

# **Anthony Traina School**



## **Band Handbook**

## **Welcome Traina Parents and students**

Dear Parents and Students,

My name is Mr. Cooper and I cannot wait for the new year of band at Anthony Traina School.

Please read through the handbook so you can be informed of what the expectations are for this class. It will have helpful hints as well as a background of what the program is about. Please sign and return the consent form at the end of this packet.

I am looking forward to making music with the Traina Band Students this coming year.

If you have any questions feel free to contact me at [bcooper@jsdtracy.com](mailto:bcooper@jsdtracy.com) or (209) 839-2379 ext. 1901.

Sincerely,

Mr. Cooper  
Band Director  
Anthony Traina School

## Class Expectations

### ❖ Be on time

Students are expected to attend every lesson. This is a group effort and if they don't show up, then the group can't reach its full potential. It is the student's responsibility to come prepared to class on time and be ready for direction. As my old band director used to say, "Early is on time, and on time is late."

### ❖ Be prepared

Just as you are expected to have supplies in your everyday classroom, such as a pencil and paper, you are expected to bring materials to band as well. The following are the supplies you are expected to have:

- ☞ Instrument
- ☞ Music (book and/or sheet music)
- ☞ Pencil
- ☞ Valve oil or slide grease (for trumpet or trombone)
- ☞ At least four functioning reeds (for saxophone, oboe and clarinet)
- ☞ All necessary sticks and mallets (for percussion)
- ☞ Notebook for intermediate and advanced students
- ☞ A positive attitude

### ❖ Be respectful

Show respect for your classmates, your instrument, your teacher, and yourself.

### ❖ Eat and drink elsewhere

Water is the only drink allowed during class time.

## **Performance Attire**

For formal concerts the following attire will be required:

Gentlemen – solid white shirt (no t-shirts and no logos), solid black pants (no jeans), black socks, and black dress shoes.

Ladies – solid black pants (no jeans) or solid black skirt (all skirts must fall below the knees when sitting), solid white shirt or blouse (with no logos and no spaghetti straps or low cut outfits).

## **School Instruments**

Unfortunately we don't have many instruments at this time so renting from the local music stores is highly encouraged. A list of local stores will be provided upon request.

## **Private Lessons**

Taking private lessons for your instrument is highly encouraged.

## **Required Textbooks**

Beginning students(5th grade) are required to have a copy of Tradition of Excellence book 1.

Students in Concert band(6th grade) will need to have Tradition of Excellence book 1 and Sound Innovations Ensemble Development for Young Concert Band.

Symphonic Band(7th grade) will need the Sound Innovations Ensemble Development for Young Concert Band.

Wind Ensemble (8th grade) will be working out of 3-4 books that will be provided in class.

## Practice Hints

All instruments require fine muscle control over hundreds of muscles just to produce a basic sound. Musicians must work out those muscles the same way an athlete who wants to perform well does. This requires routine practice of specific exercise of a period of days/weeks to develop muscle memory and strength required to perform more advanced techniques. Once the muscles develop the performer will be able to play more difficult music with ease.

Some tips for quality practice:

- ❖ Select a time of day and place to practice that will be as free from interruption as possible and practice this same time every day.
- ❖ Keep your objectives in mind (What do I want to get better at? What do I plan to accomplish during my practice time?)
- ❖ **Use a metronome(can be found by typing into google)** to keep a steady speed.
- ❖ Warm-up at the beginning of practice sessions and warm-down at the end (just like sports).
- ❖ Use a mirror to make sure you are holding the instrument right and to check your posture.
- ❖ **Use a tuner** to check pitch and focus having the best sound possible.
- ❖ Don't be afraid to sing through your part or work out rhythms by clapping or using a counting method.
- ❖ Work on small section of a piece or exercise, not the whole thing at once.
- ❖ Start playing through slowly making sure timing and notes are 100% accurate.
- ❖ Listen to professional recordings of your instrument so that you can hear how you should sound.
- ❖ Don't be afraid to write in your music, professionals write reminders in their music all the time, BUT I strongly advise pencil over something permanent.
- ❖ Take some time to create and improvise your own music. Be creative!
- ❖ Find and play music that you don't already know how to play. Challenge yourself.
- ❖ If practice is getting to routine challenge yourself by switching it up.
- ❖ At the end of the practice time, play a favorite piece for parents or friends.
- ❖ Take some short breaks during the practice session.
- ❖ Most importantly, be **patient**.

## **Additional Information**

Students playing clarinet and saxophone will need a supply of reeds on them at all time. I recommend starting with at least two size 2 1/2 or 3 reeds for beginners, 3 or higher for intermediate and advanced (Mitchell Laurie or Ricco Royal are recommended). Oboe or bassoon students start with medium soft and then move to medium after a little while ([charlesmusic.com](http://charlesmusic.com) for high quality and decent prices).

Students playing percussion will need their own set of drum sticks, bell mallets, (yarn mallets for cymbal and xylophone and timpani mallets needed for 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade).

Music stands, and electronic tuner will be very beneficial for home use. Wire stands are cheaper. Students will need to be responsible for maintaining the quality of their equipment.

## **Grades**

Grades will be based upon two areas:

### Formative: 40%

Students will be required to complete worksheets on vocabulary and music theory. On occasion students will be working with Google classroom or SmartMusic on similar skill review. Students in 6th grade - 8th grade will need to keep a notebook for daily questions to be used as a resources and review of fundamental concepts.

### Summative : 60%

There will be assignments given about analyzing their performance, tests (written and playing), and projects (group and individual) throughout the school year to improve musicianship.

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I, \_\_\_\_\_, have read the entire handbook and understand my work as a student. I have given this to my parents and they have read it over and understand what my expectations will be for the upcoming year. If there are any problems, I know how to get in contact with the teacher.

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

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