



Concordia Band Handbook 2015-16



Joseph E. Presson
Director of Bands

Dear Students,

My name is Mr. Presson and I am your new band director at Concordia High School. I would like to welcome you to our 2015 'Marching Orioles!' I hope you are excited to be a part of our band community, as we are excited to have you. I look forward to a successful season of hard work, commitment, musicality, and fun. At Concordia High School, the purpose of our class is to further the education of the students by providing challenging and unique performance opportunities while improving their musical skills, confidence, work ethic, and social skills. Through practice and performance at football games, competitions, and parades, every student will be expected to perform to the best of their ability to uphold the musical and visual integrity I know you are capable of. I want every student to know our band room is always a safe place to be among friends and we will diligently strive to create a 100% positive environment for everyone. As my students, I value every single one of you and the unique talents you provide to make our band such a special group. Please fill out the included Student Information Sheet. I would like every single one of you to complete this so I can get to know YOU; I want to know about your life outside of our program and encourage your interests as best I can! I am beyond excited to be a part of the Concordia community and hope we can all come together to create an exceptional band full of exceptional people. **Please review the attached summer band camp schedule; I expect to see all of you there unless I have already heard from you otherwise. I understand there are sports conflicts with the second week of camp. I will confirm with Mr. Cooper who will be excused from that second week of camp and we will do the best we can with what we have to work with during that week.** Looking forward to a great season!

Go Orioles!



- Joseph E. Presson
Director of Bands

Dear Parents,

My name is Joe Presson and I am the new band director at Concordia High School. I would like to welcome you to our band community! Without our supportive parents, we would not have the program and opportunities that I've learned Concordia has been fortunate to have. You are the driving force behind everything we do. I appreciate every detail of your support in our program and the further education of your children. From being a part of our school boosters, to providing private instruction, and especially every drive to and from our facility, I want you to know that these things certainly do NOT go unnoticed. I encourage all of you to become a part of our boosters to help us fundraise for our band so we can maximize the opportunities for your kids; the band is currently fundraising for its trip to Florida that typically takes place every four years. This trip is tentatively scheduled for 2017. Our program strives for the best opportunities for every student, that they may grow musically, socially, and build confidence in themselves through the Concordia band program. I encourage you to be present at as many events as you can! I'm excited to begin my time at Concordia and work with your children in our band program!

****If your child is NOT intending to be a part of the Marching Orioles this year, I apologize. Please inform me immediately so I can remove them from my roster****

JPresson@Concordia.k12.mo.us

660-463-2246 - Office

Go Orioles!



- Joseph E. Presson
Director of Bands

General Rules and Regulations

1. All rules and regulations in the Concordia Junior/Senior High School Student Handbook will apply during rehearsals, performances and trips.
2. No student at any time during rehearsals, performances or trips shall be in the possession of or under the influence of any alcoholic beverage. As stated in the student handbook, the smell of alcohol on the breath or on the clothes may result in suspension from participation and/or other disciplinary actions.
3. No student at any time during rehearsals, performances or trips shall be in the possession of or using any type of tobacco product. As stated in the student handbook, suspension from participation may occur.
4. No student at any time during rehearsals, performances or trips shall be in the possession of, or under the influence of any controlled substance other than that of prescribed medications. As stated in the student handbook, suspension from participation may occur.
5. **Each student is expected to be on his/her best behavior at all times when representing Concordia High School.**

Transportation Policy

Students will ride the bus or other authorized vehicles to all out-of-town activities. Students who wish to return home from the activity with their parents will be allowed to do so. The parent will contact the sponsor at the activity that he or she is taking responsibility for the student's return and sign a transportation release form. Students may be allowed to return home with another student's parents if prior arrangements are made with the High School Principal. See student handbook for further details.

