**Hamburg Area Middle School 6th Grade Concert Band  
2017-2018 Guidelines  
Director: Mrs. Carey Freeman**[**carfre@hasdhawks.org**](mailto:carfre@hasdhawks.org) **610-562-2241 Ext 3814**

Welcome to 6th Grade Band! I’m so excited to begin this 6th grade band journey with you! We provide many exciting opportunities for our band students at Hamburg Area Middle School. Students will receive a personalized band lesson schedule every month. I will try my best to send home a copy to parents and guardians every month as well. Lessons will be 20-25 minutes long, this allows students to miss limited amount of academic time. Lessons will rotate between 1st, Flex (free period) and 6th period. By rotating the lessons, students will only miss part of a particular class once a month. Our band rehearsals are on Day 4 during Flex (free period)! ☺ Attendance is required since 6th grade band rehearses once a cycle. Students are to contact or come see Mrs. Freeman with any concerns or academic issues, first thing in the morning! The schedule will have make-up lessons available every cycle. Communication is the key!

**Goals & Objectives**

1. Continually improve instrumental performance ability and musical knowledge by participating in full-ensemble experiences, chamber groups, and solo work.
2. Increase musicianship through sight-reading skills and aural comprehension.
3. Experience and develop an understanding of the standard concert band repertoire.
4. Gain an in-depth understanding of community-awareness through music performance and participation.

**Rehearsals**

* 6th Grade Concert Band rehearses every Day 4 during the “Flex” period – Attendance is Required

**What is expected of you ….**

* *Be Punctual*
* *Be Prepared*
* *Communicate with Mrs. Freeman!*
* *Bring a positive attitude* ☺☺☺
* *Try your Best!*
* *Have FUN!*

**Playing Tests – Please don’t worry or panic!! Students will have plenty of time to practice. This provides an opportunity to see what needs to be improved upon and what is going great!**

* For the 2016-17 year, Playing Tests will be held at the end of every quarter. Dates have been tentatively scheduled as follows:
  + Quarter 1: Week of October 16, 2017 o Quarter 3: Week of March 5, 2018
  + Quarter 2: Week of December 11, 2017 o Quarter 4: Week of May 14, 2018

**2017-18 Performance Schedule – ALL CONCERTS ARE AT THE HS! (The MS doesn’t have an auditorium)**

* *Winter Dress Rehearsal: Monday, December 18 (12:30 – 3:00 @ the H.S.) – More Info will be sent home.*
* ***Winter Concert: Tuesday, December 19 – H.S. Auditorium @ 7pm*** – (Snow Date Thursday, Dec. 21st )
* In -School Winter Concert: Thursday, December 15
* *Spring Dress Rehearsal: Monday May 14 (12:30 – 3:00 @ the H.S.)*
* ***Spring Concert: Wednesday, May 16 – H.S. Auditorium @ 7pm***
* *In-School Spring Concert: Friday, May 11th*
* **High Note Festival: TENTATIVELY May 18, 2018 – More info will be sent home.**

***\*\*\* Members of performing musical organizations are to be present at all performances*, *except in the case of personal sickness, death in the family, an act of God,* *or extenuating circumstances pre-approved by the Director and/or Principal.***

**Concert Attire**

* *Women*- Black bottoms, (pants, or long skirt) colorful top (holiday colors), closed toed shoes. No sneakers or jeans. Must adhere to the dress code.
* *Men*- Black pants, button down or polo shirt (holiday colors), black socks, black shoes. No sneakers or jeans. Must adhere to dress code. (Ties and bow ties encouraged but not required)

**Concert Band Folders and Lockers**

* All students will be assigned a locker to safely store his or her instrument throughout the day. Please try to take home your instrument as much as you CAN to practice!

**Hamburg Area Middle School Concert Band  
Grading Policy**

One of the main objectives of The Hamburg Area Band Program is to provide students with opportunities to succeed. With this in mind, the grading policy explained below will be used to evaluate all student performances and participation.

