

# **Jordan High School Concert Band**



**Course Syllabus and Handbook  
2016-2017**

**[www.jordanbands.com](http://www.jordanbands.com)**



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## **JHS Instrumental Music Ensembles –**

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**Course Description:** Students in the Jordan High School Concert Band will study and perform a variety of concert literature throughout the year. Music will include but not be limited to: marches, transcriptions, multi-work movements, popular music, and contemporary and traditional band repertoire. Students will study the dimensions of music through the exploration of concert literature and continue developing their personal musicianship and ensemble rehearsal skills. High school band members will be required to perform in a limited number of marching band and pep band performances in addition to quarterly concert band concerts throughout the year. Students in the ensemble will have the opportunity to go on a band trip approximately every two years.

**Attendance:** Required for all classes, times, and performances. Concert Band is 1<sup>st</sup> period. Students are expected to come to class on time every day for rehearsal. This means being in the music wing by the time the bell rings and in your seat ready to begin within 2 minutes after. The two minutes between the bell and class start time is used for assembly of instrument and having the required materials ready for the day (instrument, music, pencil) and finding your seat. Students who are tardy will not be able to achieve full points for the day.

**Make-up Work:** Daily points make-up assignments are required for school excused absences. Make-up work is due one week after the excused absence unless prior arrangements have been made. It is the student's responsibility to request a makeup assignment and to turn the work in before the deadline. Pep band make-up assignments are only available if the absence is announced and confirmed prior to the missing pep band date.

**Required Materials:** Students will be required to bring their instrument, band music, and a pencil to class each day. Students **do not** need to bring their electronic devices on a daily basis. Electronic devices will be used during class at certain times throughout the year, however these will be announced ahead of time. In addition, each student will be required to have items listed on the Required Instrument Materials List by no later than Wednesday, Sept. 28th. Students will not be allowed to go to their lockers for any of their materials after the bell rings.

**Classroom Conduct, Rules, and Expectations:** It is expected that JHS Band students demonstrate Jordan PRIDE (Preparedness, Respect, Integrity, Dependability, Excellence) at all times in the classroom, during performances, and when interacting with the community. This includes but is not limited to the following:

**Preparedness:** Be on time. Instrument, music, pencil. Performance dates. Concert attire.

**Respect:** Classmates. Director. Audience. Community. Facility. Music.

**Integrity:** Supporting and helping others. Teamwork. Honesty. Doing what is right.

**Dependability:** Being present and on time. Reliable. Committed. Practicing on own.

**Excellence:** Always seeking to improve. Contributing positively to the whole. Synergy

**Guidelines to help us achieve excellence:**

1. Be ready to play. All students should have tuned, prepared music for class and be in their seat two minutes after the final bell. Percussionists should have all instruments they play and music for rehearsal prepared by the time warm-ups begin, and return equipment to its storage place at the end of class (this is part of the daily rehearsal skills grade.)
2. You are responsible for reading all information on the white board. Upcoming tests, concerts, other performances, daily schedules and times will be listed on the board. It is your responsibility to read and act on that information.
3. Bring all materials (pencil, music, and instrument) to all rehearsals unless otherwise instructed. You will **not** be allowed to go to your locker to retrieve class materials after the bell. All instruments should be in assigned storage area when not in use. Remember the band room and instrument storage are not your personal storage areas!
4. All music should be kept in the folders and stored in their assigned places in the Folder cabinet. **Do not store your music in your band locker.** Lost/damaged music must be replaced at the student's expense (this includes pen marks in the music).

**Outcomes:** Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Interpret and perform music from a wide range of styles.
2. Demonstrate understanding of the elements of music and their role in study and performance.
3. Perform in small and large ensembles.
4. Read and understand music notation, symbols, and basic compositional concepts.
5. Pursue and continue music study in a secondary and post-secondary environment.

