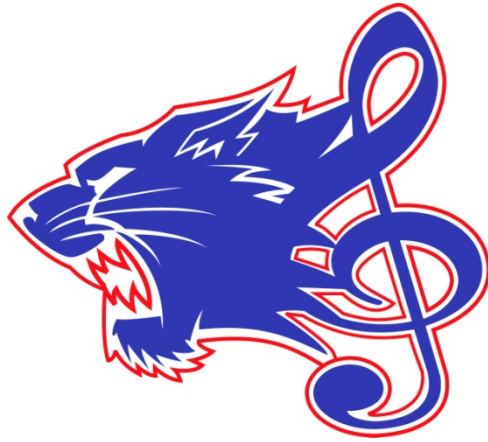


# ***ESTERO HIGH SCHOOL MUSIC PROGRAM***



2009-2010

## **MUSIC HANDBOOK**

Mr. Harry W. Pardee IV, M.M.

Director of Bands, Orchestra and Choir

## *Estero High School Alma Mater*



Hail, All Hail, the blue and white  
Guide us with thy light.  
Ever grateful we will be  
For knowledge gained from thee.

Give us faith and courage too,  
United in thy purpose true.  
We'll remember far and near  
Our future began here.

Dear Students, Parents and Volunteers;

On behalf of the faculty here at Estero High School I would like to extend the warmest welcome to the EHS Music Department! We are very excited for a successful year of music in our community.

Whether you are a returning member, a parent or a new student in the music program here at Estero, you are in for a challenging and *fun* year of making music. We take *pride* in the precedent we set here in the community: EXCELLENCE in PERFORMANCE, ATTITUDE AND MUSICIANSHIP. With these virtues, the musicians at Estero have no limit to their success. It is up to you!

In the following pages, you will learn about the music programs here at Estero and the school's expectations of students while enrolled in these programs. This handbook serves as the "bylaws" of the band. Everything from attendance, classroom behavior, and procedures for daily activities are included here. Also, in this handbook is a contract, required of all registered members and their guardians, attesting to their understanding of the handbook.

The faculty, student body and administration want the best EHS has to offer, and that's you. Please read this document over carefully and submit all paperwork for our and your records.

Again, we are very excited about this upcoming academic year. We have some great performances and opportunities lined up for students to learn and enjoy! As always, I am available to answer any questions you may have about the program. My contact information is available after my signature.

Sincerely and Musically yours,

Harry Pardee, M.M.

Director of Bands, Orchestra and Choir

Estero High School

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## Statement of Purpose

At Estero High School, we strongly believe that music has the ability to enrich every one in unique and powerful ways. Therefore, our primary goal is to foster the development of a life-long relationship with music in every student. Whether our students go on to be symphony musicians, Doctors who play in community bands, or simply music fans, our goal is for them to have a love and appreciation for music and music making.

Beyond the purely musical goals of the program, we also aim to develop the students' interpersonal and intrapersonal skills. Teamwork is a requirement for all portions of the music program at Estero. There are no "second-string" players in our ensembles and classes. Instead, each and every student plays a vital role in the quality of the whole.

It is the *mission* of the Estero High School music program to provide an educational avenue for study of instrumental and vocal music. Excellence in **performance, attitude and musicianship** are virtues of the music program. By rehearsing and performing various repertoires in our community, the Estero High School music ensembles and classes will communicate emotion, show relationships to history and culture, educate and entertain and most of all learn lessons applicable to life outside the music classroom.

## Goals and Objectives

1. Students will continually improve their instrumental and vocal abilities and musical knowledge by participating in full ensemble experiences, chamber ensembles and solos.
2. Students will increase their skills and comprehension levels by understanding and working toward mastery of various musical concepts. These concepts will be monitored in class but will REQUIRE outside practice to master.
3. Students will be evaluated through various methods, including playing and singing quizzes, verbal comprehension questions, observation of class performance and participation, written work, teacher feedback and coaching in class, and performances outside of class.

## Program Structure

The Music Program at Estero High School consists of academic and performing ensembles that either meet during the school day or after school as an extra-curricular. The following classes are offered at Estero High:

- Wind Ensemble (AKA – Band 2-4)
- Concert Band (AKA – Band 1)
- Jazz Band
- Concert Choir
- String Orchestra
- Percussion (AKA – Instrumental Ensemble)
- Eurhythmics (AKA – Color Guard)
- Music Appreciation

Elective Ensembles – meets afterschool, Friday night for football games and some Saturday competitions.

