

BHS

Instrumental

Music



Handbook

2020-2021

INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the Burlington High School Instrumental Department and Music Department. We are beyond thrilled to be working with such talented students who have chosen to have instrumental music to be part of their day. Through the 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.

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 encouraged to practice their parts each week.

Symphonic Strings - 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 encouraged to practice their parts each week.

Concert 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.

Wind Ensemble - 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 Ensemble - 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 Concert Band, Symphonic Winds, String Orchestra, or Symphonic Strings. 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 an extracurricular group 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. **Promptness is expected of all members.** 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 grade and attendance will be affected if they are not ready when the director begins rehearsal.

Performance Attendance (normal, non COVID-19 year)

Attendance at concerts is critical to the ensemble's success. For this reason, all students are required to attend each and every 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.

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 the athletic coaches.

Concert Attire (normal, non COVID-19 year)

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.

Ladies: Black dress pants or Black skirt, knee length or longer.
Solid Black or White dress top, black stockings and black dress shoes (no flip-flops).

Gentlemen: Black dress pants (no jeans).
Solid Black or White dress shirt, necktie, black socks and black shoes.

Grading

Daily Class Performance (40%)

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, accents, etc.
- Good intonation – playing in-tune
- 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

Daily Class Participation (35%)

What you contribute to the rehearsal process:

- Be unpacked, tuned and warmed-up by the beginning of rehearsal
- Be prepared to play your parts
- Ask thoughtful questions about your parts, etc.
- 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 cleaning and setup and breakdown of the rehearsal room
- Unexcused absences will result in a zero for the day

SmartMusic and Written Work (25%)

Each quarter:

- Students will use SmartMusic, and/or turn in written work regularly.
- SmartMusic will occur at home during remote days or as homework when needed.
- Using SmartMusic is the student's opportunity to demonstrate their proficiency in ensemble music and foundational skills.
- Written Work is the student's opportunity to demonstrate their proficiency in Music Theory, Music History and/or Reflection on Musical Experiences.

Concert Participation (0%) - if formal concerts are deemed safe, all percentages will be revised.

- On the date of the performance
- Arrive 40 minutes prior to concert time
- 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
- 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.

Proficiencies

Rehearsal

- On time
- Have proper equipment
 - Instrument
 - Music
 - Pencil
- Return performing area back to normal
 - Chair
 - Stand
 - Clutter-free
- Posture
 - Straight
 - Front part of chair
 - Feet on floor
- Instrument and Hand position
- Response to Visual Director cues (see Conduct)
 - On/off podium
 - Instruments up/down
 - Musical pause
 - Not talking when director gives instructions
- Music Preparation
- Individual performance in class
- Ensemble discussion participation

Woodwind and Brass playing test proficiencies

- Pitch and intonation
- Rhythm and Pulse
- Articulation
- Dynamics

Percussion playing test proficiencies

- Timing
- Rhythm
- Control & Technique
- Quality of sound

Concert Proficiencies - if formal concerts are deemed safe

- On time
- Have proper equipment
- Have your music
- Participate in performance
- Returning equipment to band room at end of concert
- Concert Attire
- Concert Etiquette
- Listens to other performing ensembles

Conduct

Rehearsal Etiquette

- Talking during band rehearsal is unacceptable unless absolutely necessary. Use good professional judgement.
- Every student should have a pencil at all times and use it frequently.
- Moving about during rehearsal should only occur when absolutely necessary.

Concert Etiquette

- No talking during an ensemble's performance.
- Be seated prior to the beginning and stay there throughout the performance.
- Do not sing along with the music.
- Do not shuffle paper or move about a great deal during a band's performance.
- Give applause when appropriate.
- If you arrive late to a concert, stand by the door and wait for the current piece to end to take a seat.

Performance Etiquette

- Performers should sit up and look professional throughout the performance.
- Performers should refrain from talking while on stage.
- Performers should wear their full uniform for the entire concert, even before and after performance.
- Do not eat or drink anything but water while in uniform unless specific permission has been given.

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.

All students will be held responsible for the cleanliness of the entire Music Suite. Absolutely no food or drink other than bottled water is allowed into the Music Room at any time. Students who have been assigned an instrument storage locker in the Music Room will lose this privilege if their lockers are not kept neat and clean.

Festivals (normal, non COVID-19 year)

As of September 2020, all Festivals are TBD but not cancelled. Here is some information about Festivals in a normal year: 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: Concert Band, Symphonic Winds Symphonic Orchestra and String Orchestra.
- Be able to perform the audition requirements.
- Be able to attempt a sight reading exercise.
- 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 (5) absences for any class.

