

**2016-2017 Edition**

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# **Avon Lake Instrumental Music Department**

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## **Freshmen Scheduling Guide**



# Avon Lake High School Instrumental Music Department

Dear Incoming Freshmen and Parents:

Welcome to the Avon Lake Bands! This freshman scheduling guide has been created to help you and your soon-to-be freshman son or daughter become better acquainted with high school band and the scheduling process. It is also my goal to develop clear communications of expectations, responsibilities, and of course, the rewards, of participation in high school band.

You will find information about scheduling, calendars, testimonials from students and parents who have been in your shoes, and answers to other questions you may have. Our goal is for every 8<sup>th</sup> grade band student to be excited and looking forward to being a part of the Avon Lake High Schools Bands!

The band has taken some exciting trips in the recent past, including New York City to perform at Carnegie Hall and Tampa to perform at the Outback Bowl. When you are freshmen next year, the band is planning a trip to a college football bowl game somewhere sunny!

Incoming freshmen are required to participate in marching band for one season. In this way, freshmen learn what marching band is all about on a “firsthand” basis and receive valuable instruction at the summer rehearsals. Based upon our current schedule, nearly all of our freshmen will be able to participate in marching band.

Participation in the band program requires each member to make a commitment to the organization to be in attendance at all times. It is a big commitment, but it is essential to the success of the band. Parent support is much encouraged and appreciated by our students. Please attend as many performances and other events as you can and be sure to join our Band Aids. Let’s continue to work together for the improvement of our bands and to build upon our tradition of excellence!

Feel free to contact me any time, and...**Welcome to Avon Lake High School and our award-winning music program!**

Sincerely,

David Eddleman,  
Director of Bands  
(440)933-6290 ext. 1503  
David.Eddleman@avonlakecityschools.org

## ***Please keep these important points in mind regarding our marching band:***

- All freshmen participate in marching band. This gives you the option for honors credit for band.
- Yes, parents, some of your sons or daughters might say no at first, but your firm guidance will be needed. It is common for 8<sup>th</sup> graders across the USA to be anxious about leaving middle school and joining the high school marching band!
- Our teaching staff and upperclassmen will help students learn what they need to know.
- Students receive a PE waiver for participation in marching band for two fall seasons.
- Students in the marching band are quite able to keep up with their studies. In fact, you can often find upperclassmen spending time helping freshmen with their studies!

*The Avon Lake Band Experience Includes Amazing Performance and Travel Opportunities!*



**The Symphonic Band performed in March 2013 in Orchestra Hall in Chicago.**

**The Symphonic and Concert Bands performed at Severance Hall January 2011.**



**The Marching Shoremen performed in the half-time at the Outback Bowl in Tampa on January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2015.**

***NEXT YEAR-Russell Athletic Bowl in Orlando, FL!!!***

***The Marching Shoremen performed last October at The Ohio State University's Stadium for the Buckeye Invitational.***



**The Marching Shoremen are seven times State Marching Band Finalists!!!**

***Last April, the Symphonic Band performed at Carnegie Hall in NYC!***



# **AVON LAKE HIGH SCHOOL SCHEDULING INCOMING BAND FRESHMEN**

<b>January 18<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Orlando, FL trip meeting, 6 PM, ALHS PAC, one parent required Orientation for new band members at end of trip meeting Band Aids (booster club) Meeting, 7 PM, ALHS Band Room</b>
<b>January 19<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>8th Grade Parent Night, 7:00 PM at Learwood</b>
<b>February 15<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Band Aids Meeting, 7 PM, ALHS Band Room</b>
<b>February TBA</b>	<b>8<sup>th</sup> Grade course recommendation day at Learwood</b>

## **March and April**

The monthly Band Aids meetings are held on the third Wednesday of each month in the ALHS Band Room. Parents gain insight into the support and funding for the 5 through 12 band program which includes more over 600 students participating in bands, orchestras, jazz ensembles, majorettes, and color guard.

## **May**

Music will be distributed so that students may prepare for the fall. Instruments will be issued to students who need a school instrument.

## **June**

The official Avon Lake High School Band "KICKOFF" is June 1<sup>st</sup> from 6 to 8:30 PM in the ALHS Band Room. All incoming freshmen attend along with all returning upperclassmen. It is an informative and social event for students to get acquainted with each other, get questions answered, play some new music, and eat pizza!