Attendance

Attendance for all band functions is required and reflected in each student's grade for the course. There is no excused absence from a performance or competition except for illness or serious family emergency. Student's that know they will be absent from a performance should contact the director immediately so a solution can be worked out. It is the student/parent responsibility to personally contact the director in advance. **Communication must be from said student/parent and cannot come from another student or adult.** The Marching and Symphonic Oriole Band is one cohesive unit. We stand, march, play, and breathe as one. ALL members of the ensemble are part of this unit and your absence impedes the work of others. No member of the band is more important than another and together we will reach excellence.

Marching and Symphonic Oriole Character Chart	
<u>GAIN...</u>	<u>LOSE...</u>
CHARACTER	EGO
STRENGTH	FEAR
COMPASSION	DISSAPPOINTMENT
DISCIPLINE	WILLFULNESS
FOCUS	RIGIDITY
BOLDNESS	BITTERNESS
GENEROSITY	SELFISHNESS
EXCITEMENT	EMBARRASSMENT

Instrumental Music Grading Policies

Attendance/Participation – 50% - Are you at rehearsal? Are you on time? Are you at every performance? Do you have all of your materials (music, instrument, proper marching shoes)? Are you focused and committed to following instructions for our band?

Assignments – 30% - Includes memorization tests (marching and parade music), preparing your music outside of rehearsal, and completing assigned tests of basic instrumental techniques (scales, arpeggios, etudes).

Attitude/Behavior – 20% - please refer to the Student Handbook for school policy negative behavior. Bad behavior and not appropriately representing yourself, our band, and our school can result in deduction of your grade.

The grading scale for all Concordia Instrumental Music classes:

90%-100%	A
80%-89%	B
70%-79%	C
60%-69%	D
Below 60%	F

Assignments and Tests

Assignments and tests are required. Late tests or assignments (up to one week) will be accepted for half-credit. After one week, there will be no credit possible for that particular assignment. If you receive lower than a 70% on a playing or memory test, you will be required to retake the test until you score above a 70%. You will not be allowed to perform until you pass the test with a score above 70%. If you do not perform, you will lose the points for that performance. A specific day will be set for each assignment and you will be responsible for meeting or preceding that deadline. There is no excuse for not memorizing your music, it is a crucial part to our success during our competitions. Everyone in the band is required to memorize music; we work towards this goal as a team but you will be required to work on your memorization individually as well. Get it done; memorize it and pass it so we can perform well and represent Concordia as best we can.

A 10 point bonus may be given for the first 10 people to play the specific test.

If you are absent the day an assignment was made, it becomes your responsibility to find out what you missed. Always ask! If you are absent the day of a test and the absence is unexcused, the late policy will be applied.

Band and Student Eligibility

In the past, there has been confusion about Band Activities and the Student Eligibility Policy. Please read the following information so you can be informed and will understand what aspects of our Band Program are affected by the policy.

All activities that you receive a grade for in Band are **not** covered by the activity policy. These activities include, but are not limited to: any rehearsals, any performances, any trips, Pep Band, Concert Band, Graduation Band, and Marching Band. Band Banquet is not graded but you can attend if you are academically ineligible.

The following activities are those that you **CANNOT** participate in if you become ineligible: Conference Band, District Band, State Band, Conference Contest (solos and ensembles only), District Contest (solos and small ensembles only), State Contest (solos and small ensembles only), Modern Music Masters activities, and Musicals.

CLARIFICATION: If you are participating in any of the affected activities, you will be allowed to practice for them, but may not participate in them if the performance falls within the term of ineligibility. In the case of Tri-M, you will not be allowed to participate in any activity during your ineligible period but may attend meetings.

In the case of solos and small ensembles: since participation in a solo or an ensemble your presence is depended upon by other students, the band director may choose to remove and/or replace you from that event.

If you have any questions, please ask Mr. Presson.

