



# High School Band 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

- Band is a credited class in high school, giving 0.3 credits per semester.
- Unlike other classes, though, the “text” book is different each year. It is made up of the different pieces of music that we will play. Music is selected according to the following criteria:
  - Orchestration that fits our group.
  - Skill level appropriate for our group –balancing playability and giving the students a challenge.
  - Variety in style, musical period, and history.
  - Exposure to new concepts and reinforcing previously learned concepts.
  - Music that will inspire the students
- In the classroom, learning is achieved through directed, rehearsal, lecture, self-directed learning, videos, and performance.
- Each week an in-class quiz will be given, which counts towards the student's grade.

## V. Lessons

- Lessons are not a part of the high school curriculum. It is assumed that students have already had several years of lessons and know how to read music and play their instrument.

- However, if someone would like to learn an instrument for the first time, or get a “refresher” course if they’ve forgotten how to read music or play their instrument, private lessons can be arranged with Pastor Italiano. They would take place either before school or after school, whatever will work for everyone’s schedules. There would be no extra cost for these lessons.

## 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	Rubino’s	Melody Mart	Barry Sperti
Contact: Paul Bauer	I-65 & US 30	18062 Dixie Highway	8000 Stone Gate Dr
1-800-323-1001	Merrillville, IN	Homewood, IL	Tinley Park, IL 60477
<a href="http://www.musicarts.com">www.musicarts.com</a>	219-736-9344	708-798-5500	815-806-0215
	<a href="http://www.rubinosmusic.com">www.rubinosmusic.com</a>	<a href="http://www.melodymartusa.com">www.melodymartusa.com</a>	

- All this being said, *it is highly recommended that parents purchase an instrument for their child, especially when they are at the high school level.* A person may be able to play sports after high school for a few years, but you can use your musical gifts until the day God takes you to his side at heaven. But a person can only use his or her musical gifts after school if they have their own instrument.

## 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.
- 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. Facilities

### **Illinois Lutheran High School 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)

## IX. Group Rehearsals

- High School band practices 3 times a week: Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday “M” period. Group practices will take place in the gym.

## X. Grading

- Grading for band class is based on points. Students receive points by attending the performances, through their weekly quizzes, and a selection of projects for the 1st and 3rd quarters. Because of the variety of performance and quizzes, each quarter’s grade is somewhat different. The percentages are approximately:

### **First Quarter**

40% Performances  
30% Quizzes  
30% Projects

### **Second Quarter**

70% Performances  
30% Quizzes

### **Third Quarter**

45% Performances  
30% Quizzes  
25% Project

### **Fourth Quarter**

65% Performances  
35% Quizzes

## XI. 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.
- Concert Dates for the 2010/2011 School Year:



#### Zion 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

Zion Lutheran Church – Crete, IL  
 Sunday, October 10, 2010, 5:30 PM  
 Be there by 5:00 PM

#### Pep Band

ILHS Gym  
 Thursday, October 14, 2010 6:30 PM  
 Be there by 6:00 PM

#### Fall Concert

ILHS Gym  
 Sunday, October 17, 2010, 7:00 PM  
 Be there by 6:30 PM

#### Mid-Week Advent @ Zion

Zion Lutheran Church – Crete, IL  
 Wednesday, December 8, 2010, 3:30 PM  
 Leave during “M Period”

#### Mid-Week Advent @ Trinity

Trinity Lutheran Church – Crete, IL  
 Wednesday, December 15, 2010, 3:30 PM  
 Leave during “M Period”

