

Hugh Sutherland School

Department of Music Handbook

2011-2012

Hugh Sutherland School



Department of Music Mission Statement:

Our mission is to educate students, in cooperation with the family and community, to have the knowledge, skills, and attitudes necessary to achieve their potential as socially responsible, lifelong learners in a diverse and changing society.

Music is an integral part of a comprehensive education. It enables all students to discover and develop their artistic potential through musical experiences in listening, performing, analyzing, moving and creating. Music incorporates understanding from all disciplines and leads to an improved self-concept, a broader cultural awareness, and a development of life-long skills.

Welcome

Dear HSS Band Members, Parents and Friends:

Welcome to the pride and excitement of the Hugh Sutherland School Music Program. I am extremely excited for the upcoming year, and look forward to working with you all to make this a great year for the HSS Music Department.

This *Music Handbook* provides information regarding policies, dates and times, organizational structure, grades and other information necessary to give students and their families a clear and concise picture of what is expected of an HSS Music Member.

Being a member of the HSS Music Department requires commitment, hard work and a positive attitude. These essential elements are necessary to achieve success through your educational development.

Please read all of the information in this *Music Handbook*, and save it for future reference. If you have any questions or concerns at anytime, please contact the Band Office at (403)337-3326 ext. 6246.

Thank you for your investment in music education.

Mr. David Selensky

Director of Music

Hugh Sutherland School

Why Band?

In today's society there is much conversation about school curriculum, and the use of academic time. With an emphasis on core subjects, it becomes increasingly more important to focus on music as it relates to this ongoing educational discussion.

Why should a young person be involved in music? What will it mean to his/her life?

University studies show that music education instills students with responsibility, discipline, maturing social skills, communication and analytical skills. Music students tend to possess the qualities that employers consider essential. Simply put, learning a musical instrument is a positive preparation for life.

Music appeals to the part of the mind that opens new horizons. The study of music supports wonderment, imagination, appreciation and sensitivity. This creativity leads to an inventive thinking style allowing the individual greater personal choices. Music is a language unto itself. It allows the human to experience and express feelings and personal understandings generated from the soul, unlike any other form of communication.

Music is one of the few disciplines that require the individual to access both the cognitive and affective sides of the mind. Critical assessment, the ability to conceptualize and respond to any given situation, is the foundation of intelligence as it applies to living a full rich life, and music is a pathway to this intellectual pattern. The key to success is completion of the tasks at hand. Positive, productive living is based on the establishment of habits of tenacity and personal persistence; commitment. In music, commitment is fundamental. It becomes a part of the musician's personality and transfers to every avenue of life.

Participation at the level of excellence is not a personal preference in music, it is a requisite. The musician quickly discovers that it is not the destination, but the journey that counts. It is not the product, but the process.

Hugh Sutherland School Band Staff

Mr. Selensky – Music Director

Mr. Selensky is a 2010 graduate of the University of Regina in Regina, Saskatchewan. He holds a Bachelor of Music Education. Mr. Selensky has worked with the CIC branch of the Canadian Forces for five years working as a music instructor, logistic officer, drill couch, flight commander, supply officer, and training officer.

Band Office: (403) 337-3326 ext. 6246

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Music Department Upcoming Events 2011-2012

**Please note that this is a tentative schedule, and may be subject to change. Sufficient notification will be given in additions and/or omissions.*

Date	Event
September 20	HSSMA Bi-Annual General meeting 7 pm band room
September 22	Gr. 6 Band Clinic/ Swim Day
October (Early)	Fruit, Mom's Pantry Products
November (Mid)	Pick up Fruit, Mom's Pantry Products
November 10	Remembrance School Assembly Gr. 7/8 Band
November 11	Remembrance Day Community Center HS Band
November 18-23	Jazz Divisional Workshop
December 14	Holiday Concert
January 25-27	7/8 Band Camp
March 11-26	Olds Kiwanis Festival
April 27-30	High School Band Trip
Mar (mid)	Mom's Pantry general sales
May (end)	Mom's Pantry Products to arrive
May 17	Grade 5 Band Clinic
June 6	Spring Concert
June 13	Year End Bi-Annual General Meeting

Concert Dress Guidelines

Grades 5, 6, 7, 8

White dress shirt with collar:	Please no prints Long or short sleeve
Black Dress Pants OR Skirt:	Skirt must be no shorter than just above the knee Please no black denim
Black Socks	No white or coloured socks.
Black (preferably) Dress Shoes.	

Grades 9, 10, 11, 12

HSSMA Vest- *New senior high students are required to purchase a vest.*

White Dress Shirt w/Collar	please no prints Long sleeve
Black Dress Pants OR Skirt:	Skirt must be no shorter than just above the knee. Please no black denim.
Black Socks	No white or coloured socks.
Black (preferably) Dress Shoes	

Please note that if any student is dressed inappropriately (revealing clothing, etc), He or she will be sent home.