**Grading Policy:** Students letter grades will be determined based on the Jordan High School grading scale as listed in the JHS Handbook. The following is an approximate breakdown of points and grade weights for the semester.

30% Required Performances- Performance is a key component to music study and it is expected that students are at each of the performances listed in the JHS Concert Band Calendar for 2016-2017 (Including pep band). Students receive full credit for a concert by remaining in attendance for the entire concert, not just the portion they perform in. Students absent from pep band performances will need to fill out a make-up form which can be found by the entrance to the band room. Students will not be able to make-up points for missing concerts and marching performances except under extreme cases such as illness and family emergencies. If a student anticipates a conflict with a concert date, that conflict should be communicated to Mr. Burnside as soon as possible.

20% Skills Assessment/Rehearsal Skills- Each student will receive a daily grade in band. The grade is reflective of the following: 1. Use of rehearsal tools - instrument, music, and pencil and demonstrating their use throughout the rehearsal, 2. Adherence to classroom rules and demonstration of Jordan PRIDE, 3. Individual music performance: Your class performance should be reflective of individual practice on your band instrument you have done outside of class. Students absent from class will need to fill out a make-up form which can be found by the entrance to the band room.

20% Tests & Projects- Students will be required to complete at least 1 playing test each semester. Written tests may also be given throughout the year depending upon the music literature being studied. These tests will be given in class and their completion is required for a final grade. Other performance projects may be assigned and will be announced in class (Solo and Ensemble recital, etc...)

30% Lessons- Students will be assigned lesson groups based on their instrument. These 20 minute lessons will meet on a rotating 2-week basis during 2<sup>nd</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup> hour. Students are expected to sign up for a lesson time that suits their schedule and is respectful of their other teacher's classes (I.E. Do not schedule a lesson on a day of a test/project/presentation in another class). Students will need to arrive to these lessons on-time and have their required materials prepared. Grades are determined based on individual preparation and performance. Lesson attendance and participation is mandatory, few make-up times will be provided. There will be approximately 8 lessons per semester.

**\*\*Private Lessons:** It is strongly encouraged that if a student's situation allows that he or she take lessons from a private instructor outside of school. Private instructors can provide a greater amount of individual instruction time and deeper study than can typically be accomplished during group lessons at school. If a student is able to take private lessons outside of school, they will be exempt from taking lessons during school. The grade points from lessons will be established based on feedback from a student's private instructor. Please see Mr. Burnside if you have a private instructor or wish to receive a list of instructors in the area.

**Co-Curricular Ensembles:** Throughout the year students will have the ability to perform in several co-curricular ensembles. Most of these ensembles are smaller in size and focus on a more select style of music. Co-curricular ensembles include:

**Jazz Band:** An ensemble focusing on the study and performance of American jazz. Styles of music include but are not limited to: contemporary, traditional, swing, bebop, ballad, rock, pop, latin, bossa, dixieland, and the blues. This ensemble meets on Friday mornings before school, with sectionals occurring on Wednesday mornings. The Jazz band performs concurrently with the Concert Band at 4 major concerts a year and at Solo and Ensemble Contest. Other performances may be scheduled throughout the year.

**Jazz Combo:** An auditioned ensemble, smaller than the Jazz Band that focuses on the study and performance of American Jazz and Popular Styles. Students in this group must also concurrently participate in Jazz Band. The Jazz Combo meets an additional morning before school and performs concurrently with the Concert Band at 4 major concerts a

year and at Solo and Ensemble Contest. Other performances may be scheduled throughout the year.

**Percussion Ensemble:** Students from the Concert Band Percussion section are also part of the JHS Percussion Ensemble. This ensemble studies and performs percussion specific music from a variety of composers and in a variety of styles. The ensemble typically meets during third hour (SNAP) one to two times a week and will perform concurrently with the Concert Band 2-3 times a year. Other performances may also be scheduled

**Pit Orchestra:** The Fall musical is produced on even numbered years, ex. 2012, 2014, 2016, 2018 etc.. and involves student pit orchestra. Students who are interested in being a member of the Fall musical pit orchestra should speak with Mr. Burnside within the first couple weeks of school. Membership is limited and based on musicianship skills and performance ability. The ensemble size varies but typically is no more than 12-14 players. Rehearsal times will be announced at the start of the musical production.