The district-wide grading scale, as described in the Student Handbook, will be used to determine letter grades:

A: 94 – 100  
B: 86 – 93  
C: 76 – 85  
D: 70 – 75  
F: 69 and below

All students participating in 6th Grade Concert Band will be graded upon the following criteria:

* **Attendance**
* **Playing Exams**
* **Preparation & Participation**
* **Written Assignments- Concert Reflection**
* **Positive contribution to the ensemble**
* **Extra Credit - Up to 10 additional points can be earned for the following activities:**
  + Participation in a voluntary, school-related ensemble (recruitment events, community performances, Swinging Hawks Middle School Jazz Band, etc.)
  + Participation in a school-related ensemble, OUTSIDE of school hours, Church performances (have church music director contact Mrs. Freeman)
  + Attendance at an outside musical performance (A program or ticket stub must be submitted as proof)
  + Critique of an outside performance or recording (Students must complete and submit a critique form)

**--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------  
  
\*High Note Festival Field Trip – Tentative Date, Friday, May 18th 2018\***All Band, Orchestra and Chorus students are permitted to attend the High Note Festival. The High Note Festival is where all musical ensembles perform in the morning at a local location. Students receive an adjudication from professional judges. After our performance, students get to enjoy the day at Hershey or Dorney Park. Location will be determined soon. All information will be sent home when available as well as emailed to all parent and guardians.\*\*Thank you for all of your continued support! Please contact me with any questions or concerns! Please feel free to contact me via email or phone throughout the year. Accommodations can be made at any time if needed. **\*\*\*\*Please sign and return the last form in this packet\*\*\*\*  
  
Musically,   
Mrs. Carey Freeman**[**carfre@hasdhawks.org**](mailto:carfre@hasdhawks.org) **610-562-2241 Ext. 3814**

**Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  
  
  
  
\*\*\*EXTRA CREDIT – 10 Points\*\*\*  
Listening Review & Critique**

**Directions: Must be completed before the end of the quarter. Will not be accepted if given incomplete or past due date. Students must attend a live performance.**

Title of work:

Composer:

Performing Artist(s):

1. What is the instrumentation?

1. Describe the musical elements being used in the performance.  
   (Ex. Phrasing, dynamics, articulations, orchestration, harmony, rhythm/ostinatos, etc.)

1. Give your subjective response to the recording: What mood or feeling is the artist trying to convey? Is there a story behind the music? How is the artist creating *music* (outside of the notes on the page)?
2. Write a 2 paragraph, detailed, personal reflection of the recording or performance.

**NAME:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ DATE:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Hamburg Area Middle School  
6th Grade Band  
Concert Reflection**  
Due Date: **December 22nd 2017**

**1. Check one statement that best describes your performance of the concert pieces:**

\_\_\_\_\_ I could play all of the pieces accurately and confidently.

\_\_\_\_\_ I could play most of the pieces with just a few mistakes.

\_\_\_\_\_ I could play some/most of the notes and rhythms.

\_\_\_\_\_ I lost my place in the music and/or couldn’t keep up.

**2. The piece I performed with the most confidence was: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**3. The piece I could have improved upon was: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**  
 **List the measure numbers of the piece and what you could have improved upon:**   
 *(Ex: Measure 42 to 56, I should have practiced recognizing my accidentals.)*

*\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_*

**4. My biggest overall musical STRENGTH** (dynamics, articulations, phrasing, rhythm, etc.) **on this concert was:  
  
 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**5. I could have improved upon the following musical aspects** (dynamics, articulations, phrasing, rhythm, etc.) **on this   
 concert:  
 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**6. The whole band played which piece with the most confidence? : \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**  
 **What musical aspects made this piece successful?** (tone, rhythm, balance, Intonation , etc.) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**7. The whole band could have improved upon which piece? :** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  
 **What musical aspects** (energy, tuning, rhythmic consistency, key signature, etc.) **could we have improved upon as an   
 ensemble?** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**8. Give yourself a letter grade for your overall performance at the concert:**