Student Responsibilities

Each student is expected to play his or her part in making the band a success. I expect every student to strive to demonstrate the following to the best of their ability:

1. Please be on time for rehearsal; which includes being in the proper place when the bell rings and being ready to rehearse with instrument and music.
2. Bring a pencil to each rehearsal.
3. **Please avoid talking** during the rehearsal. Even though the director or Drum Major may not be speaking directly to you or your section, what he or she says may have some effect on you or your section.
4. Bring the proper instrument(s) in working order to rehearsals and performances. Report broken instruments to the director immediately.
5. Bring the proper music to rehearsals and performances.
6. Use proper posture when playing your instrument--feet flat on the floor, chair legs on the floor and sit up straight.
7. The defacement or destruction of school or others' property will result in immediate disciplinary action.
8. Any and all music or equipment assigned to you is your responsibility. It should be returned in as good or better condition than when it was checked out to you. If you damage or lose equipment or music, it is up to you to pay for its replacement.
9. No homework or other distractive material shall be done during rehearsals. We have little time and we must make the most of it.
10. Food or drink will not be allowed in the Band room at any time – water may be the only exception to this rule with permission from Mr. Presson.
11. Equipment (instruments, chairs, stands, etc.) and music shall be returned to the proper area after each rehearsal or performance. Storage closets are provided for instruments; a cabinet and folder is provided for your music; the stands will be put in their storage area; chairs will be straightened after use.

Marching Band

Description

The Concordia High School Marching Orioles are a proud and hard working group of student musicians. The hard work and dedication is evidenced in the winning tradition of the organization. The Band competes in various festivals and parades and also performs in local parades and enjoys a high level of support from the community. The energy and pride of this group remains unparalleled by any other band.

Requirements

To participate in the Marching Orioles, you must be enrolled in High School Band. Anyone in the ninth through the twelfth grade who has completed 5th, 6th, and Jr. High Band is eligible. Each student will be required to participate in Concert Band. This is where we create the great sound that goes out on the field. Participation may also be considered under special circumstances with consent of the director and appropriate administrative officials.

Each member is required to furnish (at his or her own expense) the following items:

- Black leather or leather-like shoes with heels (must be able to polish shoes)
- Black Spats

- Black socks
- Black T-Shirt (official T-Shirt if required)
- Lyre and Flip Folder (may be purchased from the director)
- White gloves (may be purchased from the director—black for percussion)

Summer Band Camp

Pre-season rehearsals are an important part of the success of the Marching Orioles. Each rehearsal is required. Make-up time for missed rehearsals may be assigned.

Summer Band Schedule

July 27-31st – 8am-12pm (JUNIOR HIGH) 12pm-2pm (HS DRUMLINE) 2pm-6pm (HIGH SCHOOL MARCHING BAND)

August 3-7th - 8am-12pm (JUNIOR HIGH) 12pm-2pm (HS DRUMLINE) 2pm-6pm (HIGH SCHOOL MARCHING BAND)

I know there are currently sport practice conflicts with the 2nd week of band camp. If you are involved in the sports that conflict with our camp go to your practice! I will try and arrange a different rehearsal schedule where everyone can attend for the future. If you are NOT involved in a sport that conflicts with our band camp, you are expected to be there unless otherwise notified by Mr. Presson.

Trips

The Marching Orioles travel quite a bit and depend on the continuous excellent behavior of its members to ensure that this travel continues. Each student will be on his or her best behavior at all times. Any inappropriate behavior may result in that student's removal from the organization. All rules of the school and the Band will be in effect throughout the trip. This includes loading and unloading of busses and equipment vehicles, any free time on the trip or anytime you are in uniform.

Dress and Grooming

The Marching Orioles are a very proud group and the visual appeal of the organization is quite important. Everyone must look their best in order for the whole group to look good. You will not be allowed to perform if you or your uniform is not up to standard.

- All of the uniform will be worn correctly at all times (excluding hats and gloves when permitted). The rule of thumb is "All of it or None of it."
- There will be no jewelry worn that is visible while in uniform (male or female). This distracts from the overall appeal of the group.
- Your hair (male or female) must not touch your collar. You will be asked to put your hair up inside your helmet. Again, this distracts from the overall appeal of the group. If it is not, appropriate grooming may be applied by the director. This may include some scissor work, remember I used to groom pets for a living!
- Your uniform, shoes and spats must be cleaned, polished and looking neat before you will be allowed to perform as a Marching Oriole. Inspections will occur as necessary.
- Fingernail polish or excessive make-up will not be worn by the student.
- Please note the dress and grooming section of the student handbook for further details.

