

EISENHOWER HIGH SCHOOL

INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC DEPARTMENT



2018-2019 Handbook

Mr. Christopher M. Traskal - Director
Mrs. Lawanda Parker –Assistant Director

www.lkeBands.com

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Welcome to the Eisenhower Instrumental Music Program!

As a member of the Instrumental Music Program you will follow many positive traditions and goals that have been developed over the years. The Eisenhower program has come to be known for its excellent level of expectations in attitude, behavior, and performance level for all of our ensembles. We hope that all our students make many wonderful memories while working to achieve at the highest level possible!

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“Where Music Makes a Difference!”

**Eisenhower High School
6500 25 Mile Rd.
Shelby Twp., MI 48316
586.797.1300**

Administration

**Mr. Jared McEvoy – Principal
Ms. Kimberly Hodsdon– Associate Principal
Mr. Scott May – Associate Principal
Mr. Ken Marnon – Associate Principal**

Attitude + Commitment = Success

For current dates and information please visit:

www.Ikebands.com

Philosophy of the Eisenhower High School Instrumental Music Program

Through the learning, rehearsal, and performance of music our students will demonstrate that they are:

Creative Problem Solvers who think critically and can make decisions, through artistic modes, in situations where there are no standard answers.

Culturally Aware Citizens who have a sense of history and an appreciation of the fine arts through multi-cultural experiences.

Humanistic Thinkers who have creativity, sensitivity, and emotion.

Collaborative Workers who are confident, receptive to others ideas, and utilize peer input to develop interpersonal relationships within the framework of their setting.

Ensemble Opportunities and Responsibilities

Concert Band

The Concert Band is a full year course designed to help high school musicians develop the technical aspects of their instrument while improving their overall musicianship. Concert/Symphonic Band is comprised of woodwinds, brass, and percussion, and will rehearse and perform a wide variety of music and styles. Participation in the ensemble will result in mandatory graded performances and rehearsals, including Winter, Spring, and Pre-Festival Concerts, Commencement, as well as participation at the MSBOA District 16 Band Festival.

Symphonic Band

The Symphonic Band is a full year course designed to help high school musicians develop the technical aspects of their instrument while improving their overall musicianship. Symphonic Band is comprised of woodwinds, brass, and percussion, and will rehearse and perform a wide variety of music and styles. Participation in the ensemble will result in mandatory graded performances and rehearsals, including Winter, Spring, and Pre-Festival Concerts, Commencement, as well as participation at the MSBOA District 16 Band Festival and State Band Festival. Symphonic Band students also will be responsible for monthly sectionals.

Wind Ensemble

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The Eisenhower Wind Ensemble is an advanced ensemble and a full year course. Comprised of woodwinds, brass, and percussion, members of the Wind Ensemble are selected through a successful audition. This band rehearses and performs various styles and genres of music. The music that is rehearsed and performed is at a greater difficulty level and thus, requires that its members be more dedicated while displaying a higher level of technical ability. Participation in the Wind Ensemble will result in mandatory graded performances and rehearsals, including Winter, Spring, and Pre-Festival Concerts, Commencement, MMC, as well as participation at the MSBOA District 16 Concert Band Festival. Wind Ensemble students also will be responsible for our Chamber Music Project and monthly sectionals. Additional performances are possible and will be given with advance notice.

Uniforms for all concert bands: Women – Black dresses, black dress shoes. Men – White tuxedo jacket, black uniform pants & tuxedo shirt, black socks, and black shoes.

Marching Band

The Marching Band (The “Marching Eagles”) is a musical unit that meets during the first semester of the school year. The prerequisite for the Marching Band is a concurrent classroom ensemble (i.e. JB, CB, SB, or WE) during hours one through six. The ensemble consists of woodwinds, brass, percussion and colorguard. (Colorguard is not required to be in a classroom instrumental ensemble, but all MB rehearsals and performances are mandatory). Membership requires total dedication and maximum effort at all times. Failure to meet these requirements can result in dismissal from the ensemble.

