

George Rogers Clark High School Percussion Ensemble

Student Handbook

Mission Statement

The mission of the Clark County Bands is to prepare and inspire students to become lifelong musicians through active participation in instrumental music programs.

Program Overview

At George Rogers Clark High School (GRC), band is band. The Percussion Ensemble functions as one facet of the overall band program, in which all faculty members and students actively participate in the pursuit of musical and academic excellence. The Band Room is a safe environment in which students can create music, learn how to listen, and grow as leaders in their school and community.

The GRC Percussion Ensemble provides students with a space to develop their instrumental technique and knowledge of music theory. Throughout the course of the school year, students will participate in several co-curricular ensembles – including marching band, pep band, concert band, and percussion ensemble – and prepare solo literature for assessment. Students will study and perform a wide variety of literature, including classical, rudimental, folk/ traditional, contemporary, novelty, and music from non-Western cultures. In addition, students regularly have the opportunity to engage with guest clinicians/ professional percussionists who will offer their expertise on topics ranging from concert snare drum technique to Ghanaian Gyil performance.

Learning Outcomes

- Students will cultivate a strong foundation in percussion performance techniques.
- Students will strengthen their knowledge of music theory and history.
- Students will develop the skills necessary to actively listen to and participate in the making of music.

Required Materials

- Earplugs
- Pencil (with eraser)
- 3-Ring Binder
- Sheet Protectors
- Drumsticks
 - Innovative Percussion James Campbell (Concert): IP-JC (\$12.50 per pair)
 - Innovative Percussion Field Series (Marching): FS-2 (\$11.50 per pair)
- Practice Pad
 - Evans HQ 12” RealFeel 2-Sided Practice Pad (\$35)

Recommended Materials

The GRC Band program provides a majority of the percussion equipment that will be used throughout the school year. However, all students are strongly encouraged to purchase their own keyboard/ timpani mallets and accessories for use in class and at home. Students that purchase one or two of these elements every year will not only be prepared for a wide variety of performance contexts, but will have a head start on collecting the materials that would be required of a college percussion major. Specific recommendations are listed below:

- Stick/ Mallet Bag
 - Vic Firth Classic Stick Bag – or equivalent (\$42)
- Snare Drum Stand
 - Yamaha Medium Weight – or equivalent (\$79)
- Marimba Mallets (1-2 pairs)
 - Innovative Percussion Soloist Series: IP-240 (\$41 per pair)
- Vibraphone Mallets (1-2 pairs)
 - Innovative Percussion Rattan Series: RS-251 (\$49 per pair)
- Xylophone Mallets (1 pair)
 - Innovative Percussion James Ross: IP-902 (\$37 per pair)
- Timpani Mallets
 - Innovative Percussion General Series: GT-3 (\$34 per pair)
- Drum Set Drumsticks
 - Vic Firth American Classic: 5A and/ or 7A (\$11 per pair)
- Brushes
 - Innovative Percussion Wire Brushes: WB-R1 (\$25 per pair)

Expectations/ Policies

1. **Treat others as you want to be treated.** We strive to foster an environment that is conducive to learning, in which everyone feels safe and respected. Please speak with an adult if you feel as though these standards are not being met.
2. **Engage in one conversation at a time.** In a large class full of percussion instruments, it is very easy for side conversations and hacking to escalate into a total cacophony. You are expected to be actively engaged in classroom activities at all times, even when the focus of rehearsal does not specifically pertain to your instrument/ performance.
3. **Keep the band facilities clean and organized.** Percussion equipment is expensive, and we are fortunate to have some of the best instruments and facilities in the state. Every instrument and implement has a home. When you are finished with a piece of equipment, you are expected to store it properly, regardless of the state in which you found it. All food and drink – except for water – should remain in your bag/ locker.
4. **Play and maintain your assigned instrument.** You are responsible for taking care of your instrument. Please make sure that you are only playing on your assigned instrument, and that you are playing with the appropriate implement(s).
5. **Attend all after-school rehearsals and performances.** Attendance is vital to the success of a music ensemble. Absences and tardiness for any reason can have a significant impact on the ability of the group to perform at its highest level.

Marching Band

All percussionists are expected to participate in the marching band unless you have been approved for an exemption due to participation in a fall sport (such as football, dance team, etc.). Auditions for battery (marching snare/ tenor/ bass drums) and front ensemble (stationary mallet/ auxiliary/ electronic instruments) will be held at training camps throughout the spring/ summer prior to the start of the following school year. The marching season runs from mid-July to the beginning of November. Please see the GRC Marching Band Handbook and the website (grcband.org) for more information.

Concert Bands

All percussionists will audition in the spring for placement in one of the GRC concert bands for the following school year. Literature for each concert cycle will be assigned at least three weeks prior to the performance(s). As the activities of Percussion Ensemble class are primarily focused on the preparation of percussion ensemble literature, it will be your responsibility to learn any music assigned for either the Concert or Symphonic Band outside of a classroom context. In the weeks leading up to each concert, there will be at least 2-4 rehearsals held after school so that the winds and percussionists can combine their respective parts.

Attendance

All after-school rehearsals and performances are mandatory. The calendar for the entire school year is posted on the band website (grcband.org/calendar) and is updated regularly. Please try to schedule vacations, doctor appointments, etc. accordingly. If you know in advance that you will be absent from or tardy to a rehearsal, please contact me by email at least 24 hours in advance. Unexcused absences may result in removal from a performance.

Assessment/ Grading

Percussion Ensemble is a performance-based class. As such, assessment will be heavily based upon participation in class and at required rehearsals and performances. Students will be periodically evaluated on an individual level through performance assessments – both in-class and via digital submissions – and the completion of weekly practice reports. Students who miss a class for any reason will be expected to complete a makeup assignment that is based upon material from the missed class. Practice is homework!

Marching Band, Concert Band, and Symphonic Band are all “co-curricular” activities, and as such, are subject to the same assessment/ grading policies.

GRC Grading Scale

- A = 90-100
- B = 80-89
- C = 70-79
- D = 60-69
- F = 59 and below

Individual Musicianship Program

Throughout the course of the school year, you will have the opportunity to participate in a number of extracurricular activities that will provide invaluable experience as you work to become a well-rounded musician. While participation in these activities will not be factored into your class grade, you will earn a certain number of points for each endeavor. The number of points that you earn will be determined by the overall nature/ magnitude of the activity. Students who accrue a predetermined number of points will receive a special award at the band banquet in the spring, along with a patch that can be worn on a band jacket.

A sample list of activities is provided below:

- Attend an approved live musical performance outside of CCPS-sponsored events (e.g. college recital, professional symphony concert, etc.)
- Attend an approved music workshop/ clinic (e.g. Day of Percussion)
- Private lessons with a professional percussionist
- Participation in extracurricular music ensembles (i.e. CKYO, community bands, church bands, mariachi bands, etc.)
- Attend the Percussive Arts Society International Convention (PASIC)
- Participation in an approved summer camp/ educational program (e.g. Foster Music Camp, Music for All Summer Symposium, etc.)
- Audition for an honor band/ ensemble
- Selection for KMEA All-District Band
- Selection for KMEA All-State Band/ Orchestra
- Selection for Governor's School for the Arts

All questions regarding this handbook should be directed to Mr. Wade (jeremy.wade@clark.kyschools.us) and Mr. Cook (aj.cook@clark.kyschools.us). Please sign below to acknowledge that you have read and agree to the content of this document.

Student Name

Parent Name

Student Signature

Parent Signature