



**BAND
HANDBOOK**

TABLE OF CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION.....	3
GENERAL INFORMATION ABOUT BAND	4
THE UNIVERSITY SCHOOL BAND PROGRAM.....	4
PARTICIPATION IN OTHER ACTIVITIES	4
BAND AFTER UNIVSERSITY SCHOOL	4
BAND-RELATED EXPENSES	4
FUNDRAISING.....	4
PRIVATE AND EXTENDED STUDY.....	4
BAND INSTRUMENTS	5
WOODWINDS.....	5
BRASS	5
PERCUSSION.....	5
STRINGS.....	5
PURCHASING YOUR INSTRUMENT.....	5
SCHOOL-OWNED INSTRUMENTS.....	6
INTERMEDIATE AND PROFESSIONAL INSTRUMENTS	6
BAND POLICIES.....	7
GRADING	7
CITIZENSHIP.....	9
AWARDS SYSTEM	9
CONCERT & PERFORMANCE DRESS	12
CONCERT BLACK.....	12
T-SHIRTS	12
EQUIPMENT SUPPLY LIST	13
METHODBOOK TEXTS	13
ACCESSORIES NEEDED BY ALL STUDENTS.....	13
WOODWIND EQUIPMENT	13
BRASS EQUIPMENT	13
PERCUSSION EQUIPMENT.....	14
STRING EQUIPMENT	14
ANNUAL BAND EVENTS.....	15
FUNDRAISING.....	15
HOLIDAY CONCERT	15
UPPER AREA JUNIOR CLINIC BAND & ORCHESTRA.....	15

ALL-EAST SENIOR CLINIC BAND & ORCHESTRA	15
SOLO & ENSEMBLE FESTIVAL.....	16
5 TH GRADE INSTRUMENT PLACEMENT	16
UNIVERSITY HIGH SCHOOL SOLO COMPETITION	17
SPRING CONCERT	17
REWARD TRIP	17
PRIVATE INSTRUCTORS	18

INTRODUCTION

Dear Students and Parents,

Congratulations for choosing to participate in the University School band, a program which has been carefully structured to benefit all students in a positive manner. Membership in the University School band will result in much more than simply learning to play a musical instrument. Through the study of music, students will experience high levels of expression, creativity, discipline, cooperation, and achievement. The University School Band promotes the development of skills that are necessary for success in all future careers.

Participation in instrumental music enhances individuals' respect for self and others, problem solving, teamwork, goal setting, expression, coordination, memory development, self-confidence, self-esteem, concentration, and commitment making. These positive influences will help prepare students for tomorrow.

Band also offers opportunities for shared family experiences including attending musical events, playing music together as a family, performing for and with family and friends, and sharing a sense of accomplishment and pride. Welcome aboard!

Please feel free to reach out to me any time at mullinshb1@etsu.edu.

Musically,

Hunter Mullins, Ed.D

GENERAL INFORMATION ABOUT BAND

THE UNIVERSITY SCHOOL BAND PROGRAM

Instruction on all band instruments is available to interested students during regular school hours at University School. There is no charge or fee for band instruction.

Families usually provide instruments and instruction books for students. Families of percussion students are to provide sticks and mallets, and various other percussion related equipment. Several music stores in the area provide rental-purchase plans for obtaining instruments and percussion equipment.

PARTICIPATION IN OTHER ACTIVITIES

There are very few conflicts which prohibit participation in multiple activities. Every effort is made to allow students to participate in as many activities as they choose. All band students may also participate in extracurricular activities. Teachers and coaches will negotiate schedules for students so that they may participate fully in all activities if the student will take responsibility to make teachers aware of conflicts. Most students in the band program are also actively involved in other activities, which encourages an engaged and well-rounded student.

BAND AFTER UNIVSERSITY SCHOOL

The University School Band provides a foundation for participation in college and municipal instrumental music organizations.

