

Covington High School
Intermediate Concert Band
Syllabus

STUDENT EXPECTATIONS

In order to create the most positive learning environment and for everyone to have the best musical experience possible the following expectations have been set forth.

1. Be **respectful** of each other and the property of others.
2. Be in assigned seat ready to begin ON TIME (when the bell rings).
3. Have all materials at all rehearsals and performances (instrument, music, pencils, etc.).
4. Raise your hand to ask a question or make a comment.
5. Remain seated and quiet (with exception to singing) for the duration of class.
6. Listen to and follow directions the **first** time they are given.
7. Use positive language at all times. Vulgar or negative language will not be tolerated.
8. Rid your mouth of gum, candy and food before entering the room.
9. Ask permission before playing the piano.
10. Display a positive attitude during class and performances.

Consequences will be as follows

1. Verbal warning
2. Student will be assigned a detention.
3. Student will be sent to school administration.

GENERAL POLICIES

1. Students must ask the permission of Mr. Simpkins to use or borrow equipment/materials.
2. The phone is to be used only with Mr. Simpkins' permission. The phone is to be used for **music-related** calls only and is reserved for special circumstances.
3. The band room should always be left in a neat, organized manner.
 - a. All instruments are to be kept in the Instrument Storage Area. Music or personal items of any kind are not to be left in instrument storage area. **Only instruments belong in the instrument storage area.**
 - b. Music and music folders are to be stored in music storage cabinets.
 - c. Percussion equipment should always be put away, covered, or set aside, and handled with care **by percussionists only.**

COMMUNICATION

There are several ways that I communicate information to parents. These are outlined below.

1. Letters home – I will occasionally send a letter home either in the mail or via email.
2. Band website – www.covingtonbands.weebly.com - I have built this website as a great resource for parents and band members. I have included a lot of information that I hope is useful including: forms, letters, calendars, recordings, links, etc.
3. Remind – Remind is a free text/email service that I use to send reminders to parents and students of upcoming events, assignments, fundraisers, etc. Information will follow on a separate flyer.

GRADING POLICY

Daily participation in class (40%) – Band is a laboratory class, with much of the work being done during rehearsal time; the rehearsals are an important part of the class requirements. All Band members start each 9 weeks with 100 points. Points are deducted according to the following criteria.

Lack of Participation / Effort - not playing; inattention; improper posture; socializing; lack of consistent contribution to the group; any and all activities that result in disruption of rehearsal. (possible 2-15 points deducted for each incident, according to level of distraction)

Poor Behavior - little respect towards classmates and/or teacher; lack of cooperation; backtalk; insubordination; evidence of lying to teacher. (possible 10 points deducted according to incident)

Lack of Responsibility - lack of proper concert attire for assemblies, field trips, etc.; chronic tardiness to class; cutting class (in addition to school penalties); poor care of materials, music, folders, etc.; possession and/or display of inappropriate items, including toys, cards, make-up, lotion, or ANY ELECTRONIC DEVICE. (possible 2-20 points deducted for each infraction)

Performance (20%) – There will be several planned performances as a part of the grade. The performances occur outside the school day. Students enrolled in the class are **required** to attend these performances. If there is a conflict Mr. Simpkins needs to be notified as soon as the conflict is discovered (not the week of the concert or after the fact). If an emergency arises, the student should turn in a note of explanation immediately upon his/her return. *See the Schedule of Events for specific dates.*

Individual playing auditions and tests (20%)- prepared etudes, studies, scales, band music, sight reading.

Written Work & Special Projects (20%)- Students may be given written work on materials covered in class. Special projects can involve a variety of things including solo and ensemble contest or occasional outside reading and/or listening assignments.

PROCEDURES REGARDING ABSENCES FROM PERFORMANCE OR REHEARSAL

For any absence, be it from an after-school rehearsal or performance, an absence form must be filled out by the student, signed by the parent, and turned in to Mr. Simpkins at least 1 week in advance.

EXCUSED ABSENCES FROM PERFORMANCES

1. Personal illness - advance notice appreciated.
2. Death in family.
3. Direct conflicts with other school activities involving participation (not observation) will be resolved by the student and the teachers/coaches involved.

UNEXCUSED ABSENCES FROM PERFORMANCES

1. Any excuse not listed above. This includes miscellaneous excuses that have not been approved by Mr. Simpkins.
 - a. WORK IS NOT CONSIDERED AN EXCUSED ABSENCE - your first obligation is to your school and its activities. Employers should be notified well in advance of your obligations to both family and school, and in nearly all cases will be very understanding. Provide them with a copy of our schedule to assist them in scheduling your hours (Extra copies of the calendar will be posted for just this purpose). If you would like Mr. Simpkins to contact your employer and explain the necessity of your attendance at a rehearsal or performance, this will gladly be done upon your request.
 - b. Observation of other school activities is not considered an excused absence.

***The performance, when planned, organized, and evaluated as a culminating activity in a learning experience, becomes a legitimate part of the music curriculum. Failure to participate in a performance

without being excused will severely affect the student's final grade for that marking period. Just as failure to take a final exam in the English class would affect the grade for that course.

USE AND CARE OF MUSIC

1. Do not fold, tear or otherwise mutilate music.
2. Use only pencil when marking music. Be neat when marking music, and make only those marks that are absolutely necessary. Marks should be erased before music is turned in.
3. Students will be held financially responsible for music that is not cared for properly. Students may be subject to disciplinary measures in addition to their financial responsibility.
4. Each student will be given a folder and assigned a slot in a music storage cabinet. Folders will be assigned according to parts and instrumentation.
6. Do not put folders and/or music in your instrument case.
7. Folders and/or music are not to be stored in the instrument storage area.