Also on this night, any corrections to the summer and fall schedule will be distributed, new music will be distributed, and any forms that need to be completed will be distributed. Students will be informed of their next event (rehearsals, sectionals, etc.).

## **When you do your scheduling:**

- You will have the choice of scheduling either Concert Band or Concert Band for Honors Credit which meet concurrently during 6/7 period every day. Concert Band for Honors Credit requires participation in marching band and in the annual solo and ensemble contest each February.
- You will automatically begin receiving information and updates as the year progresses to keep you informed of activities and events as you enter high school.
- You can qualify for a PE waiver by participating in marching band for two seasons.
- If you play a fall sport, you will be able to participate in the marching band. Many of our marching band members play soccer, golf, cross country, and tennis during the fall, but you will be busy!

# Testimonials

## *Why join the ALHS Band?*

"As a Learwood student it was hard to know what being in the ALHS band was all about. It turned out to be so much fun especially Friday night games, both home and away, were so great! Lots of fun at summer band camp meeting new people that helped me fit right into high school. Symphonic band is really a challenge and I am proud of the way we sound because of all the hard work we put into our music." ~ ALHS Bands Member, Class of 2015

*"My daughter is part of the bands at ALHS. I have watched her grow with such confidence in the years she has been a part of the program. It is such a wonderful experience during the concerts to just sit and see all that hard work unfold. I especially love inviting our parents, ALHS alumni, to see how our schools music department is such a success for all of us. Keep up the good work!" ~ ALHS Parents (and grandparent too!)*

"Becoming a member of the marching band was probably the best decision of my life. I have made so many new friends and my past friends and I became closer than ever. Band has taught me how to be myself without worrying about what others think" ~ ALHS BAND MEMBER, LAUREN

"I legitimately believe that the best thing that ever happened to me was band. I have grown so much as a person and growing close with all of my friends. Meeting and becoming close to brand new people makes it an amazing experience. Thinking back to all of the amazing memories and intense performances and hilarious inside jokes...I am pretty sure my band family is the one thing about high school I will never forget. Do band. You'll love it." ~ ALHS Band Member, Alexander

*"Without a doubt, the bands have been the best experience my daughter has experienced at ALHS. As a parent, I was nervous about her finding her place in high school. The marching band immediately became like family. Not only did she meet true friends, two of her best friends are band members, the practices, games and concerts instilled in her a sense of pride and self-respect. These are attributes that cannot be taught in a classroom." ~ Parent of ALHS Band Member*

*"As a parent, it fills me with such pride when I sit in the Shoremen Stadium or the ALHS PAC and see my son involved with such a tremendous group of young people. When they march by you at a parade, it just brings tears to your eyes. All the hard work of these young adults and the leadership show by the Instrumental Directors we have here in our Avon Lake Schools is awesome." ~ ALHS Band Parent of Class of 2015 Band Member*

*"Being in the ALHS color guard was so much fun, lots of hard work, but SO MUCH FUN!!!"*

*~ ALHS Color Guard Member*

"I had a lot of success in Marching Band because it forced me to become more responsible with my time as well as my academics. It managed to make me into someone who needed to balance my time in order to be successful. Mr. Eddleman is a very nice teacher, but he holds you accountable for your actions. I feel I am more successful because of what I learned by being in the Marching and Symphonic bands. Although I am now in college, I do get home for at least one Shoremen game in the fall. It is still a source of pride for me when those Marching Shoremen come out onto the field!" ~ Former ALHS band member Class of 2009

"The transition from Learwood Middle School to ALHS was so much easier...."

"I was in band in high school, and although I had a great time, my daughter wasn't sure she wanted to join marching band in her freshmen year. She was already involved in so many activities and taking honors classes. She had been playing flute for several years and was in the band at Learwood. I told

her that I wanted her to at least sign up for it and do Band Camp to give it a try, and that we'd discuss it more after Band Camp. I was so glad I made her try it! Even with everything else she had going on, she loved band so much that she ended up being an officer all four years! She made friends that will be her friends for the rest of her life. The students in band are smart, caring and have a great work ethic. They represent Avon Lake well, and the investment for excellence that they make comes right back to them to benefit them in every area of their lives, for the rest of their lives. It is worth the investment!"

