

# **BHS**

# **Instrumental**

# **Music**



# **Handbook**

# **2019-2020**

# **INTRODUCTION**

Welcome to the Burlington High School Instrumental Department and Music Department. We are honored and thrilled to be working with such talented students who have chosen to have instrumental music to be part of their day. Through BHS Instrumental Program, you will have many opportunities and experiences in music that will contribute to your personal growth and leave you with memories that will last a lifetime.

What is an instrumental handbook? This handbook is designed to help you answer any questions you may have in regards to many things, how your grade is determined, performance dates, festival and concert information, and much more! Of course we will answer any and all questions you may have for us whenever! And there is always something you need to remember, a music program is only as strong as the parents and community members who support it.

Performance ensembles are only as successful as the individuals that comprise the membership. When every member plans ahead, and attends all performances, it not only affects each individual but also all other individuals within the ensemble for the better. It is a “team” effort, and every member of our team is important as we work together towards our collective goals. We will work throughout the year to improve our technical ability and overall musicianship. When each member challenges themselves to find out how good they can be, we ensure that this ensemble will be one of the most rewarding experiences of your high school career.

If you ever have any questions or concerns please feel free to contact us at 802 864-8411 (see extension below), or via email.

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## Burlington High School Instrumental Ensembles

**String Orchestra** - Most string students begin their High School orchestra experience as members of the String Orchestra. This ensemble performs masterworks in the string orchestra repertoire that span the history of western music. The objective of this ensemble is to provide each member with an outstanding musical experience while advancing the technical ability and musicianship of each player. Members are also encouraged to audition for the Vermont Youth Orchestra Association year-long programs. Due to the performance expectations, students are expected to practice their parts each week.

**Symphonic Orchestra** - This ensemble performs advanced musical literature from a wide variety of composers and time periods. Members of this ensemble are also eligible to participate in the Full Orchestra when one is needed. Members of this orchestra are also encouraged to consider auditioning for V.M.E.A. All-State Orchestra, New England Music Festival and the Vermont Youth Orchestra Association year-long programs. Due to advanced level of repertoire, students are expected to practice their parts each week.

**Chamber Orchestra**- This ensemble is open to any String or Symphonic Orchestra student who wants to play in a conductor-less group. Students in this ensemble will have a greater voice in the music that is performed. This ensemble will perform at least twice in the Small Ensemble's Concerts plus will perform for the NJHS and Academic Awards Evenings. Rehearsals will be on Blue Friday mornings.

**Freshman Band** - All band students will start their High School band experience as a member of the Freshman Band. This ensemble performs works in the wind band repertoire that span the history of western music. The objective of this ensemble is to provide each student with an outstanding musical experience, as well as getting them used to performing in a high school setting. This ensemble will also prepare them for advancing their technical ability and musicianship. Due to performance expectations, students are expected to practice their parts for a *minimum* of one hour each week.

**Symphonic Winds** - Students will continue their High School band experience as members of the Concert Band. This ensemble performs masterworks in the wind band repertoire that span the history of western music. The objective of this ensemble is to provide each member with an outstanding musical experience while advancing the technical ability and musicianship of each player. Due to the performance expectations, students are expected to practice their parts for a *minimum* of one hour each week.

**Jazz Band** - This co-curricular select ensemble meets once per week after school. Members of this ensemble are selected by auditions held at the beginning of the academic year. Auditions are open to students who are enrolled in freshman band, symphonic winds, string or symphonic orchestras. Repertoire includes classic big band charts as well as arrangements by contemporary artists. There is a strong emphasis on jazz styles and improvisation. The weekly schedule includes one rehearsal after school on Tuesdays from 6-8 p.m.

**Pep Band**- The Burlington High School Seahorse Pep Band is a group composed of the freshman band and symphonic winds that performs at select BHS sporting and school events. Pep Band rehearses outside school hours according to a schedule set by the director. With a great emphasis on student leadership, this group's focus is to create school spirit and have fun!

\*The BHS Music Department does not offer Independent Study credit for any performance ensemble class.