BAND-RELATED EXPENSES

The University School Band is structured to be available to all students who wish to participate, regardless of family financial situations. If any required expense causes financial hardship, please contact Dr. Mullins at mullinshb1@etsu.edu.

FUNDRAISING

Students will be involved in no more than two fundraisers per year – a fall fundraiser which starts soon after school begins, and a spring fundraiser. Funds will be used for new equipment, maintenance of existing equipment, visiting instructors, office supplies, parties, financial aid for students, etc. Incentives will be provided for students who are very active in fundraising. Parents who wish for students to not participate in fundraisers are encouraged to donate a fair share. All funds will be managed by the University School Foundation in cooperation with Dr. Mullins.

PRIVATE AND EXTENDED STUDY

Private study with a qualified professional is extremely beneficial and strongly recommended. Though private lessons are not required for band membership, many University School band students elect to study privately each year. A list of private instructors is found on the last page of this handbook. Additionally, the lab school setting at University School provides an opportunity for students to work with studio professors and collegiate aspiring teachers on a regular basis.

BAND INSTRUMENTS

Instruments used in University School band include the following:

WOODWINDS: flute, oboe, bassoon, clarinet, bass clarinet, alto saxophone, tenor saxophone, and baritone saxophone

BRASS: trumpet, French horn, trombone, euphonium (baritone), and tuba

PERCUSSION: Percussion students study a variety of pitched, unpitched, and auxiliary percussion instruments.

STRINGS: violin, cello, and bass

Note: Students desiring to participate on string instruments should have prior experience and/or maintain private instruction. There does not exist a proper curriculum for the simultaneous instruction of beginning wind and string players due to inherent differences within the instrument families. Viola is not included as compatible instructional and performance literature written in alto clef often does not exist.

PURCHASING YOUR INSTRUMENT

Families are asked to provide instruments. Families of percussion students are to provide some basic equipment needed to play in class and practice at home. Several music stores in the area provide rental-purchase plans for obtaining these instruments and supplies.

When purchasing or renting a band instrument, brand names are important! Recently, a wave of poorly constructed band instruments has become available. These instruments are less expensive than those produced by reputable musical instrument companies, and do not function properly. They are made of inferior materials, will deteriorate rapidly, cannot be repaired, and will not play in tune. These instruments will stand in the way of your student's progress and the success of your student's band class. You will not save money by purchasing an inferior instrument. A used instrument of a well-respected brand would be much better than a new inferior-grade instrument. **Please, do not buy inferior brands!**

ACCEPTABLE BRAND NAMES FOR BAND INSTRUMENTS ARE: Armstrong, Artley, Bach, Benge, Blessing, Boosey & Hawkes, Buffet, Bundy (if made before year 2000), Conn, Eastman, Emerson, Gemeinhardt, Holton, Jupiter, Keilwerth, King, Leblanc, Ludwig, Noblet, Olds (if made before year 2000), Pearl, Selmer, Vito, and Yamaha.

If the instrument you are considering is not a brand on this list, it is almost certain to be an inferior quality, imitation instrument. Most families purchase or rent instruments from Music Doctors (246-6220). They offer a full line of school band instruments and supplies. Wilhite Strings (<https://www.wilhitestrings.com/>) is a recommended strings retailer. You are welcome to purchase from other businesses or individuals. Above all, for the proper development of your student, do not purchase or rent an inferior quality instrument. Stick with the tried-and-true brand names listed above, new or used. Some well-respected websites for instrument purchase are Woodwind & Brasswind (www.wwbw.com) and Muncy Winds in Boone, NC (www.muncywinds.com). Please consult with Dr. Mullins or your private teacher if you have any questions.

Your instrument will need maintenance and repair at some point, regardless of the brand. If you buy an off-brand, no one in the local area will repair it, and you will end up purchasing another instrument! Save yourself the trouble, and invest in a good quality, name-brand instrument.