~ ALHS Band Parent, Mrs H

*"Because of band, I have never felt alone in high school. There is always someone to talk to who will not judge you. We help each other through everything. In band you will never have to face anything alone. Band is truly a family and at the end of the day we love and support each other."* ~ ALHS Band Member, Megan

"The first time I saw the band perform I wanted to join. Not just because they looked and sounded great, but because they were having fun on the field. My friend just kept going on and on about how much fun it was. Freshman year I was nervous, but I did so well I tried out for my sophomore year and haven't regretted a day! The music's fun, the practices are fun, and best of all the people are fun. Everyone helps to support one another and raise each other's spirits when someone is feeling sad. It's a heartwarming experience that I am going to miss dearly when I graduate. "

~ ALHS Band Member, Ali

"I joined late, as a sophomore, and I regret that now. As a band member, I can say that band is the most fun I have ever had in my life. It is hard work, yes, but the rewards are so incredibly worth it. Don't make the mistake I made; join the band family your freshman year!" ~ ALHS Band Member, Ben

"Incoming freshmen have to at least give marching band a try even if they don't think they want to do it because they will end up really liking it. I can say that I wasn't sure if marching band was right for me, but I realized at the first sectional that I was going to love it, and I do! It is a lot of fun and I have made so many friends. I think that every band kid should experience it." ~ ALHS Band Freshmen, Rachel

*"When I was little, I went to the football games to watch my brother play. I barely listened to the marching band then, but as I got older I started listening more. In eighth grade I was a marching band helper. I felt on top of the world! I met lots of new friends in the band. So freshman year came, and I was even more excited to joining the marching band. I had so much fun learning the songs. Every day during band camp I felt like I was getting closer to people and they were turning into my family. We all come together when we need each other. It doesn't matter if you're big or small, tall or short, black or white; we all love one another. We are all bandos, and we all stick together no matter what happens. In band I feel safe, and I couldn't ask for it in any other way. Band has really changed my life, and I love it. I want tell to everyone in band that I love them and thanks for everything!"*

~ ALHS Band Member, Sandy

If you're skeptical, just try it. You'll be glad you gave it a chance. I was sure I wanted to join going into this year but I didn't know how fun it would make my entire high school life. It was like joining a family. I learned more about my instrument and friendships in a short period of time than I ever thought possible. And every day in high school isn't agonizing because I have great band friends to rely on and a band room waiting for me where I am accepted. When you join band you join a family of crazy talented and accepting people who I am happy to say I have the privilege of knowing.

~ ALHS Band Member, Jordan

# Course Descriptions

## Prerequisites:

**Jazz Ensemble** Students who audition and are accepted in Jazz Ensemble must also participate in Symphonic or Concert Band (Exceptions: piano, bass, and guitar).

**Symphonic Band** An audition and selection is required for participation in the Symphonic Band. A freshman selected for Symphonic Band must also participate in the Marching Band.

(Prerequisites can sometimes change, so stay alert for any updates.)

### **Concert Band (9, 10, 11, 12) — 2 semesters — .50 credit each semester**

This band is open to all grade levels. Performances are scheduled throughout the year and members are encouraged to participate in solo and ensemble contests. **Concert attendance is a requirement.** Freshmen not participating in fall sports will participate in marching band unless excused for medical reasons or by the director. *This class meets one period daily for ½ unit of credit each semester. FEE: \$35*

### **Concert Band Honors (9, 10, 11, 12) — 2 semesters — .50 credit each semester**

This band is open to all grade levels and includes all of the same coursework as Concert Band. The goal of honors band credit is to improve student musicianship. Requirements for honors credit are: enrolled for the entire year; participation in marching band; participation in solo and ensemble contest; and permission from the director. The honors band workload exceeds the workload of other courses at the same level in the music department. Concert Band Honors and Concert Band meet during the same period each day and students are responsible for the same coursework as Concert Band. There are required performances and extra rehearsals scheduled throughout the year. *This class meets one period daily for ½ unit of credit each semester. FEE: \$35*