## Rehearsal Attendance

All ensemble members are expected to attend each and every scheduled rehearsal and be on time. Students are to be in the music room at the scheduled start of the rehearsal block and to warm up responsibly and effectively for 5 minutes, using scale exercises, long tones or tonalization and practicing excerpts from their ensemble music. When the director takes the podium to begin rehearsal, all musicians should be seated and ready to begin – warmed up with instruments fully assembled, music in rehearsal order, pencil on stand. Students grades will be affected if they are not ready when the director begins rehearsal.

## Performance Attendance

Attendance at concerts is critical to the ensemble's success. For this reason, all students are required to attend each and every concert main concert. Students will only be excused from a performance in the event of illness, family emergency, or other extenuating circumstances. A written explanation from a parent or guardian must be submitted to the director for an absence to be excused. An absence from a performance may be made-up by completing a written paper with a topic chosen by the director. Students **excused** from performances may receive full credit for a make-up. All make-up performances will be conducted by appointment with the director. Students **unexcused** from performances cannot receive any credit for the concert. ***\*BHS Policy dictates that students must be present for more than 50% of the school day on the day of the concert in order to participate in the concert.***

The BHS Athletic Director will be given a copy of our performance dates in September so that conflicts can be avoided. Both the BHS Music Department and Athletic Department feel strongly that students honor their commitments to both their music ensemble and their athletic teams. **It is the student's responsibility** to communicate with coaches and directors as soon as he/she becomes aware of a conflict. In most cases these situations can be resolved to the satisfaction of both the music directors and athletic coaches.

## Concert Attire

Members are expected to arrive in full concert attire to all concerts, and remain in concert dress until they leave the building. Absolutely NO sneakers are allowed. Students dressed inappropriately will not be allowed to participate in the performance and will receive a zero for the grade associated with that performance.

Black dress pants or Black skirt, knee length or longer  
Solid Black or White dress shirt with tie (for men only)  
Black stockings or socks and Black dress shoes (no flip-flops)

### **Required Materials** *(in addition to the actual instrument)*

*\*for a more in depth wish list per band instrument, please see last page*

#### **Orchestras**

Rosin  
Soft Cloth with cleaning  
Shoulder rest (violin/viola)  
Tuner (app is fine)  
Extra Strings

#### **Percussionists**

Snare sticks  
Timpani sticks

#### **Woodwinds**

1 box of reeds (ie. Vandoren #3)  
Cork grease  
*Suggested: Reed guard, cleaning swab*

#### **Brass**

Straight mute (tbns, tpts. only)  
Valve oil/Slide grease  
*Suggested: Mouthpiece brush, snake*

## Grading

### Daily Rehearsal (60%)

#### Participation

How well you perform your parts:

- Good tone quality – firm embouchure and good breath support, good bow technique and control.
- Expressive dynamics – wide range between *piano* and *forte*
- Technical and rhythmic accuracy
- Accurate articulations – slurring/tonguing, staccato, spiccato, accents, etc.
- Phrasing & Interpretation – breathing, playing musically, how well you fit your parts into your section and the rest of the band/orchestra
- Blend – tone quality matches with the rest of your section
- Balance – dynamic level is appropriate
- Intonation – making adjustments to play “in tune”

#### Expectations

What you contribute to the rehearsal process:

- Be unpacked, tuned and warmed-up by the beginning of rehearsal
- Be prepared to play your parts
- Participate in class discussions about the music
- Listen respectfully to classmates
- Take instructions from the director and mark parts with pencil accordingly
- Be on time and assist with the setup and breakdown of the rehearsal room
- Tardies will result in a lowered grade for the day
- Unexcused absences will result in a zero for the day

### Concert Attendance and Participation(30%)

On the date of the performance:

- Arrive 30 minutes prior to concert time
- Wear appropriate concert attire as listed in the Instrumental Handbook
- Warm up responsibly and effectively
- Stay for the entire concert, being a respectful audience for other groups
- Assist with breakdown of equipment after the concert
- Complete a Concert Reflection within 48 hours after each performance
- Excuses for absences or early departures must be submitted in writing **two weeks before the event**. Absences may be excused at the director’s discretion.

### Playing Reviews and Written Work (10%)

Each quarter:

- Students will perform Playing Review(s), and/or turn in written work regularly.
- Playing Reviews will occur during class or exam time or during callbacks if needed.
- Playing Reviews are the student’s opportunity to demonstrate their proficiency of the ensemble music and foundational skills.
- Written Work are the student's opportunity to demonstrate their proficiency in Music Theory, Music History and/or Reflection on Musical Experiences.