#### Christmas Concert

ILHS Gym  
 Sunday, December 12, 2010, 2:00 PM  
 Be there by 1:30 PM

#### Pep Band

ILHS Gym  
 Friday, January 7, 2011 6:30 PM  
 Be there by 6:00 PM

#### Pep Band

ILHS Gym  
 Thursday, January 20, 2011 6:30 PM  
 Be here by 6:00 PM

**Pep Band**

ILHS Gym  
 Thursday, January 27, 2011 6:30 PM  
 Be there by 6:00 PM

**Homecoming Pep Band**

ILHS Gym  
 Saturday, January 29, 2011, 12:30 PM  
 Be there by 12:00 PM

**Pep Band**

ILHS Gym  
 Tuesday, February 1, 2011 7:00 PM  
 Be here by 6:30 PM

**RVC (River Valley Conference) Honors Band**

Location TBD  
 Thursday, March 3, 2011 Time TBD

**Winter Band Concert**

ILHS Gym  
 Sunday, February 20, 2011, 7:00 PM  
 Be there by 6:30 PM

**Spring Concert**

ILHS Gym  
 Friday, May 13, 2011, 7:00 PM  
 Be there by 6:30 PM

**Children's Concert for Illinois Lutheran Elementary School**

ILHS Gym  
 Friday, May 20, 2011, 1:00 PM  
 (We'll get out of school)

**Spring Band Concert**

ILHS Gym  
 Sunday, May 22, 2011, 7:00 PM  
 Be there by 6:30 PM



- **Other Dates**

- **Band Field Trip**

- Trip to Midwest Music Clinic
    - Military Band Concert
    - Wednesday, December 15, 2010, ~7:00 PM
    - Cost is \$20.00

- **IHSA Solo/Ensemble Contest – only for those who desire to go**

- March 5, 2011
    - Location TBD

- **WELS Band Fest – only for those selected for this honors band**

- March 10-14, 2011
    - Arizona Lutheran Academy

**Concert Dress**

- This Year, students will be given a white tuxedo shirt, along with a bow tie & cummerbund. They are to wear these, along with a black pants (or skirt for the girls). This “concert dress” is to be worn at all performances. Pep Band is the only exception. For Pep Band performances, the students are encouraged to wear “spirit wear.”
- If the shirt and/or bow tie & cummerbund are lost or damaged, the replacement cost is \$20.00. There is no initial cost for the shirt and bow tie/cummerbund. It is included in the student’s band fee.

## XII. IHSA Solo/Ensemble contest

- Participation in the Illinois High School Association (IHSA) Solo/Ensemble contest is not mandatory, but would be one way to earn points for the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter grade.
- If a student would like to play a solo or in a group, they will need to pick music, practice it, and perform it on March 5, 2011. The location of the contest will be announced as we approach the date. The students are judged and will be given ratings as well as a sheet with the judge's comments on it.

## XIII. National Band Fest

- The WELS (Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod) has a national honors band each year. Students from all its Lutheran high schools are nominated by their directors. But only those students selected by the host school will be selected to attend. This year (2010/2011) band fest will be at Arizona Lutheran Academy on March 10-14, 2011. Those students who are selected will be notified sometime in December. However, because we will have to fly down to Arizona, the student will be responsible for a portion of their air fair (about \$100-\$150).

## XIV. Band Fees

- The band fee for the 2010-2011 school year is \$60.00. This helps cover the cost of reeds (for woodwind instruments other than oboes), valve oil (for brass instruments), sticks & mallets (for percussion), purchase of music and equipment. It also covers the cost for one tuxedo shirt and set of bow tie & cummerbund.
- Band fees are payable to Illinois Lutheran at the beginning of the school year at the school office.
- 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.

## XV. 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](mailto:jbuege@ilhs.org)

**Rev. Frank Italiano**  
Junior High lesson instructor  
Junior High Band director  
High School Band director  
708-672-0257  
[fitaliano@trinitycrete.org](mailto:fitaliano@trinitycrete.org)

**Mrs. Luann Rimpel**  
Elementary School lesson instructor  
Junior High lesson instructor  
708-672-7989  
[lcrimpel@sbcglobal.net](mailto:lcrimpel@sbcglobal.net)

Don't forget to check out Pasor Italiano's web page at [www.ilhs.org](http://www.ilhs.org)!