MY PERSONAL OVERALL GRADE: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**9. Give our band a letter grade for our overall performance at the concert:**

THE BAND’S GRADE AS AN ENSEMBLE: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**10. List three musical goals that you could like to accomplish by the end of the year:  
  
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Band Practice Log 2017-2018

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Grade: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Instrument: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Next Lesson Date & Time: | Assignment: | Recorded Practice Time: | Parent/Guardian Initials: |
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Five Tips for Better Practice

**WARM-UP**

Like athletes, musicians need to warm up the muscles they’ll be using. Start slowly with long tones such as whole and half notes. This will help get your mind and body focused and ready to go on.

**SET GOALS FOR YOURSELF**

These goals should be based on what your teacher assigned: for example, “today I’m going to improve that hard part in my band music” or “today I’m going to play straight through line 23”. Make your daily goals reachable.

**TAKE IT APART**

The key to improving your playing is practicing the HARD PARTS not the easy one you already sound good on. Some ideas:

* Clap and count rhythms.
* Say the note names in rhythm.
* Finger the notes silently in rhythm.
* Play the notes slowly.
* Repeat this process measure by measure.

**PUT IT TOGETHER**

Play through the part until you feel it’s right. Try to end on a positive note by playing something you know and enjoy. Don’t forget to write down your practice time.

**ENJOY YOURSELF**

You should be proud of all the effort you’ve put into learning an instrument. By setting up a regular practice routine, you’re sure to improve every day.

2017-2018 The Swinging Hawks Middle School Jazz Band

Welcome to “The Swinging Hawks” Middle School Jazz Band! I’m thrilled that you will be participating with us this year! For the best Jazz Band experience, please read the following guidelines for the ensemble:

**Rehearsals:**

* Every **Thursday from 2:35pm – 4:30 pm**.

(Please see the rehearsal schedule on the back)

* Rehearsals will be held in the **Middle School Band Room.**
* **ALL** rehearsals and performances are mandatory, unless a prior arrangement is made with Mrs. Freeman. If it is necessary to miss a rehearsal (medical, family emergency, etc.), provide a written excuse at least one week prior to the absence. If it is a medical emergency, a Doctor’s note will be required, no later than one week following the absence.
* **Two unexcused rehearsals will result in the removal from the group.**
* Students who CAN’T get a ride home no later than 4:45pm need to go home on the LATE BUS.
* Please provide a written note if your student needs to ride the Late Bus, walks home or if someone other than a parent is picking them up at the end of rehearsal.
* If the student participates in a Sport, Club or after school activity and it conflicts with Jazz Band Rehearsal please see Mrs. Freeman to make arrangements.

**Performances:**

* **Super Jazz Middle/High School Jazz Festival @ Oley Valley Middle School:** Feb. 24th, 2018 Tentative Date
* **Community Performance:** April/May TBD (School Day Performance)
* **HAMS In School Concert:** Friday, May 11th 2018 HAMS Gym
* **Spring Concert Dress Rehearsal:** During the Day on Monday, May 14th 2018
* **HAMS Spring Concert:** Wednesday, May 16th 2018 at 7:00PM HS Auditorium
* *other events may be added with adequate notice given to participants.*

\*The HAMS Music Program adheres to the following statement regarding public performances:  
*Members of performing musical organizations are to be present at all performances*, *except in the case of personal sickness, death in the family, an act of God,* *or extenuating circumstances pre-approved by the Director and/or Principal.*

**Music and Folders:**

* You will be provided with all parts and a folder
* It is your responsibility to bring all music AND A PENCIL to all rehearsals
* **You will be held financially accountable for any lost copies of music**

**What is expected of you?**

* Instrument, accessories, all music, and a pencil. **All items** listed should accompany you to **all rehearsals**.
* Know your notes and rhythms. Rehearsal time is for the **group**; *please practice your part at home*!
* Listen. One of the best and most effective ways to learn the jazz style is to listen to recordings of well-known artists. A list of jazz artists will be distributed for your reference.
* Bring a positive and supportive attitude. As this is a new experience for some students, we need to present our best efforts and create a comfortable space for everyone to experiment!

