

CHARLOTTE CENTRAL SCHOOL
6,7,8 GRADE MUSIC HANDBOOK
2006 – 2007

Tony Pietricola, Band, Keyboard/Composition, Guitar,
Lessons
Allyson Ledoux, Chorus, Lessons



The course that is being offered at CCS is MUSIC. Band and chorus are offered as vehicles for students to show they understand the music skills being taught. However, these performing groups are not the only way to show this learning.

Keyboard/Composition, and instrumental and vocal lessons are the other ways learning can take place.

National Standards for Music Education

1. Singing, alone and with others, a varied repertoire of music
2. Performing on instruments, alone and with others, a varied repertoire of music
3. Improvising melodies, variations and accompaniments.
4. Composing and arranging music within specific guidelines
5. Reading and notating music
6. Listening to, analyzing and describing music.
7. Evaluating music and music performances
8. Understanding relationships between music and the other arts
9. Understanding music in relation to history and culture.

Dear CCS Students and Parents,

Welcome back to school for the 2006- 2007 school year! This handbook has been prepared to provide you and your parents with information about your music program. Please read it carefully.

By selecting band and/or chorus, you have become a member of a musical family and have joined the tradition of musical excellence at CCS. You will find yourself challenged on many levels – intellectually, emotionally, physically and musically as you strive to recreate works of art.

Students who are entering the performing groups at CCS for the first time should be aware that being a member of the band or chorus is different than being in any other class. We perform. That being the case, your work is evaluated on two levels – the process (rehearsal) and the product (performance).

Many of the students who become involved in the band and choral program remain for their entire school careers, primarily because it is like being part of an extended family. There is a special bond that is created among people who make music together.

We encourage you to e-mail us or leave a voice message if you need to contact us in any way. [Mr. Pietricola's](mailto:tpietricola@cssu.org) e-mail is tpietricola@cssu.org. [Mrs. Ledoux's](mailto:aledoux@cssu.org) e-mail is aledoux@cssu.org.

Thank you for your support this year.

Sincerely,

**Tony Pietricola
Allyson Ledoux**

_____ THIS PORTION DUE BY THE 3rd WEEK OF
SEPTEMBER _____

STUDENT

- I have read this handbook and will strive to abide by the guidelines:

(student signature) _____ Grade _____

PARENT OR GUARDIAN

- I have read this handbook and understand the commitment of the performance dates.

(Parent signature) _____

Day Phone _____

Evening Phone _____

E-mail _____

CHORAL SKILLS

The following Choral skills are taught in rehearsal and during vocal lessons:

- Posture
- Proper breath control
- Head tone techniques
- Word pronunciation
- Singing with an open mouth
 - Sight-reading

INSTRUMENTAL SKILLS

The following Instrumental skills are taught in rehearsal, during lessons and keyboard/composition classes

- Posture
- Proper breath control
- Good technique
- Correct rhythms
- Proper tone quality
- Playing with expression

APPROACH TO WORK

The student will:

- Arrive to class on time, listen and be respectful of others and themselves.
- Be prepared for class with a working instrument, music, pencil and necessary supplies.
- Raise his/her hand to be recognized to ask a question and not talk when others are playing or singing.
- Not chew gum, candy, food, drinks in the rehearsal or performance areas
- Be supportive of classmates, never criticizing another individual's performance

Band and chorus are ways that a student can demonstrate they can function in a large group setting. *If they are not able to do so successfully, the director may ask the student to participate in one of the aforementioned smaller groups until he/she is able to return.*

Every student is expected to come to class prepared each day. The student must bring all necessary materials (instrument, music folder, pencil). Failure to bring these things will result in a student who is unprepared and cannot participate in class activities and will result in a lower grade.

GRADING

Band and chorus are graded classes. It requires work on your part that will be recognized with an appropriate grade. Your grade is based on your willingness to work to your POTENTIAL. Students who have not been playing very well can receive a fine grade if they work to the best of their ability, while students who are further along may receive a lower grade if they don't work to their potential.

Do you practice regularly outside of class or does your individual performance at each rehearsal sound as if it is your only contact with the assigned music?

Rehearsal is a “non-talking” classroom. While not actively engaged in playing, you will listen to the conductor’s instruction. If instruction is not directed to you, you will silently practice fingerings/sticking of the band music or practice “inner hearing” of your part in the chorus rehearsal.

The band and chorus is a combined effort of all students involved. If you are having difficulty participating in a large group, you may be placed in a small/individual group until you are able to handle the challenge of a large group.

CONCERT ATTENDANCE

Because band and chorus are performance classes, attendance at concerts is required. A missed performance will result in the lowering of the grade for the current trimester. The concert is considered a major exam. An excused absence will be granted for personal illness, a death in the family or an emergency.

Unexcused absences include such things as extra-curricular activities, family outings, doctor appointments, shopping, baseball games, rehearsals for other groups, homework etc.

The CCS Band and Chorus perform only 2 required concerts each year! The students will be notified in advance of these performances and are expected to be there. The dates are posted on the CCS online calendar. If there is a problem with transportation, let the director know and every effort will be made to help facilitate your child’s participation.

Contact us in advance and we will work with you and your child with any unavoidable emergencies.

STUDENT/TEACHER COMMUNICATION

We are very interested in what is important to you, but we are not able to give you the attention you deserve in the middle of class time. If you have anything of a personal concern, suggestions for music to sing, etc., please choose one of the following times:

- Something QUICK before rehearsal starts
- Something QUICK after rehearsal starts
- Before School if no rehearsal is taking place
 - After school
 - Via e-mail

PARENT INVOLVEMENT

Parents are encouraged and invited to support the band and chorus program. Parents can support these groups by encouraging their child's musical growth. Encourage your child to perform for you or the family. Talk about good rehearsal etiquette. Attend your child's concerts and music events. Take your child to concerts in the area.

CCS has an active music department with lots of opportunity. In addition to the above-mentioned classes, auditioned groups such as the [Stage Band](#) and [Concert Choir](#) exist. Small ensemble recitals occur several times a year. 7th and 8th graders are encouraged to audition for the annual CCS Spring Musical. The District III Music Festival provides additional opportunities for performance.

Music groups are always in need of parent help to accompany groups on trips and to volunteer in the classroom. Please contact either of us to find out how you can help.

AWARDS

Each spring several 8th grade musicians are awarded at the awards ceremony. Examples are: Outstanding Band Student, Outstanding Chorus Student, Overall Best Musician, Outstanding Composer etc.

This 'n That

. SORE THROATS

It is actually more difficult to sing with a sinus infection than with a sore throat. Sinuses clog up the passages that allow for resonance of the voice. Unless the infection is actually IN the vocal chords, singers can still sing. If a student tells me that they have a sore throat and can't sing as well as usual, I will ask them to do the best that they can and to participate by listening and following along with the music.

If a child is too ill to sing but not too ill to be in school, I would appreciate a signed note from the parent for that particular day. Students can still participate in breathing and posture exercises, read a long, practice silently, and listen and learn. Content knowledge instruction is often embedded within the rehearsal structure and the student is still responsible for attempting to learn instruction for the day.