

Cortland Senior
High School
Concert Band
Handbook
2021-2022



Director:
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THE CORTLAND HIGH SCHOOL BAND PROGRAM

Welcome to an exciting year filled with quality music making, teamwork and unique learning experiences. The Cortland Sr. High School Music Department has a longstanding tradition of excellence thanks to the commitment of all those involved. Members of our ensembles will have many opportunities to share their skills and passion for music with each other, the Cortland Community and surrounding areas. Conductors, audiences, music educators, and students from other schools have come to expect exceptionally high levels of music performance and personal behavior from the Cortland High School ensembles and their members.

We will carry on with traditions while working to increase self-expression, self-discipline, attention-to-detail, assertiveness, responsibility and organization. It is the belief of this music department that the skills you learn in a performing ensemble will increase your ability to succeed in all areas.

EXPECTATIONS

A proper attitude and a strong concept of responsibility to one's self and the group are vital to our program. The quality of the ensemble is significantly limited when one individual fails to fulfill his/her responsibilities. The following expectations have been outlined to ensure that we all know the values we are responsible to uphold.

CLASSROOM/REHEARSALS

1. Regular and punctual attendance is required.
2. Respect towards the subject, the conductor and peers is expected at all times.
3. Constructive criticism from the conductor must be welcomed by all participants in order to learn and grow. Performers will not offer unwanted criticism to other performers.
4. Positive leadership in regards to attitude, responsibility and enthusiasm is a must.
5. Each student should have his/her own copy of all music at each rehearsal.
6. A pencil is necessary at all lessons and rehearsals. Mark your music neatly and thoroughly according to the conductor's comments. Please do not use ink. Remember, others will need to use this same music in future years.

GENERAL

1. There is to be no FOOD or DRINK (except water) consumed in the music suite during class time.
2. Students will not be permitted to drive to or from any school function away from school district grounds (except Graduation). Highly unusual situations may be given consideration, but only with the written consent of the parents and approval of the Principal.
3. Do not touch another student's instrument without permission.
4. All percussion and piano equipment are to be treated as musical instruments and should only be played by authorized students.
5. It is imperative that students keep their instruments and music in the band cabinets during the school day. There are times when your director will need to communicate with you and will leave messages for you in your cubby.

PRACTICE

1. Each student is expected to practice band, solo and lesson literature outside of class. Consider this your homework. Lesson packets will be distributed and students are expected to consult the lesson packet for weekly assignments. Students must also fill in their weekly practice times using the calendar found in the lesson packet.
2. Students have the option of practicing at home or during study hall and/or lunchtime. If the student chooses to practice at school, the student should have his/her pass signed in advance by their music teacher and present it to their study hall teacher before class. Students will need to touch base with the director at the beginning and end of their practice sessions.

LESSONS

1. Each student is responsible for one (1) music lesson during a 6-day rotation. Each lesson will be graded out of 40 points (see lesson packet for more details).
2. Students are excused from class to attend lessons, but are responsible to make up any work missed. All lessons will be scheduled on a rotating basis.
3. When missing a class for a lesson, a student must tell his/her teacher that he/she will be missing the class. Students should not be penalized for missing a class on account of a music lesson. **If you are having issues with this please see your director. They will help you.**
4. In the event that a test is scheduled at the same time as a lesson, the student will inform his/her music teacher **before** the lesson and the lesson will be rescheduled. Your music teachers are **VERY** flexible when it comes to rescheduling lessons.
5. The scheduling of make-up lessons is easy to do. Simply see your music teacher to find a mutual time to make-up the lesson.
6. **PRIVATE LESSONS:** Private music lessons with qualified instructors are ***highly recommended!*** Please ask your director for the contact information of approved teachers.

GRADING

Class participation and preparation (50%): this includes all assignments and tests given during class time, student preparation of material as related to ability, and performances based on the quality of preparation for the performance.