SCHOOL-OWNED INSTRUMENTS

University School has a small number of instruments that may be loaned. There is no fee for using a school-owned instrument, however, it must be understood that these instruments are expensive to replace. School-owned instruments will be issued in good playing condition. **While the instrument is in the student's care, the student or family must pay for all maintenance and repair costs.** Please understand that even if the instrument is owned by the University School band, we have limited funds for maintenance. If the instrument is damaged while your student is using it, you are responsible for the repairs in the same way that you would be responsible to repair or replace a library book that was damaged at your home. If the instrument is damaged in any way while issued to a student, the family must arrange to have the instrument repaired at their expense. **Parents of students using a school-owned instrument are encouraged to add the instrument to their insurance policy to insure against theft, loss, or vandalism.**

INTERMEDIATE AND PROFESSIONAL INSTRUMENTS

As students become more musically advanced, they may wish for an instrument of better quality than their beginner instrument. Advanced instruments are worthwhile investments for student development. Music Doctors (246-6220) offers complete lines of intermediate (step-up) and professional instruments. Dr. Mullins will gladly assist any family who is interested in purchasing an upgraded instrument.

BAND POLICIES

GRADING

Earning an A in band is primarily a matter of student perseverance and responsibility. Every student should be able to maintain an A average in band. However, much of what can make your student an accomplished musician and the band sound better will take place in your home. Parental involvement is crucial. This is what your student's grade will be based on:

1. PPT (Personal Practice Time) Reflection. This is an alternative to what may be referred to as a traditional "Practice Chart" that focuses more on quality, than quantity, of practice. Students may be given assignment objectives and target vocabulary words at the beginning of each week. The students will then develop a brief narrative reflection in paragraph form based on their personal practice over this period of time. The PPT Reflection is primarily a completion grade to accommodate and encourage students of all writing abilities. A student should include the following information, using a narrative voice, in their reflection to receive full credit:

- What did you practice this week? (Include assigned material plus anything else you worked on for private lessons, other ensembles, or simple enjoyment. Everything.)
- What were your personal goals this week?
- How did it go?
- What factors influenced or impacted your practice?
- What are your next steps?
- Parent/Guardian Signature (Not required for high school students)

Each reflection will be graded on a 40 point scale as follows:

- 6 points for each of the five reflection items and the parent/guardian signature.
- 4 points in total for including student name.

PPT Reflections should be turned in on the first or second day of the week they are due. A student will be asked to recopy their reflection (without penalty) if it is illegible. Reflections that are more than one week late should be made up differently – see Dr. Mullins for instructions. Reflections will be graded weekly and returned to students at regular intervals.

Practicing the instruments at home is an integral part of skill development and mastery. The amount of practice that is necessary for mastery will depend on the difficulty and magnitude of the skill and vary widely from student to student based on individual strengths and previous understanding. Ultimately, skill mastery is what counts in any performance based activity.

A good rule of thumb for the middle school practice regiment is at least five days a week for at least 25 minutes per practice session. Practice habits will evolve as students' self-awareness and proficiency grow. Appropriate practice habits will be reflected through the student's ability to successfully perform playing objectives such as method book lines, fundamental exercises, scales, performance literature, audition etudes, etc.

Alternative assignments will be created for students who are unable to practice due to extenuating circumstances.

2. Playing Tests. 100 points each test. Playing tests will be administered at various times throughout the year. The students will have plenty of time to prepare for these tests. All playing tests will be done in class or recorded. Dr. Mullins or a designated instructor will evaluate all playing tests. Playing test scores will often determine chair placement in sections beyond beginning band. Written tests may be administered when appropriate to instructional goals.

3. Rehearsals and Performances

A. In School Rehearsals. 50 points each. Specially called rehearsals that are different from daily class rehearsals. One point off for each minute tardy. Unexcused absence from full group rehearsal = score of zero, a citizenship infraction, and citizenship grade will be lowered by one degree for the nine weeks.

