



Non-Profit Tax ID #94-2519508

Clayton Valley High School

Band • Jazz • Strings • Percussion • Guard

1101 Alberta Way, Concord, CA 94521 (925) 682-7474 x3125

www.claytonbands.org

Joseph P. Scott
Director, Instrumental Music
Clayton Valley High School
scottjp@mdusd.org

STUDENT / PARENT INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC HANDBOOK

2011-2012 ACADEMIC YEAR

"Let us reveal to our children the beauty of music and music shall reveal to our children the beauty of life."

-Jose Antonio Abreu

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of Clayton Valley High School is:

- Provide an academic program in a humane environment.
- Help students develop respect and appreciation for themselves and for others.
- Help students grow into competent, confident, caring adults with a sense of responsibility to themselves and to society.
- Help each individual realize his/her potential to the fullest extent.

Vision Statement

Clayton Valley High School prepares its students for the future by fostering independent, critical, creative, and ethical thinkers who can make choices, solve problems, prepare to become responsible citizens and make decisions about their futures in an educational environment characterized by student-centered learning, the use of advanced technology, and the expectation that every student can learn, succeed, and is valued.

Expected Schoolwide Learning Results

Clayton Valley High School will prepare students to succeed in:

Education - *as evidenced by:*

- Passing the California High School Exit Exam at or above proficient
- Meeting or exceeding District and State standards
- Writing and speaking clearly and effectively
- Pursuing a rigorous, challenging, and enriching curricula

Their Personal Lives - *as evidenced by:*

- Setting and achieving goals
- Growing into lifelong learners
- Accepting responsibility for their actions
- Mastering and applying life skills
- Demonstrating confidence in and preparation for their future

The World - *as evidenced by:*

- Exhibiting positive citizenship at school and in the community
- Respecting diverse cultures, lifestyles, and ideas
- Collaborating in partnerships and groups
- Using technology effectively to complete assignments (e.g. creation, collaboration, inquiry, research, presentation, and evaluation)

Goals of the Clayton Valley High School Music Program

The Clayton Valley High School Music Program aspires to reach the following goals:

- to develop the various skills needed to become intelligent performers and consumers of music
- to become more aware of the expressive nature of music
- to develop an understanding of the structure of music
- to promote an awareness of our multi-cultural heritage
- to develop critical and creative thinkers
- to represent Clayton Valley High School and the surrounding communities in an exemplary manner.

Expectations of Students

Due to the long and proud history of Clayton Valley High School, high expectations will be placed upon all students of the Clayton Valley High School Music Program. Members are expected to uphold the reputation, personal integrity, and performance excellence established. Upholding this reputation requires hard work and dedication. The following is what is expected from the Clayton Valley High School Music Program members.

All students will attend every rehearsal and performance.

Students are responsible not only for their own progress and musical development, but for that of the entire ensemble as well. All students must follow classroom and rehearsal procedures, all students must practice, and all students must be present at all performances.

All students will respect and be courteous to other students, student leadership, instructional staff, parent volunteers, and the Director.

Students will be expected to behave in a mature and professional manner at all times.

All students will arrive prepared for class each day.

This includes individual practice outside of class, which will prepare the student for daily rehearsals. All students will have the necessary equipment and/or supplies during rehearsals: instrument (includes all accessories, i.e. reeds, oil, mutes, sticks, mallets, etc.), music, and a pencil.

Due to the nature of the Music Department's performance ensembles, students may be required to attend rehearsals/performances which take place outside of the regular school day and/or rehearsals/performances at off-site locations.

Transportation will be announced for each event at the earliest possible time. District transportation will be provided when possible, but some events may require personal transportation arrangements.

Students are expected to adhere to the Clayton Valley High School Code of Conduct at all times and events, including those which occur at off-site locations.

In the event that any student breaches the Clayton Valley High School Code of Conduct, the appropriate disciplinary actions will be taken and school administrators will be notified.

Co-Curricular/Extra-Curricular Involvement

All music students are encouraged to participate in Co-Curricular or Extra-Curricular activities. Music students are some of the most involved and sought after students on campus. The staff and faculty at Clayton Valley High School are supportive of students who show diversity in activities, volunteer opportunities, and after-school jobs, and students are encouraged to explore these options and broaden their educational experiences. It is anticipated that time conflicts may occasionally arise as a result.