SCHOOL-OWNED INSTRUMENTS

The school offers some instruments for student use. These are geared for students who have exceptional financial needs (free or reduced lunch). School instruments will first be offered to those in need, and then opened up to the rest of the band. There is a nominal fee of \$50 per semester (\$25 for summer) to cover maintenance of the instrument, parents need to contact Mr. Simpkins to work this out. The rental payment is due by the end of August. All Percussionists are required to pay the same fee for use of school owned equipment. The summer payment is due before the instrument leaves the school for the summer. Checks are made payable to "Covington Band". Students choosing this option will still be responsible for obtaining the required accessories for the instrument.

ISSUANCE - Instruments are issued by Mr. Simpkins. Students should inspect the instrument upon receiving it and note the condition of the instrument on the form given to them. The student then reads and completes the form (along with his/her parents) for instrument checkout. A parent signature is **mandatory** on the form.

REPAIR - School owned instruments will be repaired by the school, provided the needed repair was a result of normal wear and use. ***The cost of repairing an instrument due to abusive behavior or carelessness will be the responsibility of the student, and will be determined by the director. Any member of the band who abuses a school-owned instrument in any manner will face administrative action.***

RETURN - School owned instruments will be returned to Mr. Simpkins upon request. **Both** Mr. Simpkins and the student must initial the Instrument Rental Agreement form **before** the student's responsibility for the instrument is terminated.

Performance Ensembles

All members of the Intermediate Concert Band Class are required to participate in the following activities:

Concert Band

Concert Band is the core of the band program. The group performs several concerts throughout the school year as well as participating in the ISSMA (Indiana State School Music Association) Spring Organizational Contest.

CONCERT ATTIRE

The student needs to provide his/her own clothing. The dress code is “concert black and white” as follows:

Everyone must wear a white dress shirt and black pants (girls may wear a skirt) with black socks and black dress shoes. Boys must also wear a necktie (any color is acceptable).

Note: At the final concert it is tradition for ladies to wear formal dresses and gentlemen to wear a dress shirt and necktie. Ladies do not need to buy a new dress – just borrow a used dress from a friend or use a prom dress from last year.

Absolutely no jeans or athletic shoes will be permitted. Students who are not dressed appropriately will not be permitted to perform and will lose credit for the performance.

Trojan Marching Band

The Trojan Marching Band is comprised of all members of the Concert Band. The marching band will perform at all regular season home football games. The group may also perform at parades, community events, or other venues at the discretion of the director.

Trojan Basketball Band

The Trojan Basketball Band is comprised of all members of the Concert Band. The basketball band performs at all regular season single home boys’ basketball games. The band may also perform at girl’s basketball games at the discretion of the director.

OTHER MUSIC OPPORTUNITIES

ISSMA Solo And Ensemble Contest

All Covington High School Band Members are strongly encouraged to participate in ISSMA Solo and Ensemble. Extra credit will be given to all involved. This participation may take the form of a solo performance, or as a member of a small chamber ensemble. Specific details regarding this event will be made well in advance.

Private Lessons

Mr. Simpkins feels very strongly about the importance of private study as an integral part of developing the student's progress on their instrument. The one-on-one relationship available in a private lesson allows for more individual attention than is permitted in a large group rehearsal. Students can concentrate on their own unique playing problems, improving on areas in which they are weak, and progress at their own rate. This individualized instruction can provide a better chance to master your own instrument, as well as maintain the quality of the band program. If interested in private lessons, please see Mr. Simpkins for assistance in locating a qualified teacher.

Honors Groups

Many honors groups are available to Covington High School Band members. Groups such as the Indiana All-State Band, Indiana State University All-Star Band, and the Bi-County Honors Band provide excellent opportunities for band members to further their performance skills, meet students from other schools, and have a lot of fun. Ask Mr. Simpkins for details regarding these groups.

COVINGTON BAND BOOSTERS

The Covington Band Boosters exist to support the Covington Bands both physically and financially. Parents of all band members are asked to contribute as a member of the Covington Band Boosters. The main fundraiser of the group is the concession stand at the Trojan Athletic Complex. Parent help is needed to operate the concession stand at all outdoor athletic events. Each time a parent works the concession stand or a student participates in a fundraiser that student's "band account" is credited for the work. The money that is accumulated in that student's account is used for band-related expenses such as supplies, t-shirts, band trips, etc.

All parents are expected to either work in the concession stand or volunteer to help out in another area. **Other areas where help are needed include:**

- Fundraising – Help to organize the fundraiser, place the order, coordinate delivery, etc.
- Field Trip Chaperone – Attend a field trip and lead a group of students throughout the day.
- Concert Refreshments – Provide food/drinks for refreshments after each concert.
- Uniform Committee – Measure, fit, or alter marching band uniforms. If you sew, let us know!

2014-15 Covington Band Boosters Officers

President	Marty La Foe 793-3706
Vice President	Becky Story 299-4258
Secretary	Laura Walters 793-8429
Treasurer	Sandy Whitaker 793-4282
Trustees (2)	Christy La Foe 793-3706 Julie Isom 763-3575

Detach this form from the packet, complete, and return by Friday August, 15, 2014

SYLLABUS ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Please read the statement below, sign, and return this portion to Mr. Simpkins.

“I have read the syllabus, including the rules and regulations set forth and agree to comply with them. I will act as a responsible, committed band member and citizen while representing our school and community for the 2014-2015 school year.”

Choose one of the following volunteering options explained above.

This form is not considered complete until one of the volunteer options is selected below

- Concession Stand Fundraising Field Trip Chaperone
- Concert Refreshments Uniforms

STUDENT’S NAME (print)

Student Signature

Date

PARENT NAME (print)

Parent Signature

Date