The Marching Band students will have several out of school commitments. They provide entertainment at home football games, parades, special events and at the MSBOA District 16 Marching Band Festival. Marching Band meets mid – August through mid- October on Tuesday and Thursday, with a few extra evening/weekend rehearsals throughout the season. Members of the percussion section and color guard sections may be asked to rehearse at least once a week in addition to the regularly scheduled rehearsals. Participation in the Marching Band will result in the mandatory attendance at **all** rehearsals and performances, including band camp. Some conflicts do arise with camp and other events. Those conflicts need to be resolved with the director and be in line with current Marching Eagles attendance policy protocol.

Marching Band Uniforms:

Summer- Polo Style shirt (student receives at Band Camp), black "Docker" style pants (No gym shorts or nylon type shorts), Black marching shoes, and Black crew socks

Fall/Winter- Eisenhower Marching Band uniforms (distributed in late summer/early fall), white gloves, black socks and black MB shoes. Plumes for hats are given out at each event

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and returned at the end of the event. Do not alter the jackets. Students are expected to keep their uniforms clean (Dry clean only) and in good condition. Students are also expected to remain in FULL uniform at all events;

All band & color guard students: Hair is to be pulled back and away from the face.

NO JEWELRY

Attendance is mandatory for all scheduled events! Please check the Marching Eagles Attendance Policy for the current policies and regulations

Jazz Ensemble

The Jazz Ensemble is an auditioned advanced ensemble that meets during the school day. Its members will be selected through director appointment based on an audition process. This ensemble is made up of trumpets, trombones, saxophones, and a rhythm section (guitar, piano, bass, and drum-set). The band focuses on rehearsing and performing the various styles of jazz, R & B, swing, rock, fusion, etc. Time is also spent in the development and implementing of improvisation skills, along with the basic knowledge of music theory. Participation in the Jazz Ensemble will result in mandatory performances and rehearsals including Winter and Spring Concerts, Ike Cluster Concert, CMU Jazz Weekend, tentative Jazz Showcase Concert, Community Performances, Spring Jazz Tour, and participation at the MSBOA State Jazz Band Festival.

Audition Information

Auditions for the various ensembles take place in the Spring before the class scheduling process and information is provided to the students as to when, where, and what is required for the audition. The audition process usually consists of a one-on-one audition with one of the directors. In the audition, major scales and etudes will be evaluated with emphasis on the scale portion of the audition. It is also wise to remember that every day in rehearsal is an audition and thus, everyone auditions from the first day of school.

Social Media Contacts

The Eisenhower Instrument Music Departments strives to keep all participants aware and notified of upcoming events and performances. To assist us in this task, we have created several social media pages that you can observe to get all the latest on the Ike Bands!

Webpage: www.lkebands.com

Facebook: www.facebook.com/ikehsbands

Twitter: @lkebands

You Tube: <http://www.youtube.com/user/EisenhowerBands>

Spring Instrumental Music Banquet

This event, which usually takes place in April/May, is an honors night dedicated to the fine students in the Eisenhower High School Instrumental Music Program. To be invited to the Banquet, the student must be enrolled in an instrumental music class at the time of the event (2nd semester) and have zero unexcused performance absences in that school year, or have been a member in good standing of the current year Marching Eagles. More complete details will be made available during the school year!

Instrumental Music Awards: The Eisenhower Instrumental Music Boosters are proud to acknowledge all the students that participated in the program with the following awards. These awards/gifts are given to students in good standing based upon what grade the performer is in. Awards with an asterisk (*) will be given retroactively if the student joins Band after it would have been given and completes all requirements.