Students who decide to participate in these activities must also accept the responsibility of communicating between the necessary coaches/coordinators and the Director of Instrumental Music regarding any activities which may be in conflict of one another; this includes completing the Time Conflict Form, provided by the Director, one week before an expected absence of a rehearsal and one month before an expected absence of a performance. These forms can be found in the Music Room or online at www.claytonbands.org. A parent/guardian must sign the Time Conflict Form. Absences are excused at the discretion of the Director.

Expectations of Parents

In order to ensure the continued success of the Clayton Valley High School Music Program, parental support is necessary. This includes encouraging your musician to practice at home, providing private or group lessons whenever possible, supporting the Director by enforcing student behavioral and attendance expectations, attending bimonthly Clayton Valley Music Booster meetings (See web calendar for dates & times) to find out how you can help us reach our musical goals, volunteering in some capacity, and attending as many of the students' performances as possible. This is a team effort!

Clayton Valley High School Music Boosters

Clayton Valley Music Boosters is a parent and community volunteer group established to provide financial, organizational, and logistical support to the instrumental music programs of Clayton Valley High School.

A federally recognized 501(c)(3) not-for-profit agency, it is led by a legally required Board of Directors, made-up of parents and family of current instrumental music students.

2011-12 Executive Board

President: Linda Minorsky

Vice-President: Andrea Raymond

Treasurer: Kelly Burmeister

Secretary: Karen Hamilton

Officer-at-Large: Chris Susanto

Director: Joseph P. Scott

THE SUCCESS OF THE STUDENTS IS DIRECTLY RELATED TO THE SUCCESS OF THIS PARENT ORGANIZATION. Your involvement is needed and greatly appreciated.

Course Descriptions

The functions of a performing musical ensemble are to provide the opportunity for every student to improve and expand upon their individual musical skills, to function successfully as a member of an ensemble, and to apply these acquired skills in performance situations outside the rehearsal environment. **Therefore, all performances are mandatory.** The following is a brief description of each ensemble course offered for the 2011-2012 academic year at Clayton Valley High School based on the descriptions found in the Course Handbook.

Wind Ensemble

Wind Ensemble is an advanced instrumental music class open to any students in grades 9-12, though the teacher will first hear a brief audition to ensure an appropriate understanding of instrumental technique. Students will learn proper instrumental techniques and rehearse and perform music of an advanced degree of difficulty and of different styles, cultures, and periods. Performances for school, the community, and music festivals are an important part of the program.

Symphonic Band

Symphonic Band is an advanced instrumental music class. Students must be able to play their instrument with a high degree of skill, and teacher recommendation is required for enrollment in

this class. This band will give a number of performances for the general public and at music festivals.

Orchestra

Orchestra is a course in orchestral music of different styles and periods. Students must possess some ability to perform on their instrument, which includes Violin, Viola, Cello, Bass, and Piano. At times, the group will perform as a full orchestra with the addition of wind and percussion players. A number of concerts will be performed each year for the general public and at music festivals. Attendance at all performances is a mandatory class requirement. This class is open to students who already play a string instrument, but with teacher permission a student who wishes to learn to play an instrument could be accepted.

Marching Band/Rally Band

The Marching Band/Rally Band performs at football games and several competitions throughout the season. Rehearsals are held after school and some Saturdays with competitions on weekends throughout the fall. Attendance at performances is a mandatory class requirement. There are variable competition fees. In addition, attendance is required at a one week band camp prior to the beginning of school. Marching Band and Rally Band will be added to the students schedule separate of the course card. Students should not sign up for Marching Band or Rally Band on the course selection card.

Marching Band rehearses Mondays and Wednesdays from 3:30pm to 5:30pm. Members of Marching Band are automatically participants in Rally Band.

Rally Band rehearses Fridays from 3:30pm to 5:30pm and plays at all home football games. Some travel may also be required.

Please check the Calendar tab at www.claytonbands.org for football game dates and competition information.

Members of Marching Band/Rally Band are required to participate in another CVHS musical ensemble.

Jazz Band

Jazz Band is an advanced course in jazz. Students must be able to play their instrument with a high degree of skill. The music will consist of professional level commercial and jazz music. Students will be expected to improvise with some skill and to know and understand the harmonic structure of the music that is played. Students will be encouraged to write for this ensemble. The jazz band will perform on many occasions for the general public and at music festivals. Attendance at performances is a mandatory class requirement. Membership in the group is by teacher recommendation to ensure that the students have a high level of musical skill and to maintain a balanced instrumentation.