- **Uniform Check-Out**

The following items will be checked out to each band member and are then the responsibility of the student:

- 1 Coat 1 Overlay
- 1 Pair Pants
- 2 Pair Braided Shoulder Nests
- 1 Pair Spats
- 1 Plastic Uniform Bag
- 1 Helmet (will be kept at school)

Uniform Control

Each uniform part (coat, pant, overlay, helmet) has a size and a number. When a uniform is checked out to a student, that student is responsible for that specific uniform and those specific parts. No switching or swapping is allowed without permission. You may be asked to trade your uniform or a part of it with someone so both of you can have a better fit.

Uniform Care

Each year band members are issued a uniform. You are expected to care for this uniform better than you would your own clothes. It must be worn properly at all times. Here are some tips on keeping your uniform clean and in good condition. The uniforms are new, let's keep them looking that way!!!

- After you take off your uniform, allow it to dry out before placing it back in the bag.
- Try to send your uniform to the cleaners after each performance.
- **DO NOT** attempt to clean or launder your uniform yourself. **PROFESSIONAL DRY CLEAN ONLY.**
- Use the correct hanger for the pants, coat and overlay to keep them from wrinkling.
- Spats can be cleaned with cleanser and a cloth or old toothbrush.
- Shoes must be cleaned and polished for each performance.
- Your uniform should be ironed before each performance to remove wrinkles. Do not iron anything that is white on your uniform! Place a towel between the uniform and the iron while ironing. Otherwise the black cloth can turn shiny.

Rank and Section Leaders

Rank and Section Leaders are selected on proven leadership abilities and musical skills. They are responsible for the group to which they are assigned. This includes: Rank spirit, knowledge of music, marching ability, punctuality, dress and extra-work. Each student leader will be selected from upper-class band members, however, a sophomore may be selected if there is sufficient merit. The student leader will at all times uphold the high standards of Concordia High School and the Marching Orioles. These leaders are punctual, courteous, dedicated, cooperative and helpful to all. You set the example for the rest of the band members.

Drum Majors

The position of Drum Major of the Marching Orioles is the highest position of leadership attainable by the student in the marching band. The person will be selected by the director. The Drum Majors of the marching Orioles will always (in school and out) conduct themselves in a manner that will bring respect to the position and the band as a whole. You are an assistant conductor, student leader, morale booster, a good example of a CHS student and an example of a well-disciplined musician and marcher.

Band Council

Each year, a new Band Council is appointed/elected. A representative from each class as well as other members with leadership qualities towards the best interest of the band will comprise of the band council.

The Band Council shall meet when deemed necessary by the Band Director and shall assist in making policy decisions and the direction of the program, including fundraising, yearly goals, and general morale of the group. The Council shall be responsible for deciding penalties and policies as necessary. The group will act as jury in disputed matters concerning the Band.

Awards

Each season the Marching Orioles Staff Awards certain members with distinguished honors. These awards are chosen by the staff and/or the students. They will be presented at the annual Band Banquet held at the end of the season. Some of the awards that are presented are: *Deke Senior Female Award*, *Dotson Senior Male Award Best Rank*, *Outstanding Marcher*, *Spirit and Guts Awards*.

Rank Votes

A Best Rank will be selected during the marching season. The staff will vote after each marching rehearsal and performance for the rank who they think is doing the best job. At the end of the season, the votes will be totaled and the rank with the highest total wins. The names of the winning rank will be inscribed on a plaque in the Band Room. The criteria for rank votes are as follows:

- Spirit
- Cooperation
- Quality and precision of marching
- Quality and precision of playing
- Quality of performance

Spirit Vote

A Spirit Award will be given at the end of the season to the most spirited persons in the band. After each rehearsal the staff will announce the most spirited band members for that rehearsal. The following criteria will be used:

- Outstanding Enthusiasm
- Cooperation

- Hustle
- Hard Work

Votes will be recorded on a chart in the Band Room.