If there are any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me at the email address or phone number provided below. I’m looking forward to the 2017-18 year with the “The Swinging Hawks” Middle School Jazz Band!

Sincerely,   
Mrs. Carey Freeman -  
4th-6th Grade Band Director  
 610-562-2241 Ext. 3814 carfre@hasdhawks.org

**2017- 2018 Swinging Hawks Rehearsal Schedule:  
   
Thursday, October 19th: 2:35pm-4:30pm First Rehearsal  
Thursday, October 26th: 2:35pm-4:30pm  
Thursday, November 2nd: 2:35pm-4:30pm  
Thursday, November 9th: 2:35pm-4:30pm  
Thursday, November 16th: 2:35pm-4:30pm  
Thursday, November 23rd: NO SCHOOL/NO REHEARSAL  
Thursday, November 30th: 2:35pm-4:30pm  
Thursday, December 7th: 2:35pm-4:30pm  
Thursday, December 14th: NO REHEARSAL – Tilden Winter Concert  
Thursday, December 21st: 2:35pm-4:30pm  
Thursday, January 4th: 2:35pm-4:30pm  
Thursday, January 11th: 2:35pm-4:30pm  
Thursday, January 18th: 2:35pm-4:30pm  
Thursday, January 25th: 2:35pm-4:30pm  
Thursday, February 1st: 2:35pm-4:30pm  
Thursday, February 8th: 2:35pm-4:30pm  
Thursday, February 15th: 2:35-4:30pm  
Thursday, February 22nd: 2:35pm-4:30pm  
Saturday, February 24th: SUPER JAZZ FESTIVAL Meet at MS Tentative date!   
Thursday, March 1st: 2:35pm-4:30pm   
Thursday, March 8th: 2:35pm-4:30pm  
Thursday, March 15th: 2:35pm-4:30pm  
Thursday, March 22nd: 2:35pm-4:30pm  
Thursday, March 29th: No Rehearsal – Spring Break  
Thursday, April 5th: 2:35pm-4:30pm  
Thursday, April 12th: 2:35pm-4:30pm   
Thursday, April 19th: 2:35pm-4:30pm  
Thursday, April 26th: 2:35pm-4:30pm  
Thursday, May 3rd: 2:35pm-4:30pm   
Thursday, May 11th: NO REHEARSAL – Perry Spring Concert   
MONDAY, May 14th: Dress Rehearsal During School Day  
MONDAY, May 14th: Stay at HS for Final Rehearsal 2:30-4:30pm (pick up at HS)  
WEDNESDAY, May 16th: Hamburg Area Middle School Spring Concert 7:00pm – HS Auditorium  
Thursday, May 17th: LAST REHEARSAL – 2:35pm-4:30pm  
\*\*Week of May 21st – May 25th Tentative Community Performance in MS Café.**   
  
  
**\*\*\* Rehearsal schedule is subject to change.   
Events may be added with adequate notice given to participants.**

**SIGNING AND SUBMITTING THIS FORM MEANS YOU HAVE READ ALL ITEMS LISTED IN THE HAMBURG AREA MIDDLE SCHOOL 6th GRADE CONCERT BAND PACKET.**

*I have received a copy of the Hamburg Area Middle School 6th Grade Concert Band Packet. I understand the document and will abide by all terms and conditions.*

Parent Signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_  
  
Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_

*\**Please return to Mrs. Freeman no later than   
**Friday, September 8, 2017**. ☺ ☺ ☺