B. Before and After School Rehearsals. 100 points each. Requirements same as other rehearsals. Rehearsals outside of the school day will be announced well in advance, will only occur prior to major performances, and **will only occur rarely on an as-needed basis** as determined by the band director.

C. Performances. 200 points each. Three points will be taken off for each minute tardy plus a citizenship infraction. Unexcused absence = a score of zero for that performance grade and a citizenship infraction. Students who arrive out-of-uniform will not be allowed to perform and will be considered unexcused.

D. Concert Attendance. Attendance at all concert performances is **required** except for:

1. Illness, with doctor's documentation (notify Dr. Mullins in advance if possible).
2. Death in family or family emergency, with written note from parent and/or obituary notice.

Concert performances are of utmost importance, as every student's contribution is essential to the band! We ask that parents look ahead in the coming year and make sure no other activities are scheduled on the evenings of concerts. Please refer to the band website for a calendar of events.

4. Extra Credit

A. Concerts and Recitals. Students may improve their nine weeks citizenship grade **or** eliminate citizenship infractions by attending or performing concerts or recitals (excluding University School band concerts). Students should bring a program from concerts to Dr. Mullins within one week of the concert. The student's name should be on the program. An extra citizenship point will be added or one citizenship infraction will be removed from the grade book for each concert or recital that is attended. Acceptable concerts for extra credit include those of other middle school bands, high school bands, community bands and orchestras, clinic bands, military service bands, traveling instrumental music ensembles, university concerts, performing in community events, solo recitals, etc.

B. Band Room Assistance. Students may eliminate citizenship/participation infractions by assisting Dr. Mullins in the band room after school. Duties usually include band room clean-up, arranging chairs and stands, office work, etc. Students must schedule band room assistance time with Dr. Mullins. 30 minutes of work earns one removed infraction.

C. Director's Discretionary Points. The Band Director may assign extra credit points for various instances of excellence.

CITIZENSHIP

Citizenship will be based on individual student behavior in rehearsals and performances. Personal conduct expectations in band are as follows:

- A. Absolutely **no talking or playing out of turn** during instructional time.
- B. No gum, food, candy, or drinks in band room.
- C. Students must keep hands and feet to themselves.
- D. Students must show respect for other students, the band director, and visiting instructors.
- E. Students must be on time to class meetings, extra rehearsals, and performances.
- F. Students must turn in practice reflections and other papers on time.
- G. All instruments and music folders must be taken home each day.

Report cards will be marked with O, S, N, or U to indicate citizenship score:

0 infractions during six weeks = "**O**UTSTANDING" in Citizenship.

1-4 infractions during six weeks = "**S**ATISFACTORY" in Citizenship

5-7 infractions during 9 weeks = "**N**EEDS IMPROVEMENT" in Citizenship.

8 or more infractions = "**U**NACCEPTABLE" in Citizenship.

AWARDS SYSTEM

1. Nine Weeks Band Awards. These will be issued at the end of each nine weeks to students who receive an academic A and an O in citizenship. These marks contribute two points each on the awards chart. One PPT Reflection pass will be given to students who earn a nine weeks award.

2. End-of-Year Awards

5th and 6th Grade "Most Outstanding" Awards

Each O in band citizenship	= 2 points (6 possible)
Each A for nine weeks grade	= 2 points (6 possible)
Attendance at Solo and Ensemble Festival	= <u>2 points</u>
Total possible	= 14 points
Points needed for Award:	= 11 points

To receive a Most Outstanding award in 5th and 6th grade, you must have a total of **11 points** by the end of the 3rd nine weeks, attendance at the spring concert, and continuing excellence during the last nine weeks.