- Estero High School Wildcat Marching Band

Lee County Public Schools is on a "block schedule" effective Fall 2009. This means that students will attend 4 extended periods of class per day and rotate days: "Blue Day" or "White Day." For instance, some weeks you might have band class 3 times, and some weeks only twice. Because of this scheduling change, please expect that some after school rehearsals will need to be called, especially before a performance/evaluation/competition.

## **Wind Ensemble (Band 2-4)**

The Estero High School Wind Ensemble is a group of musicians comprised mostly of upper classmen and is considered one of the elite ensembles at EHS. The group has been rated “Superior” at many district level competitions and maintains an advanced level of performance of wind band literature. This course is designed for the advanced wind players and percussionists who exhibit excellence in performance, attitude and musicianship. With these qualities, The Wind Ensemble performs at school concerts, District Festivals and other scheduled events. The Wind Ensemble rehearses during class (Period 7 – Blue Day) as well as some afterschool rehearsals. Students will be notified in a timely manner of all extra rehearsals. Attendance at all scheduled performances and rehearsals is *required*. A written document from a parent or guardian must be presented if an absence is anticipated from a scheduled rehearsal. SEE GRADING RUBRIC FOR STUDENT GRADING DETAILS.

## **Concert Band (Band 1)**

The EHS Concert Band is made up of primarily underclassmen who, through audition and daily observation, are determined to have mastered musical and maturational skills to a point where they are ready for membership in a performing high school band. The purpose of the Concert band is to provide its members with the training and/or maturational development necessary for future membership in the Wind Ensemble. This group will GENERALLY perform music at a slightly easier level than the Wind Ensemble, but will explore other music avenues necessary to their complete musical development, such as: chamber music, music theory, electronic music, music history and solo performance. The concert band rehearses during class (Period 1 – Blue Day) as well as some after school rehearsals. Attendance at all scheduled performances and rehearsals is required. A written document from a parent or guardian must be presented if an absence is anticipated from a scheduled rehearsal. SEE GRADING RUBRIC FOR STUDENT GRADING DETAILS.

## **Concert Choir**

The EHS Concert Choir is made up of EHS students who express interest in using the world’s most valuable instrument – the voice! The Concert Choir will be performing varying repertoire that will challenge the musicianship and vocal flexibility of its members. The class will focus on correct singing technique, balance and blend while performing quality literature for young voices. The choir will perform in school concerts, school sanctioned events. Members of the Concert Choir will be given the exclusive right to audition for solo vocal performance with the Jazz Band at school concerts and District Assessments. The Concert Choir rehearses during class (Period 5 – Blue Day) as well as some after school rehearsals. Attendance at all scheduled performances and rehearsals is required. A written document from a parent or guardian must be presented if an absence is anticipated from a scheduled rehearsal. SEE GRADING RUBRIC FOR STUDENT GRADING DETAILS.

## **Estero High School Jazz Band**

The EHS Jazz Band is a performing ensemble dedicated to the performance of music in the jazz idiom, ranging from big band swing, combo jazz, all the way through modern swing, fusion, Latin jazz and funk. Jazz Band is by audition only and is open to all students. Any member of the Jazz Band MUST also be a member of either the Concert Band or the Symphonic Band or have an approval from the Band Director. The Jazz Band is in high demand to play at local events, so after school rehearsals and performances may be required. Attendance at all scheduled events is REQUIRED. EHS Jazz Band regularly rehearses during class (Period 3 – Blue Day).

\*\*\*Because instrumentation is so vital in this ensemble and music performed is often done “one on a part,” Absences from required scheduled events will be considered more significant in the “Participation” portion of a student’s grade.

## **Estero High School Orchestra**

The EHS Orchestra is a string orchestra dedicated to the performance of string literature from varying genres. Orchestra members have the privilege of studying some of the world's most brilliant works in one of the oldest and most treasured musical settings. Students will have access to public domain works, as well as modern arrangements and transcriptions of popular string orchestra works. The students will focus on correct string playing technique as well as orchestral protocol and performance. After school rehearsals may be required. Attendance at all scheduled events is REQUIRED. EHS Orchestra regularly rehearses during class (Period 4—White Day).

## **Percussion Ensemble (Instrumental Ensemble)**

On paper, this course is titled “Instrumental Ensemble,” but the course is designed for Percussionists in the Band Program. The percussion class consists of Marching Drum line, Front Ensemble and other auxiliary percussion instrumental techniques. The course is designed to offer a supplemental rehearsal period for percussionists in the program. This period will be used to refine technique, rehearse music, discuss and participate in percussion maintenance, and most importantly, enhance MUSICIANSHIP in the percussion genre.