Band Banquet

The annual Band Banquet is a celebration of another successful season. Everyone is welcome. Your entire family is invited to attend the pot-luck, dress-up dinner and awards ceremony. The banquet is held at the end of the marching season.

Concert Band

After marching season, auditions are held to determine seating order and one third of the second quarter grade. Seating will be based on ability, however, you may be seated playing a lower part because of your ability for the good of the band. Auditions will consist of the following:

- Major Scales: C Concert, Scales up to 4 sharps and 4 flats (concert)
- Chromatic Scale: full range of instrument (at least 2 octaves)
- Prepared Material: You will be assigned a short etude to prepare
- Sight-reading: A standardized sight-reading exam will be given.

Tone, Technique, Rhythm and Pitch Accuracy will also be evaluated. Each Audition will take approximately 10 minutes. Specific days will be assigned for your instrument to audition and you are to sign up for a time. Some auditions and grading will be held during class and videotaped.

Percussionists will have a choice of auditioning on snare drum, as well as mallets. Sight-reading will be on the snare drum.

After everyone is auditioned, results will be posted and seating will be assigned.

Performances

The concert band will perform at a Fall Concert, a Spring Concert and at Graduation. All of these are required performances and are scheduled well in advance. The band will also play at the Baccalaureate Service held prior to Graduation. Included in the performance schedule will be any additional community events. These events will be announce at least 3 weeks in advance unless voted on by the band to accept last minute performances.

Contests

Each year the band readies itself for its only evaluative and non-competitive contest-District Music Contest. It is held at Booneville each spring. The band will perform pieces for three judges and the judges will rate us I to V. I for an excellent performance to V for a terrible performance. We will also sight-read for a judge.

The band spends most of the 3rd quarter and part of the 4th preparing for this contest. Depending on location and scheduling, the band may perform for a rating at the 1-70 Conference Contest held a few weeks prior to district.

Solos & Ensembles

A great way to earn extra credit and to improve your playing ability is to participate in a solo event or with others in an ensemble event. These events perform for judges and are rated similar to the band.

Regardless of participation in Solo & Ensemble, all students will make strides towards their individual solo playing. All students will be required to play a solo suitable to their ability level and play for either the class or for Mr. Presson for a grade.

Honor Bands

There are excellent opportunities available for those that choose to take advantage of them. Honor Bands are made up of only the most talented performers from the area. Here is a brief description of the ones you may participate in.

- *1-70 Conference Band:* You are selected based upon your fall audition. Between 8 and 15 students are chosen from CHS. You will receive a certificate and a medal if you are in the band three or four years.
- *West Central District Bands:* Membership is selected by audition. Material for the audition is available at any time. Scales are included in the audition. The band rehearses for 1-1/2 days and performs a public concert at CMSU. Conductors are the most well-known Band Conductors in the country. You will receive a certificate and a medal for your selection. Selection means eligibility to audition for the All State Band.
- *West Central District Jazz Band:* This is set up just like the District Concert Band only a much smaller group.

Concert Band Awards

John Philip Sousa Award

The John Philip Sousa Band Award is given to the senior band student in recognition of outstanding achievement and interest in instrumental music, for singular merit in loyalty and cooperation, and for displaying those high qualities of conduct that school instrumental music requires. Votes are cast by the band members and the award is presented at graduation.

Semper Fidelis Band Award (when given)

The recipient of this award is a senior band student that exemplifies the motto of the U.S. Marine Corps: *Always faithful*. The award is presented at graduation and recipient is chosen by the director. This student must display a willing interest to participate in, not only required activities, but in extra musical endeavors. This student must be of above average quality and possess and demonstrate loyalty, cooperation and dedication to CHS and the Band.

