

Coventry High School Band

78 Ripley Hill Rd.
Coventry, CT 06238



Handbook and Contract 2009-2010

Please visit the CHS Band Webpage at

<http://www.CoventryPS.org/CHS>

**Calendars, Recordings, Current Info,
Announcements and Resources**

Coventry High School Instrumental Music Philosophy

Music is intrinsic to the complete human being and therefore must be cultivated in all people. Through creating, performing, and responding to music, we will generate a musical lifestyle evidenced through tuneful, rhythmic, and artful expression. All elements of music require experience above explanation to glean from them the highest artistic experiences. The repertoire of our ensembles must be of the highest quality to encourage these deep musical experiences.

CHS Band Contract

We have received and reviewed a copy of the Coventry High School Band Handbook and agree to abide by the policies set forth and understand the principles outlined out in the handbook.

Student Signature _____ Date: ___ / ___ / ___

Parent Signature _____ Date: ___ / ___ / ___

Information

Do you own your own instrument? _____ Will you request one through the school? _____

Instrument: _____ Do you study privately? _____

Any Secondary Instruments (even those not usually found in our ensembles, such as violin):
_____ Do you study privately? _____

Student Email: _____

Parent Email: _____

Primary Parent Phone Number: _____

If there is a second phone number to use
in case of emergency,
please provide: _____

Are you interested in honors ensembles?	
COMF (11/4, 11/10, 11/12)	_____
CMEA Eastern Region/All-State (First Audition 11/14)	_____
Other Opportunities	_____

Mr. Smith's Email: NSmith@coventryct.org

Band Website: <http://www.coventryps.org/chs/activities/band/band.html>

Please detach entire page and return to Mr. Smith by Friday Sept. 4th

Objectives

- 1) The Coventry High School Band will offer its members the opportunity and encouragement to lead musical lives as independent musicians, autonomous learners, and artistic human beings.
- 2) The Coventry High School Band will perform a diverse repertoire of grade-appropriate musical content, encouraging a high aesthetic standard. This content will employ the National Standards of Music Education as guideposts to achieve the deepest musical experience possible.
- 3) The Coventry High School Band will maintain and promote a sense of community and character that typifies the expectation of the greater Coventry High School community as well as that of the town of Coventry, CT.

Organization

The **Coventry High School Band** is made of 3 primary instrumental classes: **MU 100: Concert Winds** (9th-10th Gr.), **MU 101: Symphonic Winds** (11th-12th Gr.), **MU 102: Percussion Class** (9th-12th Percussionists). These 3 classes perform as one ensemble in concerts. **MU 301: Music Theory** is an academic course focusing on the structure and analysis of music as well as the tools of composition.

Students are also involved in Chamber Ensembles (small instrumental groups throughout the year), Parade Band (Memorial Day), and the Pit for Musicals (Optional) as well as having opportunities to participate in the Pep Band for a variety of school activities. Students are always encouraged to seek additional opportunities in the Community and Festival Honors ensembles to expand their musicianship.

Jazz Ensemble

MU 103: Jazz Ensemble is an auditioned after-school ensemble performing standard and contemporary jazz repertoire. An open “Jam-Session” style Audition will be held for those students who are interested in being entered into the .25 Credit Jazz Ensemble Course. Rehearsals continue every Wednesday from 7-9pm.

Required Monthly Jazz Sectionals must be scheduled by every section.

As an ensemble that meets once a week, only those members who can commit to the schedule will be accepted.

Ownership

The Coventry High School Band is strengthened by a number of student leaders. The Band President and Vice President head the **Band Council** as a student organization that organizes and leads group activities promoting morale, high-standards, and student activities.

The **Section Leaders** of the CHS Band are exemplar musicians within each instrumental section who serve as resources and role models for their sections and the band as a whole.

Every month, each section holds a mandatory sectional for 1 hour of time.

The completion of this sectional is reported to the Band Vice President.

The **Music Boosters** are an independent group of the CHS Music Department consisting of dedicated Band and Choir Parents, Alumni, and Friends of Music who support Coventry’s student musicians by assisting through Public Relations, Financial Support, and the General Organization of the Music Departments Activities.

Contact: CHSMusicBoosters@coventryct.org

Meetings are held on the 3rd Wednesday of each Month.

Attendance

Tardiness or absences during the school day will be handled in accordance with the policies of Coventry High School.

The CHS Band will hold rehearsal on the
First Thursday and Third Tuesday
of each month from 7-9pm, unless specified otherwise.

All scheduled rehearsals and performances are mandatory.
Dates are set well in advance, please plan accordingly.

In the event of an unavoidable absence:
Excused Absence Forms must be turned in *at least*
1 Week before a Rehearsal and at least 1 Month before a performance.