## **Color Guard (AKA – Eurhythmics)**

The Color Guard is an auxiliary unit of the Estero High School Wildcat Marching band. The Color Guard adds visual impact to the marching Band with color, movement and special choreography. As a member of the Estero Color Guard, each individual must dedicate time, effort, and the personal desire to perform at the highest level. Each member is responsible to the other members of the Guard and must attend ALL practices of the Color Guard. The Color Guard will be instructed by both the Band Director and a Professional Color Guard Instructor. The Color Guard will be under the student leadership of the Color Guard Captain. The Captain will be the field leader of this organization.

ALL COLOR GUARD MEMBERS are held to the same standards as any other member of the Estero High School Wildcat Marching Band. Any member found in violation of any rules may receive disciplinary action or may be asked to leave the Band Program through due process. All Guard members MUST attend all rehearsals and they may be asked to attend additional rehearsals as determined by the Band Director or CG instructor. COLOR GUARD MEMBERS need not play an instrument, or be enrolled in band class (though it is strongly encouraged). HOWEVER, students MUST enroll in this class, entitled “Eurhythmics.” Some exceptions may be allowed with Band Director approval.

## **Music Appreciation**

This course is designed to introduce students of Estero High School to the world of music through many philosophical, cultural, historical, lingual, instrumental and vocal idioms. Students will engage in music in this non-performing class by learning to interpret, analyze and summarize music. The course will cover musical genres from the beginnings of musical performance through present day. As we expect our students in the performing ensembles to put in “extra” work, the students of music appreciation will do the same by completing academic requirements daily, weekly, and by semester. All work is subject to the EHS Music Grading Policy.

## **Estero High School Wildcat Marching Band**

The Estero High School Wildcat Marching Band, which includes the Color Guard, is the most visible and recognizable group in the Estero Music Program. The Marching Band is an extracurricular activity (per order of LCPS) and is open to any current ninth through twelfth grade band student. Because the activity is a direct product of the skills that are developed in the band curriculum, only students who are enrolled in a band class may participate in marching band.

The Estero High School Wildcat Marching Band performs at all Estero High School football games, pep rallies, marching festivals and competitions, and other scheduled events. The marching band will follow the rehearsal schedule below:

Monday 5:00pm-8:30pm

Wednesday 5:00pm-8:30pm

Thursday SECTIONALS 2:00-3:30pm

Friday Football Games

Some Saturday rehearsals and competitions

Rehearsals and competitions are MANDATORY. Attendance at all scheduled performances and rehearsals is REQUIRED. Occasionally, when the entire band is not needed, or when space or funds prohibit, a smaller band will be used for certain events. The “pep band” will be chosen by the Band Director based on instrumentation requirements, section rank and seniority.

### **Rehearsals and Absences – Excused and Unexcused**

In order to insure a successful music program, it is often necessary to hold rehearsals outside of the school day. Attendance at all rehearsals is MANDATORY. While excuses from rehearsals are rare, exceptions in the case of illness or emergency will be granted with a written excuse provided in ADVANCE of the absence. A written excuse, however, does not necessarily excuse a student. The decision of whether a student is excused will be at the discretion of the Director.

Excused absences will not lower the student’s grade. Unexcused absences will be subject to the grading policy described in this hand book.

### **Individual Practice**

It is absolutely essential to improve everyday as an individual musician by practicing at home. Your homework for music is to practice! Here are some helpful practice tips for making the most of your practice time:

- 1.) Practice everyday. It is better to practice 30 minutes a day then to practice an hour every other day.
- 2.) Consider practicing in shifts. Instead of practicing 60 minutes straight, try practicing 30 minutes then take a break (DO SOME HOMEWORK), then another 30 minutes. REPEAT.
- 3.) Set aside time everyday to practice.
- 4.) Have a set place where you practice. Make sure this place is free from distractions and where you can concentrate on making music.
- 5.) Have a goal or set of goals established for every practice session. Do not practice just to practice...have a purpose in what you do!
- 6.) REMEMBER: Practice does NOT make Perfect. PERFECT Practice makes Perfect.
- 7.) Always begin each practice session with some type of TONAL warm up.
- 8.) Spend time each day working on your sound quality. This will forever be your musical signature!
- 9.) Practice Scales, Practice Sight-Reading.

### **Private Lessons**

Class instruction is for a CLASS, not an individual; a student will rarely receive individual attention in a music class setting. It is the recommendation of the music department that all students who wish to excel in music take private lessons. In a private lesson, a student will get the individual attention to develop their skills. It is no coincidence that a vast majority of musicians who earn spots in All County, All State and earn college scholarships study with private instructors.