- Freshmen (Marching Eagles students only):
 - Marching Lyre*
 - Certificate
 - Ensemble Service bar
- Sophomores:
 - Varsity Band Letter*
 - Certificate
 - Ensemble Service bar
- Juniors:
 - Certificate
 - Chenille
 - Ensemble Service bar
- Seniors:
 - Certificate
 - Chenille
 - Ensemble Service bar
 - Senior Mug (or equivalent as determined by Booster Board)

Grading & Evaluation

Grading & Evaluation Criteria

The grading for the Instrumental Music classes at Eisenhower High School is divided into the following categories. Percentages vary dependent on the quarter/ensemble:

1) Daily Participation:

- Being prepared with your music, instrument, reeds, sticks, equipment, etc.
- Arriving to class on time, and immediately getting your instrument out to begin warming up.
- Be in your seat when rehearsal begins
- Acting appropriately during rehearsals by not talking or playing out of turn.

2) Individual Performance/Homework:

- Always having your part learned for class.
- Playing all quizzes with minimal to no mistakes.
- Participating at all sectionals during school and after school
- Participating in at all rehearsals/sectionals that are help in addition to regular class meetings
- Completing any home practice so that the student is prepared at all times.
- Chamber Music Project (Wind Ensemble Only)

3) Performances:

- Participating in all concerts and performances.
- Arriving to the performance by the stated call time.
- Wearing the proper attire needed for that performance.
- Being prepared with the correct music, instrument, reeds, etc.
- Acting appropriately for the duration of the entire performance.
- Playing your part to the best of your ability.

***NOTE** – *If you are absent from a performance due to an unexcused reason, you are in jeopardy of receiving a failing grade. Instrumental music is a performance-based class, and will be graded as such. See the attendance policy on the following page.*

Instrumental Music Student Responsibilities

Attendance Policy

The unique nature of the band class requires, as part of the curriculum, performances outside of the scheduled school day (for the Marching Eagles see the official Marching Band Attendance Policy). The success of our organization and ensembles depends directly upon the full and complete participation of all of its members. Calendars are provided at the start of each school year and are updated and available on the website (www.ikebands.com) and in the band room. The performance expectations of the ensemble are outlined in the course description and instrumental music handbook. It is reasonable to expect that with this notice, as a member of the Eisenhower High School Instrumental Music Program, you will attend every rehearsal and performance. Please do not schedule avoidable conflicts with rehearsals or performances. These include job commitments, babysitting, doctor and dentist appointments, senior pictures, etc. Band is an academic class and is graded as such. Attendance will be taken at every rehearsal and performance. Although nothing can replace the absence of a performance, the student must see Mr. Traskal for the assignment that will replace the grade.

School – Related Conflicts:

It is expected that students who choose to participate in activities or classes that have an “after-school” practice/performance component will make every effort to completely fulfill their obligation to these groups. In many cases, splitting time equally between the two simultaneous activities is the best compromise. Graded academic activities, such as performances within the arts, will take precedence over non-graded extra-curricular activities.

School – Related Athletics:

Performances/games take precedence over practices/meetings. The student and/or parents should resolve practice conflicts by giving advance notification to that student’s coach. If possible, the director will make special arrangements to limit the amount of practice time missed.

Performance/game conflicts should be resolved with full understanding and cooperation of all involved including complete and open communication between the students, teachers, parents, and coaches. Students can only be excused if participating in the sporting event’s game. If possible, arrangements may be made to split time between the two events.

Because our calendar is available from the beginning of the year, it is expected that students check their schedule against the instrumental music schedule. Any conflicts should be addressed at the beginning of a sport’s/activity’s season. All conflicts must be worked out no fewer than two weeks prior to the conflict. This will allow coaches and directors to make the necessary adjustments to their ensemble or team.

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Emergencies/Illness:

If you suddenly miss a rehearsal or performance due to an emergency or illness, a parent must attempt to make contact with the director via email or voice mail within 24 hours of the missed event. This is still required if the student has been excused from school during the day.