7th Grade "Most Outstanding" Award

Each O in band citizenship	= 2 points (6 possible)
Each A for nine weeks grade	= 2 points (6 possible)
Attendance at Solo and Ensemble Festival	= 1 point
Junior Clinic Tryouts	= 1 point
Making and participating in Junior Clinic	= 1 point
Making first chair at Junior Clinic	= <u>1 point</u>
Total possible points	= 16 points
Points needed for Award	= 13 points

To receive a Most Outstanding award in 7th grade, you must have a total of **13 points** by the end of the 3rd nine weeks, plus attendance at the spring concert, and continuing excellence during the last nine weeks.

8th Grade “Most Outstanding” Award

Each O in band citizenship	= 2 points (6 possible)
Each A for nine weeks grade	= 2 points (6 possible)
Attendance at Solo and Ensemble Festival	= 1 point
Junior Clinic Tryouts	= 1 point
Making and participating in Junior Clinic	= 1 point
Making first chair in Junior Clinic	= 1 point
Register for band in 9th Grade	= <u>1 point</u>
Total possible points	= 17 points
Points needed for Award	= 14 points

To receive a “Most Outstanding” award in 8th grade, you must have a total of **14 points** by the end of the 3rd nine weeks, plus attendance at the spring concert and continuing excellent performance during the last nine weeks.

High School “Most Outstanding” Awards

Each O in band citizenship	= 2 points (6 possible)
Each A for nine weeks grade	= 2 points (6 possible)
Attendance at Solo and Ensemble Festival	= 1 point
Senior Clinic Tryouts	= 1 point
Making and participating in Senior Clinic	= 1 point
Making All-State	= 1 point
Solo Competition Participant	= 1 point
Solo Competition Winner	= <u>1 point</u>
Total possible points	= 18 points
Points needed for Award	= 14 points

To receive a “Most Outstanding” award in high school, you must have a total of **14 points** by the end of the 3rd nine weeks, plus attendance at the spring concert and continuing excellent performance during the last nine weeks.

3. Selected End-of-Year Awards

Director’s Award for Outstanding Leadership

One or more 8th grade students and high school seniors may be chosen by Dr. Mullins for this nationally recognized award. This is the highest award available to middle school students. Students chosen for this award must exceed other students in participation, attitude, musicianship, and leadership.

Semper Fidelis Award

This award is designed to recognize distinguished high school band members for musical achievements and leadership as a high school scholar. Candidates should be exemplary young citizens and role models for other students.

John Philip Sousa Award

The Sousa Award is the pinnacle of achievement in a high school band. Introduced in 1955 to honor the top student in the high school band, the John Philip Sousa award recognizes superior musicianship and outstanding dedication.

4. Reward Trip

Eligible University School 7th through 12th grade band students will be offered a reward trip in late April or early May. Students must earn outstanding or satisfactory citizenship marks throughout the year to be eligible for the trip. Students will become ineligible by:

- Accumulating any combination of three marks of **N**eeds Improvement, **U**nsatisfactory, or **ISS** (In-School Suspension)
- Earning 1 or more **OSS** (Out of School Suspension)
- Having unexcused absences from rehearsals or performances

Extreme discipline clause: *Any student who exhibits extremely poor discipline on one or more occasions during any school function may become automatically ineligible for the reward trip. Decisions will be made at the discretion of Dr. Mullins.*

CONCERT & PERFORMANCE DRESS

CONCERT BLACK

Ensembles will wear concert black for all formal performances. The goal is to project a consistent, confident, and professional image of the ensemble. Acceptable attire includes:

1. Black Dress Slacks. Solid black, traditional style, hemmed appropriately, pressed. Not acceptable: Low-rise styles, denim, corduroy, flare-legs, dark navy, dark gray, etc.
2. Black Dress Shirts/Blouses. Solid black, button down or dress style, long sleeved preferred. Not acceptable: Sleeveless or tank top, t-shirt, lowcut neckline.
3. Black Dresses. Full or $\frac{3}{4}$ length solid black concert dress, flat black, long sleeved preferred. Not acceptable: Sleeveless, lowcut neckline, above the knee when seated, shiny, glittery, sequin, etc.
4. Black Socks/Hosiery. Solid black socks or hosiery. Not acceptable: Low cut or ankle socks, skin of legs/ankle visible when seated.
5. Black Dress Shoes. Solid black, closed toe shoes with short or no heel. Not acceptable: High heels, athletic shoes, hiking boots, sandals, stripes, colors, etc.