### **Symphonic Band (9, 10, 11, 12) — 2 semesters — .50 credit each semester**

This band is open to all grade levels pending a successfully completed audition and permission from the director. The Symphonic Band provides opportunities for students to study and perform advanced literature and to develop their musical potential and aesthetic understanding of music. The band plays varied music from serious and difficult to light and novel. There are required performances and extra rehearsals scheduled throughout the year and students are required to participate in the solo and ensemble contest. Students not participating in fall sports should participate in marching band unless excused for medical reasons. *This class meets one period daily for ½ unit of credit each semester. FEE: \$35*

### **Symphonic Band Honors (9, 10, 11, 12) — 2 semesters — .50 credit each semester**

This band is open to all grade levels pending a successfully completed audition and permission from the director. This band includes all of the same coursework as Symphonic Band. The Symphonic Band provides opportunities for students to study and perform advanced literature and to develop their musical potential and aesthetic understanding of music. The goal of honors band credit is to improve student musicianship. Requirements for honors credit: enrolled for the entire year; participation in marching band; participation in solo and ensemble contests; and permission from the director. The honors band workload exceeds the workload of other courses at the same level in the music department. Symphonic Band Honors and Symphonic Band meet during the same period each day and students are responsible for the same coursework as Symphonic Band. There are required performances and extra rehearsals scheduled throughout the year. *This class meets one period daily for ½ unit of credit each semester. FEE: \$35*

### **Jazz Band (9, 10, 11, 12) — 2 semesters — .50 credit each semester**

This band is open to any student in Concert Band or Symphonic Band with approval from the director. A student playing a non-traditional concert band instrument (i.e. piano, guitar, bass, etc.) can enroll with permission from the director. Students will study jazz scales and modes, jazz technique, and explore a variety of jazz styles. Students will attend rehearsals after school as needed in preparation for performances. **Concert attendance is a requirement.** *This class meets one period daily for ½ unit of credit each semester. FEE: \$35*



**\*\*\*FRESHMEN PLAYING A FALL SPORT\*\*\***

First and foremost, we expect freshmen participating in band to be in the marching band. The Concert Band and Symphonic Band combine each fall to form the marching band. Your marching band commitment can be worked out with nearly all of the fall sports schedules.

Students playing football or volleyball (sometimes) find it almost impossible to participate on their teams and in the marching band (*but you can remain in Concert Band!*). If this applies to you, you will need to get a form signed by your coach stating the conflict with the band schedule. You will need to wait until it has been determined that you have made the team, which is usually in August. Until you have made a fall team, you will need to attend all band rehearsals, sectionals, or meetings so that you will be prepared to participate in marching band.

Mr. Eddleman will provide you with the form to be completed after you know you have made the volleyball or football teams.



**TENTATIVE SUMMER/FALL 2017 SCHEDULE**

**(In the fall, Marching Band Rehearsals are Tuesdays 6-9 PM and Thursdays 3:10-5 PM beginning the first week of school)**

**June 1<sup>st</sup> 6-8:30 PM      FIRST NIGHT KICK-OFF      ALHS BAND ROOM**

Students get acquainted, learn some music, and get final summer schedules for rehearsals.

**Weeks of July 24-28 and July 31-Aug 4      MUSIC & MARCHING      ALHS BAND ROOM**

Students will attend morning and/or afternoon sessions to learn music and marching.

**August 14-18      BAND CAMP      ALHS BAND ROOM AND STADIUM**

Students attend an intensive week of training in preparation for fall season.

**FIRST TEN WEEKS OF THE SCHOOL YEAR**

Students attend all Friday night varsity football games and some Saturday performances.

# Marching Band and Other Frequently Asked Questions

The Concert Band and the Symphonic Band combine in the fall to form the Marching Band. The Marching Band rehearses during the school day during band periods, on Tuesday nights from 6 to 9 PM and on Thursdays after school from 3:10-5 PM.

**Here are some often asked questions:**

## **How often does the Marching Band Perform?**

The Marching Band performs at all of the varsity football games (almost always Friday nights), our own annual Band-A Rama, two/three OMEA band contests, the annual Homecoming Parade, and any other scheduled special events.

## **What about in bad weather?**

The Marching Band performs rain or shine! We have raincoats and we have band shirts and shorts to wear as needed for weather conditions.

