 days a week**. Consistency is the key to success. It's much better to practice a little every day than it is a lot over the weekend.

Knowing your part makes the group sound better. In a music group, there is no second or third team and we cannot bring somebody off the bench because you are having an off day. There are no unneeded or unnoticed musicians at FCHS. Students should plan to take their instrument home every night, or make arrangements with the band director for practicing before or after school in the practice rooms.

## **Performance Expectations**

### **Concert Performances**

1. Students should be in their complete performance uniform. This includes the correct shoes, ties, vests, etc. Complete information on performance attire can be found in this handbook.
2. Students should arrive before the designated time so you can get your instrument out, warm-up and be ready at the call time.
3. Unless otherwise informed, students are expected to attend the complete performance – at Fort Collins High School, we attend the entire performance to support the musicians in the other ensembles. Listening to the other groups is a part of the concert grade and students who do not stay for the entire concert will not get credit for attending the entire concert. Speak with your band director if you have a particular problem.
4. While listening to other groups, students should be quiet and give the performing ensemble your undivided attention. Appropriate applause is expected at the appropriate times in the performance.
5. All students should plan on helping to set up or tear down a performance. Chairs, stands, and percussion instruments must be put completely away properly.
6. When a performance is in progress, noise in the hallways, rehearsal rooms, practice rooms, etc must be kept at a minimum. Sound from one room bleeds to another and can ruin the efforts of the students currently performing.

### **Pep Band and Games**

The Purple Regiment Pep Band is one of FCHS's Auxiliary Ensembles. It consists of members from all grade levels and all bands. There is a required band camp one to two weeks before the start of school (*plan ahead for next year!*) After school rehearsals and a full schedule can be found on the FCHS Band website. All members of the Purple Regiment Pep Band receive a letter grade and 2 credits.

All band members will also perform in Pep Band at 4-6 basketball games as the second part of their Auxiliary Ensemble. Students must attend all their scheduled basketball pep band games and will receive a letter grade and 1 credit.

On game nights the following is expected of all band students:

1. Students should be in the band room or at the announced practice field at the call time. If you arrive late it is your responsibility to check in with a drum major or the band director, otherwise you will be counted absent. DO NOT assume we see you come in late.
2. You should be in the proper attire: purple polo shirt, ball cap, blue jeans and shoes.
3. Wear your uniform correctly or not at all; NEVER PARTIALLY.
4. Spirit is great, but cheering should be done with the cheerleaders or as a group.
5. Language should never reflect unfavorably on the band.
6. No individual playing on any instrument will be allowed.
7. WATCH the band director and drum major(s) at all times when they are standing in front of the band. LISTEN for directions, get the music ready quickly and be ready to play.
8. Students may have refreshments during their third quarter break. No food or drinks in the stands. Gum is NEVER permitted.
9. Be in place, ready to play with two minutes remaining in the third quarter.
10. NO ONE but band personnel are allowed in the band section. Visitors are allowed in the band section only with the director's approval.
11. Be courteous to visiting bands, officers, directors, fans and anyone with whom you come in contact.
12. While at games, we are constantly in public view and your conduct must reflect the highest standards. In this setting, you are not acting as an individual: you are part of the ensemble and must act accordingly. The director reserves the right to dismiss you from a game and severely lower your grade if you are exhibiting poor behavior or violating school policies.
13. NO USE OF TOBACCO, ALCOHOL, OR DRUGS when you are in any way associated with the band or school. Violation of this policy will result in immediate administrative action and students may be removed from the band.
14. As per district policy, students may not leave the stadium during a football game for any reason.



## School Owned Instruments

Many school owned instruments are provided to students for use while at Fort Collins High School. Students that receive a school owned instrument are expected to treat these instruments with care, and keep them in good, working order.

1. All school owned instruments must be returned at the end of the school year.
  - a. They can be re-checked out for the summer as long as the student will be returning to Fort Collins High School the following fall.
  - b. Students who are graduating, or who will not be continuing in band have one week after graduation to return school owned instruments.
2. School owned instruments **MUST** be kept clean.
  - a. Every two years school instruments must be professionally chem-cleaned. This fee will be equal to the current cleaning rate at Boomer Music. Contact Boomer Music at 223-2424 to arrange for a professional cleaning/adjustment or for repairs to be made. This can be a significant one-time cost but averaged out over 2 years will beat any rental fee that a retail store would charge.
  - b. School owned instruments may be inspected at any time to make sure students are keeping them clean and in good working order.
3. Students must pay for any repairs that are needed while the instrument is in your possession. When you receive an instrument it is assumed to be in good, working order and must be returned in the same (if not better) condition.
  - a. If you receive an instrument that is not in good playing condition, it is your responsibility to let the director know within the **first week** of the instrument being in your possession. After that time, it is assumed that the damage was caused by you and will need to be paid for by you.

