



Elementary & Junior High School Bands Handbook

2010-2011



I. Music in Education

Music education is unique in the education world. Nowhere else does a subject include elements of all the other areas of education. Where else can students apply mathematics (counting and rhythm), science (how sound is produced by each instrument), history (who wrote the music and when), language (most musical terminology is in Italian), physical education (hand-eye coordination is absolutely critical to playing an instrument), critical thinking (am I playing the right note and is it in tune?), team-work, self-discipline, and artistic expression? Music does all of that.

II. The Band Student's Responsibilities

- "Let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven." (Matthew 5:16)
- Be regular in attendance.
- Make a sincere effort to learn and improve daily.
- Encourage your fellow musicians.
- Be honest and fair with others.
- Use the talents God has given to you to the best of your ability.
- Continually strive to improve your skills and knowledge of music.
- Don't accept mediocrity.
- Improve your skills by practice and hard work.
- Follow the director, listening, watching, and making music.



III. The Music Department's Responsibilities

- Provide an atmosphere conducive to studying and performing music to the glory of God.
- Provide the students with proper and adequate facilities and equipment for rehearsal and performance.
- Provide the students with the materials and instruction necessary to advance their music education.
- Plan and prepare each lesson and rehearsal.
- Encourage daily progress of the entire band.
- Assess and evaluate the progress of each student.

IV. Curriculum

- For individual lessons – the curriculum is *Accent on Achievement* by John O'Reilly and Mark Williams.
- For group lessons – songs contained in *Accent on Achievement* as well as music appropriate for the level of the students.
- Additional material will be used as deemed by the teacher.
- We will again be using Smart Music software to help and motivate students to practice on their own.
- Concerts – performing music is an essential element of music education. See the section later regarding solo night and concerts.

V. Lessons

- Each student will receive a private lesson once a week.
- Assignments will be given, which the student will have to practice. They can practice with or without Smart Music computer software.
- Smart Music software will tell the student if he or she has "passed" or mastered the assignment.

- The students may play their assignments at the next lesson, on which the teacher will comment on so that the student learns and progresses in his/her musical abilities.
- Progress is recorded and will be reported to you at the end of each quarter.
- Lessons at the Elementary School campus are either in the “Conference Room” on the 2nd floor or on stage. The lessons at the Junior High campus are in the Ball Room, just next to the stairs.

VI. Instruments & Equipment

- Some of the larger instruments (bari-sax, tuba, etc) are available to be used from Illinois Lutheran. These instruments are available on a first-come-first-served basis, to be assigned by the band instructor.
- Care of school equipment
Please remember that the school owned instruments and equipment are not yours. They are very expensive and must last for many years. In some cases, many, many years. Therefore, it is our responsibility to be good stewards and take care of the instruments in the best way possible.
- Other instruments are available for rent (or purchase) from the following stores:

Music & Arts Center
Contact: Paul Bauert
1-800-323-1001
www.musicarts.com

Rubino’s
I-65 & US 30
Merrillville, IN
219-736-9344
www.rubinosmusic.com

Melody Mart
18062 Dixie Highway
Homewood, IL
708-798-5500

Barry Sperti
8000 Stone Gate Dr
Tinley Park, IL 60477
815-806-0215

VII. Practice

- It’s more fun to play if you play well, and practice is what makes this possible. The best way to succeed is to use your God-given talents on a regular basis.
- If you do not use the Smart Music computer software, be sure to fill out the practice form in the back of the lesson book. This is closely monitored.
- Some suggestions:
 1. Practice for progress and results, not just for a specific length of time.
 2. Assemble the instrument carefully.
 3. Warm-up the instrument.
 4. Condition the embouchure by playing long tones. Listen and play these tones in tune and with good tone at all dynamic levels. Start in the middle register and work both directions.
 5. Limber your fingers and brain by playing scales and/or scale related exercises.
 6. Practice assigned lesson and/or music parts. When you are unable to play a particular phrase or group of notes, STOP. Make an exercise out of the difficult part. Practice it very slowly at first and gradually increase the speed until you are able to play it at the proper tempo (speed). After this play the passage again a few more times while playing one measure before and one measure after the difficult phrase.
 7. After a practice session is over, dry the inside of woodwinds and drain the moisture from brass instruments. Wipe off the outside of the instrument. Carefully return the instrument to its case. To avoid damage, do not keep stands, music folders, medals and other objects in the case unless a place is provided for them.
 8. Practice for good tone. Always practice with expression and dynamics (louds and softs). Always use good posture when practicing.



VIII. Smart Music Software

Starting this school year, we are using Smart Music computer software.

**What is it?**

Smartmusic is a software program which basically turns practicing musical instruments into playing video games – it makes it challenging and fun, while at the same time teaching the technical aspects of music and drastically improving the student’s skills and preparedness for performances.