## Summer Band Camp

Estero High School Wildcat Marching Band prepares for the upcoming season by holding a band camp in the summer time. This camp occurs typically one week to two weeks before the first day of school, and runs for one complete week. Band Camp is MANDATORY for all students in the marching band. There will be very few exceptions made, so that the complete success of the camp can be achieved.

Band camp will consist of 5-6 days of intense marching and musical training. It is essential to adapt your body to outdoor heat many weeks in advance of band camp. This also means that you need to consume at least 8-10 cups of water a day for 2 weeks prior to band camp. You will be outside for most of the camp. The Southwest Florida sun is intense in August! Please prepare for this by respecting your body. A checklist of WHAT YOU NEED TO BRING to band camp this season is attached to this Handbook.

## Performances

We are fortunate to have a band that is in demand to perform at numerous functions and activities both at school and across the community and state. It is, however, impossible to perform without an entire group. The absence of one musician from the group will cause the entire ensemble to suffer. For this reason, it is mandatory that all students attend and participate in all performances pertaining to their particular group or ensemble.

Students will be issued a schedule of the current year's performances. Please use this schedule to plan vacations, trips and appointments. While some events are last-minute changes, it is a rare occurrence. In the event of a change, students and parents will be notified as soon as possible so that accommodations may be made. Because these events provide a unique educational function outside of the classroom, missed performances cannot be made up. Exceptions are rare, and are subject to review by the Band Director. (see Grading Policy).

## Band Staff

The Estero High School Music Department sees to it that the students of EHS are provided with the best instruction possible. The staff at Estero High School are paid professionals, technical assistants and guest artists. These individuals are vital to our program. Without their help, the Estero Music Dept. would not be able to achieve the standard to which we aspire. They must have the respect of all students and parents. Staff members are chosen by the Director and are directly responsible to the Director. Students shall address these staff members with the same respect they give any member of the EHS faculty. ALL STUDENTS MUST ADDRESS staff by "Mr. \_\_\_\_\_" or "Mrs./Ms. \_\_\_\_\_" No exceptions will be made to this rule. *When answering a direct question or request from the Director, Staff or Chaperones, please use "Yes or No Sir," and "Yes or No Ma'am."*

### *Staff for 2009-2010*

Mr. Kevin Devitt, Assistant Band Director and Visual Caption Head, Marching Band

Mr. Jason Staas, Associate Band Director and Percussion Instructor

Mr. Brian Turner, Woodwind Specialist

Ms. Callie Benson, Color Guard Instructor

## Building Use

The maintenance of a facility like our band, choir and orchestra rooms is a large task. The manner in which it is maintained is a reflection of the pride we have in our organization. Two minutes at the end of each practice/rehearsal/sectional must be dedicated to cleanliness. Observance of the following rules will insure a well-kept room, and will lighten the burden on everyone involved.

- 1.) ALWAYS KNOCK ON THE DOOR OF THE OFFICE BEFORE ENTERING. Under no circumstance should a student OR parent be in the Music Office without the accompaniment of Music staff members or with specific instruction from the Director.
- 2.) The MUSIC OFFICE is OFF LIMITS to students unless specific business is being conducted with the approval and oversight of the Director.
- 3.) No hats are to be worn in the band room during the school day or during ANY rehearsal inside.
- 4.) All Trash should be placed in the trash cans located by both doors.
- 5.) ABSOLUTELY NO CHEWING OF GUM in Music Classes or during outside rehearsals.
- 6.) DO NOT DEFACE school property. You will be subject to punishment per order of Lee County Public Schools.
- 7.) DO NOT WRITE on the White Boards unless instructed to do so.
- 8.) Do not remove or disturb items on the bulletin board.
- 9.) Store and Lock up your instrument in the lockers provided. Do NOT leave instruments on the floor or outside overnight. Because of the liability of a damaged or lost instrument, instruments left on the floor or outside overnight will be locked in the office, and will only be released to a parent.
- 10.) Do NOT, under ANY circumstance, play on any instrument that does not belong to you. This ESPECIALLY INCLUDES percussion equipment, mallets, and sticks.
- 11.) The storage rooms, offices, Booster Room, Uniform Room and ESPECIALLY THE DIRECTOR'S PODIUM are off limits to students.
- 12.) Do not move any instrument out of their assigned location, unless with specific instruction from the Director.