*****Students must be seated with instrument, (includes all accessories, i.e. reeds, oil, mutes, sticks, mallets, etc.), music, and a pencil at the sound of the bell. If the student is not seated and ready to begin instruction the student will be considered tardy.**

*****Due to photocopy budget restrictions, many original music parts will be used in all ensembles. Students are responsible for maintaining the originals in *like-new condition* and returning them at the end of each semester. Students who fail to do so will be responsible for replacing their parts.**

Grading Policy

1) Daily Attendance and Participation 30%

Includes coming to rehearsals and performances on time with all needed materials: instrument (includes all accessories, i.e. reeds, oil, mutes, sticks, mallets, etc.), music, and a pencil. Performances are a natural part of a "Performing Arts" class, and as such, attendance to performances is required. Students must notify the director in writing by completing a *Time Conflict Form* at least ONE MONTH before the performance if unable to attend and/or ONE WEEK before an expected absence from a rehearsal. Students who fail to do this will suffer a reduction in their grade. Students are responsible for arranging transportation to and from rehearsals and performances anytime District transportation is not available. Ample notification will be given before each event. Students are expected to stay for the entire performance. Written notification, family emergencies or illness will be considered as excused absences from performances.

*** The director reserves the right to deny a request for excuse.**

2) In-Class/Homework Assignments 30%

Performance and/or written assignments will be announced with due dates in class. Students are expected to record any pertinent information in their daily planners.

These assignments may include:

- Writing Assignments (to be assigned throughout the year)
- Part Test
- Tuning Drill
- Scale Test (major, minor, chromatic)
- Composition or Transcription Assignments
- Theory/Music History exams
- Performance Critiques (in class or at festivals, self-evaluation or evaluation of other ensembles)
- Various forms, permission slips, medical forms, etc. (turned in on time)
- Practice Cards

3) **Concert Reports** **10%**

One Concert Report will be assigned per semester. Students are required to attend a professional or community concert and write a 2-page report summarizing the event and highlighting *specific musical aspects and techniques* of the performance. This paper will be due one week prior to the scheduled Final Exam.

For any student who experiences a financial or transportation restriction and is not able to attend a professional or community concert, as required by the course, a parent/guardian of the student must provide written explanation and request for an alternate assignment at least ONE MONTH prior to the Concert Report due date. Please remember, there are many quality performances in the area which are free.

4) **Final** **30%**

Winter and Spring Concert Performance

GRADING SCALE: Percentage of total points

A = (90 – 100%)

B = (80 – 89%)

C = (70 – 79%)

D = (60 – 69%)

F = (59% and below)

Extra Credit Opportunities

Extra credit may be obtained from doing one or more of the following. Extra credit may not be done to erase an unexcused absence from a required performance. No more than two extra credit activities may be applied each semester.

Complete a Concert Report additional to that which is required by the course grade breakdown.

Audition for the MDUSD Honor Ensemble, County Honor Band, and/or California Band Directors Association (CBDA) All-State High School Honor Band with music well prepared (as determined by director).

Participate in the CMEA Solo & Ensemble Festival, either as a soloist or as a member of an ensemble.

Perform in an ensemble outside the band class (pending approval by director).

Trip Eligibility

Field trips, festivals, competitions, and any travel are privileges afforded to students, not absolute rights. Students can be denied participation if they fail to meet academic or disciplinary requirements.

Chair Placement and Challenge Procedure

Chair Placement

First semester chair placement will take place the first or second week of school. Music will be chosen from the music that the students are rehearsing in class. Each student will play for the director and/or coach to establish part assignments and seating order.

Challenge Procedure

When a student would like to initiate a challenge the following procedures will be followed.

1. The student who wishes to challenge (challenger) must notify the person they wish to challenge (challengee). The student may not challenge anyone more than three (counting their own) chairs higher.
2. The challengee is then required to select a section of music in the band folder. No more than thirty measures of prepared music are allowed.
3. The challengee must inform the challenger of their musical selection during the next day's band rehearsal.
4. The challenger informs the band director of the challenge.
5. One week after the notification, the students come in during an agreed upon free time and play for the band director. This is done separately. The challenger must go first. Sight-reading may be included in a live challenge.
6. No-show to a challenge, except for absence from school, causes an immediate forfeit.
7. The director has the responsibility of determining the outcome. The number of mistakes made, tone quality, and rhythmic accuracy are the determining factors used. In case of a tie, the students will not change chairs. If the challenger is successful, the student assumes the higher chair with the challengee assuming the lower chair.

8. The two band members involved in the challenge may not be involved in another challenge for a period of two weeks.
9. All challenges will close two weeks before a performance.