What does it do?

Smartmusic is a program that you load onto your computer. A microphone is attached to the student’s instrument, and he or she plays music from either the lesson book or music from mass band.

The program can do many, many things:

- It can play an accompaniment so the student can hear how his/her part fits in with the rest of the band.
- It can record and play back what the student played, giving instant feedback.
- It shows on the screen what notes were correct and which were played wrong, giving the correct fingering.
- It shows which rhythms were wrong.
- For practicing purposes, you can slow or speed up the tempo, allowing the student to practice the hard parts at an easier speed and then increase it until it is at the correct speed.
- It can give a percentage grade of how well the student did.
- If the teacher wants, he can give assignments from the lesson book or band pieces that need to be played at a certain percentage to be “passed.”
- The program can even email the sound files of the best performances to the teacher to listen to, if he or she so desires.
- Smartmusic automatically comes with every imaginable lesson book with it, including the book series we currently use.
- It also includes many group band pieces so that the student can practice with a “virtual” band any time they want.
- It also includes thousands of solos for each instrument, exercises, etc...

How does it work?**At home**

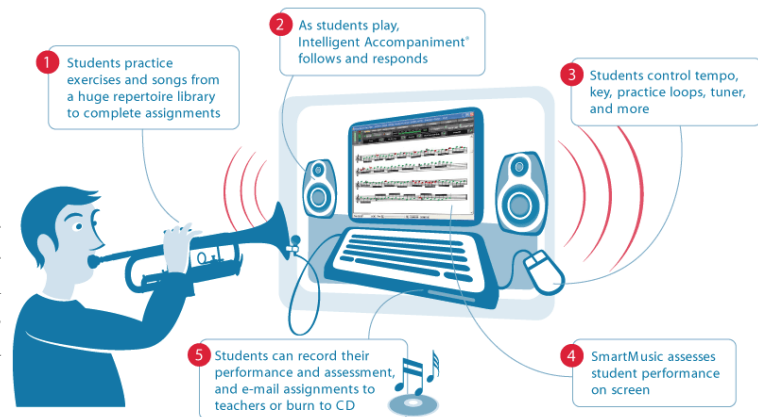
The student gets out their instrument, hooks up the microphone, logs into the program on their home computer, picks the music, or assignment, and practices – with fun!

At school

If a student doesn’t have a home computer or internet access at home, he or she can practice before or after school. At the Junior High/High School campus, they will be able to use the computer in the choir room only if arranged with Pastor Italiano beforehand.

In the band classroom and lessons

Smartmusic would by no means replace the teachers. In fact, it would allow the teachers to actually do more teaching. The students would come far greater prepared to lessons and practices knowing their music, fingerings, rhythm, and how their part fits in with the other instruments. The teacher wouldn’t have to spend precious time working with one or two students to fix their rhythm or showing them the correct fingering. Instead, the teacher can actually work on the expression and artistic aspects of the music, which is what really makes music exciting!



IX. Facilities

Illinois Lutheran Elementary Campus

- If students do not take instruments home to practice on a particular night, they can store their instruments in the hallway on top of the lockers. Music is kept with the student.

Illinois Lutheran Junior High Campus

- If students do not take instruments home to practice on a particular night, they can store their instruments at -
 - Woodwind & Brass instruments – Music store room (off of choir room)
(a cubby hole will be assigned)
 - Percussion – Band storage room (off of gym)
 - Music – is kept in crate stored in music store room (off of choir room)

X. Group Rehearsals

- Private lessons help each student learn and develop their skills at playing their instrument. But a band is made up of many students. Learning to listen to others, blend with others, work together with others, following the director, and other skills can only be nurtured in a group setting. Attendance at group rehearsals is mandatory. The Beginning Band meets Wednesdays from 12:35-1:05 PM on the stage. The Advanced Band meets Tuesdays and Thursdays from 12:35-1:05 PM on the stage. Junior High Band meets on Mondays and Thursdays “M” Period in the gym.
- Each student’s progress is recorded and evaluated on the basis of :
 1. Total lessons available
 2. Total lessons attended
 3. Signed practice times turned in (in back of lesson book)
 4. Number of pages passed in the book
 5. Number of songs passed for band
 6. Scales played successfully

These progress reports will be sent home at the end of each quarter. Once a student has completed an entire lesson book, he or she will receive an award pin, which he/she is to wear at all performances.

XI. Solo Nights—grades 4-8

- Music is not just for the individual, but is also to be shared for others to enjoy as well. Learning to perform and do so in front of people is an integral part of learning to play an instrument. That is why every student is given a solo that he/she will perform at the end of the school year.
- Band Solo nights are Monday May 2, 2011 and Tuesday, May 3, 2011, both in the ILHS Library. As the time draws near, a letter will be sent home asking which night will best work for your child and your family. You do not have to attend both nights, but being there to support fellow students would certainly be appreciated.
- If a piano accompanist is needed, the band instructor will help arrange for one.