## **When do Marching Band Members need to arrive on Friday nights? What time will they return from the games?**

Band members are informed of the opening of the building, called "doors" and the time everyone needs to be dressed for home or away games and events called "whistle". Typically, the Friday night home game schedule is doors at 5:30 PM and whistle at 6 PM. The football games begin at 7 PM. Students usually head home around 10 PM or later if it's an away game.

## **Do the band uniforms come home?**

No. Marching band uniforms stay at the school. Students are responsible for bringing their black socks, shoes, and black bag. Uniforms are sized, assigned, and altered as needed at the beginning of the school year, and are then stored in the closet near the band room. Students put on their uniforms at the school and return them to the closet at the end of each game/performance.

## **What is a Friday Morning Run-through?**

Friday morning run-throughs are part of a tradition that began more than thirty years ago! The band reports at 7 AM on Fridays to perform their pre-game and half-time shows on the football field and then they march right into the high school. They play the fight song in the Commons for the team and students, then march through the hallways back to the band room. An added feature is "Burger King" breakfast! The really motivated band members go to Burger King (they open early just for us) for breakfast before reporting to the school for the run-through!

## **What are Pre-Game Potluck Dinners?**

Students can attend (but not required) a potluck dinner hosted by an upperclassman on Fridays prior to report times for the games. The potluck dinners provide students with an opportunity to socialize and hangout with their friends prior to the Friday night games.

## **Are the band members supervised when not on the field?**

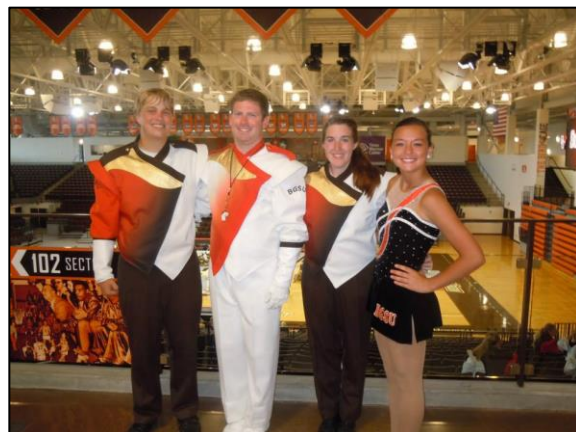
Yes. There are designated chaperones for each game. The chaperones ride the buses with the students, stay on the perimeters of the student section, and escort students to the restrooms as needed. Band members remain in the designated band seating area during the games. Band members are polite, respectful, and disciplined.

## **Is there a charge for high school concerts?**

There is a freewill donation at the door for all music program concerts at the high school. There may be special events where pricing is different and would be communicated.

## Avon Lake Band Alumni

Many Avon Lake graduates go on to participate in musical activities in college. Each year, some of our graduates go on to pursue a degree in music performance, music therapy, music history, or music education. One of the primary goals of the Avon Lake Instrumental Music Department is to develop life-long participation and appreciation for music.



Currently, Avon Lake alums are participating in bands at the University of Akron, Kent State University, Ohio University, Miami University, the University of Cincinnati, Bowling Green State University, Purdue University, The Ohio State University, and several others.



## **Avon Lake High School Honors' Level Course Expectations**

**Workload**—(both in-class and homework) exceeds that assigned in other courses at the same level / same department

**Independent work**—the amount expected of the student is greater than other courses

**Complexity and difficulty of material**—material is more difficult and complex than general education curricula

**Critical thinking skills**—Honors/AP classes require a greater amount of activity at the higher levels of critical thinking, including synthesis and evaluation

The student selection process for Honors or AP courses is designed to make the program available to those who will profit from the challenging work offered. Three (3) factors are considered before a student is admitted to Honors or AP classes.

1. Level of academic achievement
2. Evaluation of previous teacher
3. The expressed desire of student

### **Honors Band Credit**

Requirements:

1. Enrolled in either Concert Band or Symphonic Band for the entire year.
2. Participation in Marching Band.
3. Participation in solo and ensemble contest second semester.
4. Permission from the director.

The goal of honors band credit is to improve student musicianship. There are a variety of activities from which you can choose to participate that are weighted based upon their time commitment and musical impact. Students are not required to sign up for honors credit, but once you do, you cannot change back to regular credit during the year.