Marching Band Uniform

Marching uniforms will be issued at the beginning of the year. Students are responsible for maintaining their uniform; keeping it clean and looking professional. Due to the limited amount of inventory, it is the responsibility of the student to replace any damaged or lost uniform parts.

Students are responsible for having all uniform parts at every festival/competition. Failure to bring all or part of the uniform will result in a lowered grade.

Wind Ensemble, Symphonic Band, and Orchestra Dress Code

When performing as a concert ensemble, members are expected to meet the following guidelines concerning concert attire.

Gentlemen: Black Tuxedo/Black Suit
 White Dress Shirt with Red Tie
 Black oxford or dress shoe and **black socks**

– NO BLACK ATHLETIC SHOES

Ladies: Long, Black Performance Dress. See website for ordering information.
 Black shoes.

Student Leadership at CVHS

It is difficult to establish and organize any program as active as the Clayton Valley High School Music Program without the assistance of several qualified people. As the Director, it is my responsibility to develop and direct all educational and programmatic activities. Student leadership and instructional staff are essential for the facilitation of daily rehearsals and performance activities.

Student Leadership

As this organization is comprised of students, so should the students have an impact on the implementation of activities. Thus, student leadership is necessary. Each leader serves in his/her capacity at the discretion of the band director. Students will receive instructions in appropriate methods and practices with regards to their specific area of authority. Students may, at the determination of the Band Director, be removed from their appointed office and replaced.

Drum Major

The responsibilities of the Drum Major(s) are as follows: lead the organization in rehearsal and performance as instructed by the band director, perform support and organizational duties as determined by the band director, monitor, supervise, and assist other student leaders as determined by the director.

Assistant Drum Major (if applicable)

The functions of this position are to: assist the drum major in his/her duties, to help the drum major by making sure the other students in their sections perform their duties and are quiet and attentive during rehearsal.

Section Leaders (Marching Band/Concert Ensembles)

These students represent their instrument section as follows: pass out and collect music during rehearsals, direct sectional rehearsals, perform support and organizational activities as determined by the director. In addition, these individuals are responsible for helping members learn difficult marching drill maneuvers/difficult musical excerpts. It is their responsibility to make sure that all students in their section are quiet and attentive during rehearsal and that they model appropriate behavior and rehearsal etiquette at all times.

Band Leadership

The purpose of the band leadership is to provide assistance to the music director in the preparation of performances and events for the students involved in the following ensembles: Wind Ensemble, Symphonic Band, Jazz Band, Orchestra, and Marching Band. Appointment will take place at the end of each academic year.

Personal Instrument Liability

It is important to understand that the CVHS Music Department is an active and vibrant part of the community both on and off campus. As such, ensembles will travel a great deal to performances. Unfortunately, Clayton Valley High School is unable to guarantee or insure that personal instruments will not be lost, stolen, or damaged during an on-campus rehearsal or concert or an off-campus event. I highly recommend that parents contact an insurance agent and investigate the feasibility of insurance for your student's musical instrument. Many times these instruments are covered under individual homeowners or renters' insurance. Please double check with your agent and/or purchase insurance as necessary. This will ease the minds of students, parents, and the Director.

Equipment Use and Conditions

All students are expected to demonstrate reasonable care when using personal or school owned instruments or equipment. Students are expected to demonstrate care when around instruments or equipment in order to alleviate any possible conditions that could cause damage to any instrument and/or piece of equipment. All students will be given instruction on how to provide a safe atmosphere for students working around any musical instrument or equipment. Students, who fail to demonstrate appropriate behavior around instruments and equipment may be responsible for the repairs and/or replacement as determined by the director. Reimbursement must be made to CVHS for any lost, stolen, or damaged school instruments. Normal wear is expected.

Instrument Loan Agreement

Students using a school instrument must complete and return the Instrument Loan Agreement.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF UNDERSTANDING

2011-2012

I, _____, understand as a student of the following:
(Student)

- Wind Ensemble
- Symphonic Band
- Jazz Band
- Orchestra
- Marching Band

(Circle the class(es) you are in)

all policies, procedures, and requirements as they are outlined in the Handbook. I further understand a major portion of my grade is based on participation. Therefore, I understand that all performances are MANDATORY and part of my grade. If I am unable to make a performance, I must turn in a Time Conflict Form, with parent signature to the Director ONE MONTH before the event. I understand that the teacher has discretion regarding whether my absence is excused or unexcused. Failure to clear absences through this procedure will result in my absence being unexcused and my grade being affected accordingly. I also understand that I may contact the Director to clarify any questions I may have.

Student signature

Date

Parent signature

Date