**Small Ensembles:** Throughout the year students will have the opportunity to study and rehearse in small ensembles. In-school performance venues will vary. Some ensembles include: duets/trios/ of like instruments, saxophone quartet, brass quintet, woodwind choir, tuba/baritone ensemble, percussion ensemble, etc. Preparing for Solo and Ensemble competition in the spring will be the primary focus of these ensembles. Formation and rehearsals can be started at anytime throughout the year. Students are encouraged to perform small ensemble music at community functions and events and will receive credit towards lettering (See JHS Band lettering policy)

**Concert Attire:** The following is the required concert dress for all Concert Band concerts unless otherwise announced.

**Men:**

- Black pants (Slacks/Dress pants. No cargo pants or jeans)
- Black button down shirt
- Black tie (Unless otherwise specified)
- Black dress shoes
- Black socks

**Women:**

- Long black skirt or dress pants (no cargo pants or jeans)
  - \*\*Skirt MUST be below the knee\*\*
- Black long sleeve blouse
  - \*\*No exposed shoulders or midriff\*\*
  - \*\*No low neck lines\*\*
- Black flats or dress shoes

\*\*Note on jewelry: Concert attire is meant to look clean, uniform, and professional while not interfering with performing. We do not want to wear anything that may affect playing or be distracting and draw attention during a performance. That being said, NO JEWELRY should be worn during a concert. The only exception is small, simple stud earrings.

**Marching Band Uniforms:** The JHS Band performs in a marching band setting at approximately 4 performances throughout the school year. During these performances students will wear the JHS Marching Band Uniforms which include: coat, pants, and hat w/plume. These uniforms are supplied by the school.

In the event that a marching performance date has a forecasted excessive heat index, the marching attire may be altered to accommodate for the extreme weather. This will be announced a day or two in advance of the performance date

**\*\*Students are required to furnish their own SOLID WHITE tennis shoes for these performances. Shoes should have no design markings of any kind of them and be completely white. If there are any questions as to whether a shoe meets these criteria the student should bring it to school before the performance date to have it authorized by the director.**

The school has a limited number of marching shoes that can be used by students for these performances. Please see Mr. Burnside before the performance date to check-out these shoes.

Students are responsible for handling Marching Uniforms with proper care. Failure to do so may result in a fine (see below).

**Fees:** Throughout the year a student may be assessed the following fee:

Extraordinary Repair Fee – This fee may be assigned for any repair work that needs to be done to a school instrument due to lack of care, negligence, or blatant damage. Examples include: replacing pads due to lack of cleaning, chemical cleaning the instrument due to food or other materials becoming lodged inside the instrument, cracked or dented bells, cracked instrument bodies, bent slides, holes in drum heads, etc. School instruments are repaired and maintained yearly and are issued in working condition. Please care for and maintain your instrument as if it were your own.

Marching Uniform Damage Fee – Students are responsible for handling Marching Uniforms with proper care including: drying uniforms in the designated manner in the band room after performances, hanging the uniform pieces correctly on the correspondingly numbered hangers and making sure they are hung in the uniform bags in the uniform storage area. Failure to do so will result in a fine.

If your rented instrument becomes damaged in any way that you think merits some sort of diagnostic or repair, please find a time to speak with Mr. Burnside. Some problems, if caught right away, can be fixed to prevent further damage. In addition, if damage to a rented instrument is discovered by the director rather than reported by a student, the fee given to the student may be affected.