### **Uniforms and Uniform Policy**

The Estero High School uniform – both Marching Band uniforms and Concert uniforms – represents much more than the sum of its component parts. It is a symbolic representation of the tradition of pride and excellence we instill here at Estero High School. Our alumni feel a renewed sense of pride every time they observe you continuing the tradition, just as many of you will in the future. Therefore, it is expected of the students in the EHS Music Program that while in “uniform,” you will represent your group with integrity, pride and passion. What you do and the manner in which you do it will reflect on your band, school and community. It is further expected that:

- 1.) Students will act in a manner befitting a competent musician – respectful, courteous, friendly, fair and professional.
- 2.) Absolutely no GUM or any other food or drink (besides water) will be consumed while in uniform.
- 3.) Under no circumstance shall a student use a loud voice or enact immature behavior.
- 4.) For Marching Band -- Ladies' hair needs to be OFF of the shoulders and tied in a manner that does not show loose, unkempt hair from any angle when viewing the marcher.
- 5.) Booster Uniform Staff will assist students in any way possible to keep the students looking “uniform.” The student acknowledges that the parents must first ASK permission to fix something on the uniform before fixing it on the student's body.
- 6.) Under no circumstance should any alterations be made to any music uniform without the prior consent of the Band Director or Uniform parents. Failure to follow this may result in the replacement of the uniform at the STUDENT'S EXPENSE.
- 7.) Uniforms will be collected at predetermined dates for dry cleaning and will be reissued to students for the next event.
- 8.) For Marching Band students -- Students shall wear the required shorts and a T-Shirt under the marching uniform at all times. At the conclusion of all games, students must drop off uniforms at the uniform room. Failure to return a uniform will result in disciplinary action and the possible assessment of a fine double to cost of cleaning the uniform.
- 9.) Excessive make up, any face painting or jewelry of any form will not be allowed while in uniform.
- 10.) Concert uniforms: For Boys – black tuxedo, black dress shoes, black socks, white long sleeve dress shirt and black bow tie. Girls: black dress which must be accompanied by black dress shoes (NO SANDALS). Girls may also wear a tuxedo if desired. ALL CONCERT DRESSES FOR LADIES MUST COVER THE KNEE CAPS when seated in performance position.
- 11.) Public Display of Affection between students is not allowed at any time, while in uniform.

## **Inspections**

At a designated time before a performance, inspections will be held to determine the appearance and readiness of each musician to perform. Inspections will be done by the leadership in the ensemble (see student leadership in this Handbook). Items to be checked are:

- 1.) Student is in place in formation at the designated time.
- 2.) Uniform is properly worn with all parts.
- 3.) Shoes are regulation and are cleaned. FOR MARCHING BAND – Socks are WHITE and LONG. For CONCERT BAND – Socks are BLACK and Long.
- 4.) Student has proper music, accessories (mutes, reeds, etc.) and other equipment.
- 5.) Mouthpiece is clean. Reed instruments have good clean reeds.
- 6.) Instrument is SHINED and in good working order.
- 7.) Student remains properly in line when asked to do so.
- 8.) Uniform is neat, clean and undamaged.

Failure to conform to any of the above items during an inspection will result in the student leader notifying the Director. Habitual offenses will result in the student being issued a double tardy and penalized in the “participation” portion of the grading scale. Students may also face disciplinary action, or in some cases, dismissal from the game or performance until proper standards are met. Students who are asked to leave will receive an “F” for the day if they do not return.

## **Marching Band -- Behavioral Expectations for Football Games/Competitions**

The primary function of the Estero High School Band during football season, aside from performing at pre-game and halftime is to provide a support for the football team from the stands in conjunction with the cheerleaders and Color Guard. Toward the accomplishment of this task, it is necessary to set forth the following rules and regulations:

- 1.) After roll call and inspection at the designated time and place, we will march to the stadium in double file to a drum cadence.
- 2.) Once you have been assigned a position, you must stay there until moved by the director. All lines are to be kept straight.
- 3.) Unless specifically stated by the director, nothing is to be brought into the bleachers except music and your instrument. This includes radios, noisemakers, blankets, flags, coolers, etc.
- 4.) Decoration of instruments is PROHIBITED unless approved by the director.
- 5.) Eating, drinking or chewing gum is NOT ALLOWED AT ANY TIME.
- 6.) The band section of the stands is OFF LIMITS to non-band members. THIS INCLUDES FORMER BAND STUDENTS, except during the Homecoming Football game, where former students are allowed to visit or sit in with his/her proper section.
- 7.) DO NOT play your instrument in the stands unless the entire band or an entire section is performing.
- 8.) Do NOT watch the game while the band is playing...WATCH THE DRUM MAJORS and DIRECTOR and concentrate on the task at hand.
- 9.) Stand up straight and place your feet flat on the space provided for that purpose. DO NOT lean back on the seat behind you.
- 10.) TAKE PRIDE IN THE SOUND, APPEARANCE AND DISCIPLINE of your ensemble.
- 11.) At the conclusion of the game, remain where you are until instructed to move. We will exit by rows for the march out.
- 12.) All performances and rehearsals are considered academic commitments. Therefore, all SCHOOL RULES are in effect for the entire performance.