XII. Concerts

Attendance

- Students put in a HUGE amount of work, at home in private practice, in lessons, and in group rehearsals. The culmination of that hard work is a concert. Except in a rare occasion, students will only perform their music once. Since the entire band performs at concerts, it is absolutely necessary and mandatory that every student attends every concert. Failure to come to a concert not only robs you of your chance to show how hard you've worked on the music, but also belittles the other student's hard work because they will not sound as good as if you were there.
- If the student cannot attend a concert, notify the director long before the concert. Valid excuses are:
 1. Illness
 2. Funeral
 3. Family wedding
 4. Family confirmations or baptisms
 5. Others as excused by the director
- Students are to be at the concert location at least ½ hour before the performance so that the group can properly warm-up.

Dates for the 2010/2011 school year:

- October 17, 2010, 7:00 PM—Fall Concert
(Junior High, not Elementary bands)
- December 12, 2010, 2:00 PM—Christmas Concert
(Junior High, not Elementary bands)
- December 19, 2010, 2:00 PM – Children's Christmas Service
(Elementary bands, not Junior High)
- February 20, 2011, 7:00 PM—Winter Band Concert
(Elementary, Junior & Senior High bands)
- May 2 & 3, 2011, 7:00 PM Solo Nights
(Elementary & Junior High students)
- May 20, 2011, 1:00 PM—Children's Concert
(Junior High band, not Elementary)
- May 22, 2011, 7:00 PM- Spring Band Concert
(Elementary, Junior & Senior High bands)

Concert Dress:

- Elementary School bands – Nice church clothes
(girls – dress, skirt, or slacks & nice top)
(boys – collared shirt, slacks or khaki)
- Junior High School Band – dress in black – top & bottom
- Both are to wear whatever award pins they have received for completing lesson books.

XIII. Band Fees

- The band fee for the 2010-2011 school year is \$60.00. This helps cover the cost of an *Accent on Achievement* lesson book, reeds (for woodwind instruments other than oboes), valve oil (for brass instruments), sticks & mallets (for percussion), a home copy and 1 year subscription to Smart Music software, purchase of music and equipment.
- Band fees are payable to Illinois Lutheran at the beginning of the school year at the school office.
- By the way, that works to about \$1.50 per private lesson! That is an amazing steal compared to the going rate of private lessons (\$15.00 for ½ hour!!!)
- If a child loses his or her music, or it is damaged so that it cannot be used again, there will be a \$5.00 per piece of music fee charged to replace the music.

XIV. How Parents Can Help

At Home:

1. Show interest in the music studies of your child.
2. Arrange a regular time for practice.
3. Find a quiet place where he/she can practice without interruption.
4. Keep the instrument in good repair with reeds, supplies, etc. in the case.
5. Be very careful with school owned instruments.
6. Teach him/her to be on time for rehearsals, lessons, and performances.
7. Make faithful attendance at all band activities important.
8. Encourage him/her to play for others when the opportunity arises at church, school, community, etc.

At School:

1. Keep a record of the student's various musical activities.
2. Notify the director if he/she is to be absent from a rehearsal or performance.
3. See that the instrument and music comes to school when needed.
4. Help the student arrange schedules so as not to conflict with band activities outside the school day.
5. Discuss with the director anything that will help him to better understand your child.
6. Attend performances and support your children

XV. Suggested Teachers for Private Study

- Clarinet** – Luann Rimpel 708-672-7989
Flutes - Kristen Biesterfeld 708-574-6849
Abigail Flister 301-875-5442
Beginner Guitar – Luann Rimpel 708-672-7989
Advanced Guitar –Ken Bier 219-736-1195
Oboe– Luann Rimpel 708-672-7989
Piano – Luann Rimpel 708-672-7989
Kristen Biesterfeld 708-754-1203
Laura Biesterfeld 708-709-9042
Advanced Piano-Jim Schutters 708-672-1769
Saxophone– Luann Rimpel 708-672-7989
Percussion – Dave Robison 708-798-5500
David Webb 815-693-0885
Voice – Sonja Hummel 708-672-1032
Nate Krug 989-737-9203
Abigail Flister 301-875-5442
Recorder—Gretchen Italiano 708-672-0257



XVI. Contact information

Mr. Joel Buege

Elementary School Beginner Band director
Elementary School Advanced Band director
Elementary School lesson instructor
708-672-6806
jbuege@ilhs.org

Rev. Frank Italiano

Junior High lesson instructor
Junior High Band director
High School Band director
708-672-0257
fitaliano@trinitycrete.org

Mrs. Luann Rimpel

Elementary School lesson instructor
Junior High lesson instructor
708-672-7989
lcrimpel@sbcglobal.net