**Lockers:** You will be assigned a band locker for instrument storage the use throughout the course of the year. This locker is meant to hold your instrument, any instrument accessories, and additional music (non-band music). Your locker is NOT meant to house books and materials for other classes, food/drink, or anything else non-band related. It should be kept clean throughout

the year. Students whose lockers not kept clean will be required to clean their locker and will lose rehearsal skills points. Band music and folders should be kept in their assigned folder slots.

**Trips and Tours:** JHS Band students will have the opportunity to make music abroad and travel to new places and venues. This is a fun and exciting experience for all students! When tour details become available they will be announced in-class with information sent home with students. Information will also be posted on the [jordanbands.com](http://jordanbands.com) website. The following is the anticipated tour schedule:

<u>School Year</u>	<u>Ensembles</u>	<u>Tour Type</u>	<u>Estimated Cost</u>
2015-2016	JHS Band/JHS Jazz Band	Regional Tour	\$200-\$500
2017-2018	JHS Band & JHS Choir	National Tour	\$900-\$1200
2019-2020	JHS Band/JHS Jazz Band	Regional Tour	\$200-\$500
2021-2022	JHS Band & JHS Choir	National Tour	\$900-\$1200

In Spring of 2014 the JHS Band & Choirs traveled to Orlando, Florida. This was a National Tour. Details and pictures from this tour may be found on the [jordanbands.com](http://jordanbands.com) website.

In the Spring of 2016 the JHS Band traveled to Chicago!! This was a Regional Tour. Details and pictures from this tour may be found on the [jordanbands.com](http://jordanbands.com) website as well as the Jordan Bands Facebook Page.

**Activity Accounts & Fundraising:** Students will have the opportunity to fundraise money throughout the school year for their JHS activity account. There are typically 2 major fundraisers: Minntex Fruit-Fall, and Club's Choice Frozen Foods & Cookie Dough-Spring. These are both individual-centered fundraisers intended for students to raise money for their own accounts. It is highly recommended that students participate in each fundraiser to reduce the price of Band tours and other costs. Spreading out fundraising for a band tour makes paying for a trip far easier for many families. Activity account funds may be used for any of the following:

- Band tours and trips
- Pep band T-Shirts
- Resale expenses (Reeds, Valve Oil, Instrument Repairs, Instrument supplies etc...)
- Purchase of a new/used instrument, or money towards a new/used instrument
- Other school activities and sports costs

**Other Music Opportunities:** The following are opportunities for Jordan High School Band Students beyond those at JHS. For more information see Mr.Burnside.

- High School Honor Bands: These are 1-3 day events hosted by local Colleges and Universities. Students are nominated by their director, and in some cases need to audition, and travel to the hosting school to rehearse and perform a concert with dozens of other high school students from around the state. These are high performing ensembles and allow students to meet others with similar levels of musical interest and visit and stay at college campus. For a complete list of schools that offer Honor Bands in the area, see Mr.Burnside.
- MMEA All State Ensembles (Band, Jazz Band, Orchestra, Choir): These are highly competitive audition only ensembles that comprise of the top students in the state of



Minnesota. Students submit audition recordings in March of the year and if accepted are notified by May. Students that make it into an All-State ensemble go to the All-State camp over the summer (1 week) and perform at Orchestra Hall in the twin cities during the Minnesota Music Educators Association Midwinter Clinic the following school year. Students must be in 10<sup>th</sup> or 11<sup>th</sup> grade in order to audition.

### **Closing Thoughts**

Being part of a performing ensemble is a fun, engaging, gratifying, and life changing experience. It is an experience that I am excited to share with you as we begin our year of music exploration together!

However, it is important to note that the quality of our music making is largely dependent upon the individual preparation and commitment of each ensemble member. A performing ensemble is only as strong as its weakest member. Therefore we can only pursue and achieve excellence if every member puts in the time to master their music and their instrument outside of school. For some this may mean practicing only 3-4 times a week and for others it may be required every day for an extended period of time. Regardless of the time, it is expected that every instrument part be worked out and mastered in preparation for rehearsal. Only in this way can we spend rehearsal time in the most efficient manner; that is, on crafting and refining the sound of our ensemble and learning instead of working out individual parts during rehearsal.