Expectations

When anyone is a part of a team, a certain personal responsibility is put on everyone's shoulders. You have to be prepared and work as a team player. The same holds true for ensembles. Whether it is concert band or jazz band expectations are set and have to be met by everyone. This includes the following:

1. **Daily Practicing.** This is an essential part of the music experience. Not only does it help you in developing your embouchure and chops, but it gives the student an excellent head start on their personal work ethic. Daily practicing for band is just like doing daily homework in the core subjects, such as math and science.
2. **Being a team player.** Band is not a one person show. Everyone is important in their individual way, but making the band work together as a whole is vitally important. Having a good attitude, being prepared for class and demonstrating qualities of leadership towards your fellow musicians is expected.

Attendance and Grading Policies

As this is a cumulative course, attendance is very strict. Only one unexcused absence is permitted per semester, and any after that without parental permission beforehand is subject to consequences and lower grades.

Since dates are given at the beginning of the year of concerts and trips, a 1 (one) month notice is requested should a student have to miss an event. Any event that comes up throughout the year that is not written in the handbook will be known to the students with plenty of advance warning, should there be a conflict.

Grading is based primarily on the weight of assignments, however, attendance and effort are included. Music is a subject that is open to interpretation, and individual performance both in and out of the classroom is taken into account.

Grades are based as follows:

Assignments: 40%

Tests: 20%

Attendance: 20%

Effort: 20%

Practice sheets are an important part of the musical journey. They are designed to help the student learn proper practice habits, and make the band experience a more positive one. Practice sheet requirements are as follows:

Grade 5 and 6: At least 60 minutes a week

Grade 7 and 8: At least 90 minutes a week

Senior high is not required to do practice sheets, however if the student is not coming to rehearsals prepared, he/she may be asked to start doing them.

Music and Texts

Students in grades 5 and 6 are using *Essential Elements*.

Grades 7 and 8 use *Yamaha Essential Elements*.

Senior high uses *Foundations for Superior Performance, and Bach Before for Band*.

Books will be supplied, as well as sheet music.

***DO NOT USE PEN IN ANY BOOKS OR MUSIC. USE A PENCIL AT ALL TIMES, AND WHEN HANDING MATERIALS BACK IN ERASE ANYTHING YOU MARKED. FAILURE TO DO SO WILL RESULT IN A FEE FOR REPLACEMENT, INCLUDING SHEET MUSIC.**

HSS Music Department Rules of Conduct

Whenever and where ever ensembles appears in public we are representatives of the entire music program at HSS, the school itself, and all citizens and alumni who are in any way associated with the school. Whether in uniform or out, at a performance or a practice, on the road or at home, in an official capacity or in a social setting, members of the HSS Music Program must conduct themselves in a mature, responsible, courteous, respectful and professional manner. Anything done by a member of the ensemble reflects (positively or negatively) upon the entire Music organization, its leaders, and the school and community. Just as we strive for excellence in our musicianship and performance standards, we must also strive for excellence in our behaviour and the manner in which we conduct ourselves.

1. Respect your fellow musicians and staff:
 - a. Use appropriate and courteous language
 - b. Be honest, fair and nice
 - c. Treat the school facilities with care
 - d. Pick up trash (old reeds, paper, etc)
 - e. Take good care of school-owned equipment
 - f. Respect the private property of others

Respect is an essential ingredient of the HSS Music Program. This includes respect for the band room, your and others' instrument, your folder, music and books, and each other. The band room is in use by large numbers of students almost every hour of the day. Proper care of the room and your equipment is a must at all times. Hats are not allowed in rehearsals to aid non-verbal communication.

- a. Be on time. This generally means 5 (five) minutes early is on time.
- b. Be positive. Look for creative solutions when you see problems, and contact the Band director or others in your section for help.
- c. Cooperate fully with the Band Director or anyone else who is in a position of leadership.
- d. No talking when anyone is "on the podium" working with the group.
- e. You are held accountable for any information presented in a rehearsal, or is posted on the board.
- f. You are responsible for the safekeeping of your music, instrument and uniform. Loss or damage of school owned equipment will become your financial responsibility (repair and/or new replacement).
- g. A definition of integrity: Making good decisions and doing what is right, especially when nobody is watching you.

Hugh Sutherland School Music Association: HSSMA

Welcome all parents/guardians!

Welcome to the HSSMA. Whether you are a new grade five or an upper classmen band parent, you and your son/daughter are about to become involved in one of the most exciting and educationally powerful activities this year, the HSS Music program!

As the parent of a HSS music student, you are automatically a member of the HSSMA. There are no dues, or “required” meetings to attend. You are not expected to do anything however, we encourage you to become active by volunteering your time or talent as needed. There are regular HSSMA meetings, (info will be given to your child) fundraisers and volunteers needed for concerts, and we would appreciate any time you can give. A hard copy of the volunteer form has been sent out, however there is one posted online, simply print, fill out and return to the band room.

There may be times when you may feel confused or overwhelmed. We try as much as possible to keep the lines of communication open. Please feel free to contact us at anytime. All questions are welcome!

If you have questions, would like to volunteer, or would like more information, please call the Band Office. Thanks in advance for your help in volunteering your time and efforts!

David Selensky, Music Director

Band Office: (403) 337-3326

HSSMA email: hssma-pts@live.com

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