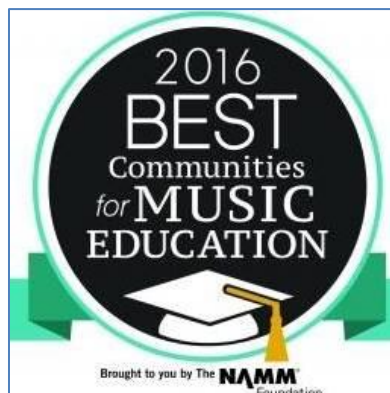
Each semester, students must complete 10 honor points. If you do not reach ten points in a semester, the following grading scale will be used:

With an A being 10 points-  
B = 7 to 9 points  
C = 3 to 6 points  
D = 0 to 2 points

All deadlines must be honored to receive credit.

(Honors' Credit) Each semester:

- 5 honor points if you are enrolled in Symphonic Band.
- 3 honor points if you are enrolled in Concert Band.
- 5 honor points for marching band 1<sup>st</sup> semester/2 honor points for 2<sup>nd</sup> semester
- 2 honor points for performing in a concert as a member of an audition-based all-star group such as the Cleveland Youth Wind Symphony or the Cleveland Orchestra Youth Orchestra (Bring the concert program showing your name).
- 1 honor point for participation in an honors' band such as BGSU, Akron, OSU, or SWC.
- 2 honor points for attending a professional level concert such as the Cleveland Orchestra. Submit a one page review to receive credit (Check with the director in advance to be sure the concert you have chosen fits the requirements).
- 2 honor points for successful participation in pit orchestra for the annual musical.
- 1 honor point for attending a concert somewhere else (community organization, another school, etc.). Submit a one page review to receive credit.
- Participation in solo and ensemble contest second semester is required of all students receiving honors' band credit. Up to 3 honor points based upon your judges' rating (I = 3; II = 2; III = 1).
- 1 (in a group) or 2 (as a soloist) honor points for a public performance at a church or other community event. Provide a program with a listing of your name and piece performed.
- 1 honor point for successful participation in the Avon Lake Jazz Ensemble.
- 1 to 2 honor points per semester for tutoring a student from Learwood or Troy. The lessons should be one half hour each week for all (2 points) or most (1 point) of the semester. Keep a journal of dates and lesson times along with what you have learned from the experience. To receive credit, you cannot be paid for the lessons.
- 1 honor point for a recording of you playing all of your major scales and a two octave chromatic scale at a minimum of quarter note = 100.
- 1 honor point for a report on a composer. The report should be between two and three pages (font size 11 or 12) and include their biography and how the composer (or their music) has impacted your musicianship.



## Family Information Form

Student's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Grade \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Instrument \_\_\_\_\_

Mother's Name & Address:

Father's Name & Address:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Mother's Home Phone:

Father's Home Phone:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Mother's Work Phone:

Father's Work Phone:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Mother's Mobile Phone:

Father's Mobile Phone:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Family Email Address (for newsletters): \_\_\_\_\_

Instrument you play for concert band \_\_\_\_\_

Instrument you plan to play for marching band (such as mellophone, Sousaphone, bass drum, etc. For most students it will be your same instrument.) \_\_\_\_\_

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

**Please return this form to Mr. Ewald by January 18<sup>th</sup> or bring it with you to the meeting on January 18<sup>th</sup>. Thank you!**

**Avon Lake Instrumental Music Department  
Instrument Loan Agreement**

*(For those who will be using a school instrument)*

Student Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Instrument \_\_\_\_\_

Make \_\_\_\_\_ Serial # \_\_\_\_\_

Case \_\_\_\_\_ Accessories \_\_\_\_\_

Condition \_\_\_\_\_ Value \_\_\_\_\_

I will treat the above instrument as my own, giving all consideration to correct care and upkeep, and agree to pay for any damages resulting from carelessness or improper handling. I will not be assessed for any costs associated with what is considered to be normal wear and tear.

I will be the only person to handle or play this instrument, and will be responsible for damages that may occur if I have permitted someone else to handle or play this instrument.

I agree to turn in this instrument at the end of the school year or whenever I am asked to do so by the band director or other authorized school personnel.

Student Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_