It is my hope and desire that each and every student in band is successful. If you find that you are in need of additional help or have questions, please please please speak with me and we can figure out a time to work individually. I am a valuable resource for you and together I believe we can overcome any musical challenge that we might face.

Lastly, if you have any other comments, questions, or items you would like to discuss, please feel free to speak with me before or after band or send me an email. My door is always open.

Sincerely

Logan Burnside  
Director of Bands  
Jordan High School

# **Band Officers and Leadership Positions**

**Drum Major** (Auditioned): Directs and leads the marching band during parades and marching performances. Helps plan and organize summer band camp and assists with drill instruction and practice. Always two students of whom one is a senior and the other a junior and they may hold other leadership positions. See Mr. Burnside if you are interested in becoming a Drum Major.

**Band President** (nominated): Oversees and assists the other band officer positions works with band director on band-wide initiatives. Duties include: working closely with the vice-president on publicity, inviting school administration to concerts, taking care of “detail items” as assigned by the director such as arranging the senior class photos for hanging in the band room, designing band shirts, and assisting other officers with their duties. Always a senior.

**Vice-President** (nominated): Manages publicity for the band program within the school. Duties include: advertising band concerts to the school and public and assisting other officers with their duties. The vice president also plans band events and functions. Always a senior.

**Treasurer** (nominated): Manages and assists with band finances. Duties include: taking care of resale transactions, resale record keeping, resale stock management, and band fee announcements. Takes attendance in the absence of the secretary. Junior or Senior.

**Secretary** (nominated): Takes attendance at the start of every rehearsal and every band event (Pepband, concerts, parades, etc...). Junior or senior.

**Section Principals** (determined by playing and leadership ability): The section principal sits in the ‘first chair’ position and makes musical decisions for the section. Principals also run sectionals and often play any solo lines in the music (See “Qualities of a Section Leader” sheet). Any grade level

**Uniform Managers** (4 volunteers/chosen by director): The uniform managers are responsible for the upkeep of the uniform stock. This includes assignment of uniforms, updating the database, organizing the uniform storage room, and levying fines for mistreatment of uniforms. Any grade level.

**Equipment Crew Chief & Crew** (1-2 volunteers/ chosen by director): The chief oversees and manages the crew’s loading of equipment, luggage, and other items onto and out of the band transportation vehicles. This includes but is not limited to travel to away pep band games, band trips, etc... The Equipment Crew Chief is assisted by the Equipment Crew. Any grade level.

**Photographer & Photographer Assistants (1+)**: Creates a slideshow of the band’s involvement during the school year to be shown at the May Concert. Also is in charge of collecting photos from students during travel years and assists in video production for band videos.

**Student Aide for Mr. Burnside**: Assists Mr. Burnside with many tasks concerning the band including equipment moving, photo copying, rehearsal preparation, etc... Primarily responsible for the upkeep and maintenance of all the printed music. Year long. Any grade level.

## **Qualities of a Section Leader**

"If your actions inspire others to dream more, learn more, do more and become more, you are a leader."

--John Quincy Adams

A band section leader:

- Arrives on time and is prepared for class every day.
- Leads by example and is the first in his or her section to learn and master their part.
- Provides leadership and guidance in their section and is a resource for section members.
- Encourages members of their section to achieve and make music at a high level.
- Understands that teamwork is the basis for meaningful music making
- Strives to promote unity and bonding amongst section members and between sections in the band.
- Demonstrates strong and effective communication skills.
- Makes time to help section members if they request help.
- Is a positive, friendly, inclusive role model.
- Is patient, understanding, flexible, and persistent.
- Is responsible for performing solos within the section.
- Is responsible for leading sectionals on sectional days.
- Is always striving to become better than the day before.