## **Alcohol and Substance Abuse Policy**

The Estero High School Music Department follows Lee County School Board Policy on Alcohol and Substance AT ALL TIMES. Any student suspected to be under the influence, or in possession of, alcohol or any other controlled substance will be dealt with strictly in accordance with school board policy.

*1<sup>st</sup> offense for Alcohol – under the influence and possession – results in a minimum five (5) days OUT of school suspension.*

*Drug/Controlled Substance of ANY TYPE – results in a Level Three (3) ALC for 45 Days.*

The offenses described above are initiated after due process with the administration of Estero High School.

## **Travel Information**

The operation of the Estero High School music department requires that the ensembles travel many times during the year. All members are required to travel with the band. Exceptions to this are very rare, and permission to travel separately will only be given after a travel consent form is completed and approved by the Band Director or Principal.

Any trip with the music department is considered an academic commitment. As with any school activity, all school rules are in effect. Any student found in violation will be dealt with according to school policy. In severe case, students will be referred to the school administration, and will be dealt with according to school board policy. Chaperones and bus drivers are to be treated with the utmost respect. Remember, we cannot travel without them. Please show your appreciation for the service they are providing.

Prior to every trip, a bus list will be posted for students to sign up. Never remove or change anyone's name. Doing so will result in the offender being assigned a seat on the bus. This list will be filled out using Seniority. Once everyone has signed up, the list will be removed and typed for use in roll call. Once the list has been removed, no changes will be made. The bus you sign up for is your assigned bus!

Students are responsible for the loading of their own equipment and instrument. All instruments with the exception of percussion and sousaphones must be transported to home games by each student. For away games, large instruments will be given priority on the trailers and trucks, and small instruments will be carried on the bus.

Below is a series of guidelines to help you in making wise "bus choices"

- 1.) Chaperones should check over each bus before anything is loaded and relay any problems to the driver and Band Director.
- 2.) Chaperones should load before the students and spread throughout the bus. The front seats on both sides of the aisle are reserved for the staff members.
- 3.) Students must ride on the bus they are assigned. Do not change buses!
- 4.) Students are not to put anything on the bus until told to do so by a chaperone or staff member
- 5.) Roll must be checked before the bus moves and after any stop at which anyone gets off the bus.
- 6.) The bus driver is to be treated with respect. Different drivers have different standards and whatever the driver says goes!
- 7.) Nothing is ever to protrude outside the bus windows (head, arms, instruments, etc.) nor shall any item ever be thrown or dropped out of a window.
- 8.) Normal conversation is appropriate; shouting or screaming is not. Singing may or may not be OK – depending on the driver, the content and the musicality. Good singing might be acceptable, bad singing never is. Remember, support from the lower thoracic cavity and spin your vowels with a tall oral cavity to make sonorous vocal tones.
- 9.) Radios, tape players or CD players are not permitted on school buses. On longer trips, these items may be used as long as headphones are used. Remember that no one but you should hear your music player.

- 10.) Students are to sit in their assigned seats. Chaperones may reassign seats if they deem necessary; students may also be assigned to a different bus at any time at the discretion of the Director.
- 11.) Students are not permitted to change out of the uniform unless instructed to do so by a staff member.
- 12.) To avoid problems, bus windows should stay up as we enter or leave another school campus.
- 13.) All students are to keep the bus clean at all times. At the end of the trip, every student should check the area around where he/she was sitting, including the floor and any over head storage. Student Leaders have the responsibility to see that the bus is left in proper condition.
- 14.) Public Display of Affection between students is not allowed on any bus at any time.
- 15.) Be courteous and do what the chaperones ask the first time they ask! Always remember to thank the drivers and chaperones when we return.