- b. The replacement of percussion heads is the responsibility of the student unless the band director determines that the damage was caused by regular wear and tear. Drumheads have a normal shelf life of 3-4 years. The band director will determine if a student has been misplaying.
  - c. If an instrument is being shared between two or more students and damage occurs, we will make every effort to determine who (if anyone) was at fault. If we cannot determine any one person at fault, the cost of the repair will be evenly divided between the students.
- 4. Lost or stolen school owned instruments must be replaced. Students are encouraged to make sure all instruments (personal and school owned) will be covered for loss or theft under their parents' homeowners insurance.
  - 5. Students who use school owned instruments are HIGHLY encouraged to purchase your own mouthpiece. Check with a director before buying a mouthpiece.
  - 6. Digital photos of existing damage are taken when any school owned instrument is checked out to you. The band director references these photos when you turn the instrument back in. If new damage is found when you turn it in, it will be your responsibility to pay for repairs.

## **Instrument Care**

- 1. Each band member is responsible for the care and maintenance of his/her instrument.
- 2. Every student's instrument case should have a tag attached with his/her name and FCHS written clearly on the tag.
- 3. Each student should write down the instrument's serial number and keep this in a safe place.
- 4. All instruments must always be maintained in top playing condition.
- 5. Always show the director your instrument before taking it for repairs.
  - a. Anyone who has not been trained in instrument repair SHOULD NOT attempt to repair an instrument. Often times more damage is done when an unqualified person tries to repair an instrument.
- 6. Remember that horseplay can cause damage to instruments and equipment. Be careful with your instrument. Place it in a safe location if you set it down (this is especially true at football and basketball games). Never play around with or play on anyone else's instrument.

## **Equipment**

Each student is personally responsible for all equipment, including music that is issued to him or her. Each student will be held financially responsible for any equipment that is lost or damaged through negligence, whether caused by the student or someone else. Store your instrument where designated in the instrument storage area with the case closed and latched. The instrument storage areas are not for personal storage (this includes food and drink – DO NOT PUT FOOD IN YOUR BAND LOCKERS). You should use your school locker for personal items. *Label your music folder, band shirt and hat with your name!*

## **Music**

Students are expected to use a soft lead pencil to write their name and any notes on their music. Using pen, hi-lighter or any permanent marking utensil will damage the music. EVERY STUDENT will receive music so they are able to adequately prepare it at home for rehearsals. If you do not receive a piece of music when it is handed out, it is your responsibility to let a director know. When music is turned in, you should leave your name on the music so it can be inventoried and you will receive credit for returning it. LOST OR DAMAGED MUSIC WILL BE CHARGED TO THE STUDENT.

### **All students should have the following equipment:**

- \* Instrument and accessories (oils and greases as required)
- \* 2 to 3 pencils. Have one at EVERY rehearsal!
- \* Lyre – or a way to hold flip folder Flip folder to hold pep band music
- \* A minimum of 25 flip folder windows
- \* Instrument cleaning accessories
- \* Paper Music Folder (provided by FCHS) – Put your name on it!
- \* Single and double reed players are expected to have a minimum of three playable reeds AT ALL TIMES.

## **Local Businesses**

Most of our local music stores provide good quality services at a reasonable price. The creation of the internet has been both a good thing and bad thing for musicians. There are numerous sites where you can get used equipment (Ebay for example). This used equipment MAY or MAY NOT be worth the money. There are also numerous sites that do not provide any service should anything go wrong. If you are thinking of purchasing ANYTHING on the internet, you should speak with a director.

The music directors of FCHS prefer that you support our local businesses. The two listed below are NOT the only ones. They are recommended because they know the Fort Collins High School music program and will be able to make sure you are getting the equipment we expect. They also have a proven track record of good service if there are any problems. This in no way is to imply that the other local music stores do not provide comparable services at comparable prices. Ultimately you should shop around and make the choices you feel best with.

### **Music Equipment and Supplies/Instrument Repair and Supplies**

Boomer Music Company  
2721 S. College Ave.  
Fort Collins CO 80525  
(970) 223-2424

Music & Arts  
4420 S. College Avenue  
Fort Collins, CO 80525  
(970) 223-5837

## **Grading and Class Policies**

Band has curricular requirements but it also has out-of-class requirements. These may include practicing your instrument or attending a performance. Please note that there is a difference between practice and rehearsal. "Practice" is the preparation the individual makes outside of class and it is the primary driving force behind the successes each ensemble experiences. "Rehearsal" is the opportunity for the individual to contribute their skills and knowledge in the total integration of the ensemble. This is the reason the FCHS Music Department is absolutely insistent upon each student's daily participation.