T-SHIRTS

Band students purchase a t-shirt for use at less-formal performances and on band trips. Blue jean or khaki pants may be worn at such performances.

T-shirts are ordered by and provided to the students in class. Students need to bring money for their shirt before it is ordered. Some families like to order extra shirts for parents or siblings.

EQUIPMENT SUPPLY LIST

Please take this list to your favorite music dealer when obtaining the appropriate equipment for band class! You will need this equipment when school begins. Different equipment recommendations as prescribed by a private instructor are acceptable.

METHODBOOK TEXTS

- **Beginning band:** Essential Elements Book 1
- **Intermediate band:** Essential Elements Book 2
- **High school band:** No required text.

Note: All percussionists also need *A Fresh Approach to the Snare Drum* by Mark Wessels.

Note: String players will need books written for other instruments as follows:
Violin – Oboe, Cello – Trombone, Bass – Electric Bass

ACCESSORIES NEEDED BY ALL STUDENTS

- Black music folder
- Music stand (collapsible) for practicing at home and certain performances
- Metronome and tuner (free apps available for all devices)

WOODWIND EQUIPMENT

- **All instruments:** One reed guard (holds 4+ reeds), cork grease, silk cleaning swab
- **Clarinet, bass clarinet, saxophone:**
 - Reeds:** Beginning band: Vandoren #2 reeds; switch to 2 1/2 by December
Intermediate and high school band: Vandoren #2 1/2 or #3 reeds
 - Mouthpiece:** A quality, hard rubber mouthpiece
- **Oboe and bassoon:** Consult Dr. Mullins. Well-made, medium reeds. No synthetic reeds.

BRASS EQUIPMENT

- **All instruments:** Valve/trombone slide oil, tuning slide grease, mouthpiece brush
- **Mouthpiece recommendations:**
 - Trumpet:** Beginning band: Bach 5C or equivalent (No 7C mouthpieces)
Intermediate and high school band: Bach 3C or Bach 1½C, or equivalent
 - French Horn:** Beginning band: Holton Farkas Model (H2850MC)
Intermediate and high school band: Holton Farkas Model (H2850MC)
 - Trombone:** Beginning band: Bach 6½AL or equivalent (No 12C mouthpieces)
Intermediate and high school band: Bach 5G or Schilke 51D, or equivalent
 - Euphonium:** See trombone.

Tuba: Beginning band: Bach 18 or equivalent
Intermediate and high school band: Conn Helleberg

PERCUSSION EQUIPMENT

- Bell kit with stand
- Practice pad
- Stick bag
- SD1 General snare sticks by Vic Virth
- Yarn mallets (Smith mallets recommended)
- Hard rubber mallets (Smith mallets recommended)

STRING EQUIPMENT

- Clip-on tuner
- Rosin
- Instrument, string, and bow requirements as prescribed by your private instructor

ANNUAL BAND EVENTS

FUNDRAISING

Students may be involved in a maximum of two fundraising events per year, usually conducted in the first quarter and the third quarter. Participation in band fundraising efforts is not required. However, these funds contribute to increased opportunities, experiences, and outcomes for all students. Fundraising supports the purchase of new classroom equipment, maintenance of existing equipment, and offsetting of costs associated with band events.

HOLIDAY CONCERT

All students will perform in an annual holiday concert. This concert will happen in late November or early December. Concert DVDs will be available for purchase.