### **Music Department Grading Policy**

Several factors will account for the final grade in each course a student is registered for. All grades are computed on a percentage basis and will comply with the school grading system. The grading categories are:

#### *Participation 50%*

Including: \*\*\*Each of these categories will equal 10 points towards the Grade\*\*\*

- a. Punctuality
- b. Preparation
- c. Appearance and Attitude
- d. Performance
- e. Individualized Practice

#### Attendance 30%

Including:

- a. Practices/Rehearsals – each unexcused absence will lower the **FINAL GRADE** by 5 POINTS
- b. Games (MB Only) – each unexcused absence will lower the **FINAL GRADE** by 5 points
- c. Competitions/Concerts – each unexcused absence will lower the **FINAL GRADE** by 20 points

#### Exams and Playing Tests 20%

- a. A rubric will be handed out and followed in the adjudication of a playing test. Students will be given sufficient time to prepare for these exams.

NOTE: An excused absence is one that is documented by a doctor, obituary, or family emergency. An excused absence for a family emergency must be approved by the director and verified by a parental note and phone call. All excuses must be turned in within five days of returning to school.

### **Band Fees**

Being a competent musician is expensive, but WORTH IT. There isn't another lifestyle that is more rewarding personally than a musical one! While the band department receives limited funds from the school board budget, most of this money is earmarked for certain expenditures which must be paid each year. Included in the budget is money for band music and drill, money for maintenance, and money to pay for District and State Band Festival expenses. In addition, this budgeted money is most frequently inadequate to cover the expenses for which it is allotted. Because of this, each band member is required to pay a Band Fee. This fee covers the cost of all uniform cleaning and storage, items in connection with Band Awards and other budgetary constraints. Payment of the band fee is due as determined by the Director and the Boosters. A calendar is provided with these dates.

The breakdown is as follows:

Fair Share	\$150.00
Dry Cleaning of Uniforms	50.00
Band Camp – misc. expenses	25.00
Transportation fee	100.00
Shorts, shirts, gloves & caps	<u>25.00</u>
	\$350.00

Add:

Instrument Rental, if applicable	\$25.00/per semester
Shoes, if needed	\$30.00

Payment options are:

- Make one payment (at band camp)
- Pay in installments (below are my suggested due dates if making payments)
- Pay using fundraising money
- We have offered scholarships if truly necessary, but have required the student to actively participate in fundraising efforts. Students and/or parents MUST talk confidentially with the band director.

2009-10 Band Costs Payment Due Dates

- **08/10/09 (first day of band camp): Minimum \$100**
- **09/01/09: \$75**
- **10/01/09: \$75**
- **11/02/09: \$75**
- **12/01/09 FINAL/outstanding balance: (Amounts will vary if student uses a school instrument (+\$25))**

**Please make checks payable to: *Estero HS Music Boosters, Inc.***

*NOTE:* We DO NOT wish to cause a financial burden for any family. If you are unable to pay the fee, please discuss this with Mr. Pardee BEFORE BAND CAMP. Remember, some monies raised through fundraisers may be directly applied to this cost! Our Music Booster club has been OUTSTANDING about helping families who cannot afford to pay the fee.

*NOTE:* Statement reflecting charges, payments, and fundraising credits will be issued on a regular basis and sent home with your student. The Treasurer may be contacted directly anytime to obtain a current balance.

*NOTE:* Students who are in debt at the beginning of the year will be asked to clear this debt before participation in Camp and other Marching Band activities. Contact Mr. Pardee ASAP to discuss payment arrangements.

## **Instruments and Equipment**

It is HIGHLY recommended that you consult with the Director before buying a new instrument (Especially you, Choir! ;) or mouthpiece. Likewise, any used instrument that you plan to buy should also be examined. It is quite possible that you could save a great deal of money, and possibly avoid the purchase of a lesser quality instrument at too-high a price. It is also recommended that all instruments be inspected by the Director before bringing it to the shop for repairs. Most often, the problem can be fixed in a matter of minutes free of charge.

Students who play on high quality instruments are able to do everything much more easily and produce a much finer sound than students who play lesser-quality instruments. Often a good, professional instrument can be purchased for the price of a student model. Again, consultation with the Director is crucial.

### *Additional Equipment*

- 1.) Every brass player must furnish his/her own valve oil and slide grease.
- 2.) Every woodwind player should provide his/her own cork grease.
- 3.) All percussionists must furnish their own sticks and mallets.
- 4.) All BAND MEMBERS must have a lyre and a flip folder with enough pages to hold all marching music.

### *School Owned Instruments and Equipment*

School-owned instruments and equipment are assigned to students who play very expensive instruments such as bassoon, bass and contra clarinets, tenor and baritone saxophones, French horns, large bore trombones, euphoniums and tubas. These instruments will be distributed to students according to the needs of the band department. An instrument rental fee of \$25 will be charged to each student renting a school owned instrument. This includes percussionists!