## Care of Instruments, Equipment and Rehearsal Space

Students are responsible for keeping their personally owned and school-owned instruments in playing condition at all times. **NOTE: Using a Burlington School District instrument means you are responsible for the care and maintenance of that instrument.** If at any time the director feels an instrument is not being properly cared for or maintained, the instrument will no longer be available for use. Percussionists will be held responsible for the care and cleanliness of all percussion equipment and their storage areas.

## Festivals

The annual music festivals sponsored by the Vermont Music Educators Association include the Champlain Valley District 3 Band Festival and the Vermont All-State Music Festival. The BHS Music Department also participates in the New England Music Festival. Participation in these festivals is by audition only and some restrictions apply. A schedule of audition, rehearsal and concert dates can be found on the BHS Music Department Performance Calendar. To participate in any of these festivals, the student must:

- Be a member of one of the following BHS Ensembles: Freshman Band, Symphonic Winds, Symphonic and String Orchestra.
- Be able to perform the audition requirements.
- Attend an audition on the scheduled date.
- Follow the attendance policy for performing in school concerts (be present for more than 50% of the school day on the day of the concert).
- Have no more than five absences for any class.

## Student Travel Rules

Student conduct is governed by all rules and regulations stated in the BHS Student Handbook. Students are encouraged to obtain and read over all school rules, regulations and consequences for infractions.

1. No student drives to festivals.
2. No alcoholic beverages on school trips or on school grounds.
3. No smoking within the school building, school building at a festival, within restricted areas established at a festival, or during outside rehearsals.

Students wishing to depart or to return home with their parents or legal guardian must present a written note to the teacher in charge. This must occur in the presence of ALL of the above-mentioned parties. NO student will be excused to leave with parents other than those of the student unless a note from their parent grants permission. This must be cleared before the trip begins. Notes handed in by students without parents present will not be accepted.

## Acquiring an Instrument

The biggest expense you will incur when enrolling in the instrumental music program is to rent or purchase an instrument. While there may be an instrument in the family that is available to play, the student must have an instrument that is the appropriate size. Please ask your director for recommendations on where to acquire a new instrument or supplies.

**Burlington High School Music Department**  
**Performance Music Calendar**  
**2019-2020 (as of 8/28/19)**

**September**

9/3-9/6	Jazz Ensemble Auditions	After School	BHS Band Room
9/3-9/6	Vermont Voices Auditions	TBA	BHS Choir Room

**October**

Wednesday 10/2	District Band Auditions	5-9	Winooski HS
<b>Thursday 10/24</b>	<b>*Fall Preview Concert</b>	<b>7:00pm</b>	<b>BHS Auditorium</b>

**November**

11/1-11/2	District III Band Festival	2:00pm(Sat)	Colchester HS
11/21-11/23	BHS Musical	7:00pm	BHS Auditorium

**December**

Saturday 12/7	New England Solo/Ensemble	TBA	Hartford H.S. (VT)
Friday 12/13	Madrigal Festival	7:00pm	Cathedral of St Joe
Wednesday 12/18	Small Ensemble Concert	6:30PM	BHS Music Rooms

**January**

Saturday 1/18	All State Auditions	TBA	CVU High School
<b>Thursday 1/23</b>	<b>*Winter Concert I - All Bands</b>	<b>7:00pm</b>	<b>BHS Auditorium</b>
<b>Thursday 1/30</b>	<b>*Winter Concert II - Choirs &amp; Orchestras</b>		

**February**

2/7-2/8	District III Choral Festival	TBA	BHS
Wednesday 2/12	VTAJE Festival	All Day	Harwood Union HS

**March**

Wednesday 3/11	Orchestra Night	7:00pm	BHS Auditorium
3/19-3/21	New England Music Festival	TBA	Hanover, NH
TBA	A Night of Choral Music	7:00	BHS Auditorium

**April**

Wednesday 4/15	Small Ensemble Concert	7:00	BHS Music Rooms
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**May**

5/7-5/9	Vermont All State Music Festival	8am-8pm	Newport, Vermont
<b>Thursday 5/21</b>	<b>*Spring Concert</b>	<b>7:00pm</b>	<b>BHS Auditorium</b>