ADDITIONAL ASSIGNMENTS:

Winds and Brass:

The quality of our performances is very much related to intonation and intonation is very much related to the amount of time students spend working with a tuner. All wind players are required to make frequent use of a tuner. A minimum of **30 minutes** must be spent on a tuner ***each*** marking period. It is recommended that students get their time in early because the tuners will be in great demand near the end of the marking period. Tuners are available from your director during the day. You can also download free tuner apps to your smart device. Remember to complete your tuner assignment sheet and turn it in when you are finished or no credit can be given. Guidelines on intonation will be distributed to aid you.

Percussion:

The quality of the performance is very much related to pulse and a steady pulse is very much related to the amount of time students spend working with a metronome. All percussion students are required to use **Beatnik** once **each** marking period. Remember to complete your Beatnik assignment sheet and turn it in when you are finished or no credit can be given.

All members:

All students will be required to attend one concert (above the secondary school level) and write a critique (newspaper style review) of the performance. Pre-recorded and virtual concerts are allowed. Guidelines for this critique and resources will be distributed in rehearsal.

Lessons (50%): based on method books, solo literature and band literature preparation.

PERFORMANCES

Attendance at all concerts and special rehearsals is expected (including Commencement). When an absence from a performance is anticipated, a **written parent request** must be given to the director at least **two weeks prior** to the potential conflict. Only in extreme circumstances will a request for an absence from a performance be granted. Students who are excused from a performance by the director will be required to perform an Alternative Assessment as assigned by the director. Remember, performances are part of your grade.

DAIRY PARADE

This is required for all High School Concert Band members. Members must attend 2 out of 4 rehearsals and the Dairy Parade. This is a commitment that is required of the High School Concert Band by our community. What a great way for us to make a positive and lasting impression on our community members who do not get to see us perform on stage. Go Purple Tigers Marching Band!

OTHER PERFORMANCE/EXTRA CREDIT OPPORTUNITIES

Extra Credit may be earned for the following activities.

- Participation in the Pep Band for the entire fall season
- Participation in Harmony Bridge performances in a given marking period
- Participation in all Jazz Band performances in a given marking period
- Attendance at 3 or more (including mandatory) Spring Parade Band rehearsals and parade
- Participation in the Pit Orchestra for musicals
- Participation in NYSSMA solo festival
- Participation in Area All-State Band or Orchestra (invitation only based on NYSSMA solo score)
- Participation in Conference All-State Band, Wind Ensemble or Orchestra (invitation only based on All-State NYSSMA solo score)
- Completion of additional 30-minute block of tuner time (Winds and Brass)
- Completion of additional 30-minute block of Beatnik time (Percussion)
- Attendance (virtual or otherwise) at additional concerts with written critique submitted. Concerts must be above secondary school level (i.e., Syracuse Symphony, Binghamton Philharmonic, Cayuga Chamber Orchestra, Ithaca Concert Band or any college instrumental concert)

CONCERT DRESS

Men: Black shoes, socks, trousers (no jeans), black tie, black button down long sleeved dress shirt with collar, (Black Jacket is optional).

Ladies: Black shoes, pants or long skirt, black blouse, long black dress, or same requirements as men.

CORTLAND SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL CONCERT BAND CALENDAR

Dec. 14	Tuesday	7-12 Bands Concert	7pm	HS Auditorium
May 19	Thursday	HS Band and Orch Concert	7pm	HS Auditorium
June 7	Tuesday	Dairy Parade	4:30pm	HS and Main St.
June 24	Friday	Commencement	7pm	HS Stadium

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****Due Monday, September 13, 2021****

PARENTS:

Please read the expectations contained in this handbook, sign this slip and send it into school verifying that you have read the packet and understand the expectations placed on your child. In addition, you are aware of all performance dates contained in this handbook.

STUDENTS:

Please read this handbook completely and carefully. You are responsible for following the expectations and performances included in this packet.

Student's Name: _____

Student's Signature: _____

Parent Signature: _____

Date: _____