UPPER AREA JUNIOR CLINIC BAND & ORCHESTRA

These events are for 7th and 8th grade students. Junior Clinic auditions and festival are sponsored by the East Tennessee School Band and Orchestra Association each year. The auditions and clinic offer students the opportunity to measure their musical abilities with students from all other middle schools in upper East Tennessee. Junior Clinic provides excellent opportunities for students to showcase musical talents and to make new friends. Students compete with other students in the same grade only. There is a small non-refundable registration fee, which covers operation of the auditions and for honorariums given to visiting conductors. Participation in Junior Clinic is strongly encouraged.

Students work on perfecting the following audition skills: major scales and chromatic scale, prepared etudes, and sight reading. Percussionists must audition on snare drum, timpani, and mallets. Dr. Mullins and visiting instructors will periodically check student progress and offer help on audition materials. Students will experience an in-class proficiency practice audition before the actual tryout.

Orchestra Junior Clinic auditions and clinic occur in the fall semester. Band Junior Clinic auditions and clinic occur in the spring semester. Auditions will occur on a Saturday at an area school. On this day, students will audition for the clinic by performing scales, prepared pieces, and sight reading for judges. Students will be given specific audition times in advance. Results will be posted on the University School Band website as soon as they become available.

Junior Clinic is held for those students who scored high enough to make a chair. Those students will travel to the designated host school on a Friday and Saturday to rehearse in an ensemble comprised of excellent musicians from all over East Tennessee. They will prepare selected musical pieces for a public concert held that Saturday evening. Complete attendance will be required, and each student will receive a medal for their accomplishments. This is the highest honor a student can receive as a middle school musician!

ALL-EAST SENIOR CLINIC BAND & ORCHESTRA

This event is for high school students. Senior Clinic auditions and festival are sponsored by the East Tennessee School Band and Orchestra Association each year. The auditions and clinic offer students the opportunity to measure their musical abilities with students from all other high schools in East Tennessee. Senior Clinic provides excellent opportunities for students to showcase musical talents and to make new friends. Students

compete for placement in either the 9-10 or 11-12 ensembles, depending on their grade level. There is a small non-refundable registration fee, which covers operation of the auditions and for honorariums given to visiting conductors. Participation in Senior Clinic is strongly encouraged.

Senior Clinic auditions and clinic occur in the spring semester. Auditions will occur on a Saturday at an area school, typically near Knoxville. On this day, students will audition for the clinic by performing scales, prepared pieces, and sight reading for judges. Students will be given specific audition times in advance. Results will be posted on the University School Band website as soon as they become available.

Senior Clinic is held for those students who scored high enough to make a chair. Those students will travel to Pigeon Forge for a Thursday-Saturday clinic to rehearse in an ensemble comprised of excellent musicians from all over East Tennessee. They will prepare selected musical pieces for public concerts held throughout that Saturday. Complete attendance will be required, and each student will receive a medal for their accomplishments.

Students who chair high enough at Senior Clinic will be selected for All-State. All-State musicians will travel to the Tennessee Music Educators Association conference in Nashville to compete and rehearse with the best high school musicians from across the state.

Participation in Senior Clinic is a factor of consideration that can help students receive college scholarship funds.

SOLO & ENSEMBLE FESTIVAL

Solo & Ensemble Festival is held in early March each year. All University School band students in grades 6-12 are encouraged to attend. Extra credit and recognition will be given to those who participate.

Solo & Ensemble Festival is an opportunity for each student to prepare solo and/or ensemble pieces of music for a rating. Each solo and/or ensemble will be given a rating of III-good, II-excellent, or I-superior. Students earn medals for I and II ratings. There is a small registration fee per person, per event. Students can enter up to three events. In an ensemble, each person must pay the fee. Ensembles should be groups of University School students only.