Grading in all band ensembles will follow these guidelines:

### 1) Attendance/Participation

- 5 Points will be earned daily for being on time and fully prepared. Points will be deducted if the student is tardy, unprepared for class, or does not participate. Every absence results in 0 points for the day. If the absence is excused then a student can make up all points that were missed through extra work. If the absence is unexcused a student may still do extra work but may only receive up to 50% of their grade.
- Please check your attendance on the internet regularly. Mistakes are easier to fix if they are found quickly.

### 2) Performances

- The number of scheduled performances will vary with each ensemble. Check the included calendar of events for your performance schedule.
- **ALL** musicians are to perform in all of their ensemble's concerts. Excused absences from concerts may be granted for personal illness, family emergency, or prearranged important occasions. **Jobs are not an acceptable reasons for missing a concert.**
- Performing is a vital part of the curriculum and it should be considered as such. If any student feels that he/she needs to be excused from a performance, then there should be advance notice, (at least two weeks if possible) given to the director.
- Attendance is a vital part of every musical ensemble. Make sure that you do not skip class and that all legitimate absences and tardies are excused through the school attendance office.
- If an absence from a performance is excused then a student can make up all points that were missed through extra work. If the absence is unexcused a student may still do extra work but may only receive 50% of their earned grade.

- 3) Practice and Playing Tests (evaluation of skills and knowledge)
  - All members of the FCHS Bands will have Pass-Off Tests. Some of these Pass-Off Tests will consist of selected excerpts from the literature while others will consist of exercises that will be video-recorded or performed for the band director in person or in front of the class.
- 4) Other Assignments
  - The Music Department's school website, the Band Weebly website, Google Classroom and shared Google folders will sometimes be used to post assignments. Students may be instructed to print assignments, complete surveys and quizzes, or listen to recordings that are posted in these locations. If a student does not have internet access at home, these websites can be accessed from the school media center.

### **Common Pass-Off Tests:**

- 1) Symphonic Band – students will prepare specified excerpts both from the Honor Band excerpts as well as their band literature. Students must record themselves using their laptops and upload the file to the appropriate Google Classroom folder.
- 2) Concert Band – students will perform various scale and pattern exercises in addition to playing selected excerpts from their literature. These tests are done in preparation for students' auditions for Symphonic Band, which take place in March. Students will be asked to record themselves on their school laptops or play for the band director, both in class and individually.
- 3) Intermediate Band – students will perform various scale and pattern exercises in addition to playing selected excerpts from their literature. These tests are done in preparation for students' auditions for Symphonic Band, which take place in March. Students will be asked to record themselves on their school laptops or play for the band director, both in class and individually.

### **Make-up assignments and extra credit:**

Losing daily points a few times throughout the quarter will not significantly impact a student's grade. But if a student does wish to earn some make-up or extra credit points, here are a few ways:

- 1) Students may practice their band literature in a practice room for 15 minutes during a free period. Inform the director before starting so that he can make note of it in the gradebook.
- 2) Students may receive an article on some aspect of music performance from the band director. They may read the article and write a short (2 paragraph) summary of the article.
- 3) Students may elect to research a topic given by the band director and make a brief report on it to the class.
- 4) Students may prepare a solo piece and perform it for the band director or for the class.

## **Other Performance Opportunities**

**Colorado All-State Band:** The School of Music at the University of Northern Colorado sponsors the Colorado All-State Band Festival. The 110-piece Symphonic Band is open only to juniors and seniors by live audition. There is an audition fee for each student. Audition materials and procedures are given to students in the spring prior to the current school year. Additionally these audition materials are entered into SmartMusic for assessment. All-State auditions generally take place the first week in December at a designated Poudre School District high school. All-State Weekend takes place at UNC in February. There is an audition fee for each student but you may audition on multiple instruments for the one fee. At FCHS, juniors and seniors wishing to Letter in Band must audition for All-State Band. Please refer to the Calendar of Events for specific dates. More information is available at the UNC Band Department website:

<http://www.arts.unco.edu/arts/music/ensembles/bands/allstate/default.html>

**Colorado All-State Orchestras:** Wind players and percussionists are encouraged to try out for the All-State Orchestras, which are open to sophomores, juniors and seniors by recorded audition. There is an audition fee for each student. These auditions generally take place in mid-October, and the All-State Orchestra performs in February. Please refer to the Calendar of Events for specific dates. Audition excerpts are identical to All-State Band. More information can be found at the All-State Orchestra website:

<http://www.coloradoallstateorchestra.com>

**Northern Colorado Honor Band Festival:** These honor bands are open to freshmen through seniors for students from the eight local high schools in the communities of Fort Collins, Loveland and Windsor. It is an opportunity for students to play quality wind band literature with a nationally recognized clinician. Auditions for this groups take place in November and use shortened versions of the All-State Band audition music. This audition can also serve as a “trial run” for students auditioning for All-State Band in December.