Illness/Emergency Absences
from required events should be explained promptly by a doctor's note or parental phone call.

An unexcused absence will lower a student's final grade for the quarter
by one level (B → B-)

3 Excused Absences is the equivalent of 1 Unexcused Absence.

The entire CHS community strives to align all schedules and activities within the school so as to preemptively eliminate inter-school conflicts. As such, if school-related conflicts do arise (athletics, class trips, etc.), they will be dealt with in such a manner as to best serve the interests of the student and Coventry High School.

Additional Information

Daily Materials Needed: Instrument with needed supplies, Folder (Provided by CHS)
complete with Music and Warm-ups/Exercises, Pencil, 1 Spiral Notebook for Writing
and Note-taking

***It is *strongly recommended* that all students have access to a metronome and tuner to enhance practicing. A very economical possibility is the **BOSS TU 80 Metronome/Tuner, which** can be purchased or ordered at most music stores for about \$30.

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Performance Attire:

All Students provide: White, Ribbed Tux Shirt (\$12 if ordered through band)
Black Pants/Long Skirt, Black Socks, and Black Shoes

Marching Band – the CHS Band marches in the Town Memorial Day Parade wearing a CHS Band Polo Shirt (\$10) and Black Pants.

***Also required for **Marching** are a flipbook and lyre (available for order or loan)

Provided by CHS:

Concert/Symphonic – Black Bow Tie and Cummerbund
Jazz – Red Bow Tie and Cummerbund

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School Instruments: School instruments are available per request for use by students. All students must provide their own mouthpiece for the instrument. Students who sign instruments out assume ownership responsibilities of the instrument – normal wear and tear can be maintained by the school but any repairs needed as a result of student possession must be financed by the individual. Please see Mr. Smith for an *Instrument Sign-out Form*.

Private Instruction/Resources:

Music & Arts Centers

Order forms available in Bandroom

Vernon - (860) 648-9178

East Hartford - (860) 568-0692

West Hartford - (860) 231-9562

The Hartt School Community Division

(860) 768-4451

www.hcd.hartford.edu

UConn Community School of the Arts

(860) 486-1073

www.continuingstudies.uconn.edu/csa

**Numerous Local Teachers and Schools provide private lessons,
Contact Information is always posted in the Bandroom.**

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Fundraising/Activities: Throughout the year, fundraisers are held and individual accounts are maintained to offset the cost of any traveling or activities the band may participate in.

Fundraising Activities Planned for 2009-2010:

Breck's Bulbs

Butter Braid Pastries

Magazine Drive

Holiday Candles

I-84 Rest Stop/Coffee Break

Potential Spring Recycling Drive

OneCause.com

Spring Trip to Virginia Beach April 22-25, 2010

Performance: Festivals of Music – Concert Band and Jazz Ensemble

Amusement Park and Awards: Busch Gardens, Williamsburg

Estimated Cost: \$600-\$650

Assessment

Top 5 Rules of the Band Room:

- 1) Be Aware, Be Prepared
- 2) First Time, Every Time
- 3) Work Until it's Right
- 4) Practice Makes Permanent
- 5) ...and bring a pencil...

Music - All music must be prepared. Rehearsal is not the time to learn your part; it is the time to learn everyone else's part and see how yours relates. Music preparation is assessed through Playing Tests, "Spot Check" Rubrics, and Specific Practicing Assignments.

Attendance, Behavior and Professionalism – In addition to being present for all required activities; all needed materials must be present as well (mouthpiece, reed, neckstraps, valve oil, sticks/mallets, music/warm-ups, pencil). To assist the students, lockers and folders are assigned to all band members.

Mutual respect is the rule of thumb for dealing with students, teachers, and guests in the classroom. Participation in rehearsal and learning must be cooperative and constructive. Completion of any assignments, returning of paperwork or payments, and notification of absences/schedule conflicts must be prompt. Please no gum in the Bandroom.

Professionalism on and off the stage is to be maintained at all times. This includes behavior and dress for all rehearsals, concerts, and band activities.

Academics – Program Notes will be written by all students for concert repertoire and presented at concerts. Similarly, each set of concert pieces will usually feature at least 1 large-scale academic project related to that concert's repertoire (graded in accordance with the CHS Mission Statement). Smaller projects will include listening assignments, reflections on concerts and rehearsals and a variety of other enriching activities.

Growth, Initiative, Effort

Improvement in Skills and knowledge can be demonstrated in a variety of ways and will be manifested in each student differently.

Opportunities to demonstrate personal initiative in the arts and in civic life abound. It is expected that students seek out extra help (lessons – either during study halls, after school, or privately), give assistance to their peers, perform as often as possible, attend performances in the school or community, audition for music festivals and demonstrate the drive to grow as artists and human beings.