“Graded” music is used for the festival, not pop, radio, or show tunes. Students should be careful to choose music on an appropriate difficulty level, that is, not too easy or too advanced. Local music stores stock graded music. Additionally, private teachers help students locate appropriate music. You may also try jwpepper.com for purchasing appropriate Solo & Ensemble music. Dr. Mullins must approve music when each student pays his or her registration fee. Music approval and fee collection is done in band class in late January. Each student should bring an extra copy of his/her music for the judge with measures numbered.

5TH GRADE INSTRUMENT PLACEMENT

Any student wishing to participate in band must typically begin classes at the start of 5th grade. To ensure a proper start in the University School Band program, rising 5th graders attending University School will be placed on an instrument by Dr. Mullins based on a combination of physical compatibility and student interest. Students who are physically well-suited for an instrument will experience early success, have more fun, become the best musicians, and are more likely to keep playing.

UNIVERSITY HIGH SCHOOL SOLO COMPETITION

Each year, outstanding high school musicians are invited to participate in a solo competition. The winner of this competition will receive a personalized award plaque and one additional point toward the end-of-year “Most Outstanding” awards. While all high school students are invited to participate, only those who are highly motivated to do extra work on their instrument should apply. *You must be a Senior Clinic audition participant to enter this competition.*

Each participant should choose a solo with a piano accompaniment. The piece should be classical in nature, and not a “pop” song. Each participant will make a recording of their solo and submit it to Dr. Mullins by the required deadline. Designated judges will listen to the recordings and choose a single winner. All participants will receive one point toward the end-of-year “Most Outstanding” awards and be featured on the spring concert.

SPRING CONCERT

The spring concert is held in the University School gymnasium for all grades. This concert is the culmination of the year’s work and has a long tradition of excellence. The eighth graders who will be leaving University School are recognized, as well as those students who earned a chair in Junior Clinic. The fifth graders who have been placed with an instrument for the following year’s JSMS 6th grade band are also recognized, if present. DVDs of the concert are available for purchase.

REWARD TRIP

All eligible University School band students in grades 7-12 have the opportunity to attend a reward trip for excellent citizenship and participation in the University School band. The cost of the trip will vary from year to year based on distance traveled and experiences offered. This reward trip is not required and is purely recreational; therefore, there will be no costs supplemented by University School. Families will be responsible for all costs associated with this trip. See the Awards System section of this handbook for eligibility requirements for this trip.

PRIVATE INSTRUCTORS

Private lessons are a good way to improve your student's playing so they will enjoy band more. The individualized attention they give your child can help them develop proper tone quality, technique, playing habits and auditioning skills.

Instrument	Instructor	Contact	Instrument	Instructor	Contact
All Instruments	ETSU Faculty	etsu.edu/music (423) 439-4270			
Flute	Susan Grysch	(423) 946-3467	French Horn	H.A. Hoffman	(704) 754-3798
Flute	Dana Bellino	(423) 612-1383	Trombone, Baritone, Tuba	Bill Martin	(423) 741-2560 (423) 246-6220
Flute	Eileen Butler	(423) 288-8360 (423) 773-2079	Trombone, Baritone, Tuba	Evan Edwards	(423) 239-5233 (423) 367-9621
Clarinet, Bass Clarinet, Saxophone	Chris Lockhart	(423) 288-3897 (423) 361-5473	All Brasses	Aaron Hurley	(423) 737-7248
Clarinet	Steph Rebuck	(423) 754-3714	All Brasses	Sloan Hill	(423) 247-8704 (423) 246-6220
Saxophone	Billy Walker	(423) 361-9255	All Brasses	Al Doty	(423) 335-4037 (423) 323-3197
All Woodwinds	Gene Jones	(276) 274-3363	Percussion	Levi Marena	(678) 451-8894
All Woodwinds	Corey Seguin	(423) 863-1083	Percussion	Eric Quisenberry	246-6220
All Woodwinds	Brittani McInturff	(423) 782-6598	Percussion	Allen Gentry	538-1527 or 246-6220