Musicians are responsible for these instruments at all times. Any damage to these instruments or equipment during the rental period will be the student's burden. Never should a student or parent attempt to repair a school-owned instrument, and these instruments should NEVER be brought to the repair shop without the consent of the Director.

Many times, a family's homeowner's policy will cover these instruments. Parents, check with your agent to see if this is a possibility for your family.

## **Leadership**

The success of the music department is directly related to the efforts of the people running it and the people participating in it. Those who care deeply about the success and the direction of the Music Program at Estero High School are given some of the most important tasks at the school – leadership positions. Student Leadership is a unit of dedicated musicians that allow for the successful communication of themes, ideas, techniques and concepts to be communicated to and with the Music staff. The leadership will serve under the Director in many different capacities, the most important of which is “leadership by example.”

Great music is made when great musicians perform it to allow a positive reference model to be seen visually, heard aurally, and felt aesthetically. This is the most important job of the Leadership at Estero High School music program. Each ensemble will have student leaders in the group – these students will be the epitome of musicians at Estero High School. These students will be selected in the Spring for the following Academic Year.

The Estero High School Wildcat Marching Band has an order of operations for these leaders. The rank of these officials is found below:

Director of Bands

Assistant/Associate Band Directors

Marching Band Staff

Student Drum Majors

Brass Captain

Woodwind Captain

Color Guard Captain

Percussion Captain

Section Leaders

Section Players/Members

REMEMBER: Every member of this organization plays a VITAL role in its success, and the whole is GREATER than the sum of its parts.

### **Parent Organization -- Estero High School Music Boosters, Inc.**

The Estero High School Music Boosters, Inc. is a non-profit organization dedicated to the support of Music at Estero High School. Its primary function is to supplement the financial support given from the school district in order for the music program to achieve the success it has the potential to. The music boosters have done a phenomenal job in years past, raising money for the purchase of additional instruments and music and provide students with opportunities to participate in great activities throughout the school year.

This year, like in years past, the Booster organization will be dedicating time, effort and money towards anything and everything musical at Estero. By supplying chaperones for band events, assisting with fundraising activities, sizing uniforms, promoting the program in the community and sponsoring social activities designed to promote camaraderie amongst students and families, ***the group works for our children.*** The Boosters meet regularly at 7:00pm in the band room on the second Tuesday of each month. Attending these meetings is a great way to stay informed about all the events and activities going on in our program.

Most support is provided by signing on to become an active member of the Boosters: volunteering time and energy. There are many opportunities to become involved both on campus and from home. Parents are asked to volunteer at a minimum of three events throughout the course of the school year. If you choose, monetary donations may be made instead of putting in work hours. A suggested donation to the Music Boosters for a Marching Band season is \$150. A donation of \$50 is suggested for those who do not participate in the Marching Band program but wish to support the activities of the Music Boosters.

Remember, as parents of the students at Estero, combined you make a very talented group! There are many ways to help the Music Program. If you have any questions about this organization and how to get involved, please contact: Bethann Nelson, Music Booster President: [Jbnelson3@gmail.com](mailto:Jbnelson3@gmail.com)

**Official Website for Communication:**

[www.esteromusic.com](http://www.esteromusic.com)

*Understanding of Music Handbook: Contract - Student*

I, \_\_\_\_\_, have read this Music Handbook thoroughly and understand its contents. By signing I agree to abide by the rules set forth in this contract and the rules of the school. I agree to play by the three virtues of EHS Music Program. I will do my best as a student in class and in rehearsal, and will act accordingly.

SIGNATURE: \_\_\_\_\_ DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

Mr. Pardee's Initials \_\_\_\_\_

*This contract is due to Mr. Pardee in the Music Office*

***NO LATER THAN MONDAY AUGUST 10<sup>th</sup> at 7:30am***

*Understanding of Music Handbook:*

*Contract – Parent/Guardian*

I, \_\_\_\_\_, have read this Music Handbook thoroughly with my child(ren)  
\_\_\_\_\_. I understand and will help enforce the rules and regulations in this  
book and support the work of Mr. Pardee and the staff at Estero High School Music Department. I agree  
to help in any way I can in my student's success in band.

SIGNATURE: \_\_\_\_\_ DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

*This contract is due to Mr. Pardee in the Music Office*

***NO LATER THAN MONDAY AUGUST 10<sup>th</sup> at 7:30am***