Student Travel Rules (normal, non COVID-19 year)

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.

The following is a listing of three music stores that offer quality instruments, excellent repair service, and good rental prices:

Ellis Music Company, Inc. P.O. Box 437, Route 107 Bethel, VT 05032 802-234-6400 www.ellismusiccompany.com	Advance Music 75 Maple Street Burlington, VT 05401 802.863-8652 www.advancemusicvt.com	Burlington Violin Shop 23 Church Street Burlington, VT 05401 802-862-0349 www.vermontviolins.com
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Playing a Musical Instrument

Regardless of the initial attraction to a musical instrument, there are many reasons to play music. Did you know that:

- According to neurologist Frank R. Wilson, “The child who is playing a musical instrument or singing on a regular basis is exercising the entire brain and stimulating general intelligence more than his or her counterpart who does not play or sing.”
- Making music requires the development of higher-level thinking skills. Students are called on to analyze, create, evaluate, and make informed judgments.
- Self-discipline, confidence, and a sense of pride and personal worth grow out of meaningful musical experiences. When students perform on a musical instrument, the joy of learning becomes real, tangible, and powerful.
- Participating in a music ensemble prepares people for the world of work by fostering skills identified as critical by the business community-independence, cooperation, team work, craftsmanship, responsibility, and leadership. The independent student-worker becomes capable of making decisions in situations where there are no standard answers.
- Music has value in and of itself, and plays a role in the human experience. Participation in a music ensemble will challenge and heighten aesthetic perception, and nourish the quest for beauty and self-expression.

2020-2021 Performance Calendar

www.burlingtonhighschoolmusic.org

Student Performances -

Most, if not all performances or presentations of learning will happen virtually this year during class time at the discretion of each director.

BSD Orchestra Night -

Mr. Hakim and Mrs. Kono are working on a virtual option to celebrate Orchestra Night and our graduating seniors. Plans are still being formed and will involve students from both semesters of orchestra.

Festivals -

The following organizations have announced their plans for auditions and performances:

New England Music Festival Solo and Ensemble and Concert Festival

Virtual Auditions Due Date - Saturday 12/5

Possible Concert Festival - Thursday-Saturday 3/12-14

Vermont All-State Music Auditions and Festival

Auditions - Saturday 1/16 Hartford HS in White River Jct.

Concert Festival - Thursday-Saturday, 5/6-8, Newport VT

District III Band Auditions and Festival

Virtual Auditions in January TBD

Festival in February TBD

*Due to the current state of Covid-19 we are not able to give any more details on concerts, festivals, and or performances. The moment that we are given information in regards to performances we will notify the students, family and community.

www.burlingtonhighschoolmusic.org

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.

Clarinets (ALL)

- Vandoren B45 or M13 mouthpiece
- Rovner ligature (comes with mouthpiece cap)
- Vandoren reeds (blue box)
- Legere Signature reeds (synthetic reed)
- Reed guard enough to hold four reeds

Saxophones (ALL)

- Classical set-up
 - Vandoren Optimum mouthpiece
 - Rovner Dark Ligature (model 1RL)
- Jazz set-up
 - Vandoren V16 mouthpiece
 - Rovner Dark Ligature (model 1RL)
- Vandoren reeds (blue box)
- Legere Signature reeds (synthetic reed)
- Reed guard enough to hold four reeds

Trumpets

- Bach 5B/5C or larger mouthpiece (3B/3C)
- Straight mute - Joral Aluminum
- Harmon mute - Harmon B-Model
- Cup mute - Bach 1861
- Plunger - your local hardware store
- Blue Juice valve oil

French Horns

- Holton Farkas Medium Cup or Medium Deep Cup (MC or MDC)
- Straight Mute - Dennis Wick DW5524

Trombones (ALL)

- 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.
- Bach 5G mouthpiece
- Slide-o-mix (for the slide)
- Straight mute - Joral 1A (tenor trombone)
- Harmon mute - Harmon E Model
- Plunger mute - your local hardware store

Euphoniums

- All Euphonium players will be provided with a home instrument as well as one in school. They however need to supply the following materials.
- Bach 6.5 AL mouthpiece
- Schilke 51D mouthpiece
- Carrying case for mouthpiece
- Blue Juice valve oil

Tubas

- Conn Helleberg mouthpiece
- Bach 18 mouthpiece
- Carrying case for mouthpiece
- Blue juice valve oil

Percussion

- Percussion students MUST PURCHASE:
- Vic Firth EP2 kit or equivalent.
- Practice Pad