**June**

TBA	Discover Jazz Festival	TBA	Church Street
Friday 6/11 or 12	BHS Graduation	10am	BHS Gym

**Please visit [www.burlingtonhighschoolmusic.org](http://www.burlingtonhighschoolmusic.org) for the most up to date calendar.**

## General Needs for all Woodwind, Brass & Percussion Players

The following are specific equipment needs by instrument. Mr. Hamilton has very carefully developed the following list to help you provide the equipment for your child that will give them the best chance for success. For example, a student who has reached a level of proficiency will find it difficult or impossible to play in tune with basic reeds or a basic mouthpiece. Intonation and tone are more significant issues in bands as students get older and they should have the equipment to allow them to meet these expectations. Some of the equipment may be very inexpensive while some may carry a higher price. Please let Mr. Hamilton know if obtaining any of the equipment presents a problem or if you have any questions about specific requirements. It is very important to me that every student has the best chance possible to achieve all that they are capable of achieving.

<p><b><u>Clarinets (ALL)</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Vandoren B45 or M13 mouthpiece</li> <li>● Rovner ligature (comes with mouthpiece cap)</li> <li>● Vandoren reeds (blue box)</li> <li>● Legere Signature reeds (synthetic reed)</li> <li>● Reed guard enough to hold four reeds</li> </ul> <p><b><u>Saxophones (ALL)</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Classical set-up               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Selmer C*(STAR) mouthpiece</li> <li>○ Rovner Dark Ligature (model 1RL)</li> </ul> </li> <li>● Jazz set-up               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Otto link 6 or 7 mouthpiece</li> <li>○ Rovner Dark Ligature (model 1RL)</li> </ul> </li> <li>● Vandoren reeds (blue box)</li> <li>● Legere Signature reeds (synthetic reed)</li> <li>● Reed guard enough to hold four reeds</li> </ul> <p><b><u>Trumpets</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Bach 5B/5C or larger mouthpiece (3B/3C)</li> <li>● Straight mute - Joral Aluminum</li> <li>● Harmon mute - Harmon B-Model</li> <li>● Cup mute - Bach 1861</li> <li>● Plunger - your local hardware store</li> <li>● Blue Juice valve oil</li> </ul> <p><b><u>French Horns</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Holton Farkas Medium Cup or Medium Deep Cup (MC or MDC)</li> <li>● Straight Mute - Dennis Wick DW5524</li> </ul>	<p><b><u>Trombones (ALL)</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● All trombonists will have an opportunity to play a trombone with an F attachment. The school can supply a few but the student is encouraged to rent one if possible. They need to, however, supply the following materials regardless.</li> <li>● Bach 5G mouthpiece</li> <li>● Slide-o-mix (for the slide)</li> <li>● Straight mute - Joral 1A (tenor trombone)</li> <li>● Harmon mute - Harmon E Model</li> <li>● Plunger mute - your local hardware store</li> </ul> <p><b><u>Euphoniums</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● All Euphonium players will be provided with a home instrument as well as one in school. They however need to supply the following materials.</li> <li>● Bach 6.5 AL mouthpiece</li> <li>● Schilke 51D mouthpiece</li> <li>● Carrying case for mouthpiece</li> <li>● Blue Juice valve oil</li> </ul> <p><b><u>Tubas</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Conn Helleberg mouthpiece</li> <li>● Bach 18 mouthpiece</li> <li>● Carrying case for mouthpiece</li> <li>● Blue juice valve oil</li> </ul> <p><b><u>Percussion</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Percussion students MUST PURCHASE:</li> <li>● Vic Firth EP2 kit or equivalent.</li> <li>● Practice Pad</li> </ul>
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## Handbook Acknowledgement Form

By signing this form we acknowledge that we have read and agree to abide by the policies set forth by the Burlington High School Band and Orchestra Program as stated in the 2019-2020 Burlington High School Instrumental Handbook. We will do our part to help the band and orchestra achieve the goals set forth by the instrumental program. We also understand that band and orchestra is a full year commitment and agree to commit to the Burlington High School Band and Orchestra Program for entire 2019-2020 school year. We will support the program. This form is due by Friday, September 6 2019.

Student's Name:

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Student's Signature:

\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian's Name:

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Parent/Guardian's Signature:

\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_