**CSU Honor Band:** The School of Music at Colorado State University sponsors the CSU Honor Band. The CSU Honor Band is made up of skilled high school musicians from all over Colorado and is open to all high school students by audition. There is an audition fee. Recorded auditions take place in mid-October, and the CSU Honor Band performs in December. At FCHS, sophomores wishing to Letter in Band must audition for CSU Honor Band. Please refer to the Calendar of Events for specific dates. If recording your audition yourself at home, you may obtain the audition procedures by contacting Mr. Miles in advance.

**Rocky Mountain Concert Band Festival:** This concert event is hosted by Rocky Mountain High School and is open to all Colorado high school bands. A major facet of this festival is the opportunity for bands to hear each other in a noncompetitive, critiqued concert. One of the goals is to provide an atmosphere where great music is shared amongst the students. Two distinguished and respected music adjudicators are invited to participate each year.

**Poudre Band Festival and CBA Regional/State Concert Band Festivals:** These festivals take place in the spring and involve the Intermediate Band, Concert Band and Symphonic Band. They are designed to be learning situations and are critiqued by professional educators throughout the state and country. Please refer to the Calendar of Events for specific dates.

## **Community Service and other band traditions**

The Pep Band plays several songs at the end of each game as the teams and fans are leaving. Following the last song, pep band students perform a community service by picking up trash in the home stands. Students are expected to stay and help.

After Friday night football games students typically go to IHOP (on Harmony road). This has been a tradition since the mid 1990's. We ask that all students who go be responsible in paying for their own food and their own portion of the server's tip.

Band Seniors get night off on the final home football game so that they can enjoy the evening with their other friends in the stands. Of course, they may also play in the band if they wish to.

## **Private Lessons**

Students are strongly encouraged to take private lessons on their instrument, regardless of their ability level. Private lessons are the key to developing an outstanding musical organization. Students who study their instruments privately with a professional show rapid improvement in individual musicianship. As these students improve, their excitement towards practicing increases, they continue to improve, and they become a stronger contributor to the overall success of the band.

Private instruction has a great impact on the individual student and on our band program both this year and in the future. Practicing only on the music issued to the band limits your potential. There is a wide body of method, solo, duet and ensemble literature available. The directors would be happy to assist you in this area.

The key to satisfactory results from private instruction is to start as soon as possible. One of the great benefits of living in a college town is the availability of skilled teachers on every band instrument. This is the truest, quickest and most efficient path to success and satisfaction in playing your instrument. A list of teachers is available from the band director or on the Music Department web site.

## **Lettering in Band**

Students can earn points towards lettering in band through participation in a variety of activities and membership in musical ensembles. You must accumulate 200 points to receive your Letter and a Band Pin. Students may also earn additional Service Bars for every 100 points once they have lettered. As a prerequisite, Juniors and Seniors may only letter if they try out for All-State Band. Freshmen and Sophomores must try out for CSU Honor Band or the Northern Colorado Honor Band (though all students may also audition). To letter in band students must submit the Band Points Tally Sheet. This form is available on the music department website or from the band director.

## **Fundraising Opportunities**

Fundraising for expenses is an important part of the music program at FCHS. The district does provide us with a budget, but it falls far short of our actual operating costs. In addition, many of our instruments are very old and in need of replacing. Student instrumental repairs, instrument replacements, trips, and social activities are all paid by and through student funds and fundraising. Costs can be met through fundraising, out-of-pocket, or by making donations. All monies are deposited with the FCHS Bookkeeper and recorded in our music department fund. Students will be informed of additional fundraising opportunities as they come.

### **Monetary Donations:**

If you would like to help support our students but don't enjoy fundraising, we will always accept your donations. Please make a check out to "FCHS Bands" and drop it off any time!

### **Mattress Sale:**

The average bed mattress needs to be replaced every 7 years. The company we work with sets up a showroom in our student commons area to display many nationally known and brand name products. Everyone uses a bed and you know lots of people. Get them to come in and purchase a new mattress from our fundraiser!

### **Grocery Certificates:**

Are you looking for an easy way to benefit the FCHS music department without spending ANY extra money? If so, then the grocery certificate fundraiser is for you. Orders for all King Soopers and Safeway gift certificates are due by 3:00 PM on the first Friday of each month. Order forms should be completed and turned in to the music department office. The certificates will then be distributed the second Friday of the month. For every set dollar amount of certificates sold, the FCHS Music Department will receive a 3% to 5% return. The best thing about this fundraiser is that it costs nothing extra for you. We all need to buy groceries, so why not have a portion of that go to your child's education?

Order forms can either be found on the music department bulletin board or on Music Department website: <http://fch.psdschools.org/academics/music>

Questions? Please contact one of the teachers in the music department!