Make – Up Work:

Upon the notice of an excused absence, an assignment will be given to earn the points lost while missing performance in an Instrumental Music class. The assignment due date will be determined by the director and will be completed before the end of the marking period that contained the missed performance. For emergency absences, the student is held responsible for the missed performance and should arrange to get the make-up assignment within five days of the performance. It is the student's responsibility to arrange for and complete the required assignment. Failure to complete the assignment within the time frame allotted will result in a "0" (zero) being entered into the grade book for that performance.

Uniform Wear, Care, and Cleaning

Our band uniforms are very expensive and must be treated accordingly. This applies to all parts of the uniform, including accessories. Always hang up your uniform, whether at home or at school. Never leave your concert uniform at school. Your uniform will be clean when you receive it. It is your responsibility to keep your uniform ready for inspection at any time. If you get your uniform dirty, it is your duty to have it cleaned. You will be held responsible for any damage that is done to the uniform you check out. Don't make switches! Wear the band uniform with pride, and wear it completely. This means never wear the uniform for a performance with the coat unbuttoned, or parts missing. When you wear your uniform, remember that you are representing our school, our band, and our community. Please act accordingly.

Code of Conduct

Each instrumental music student is a representative of our school and our community. Our code of conduct applies to all music activities, in or out of uniform, at school, in our community, and out of town. We and your parents expect you to act in an appropriate manner, including appearance, behavior, and language. Students should be considerate of other organizations, students, staff, and chaperones. Please show respect for other people's property. Individual problems will be dealt with in accordance to the severity of the situation. This includes being sent home, at your expense, if we are out of town. Of course, alcoholic beverages, smoking, vaping, and illegal drugs are absolutely prohibited. Simply remember that all school rules are in effect at any instrumental music functions and use common sense.

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Private Lessons

Who should take private lessons? The answer is anyone that wants to improve and be the best they can be!!!! If you are interested in taking private lessons please see Mr. Traskal. Private lessons are the single best thing you can do to encourage and develop your child's musical talent! There are a wide variety of great teachers in our area with a wide range of prices!

Instrument Care:

It is your responsibility to take care of your instrument, and keep it in good working order. This policy applies to both school owned and individually owned instruments. If you need repairs, it is up to you to see the director as soon as possible. If the director cannot fix the problem then it will be the responsibility of the students and/or parents to take the instrument to the repair shop. Please take care of all repairs well in advance of any performances.

Calendar of Events

For the most updated calendar of events please visit www.IkeBands.com

Instrumental Music Booster Organization

The Booster Organization is designed to supplement the overall program with fund-raiser activities, the chaperoning of various trips and events, and other student based support. If you have a child in any of the ensembles, you automatically become a booster and are asked to please lend your support to the organization.

The executive board is always working toward the best interest of our students and can provide help whenever it is necessary. Please feel free to contact these individuals with questions regarding the Instrumental Music Booster Organization and what you might be able to do to support Instrumental Music Education!

Booster contact information is available at www.IkeBands.com

Parent/Student Commitment Form

(Please return this entire page)

We have read the Eisenhower High School Instrumental Music Department Handbook, including member responsibilities and schedules. We understand that for a successful instrumental music program, all students and parents must fulfill their fair share of responsibilities. We are fully aware of the schedule of performances as listed in this handbook and on www.ikebands.com. Listed below are the conflicts which we will have with the full Calendar of Events. We expect other members to make the same commitment and for all members to be treated fairly in this respect.

Print student's name: _____

_____/_____
(Student's signature) (Date)

_____/_____
(Parent's signature) (Date)

Conflicts with Calendar of Events (a parent phone call will still be necessary before the event(s) in question):

Please also fill out the following information. The Eisenhower High School Instrumental Music Department uses the following information for correspondence from the band director as well and instrumental music boosters.

Mother or Guardian's Name _____

Father or Guardian's Name _____

Home Mailing Address _____

Home Phone Number _____

Parent/Guardian Email Address _____

Student Email Address _____