Pep Band

The CHS Pep Band performs at home basketball games and participation is required. Naturally, athletes will be excused for the game but are required to participate in Pep Band when not playing that sport. You will be notified of the basketball Pep Band schedule well in advance so you can make arrangements with employers, etc. We perform for only Home Varsity contests where the girls and boys play the last two games. We will perform at no more than ten games during the season and will not perform during Thanksgiving or Christmas break. Pep band is FUN! Bring a positive and cheerful attitude (as well as a loud shouting voice!) to support our Orioles.

Special Information on Rehearsals and Performances

The Marching Orioles, Concert Band and Pep Band have a tradition of excellence. To ensure that this tradition continues you must make a firm commitment to attend every rehearsal and performance. Everyone else in the band depends on you to be there, doing your share of the work. When you miss, it is not only an inconvenience for you to learn what you have missed, it makes the jobs of everyone else that much more difficult. There are times, however, that you may not be able to make it to a rehearsal. You will be excused with proper, prior notice (written please).

Any unexcused absences and your grade will be lowered a full letter grade or appropriate points. Three unexcused absences and you will no longer be able to perform. Since you received rehearsal and performance schedules early in the spring, we expect that you will inform your employer that you are responsible for the Band first, work second. You will not be excused if you have failed to ask off from work. Most all employers in Concordia and the surrounding area are well acquainted with the Band and the fact that you need to be at rehearsal every time.

Instrument and Music Check Out

Since proper instrumentation of the Band requires the use of certain large and/or costly instruments, these instruments are purchased by the school and checked out to students. The care of these instruments is left entirely up to the student. The instrument should be cared for and maintained better than your own. Any damage due to misuse will be paid for by the student. Each student responsible for a school owned instrument will need to fill out a check out record card to be kept on file in the music office.

All music for any department activity is provided by the school. The school expects that each student treat his or her music with respect and reasonable care. Music is to be kept in the appropriate folder in alphabetical order. Periodic checks will occur and a small grade will be taken.

Any abuse to music or equipment may result in the removal of that person from the group. Music and equipment will be checked on a periodic basis. Report any problems immediately.

Repairs

The band director will provide basic instrument repairs. The charge for repair is for needed parts and not for labor. Any large repairs will be sent to a reliable repair service with parental permission (in most cases, this is Meyer Music, our official music store representative). If a student develops a problem with an instrument that keeps him or her from fully participating, it becomes the student's responsibility to inform the director. A broken/improperly functioning instrument mean less or poor quality sound; speak up so we can fix it and perform well!

Student Information Sheet

Last Name _____ First Name _____ Middle Int. _____

Home Phone _____ Emergency Phone _____

Birthday _____ (please include year)

Parent or Guardian _____ Relationship: _____

Home Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

E-Mail Address _____

Instrument _____

Favorite Color _____ Favorite TV Show _____

Favorite Activity _____ Part Time Job? _____

Hobbies/Sports _____

What is your favorite subject? _____

What do you want your director to know about you? _____

I have read the **2014-2015 Concordia Oriole Band Handbook** and understand the policies stated.

It is each student's responsibility to go over this manual with your parents. The information included in here should answer and guide each student to have a positive and successful experience within this program. Excellence is handed down from class to class. It requires commitment and consistency. This manual is one way to help us achieve that. Do not lose it.

By signing and returning this page, you are acknowledging that **you and your parents** have both read this manual and agree to the rules and guidelines of this program.

Concordia Oriole Band Student Travel Release

The undersigned, one of the parents or the legal guardian of _____, a minor, hereby consents for child to travel from Concordia R-II School District on various band trips through the 2014-2015 school year. I authorize (Sponsors) Joseph Presson and other adult sponsors of said trip to give their consent to and arrange for any and all emergency medical, surgical and dental diagnosis, treatment and care when they deem necessary for said child while in their care; and I agree to pay for such services. I further authorize the sponsor and other adult sponsors of said trip to exercise control over said child and to administer reasonable disciplinary measures to said child to the extent they may deem necessary or expedient.

Date: _____

Signature of parent/guardian

Relationship

Telephone Number

In case you are not available in the event of an emergency, whom should we contact in your absence?

Name

Relationship

Telephone Number