

Ashland-Greenwood Bluejay Band

2006-2007 Handbook

Mr. Jonathan Jaworski, Director
1842 Furnas
Ashland, NE 68003
School Phone Number (402) 944-2114
Director e-mail – jjaworski@esu2.org
[http:// www.agps.org/Arts/InsMus/main.htm](http://www.agps.org/Arts/InsMus/main.htm)

The Ashland-Greenwood Bluejay Band, through public performances and effective rehearsals, instills a sense of accomplishment in each student. Students are taught musical skills, analytical problem solving, working within a team-oriented framework, and social skills including giving and responding to constructive criticism. In addition, the band provides a positive relationship between Ashland-Greenwood High School and the communities it serves.

I. Expectations

Expectation is a two-way street. The director has a right to expect certain behaviors and character traits from the students. Likewise, the students have the right to expect excellence from their director.

A. What Students can expect from the Director. Students have the right to expect continued excellence from the band director. The director will provide music and rehearsals designed to educate students, and he will bring his full effort and knowledge to each rehearsal. The director will be accessible to all students, and will work with students regardless of skill level.

B. What the Director expects from Students. By choosing to enroll in band, students agree that they desire to participate with a group of motivated individuals working together for the betterment of the organization. Behavior of band students should support the goals of learning about music, fostering a positive team-oriented environment, and strengthening the band organization.

II. Equipment

Each student is responsible for his or her own equipment. Students are expected to provide their own instrument, along with all necessary accessories (reeds, oils, etc.). Ashland-Greenwood High School has some instruments available for student use; however, students using these instruments need to fill out the proper paperwork and are responsible for their own accessories. All instruments should be kept in working order. Any instrument malfunction should be brought to the director's attention as soon as possible, either at the beginning or end of the next band period. Each student is expected to provide for himself a lyre and flip folder for his instrument.

III. Ensembles

The Ashland-Greenwood Senior High Band has a variety of ensembles geared to foster student understanding and enjoyment of music in its many varied forms. With the exception of and jazz band, students enrolled in band are required to participate in all ensembles.

A. Concert Band. The Concert Band is the focus of the instrumental program. A sound concert ensemble makes the other music ensembles successful. Concert Band meets from the conclusion of marching season in late October, through the end of the school year. All students wishing to participate in any of the high school ensembles must be enrolled in Concert Band. Concert Band meets Monday through Thursday during first period. Chair placements will be held shortly following Marching Band, although parts will be rotated through the sections.

B. Marching Band. The Marching Band adds visual effect to the concept of sound production stressed in Concert Band. Members will perform at all home football games and two competitions each year. Marching Band begins with band camp in August, and concludes with the NSBA State Competition in late October. Marching Band meets every day during first period, and before school three days each week.

C. Jazz Band. The Jazz Band meets before school two days each week beginning in November to prepare for a variety of performances. An audition is required prior to selection in the group.

D. Pep Band. The Pep Band performs and adds atmosphere to many home volleyball and basketball games. Students who are not dressed out for the varsity contest are expected to perform with the Pep Band.

E. Chamber Ensembles. Fridays during Concert Band will be used to rehearse as chamber ensembles. Each band student will be placed into an ensemble by the director. Rehearsals will be student led, with the director acting as a guide rather than instructor. Performance opportunities will be provided for all groups.

IV. Rehearsals

Due to the intricate nature of musical performance, it is essential that all rehearsals be nearly absence-free. Band members should be ready for rehearsal—instrument assembled, music and pencil out, in seat or formation—as soon following the tardy bell as possible. Though band will practice in a variety of settings during the year, where ever rehearsal is becomes the classroom and normal classroom rules apply. Students are expected to keep excess talking to a minimal level, follow the director's instructions quickly and efficiently, respect other students, and work together toward a successful band. Food, drink (with the exception of water), candy, and gum are not allowed, due to the damage that can be caused to instruments.

During marching season, the Marching Band will rehearse every school day during first period. In addition, each Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday morning band rehearsal will begin at 7:45. Earlier rehearsals, if needed, will be announced by the director in advance. Rehearsal will begin on the practice field unless otherwise announced. Due to its physical nature, marching band also requires a certain dress code. Shoes must be worn to each rehearsal—*no sandals!* Students should also realize that, during the course of marching season, the grass will be wet in the morning. We will go outside unless it is raining or snowing, so please plan accordingly.

Following Marching Band, the Jazz Band will take over the early rehearsal times on Tuesday and Friday mornings at 7:45.

V. Performances

The Ashland-Greenwood band is, at its core, an educational ensemble geared for performance. Therefore, student participation is expected at all performances. Any conflict with a scheduled performance should be brought to the director's attention as soon as is practical. Absences will be handled on a case-by-case basis, and extra assignments may be assigned as make-up work. Missing a performance without a valid reason will affect a student's grade in band.

A. Valid reasons to miss a performance include, but are not limited to, the following: family wedding, funeral, sickness (a doctor's note may be required), family vacation.

B. Invalid reasons to miss a performance include, but are not limited to, the following: working, babysitting, overslept, homework, spending time with friends, going on a date.

The band performance schedule is released as early in the year as is possible in order to avoid student conflicts. However, conflicts do arise, and most can be worked out once the director is made aware of the situation in advance.

Pep Band Performances. In a school of Ashland-Greenwood's size, it is unavoidable that students participate in multiple activities. Often, these activities conflict with pep band performances.

A. You are excused from a pep band performance if you are dressed out for varsity competition the night of the performance.

B. You are not excused from a pep band performance if you participated in junior varsity competition the night of the performance. Following your game, shower and join the band in a timely manner.

C. Cheerleaders and Dance Team members are expected to perform with the pep band at half-time of football games. During basketball and volleyball games when they are cheering or dancing, these band members are excused from pep band responsibility.

VI. Uniforms

Uniforms will be issued to each student early in the school year. The uniform will be stored at the school unless arrangements have been made with the director in advance. Each student is responsible for all parts of his uniform. Loss or damage to any of the uniform issued (coat, pants, hat, baldric, plume, gloves) will result in charges to the student to cover any replacement or repair cost. Ashland-Greenwood Schools will purchase uniform shoes for student use; any student who wishes to purchase their shoes from the school may do so. In order to prolong the life of our uniforms, plan to always wear athletic shorts and a t-shirt underneath the coat and pants.

When in uniform, the entire uniform is to be worn (exception—gloves and hats may be removed at director's instruction). Over-the-ankle black socks are part of the uniform, and should be worn at all times. While in uniform, only stud-type earrings should be worn and hair should not touch the coat collar. Nail polish should be avoided whenever fingertips will be exposed. The uniform will be worn for all home football games prior to NSBA Contest, District Music Contest, and for some concerts.

The uniform is to be treated with respect at all times. It should be remembered that students and parents worked for years in order to purchase the uniforms, and they should be treated accordingly. While wearing the uniform, you represent not only yourself, but also the band and Ashland-Greenwood High School itself; any action that reflects poorly on these organizations will not be tolerated. While in uniform, refrain from eating, drinking (other than water), swearing, or any activity that represents you, your band, and your school in a negative light.

VII. Grading

Band meets during the school day; therefore, band students will receive a grade based not only on their attitude and attendance, but also on academic work that is assigned. A quarterly grade has four components: Daily attendance, Major Performance Attendance, Minor Performance Attendance, and Academic Work.

A. Daily Work. Each student will receive one daily grade each week. Prior to rehearsal, the director will choose at random the names of students to receive a daily attendance grade that day. Students will not know who is getting graded on a given day. Daily grades are based on preparedness, attitude, and effort during class. If a student is absent when his name is chosen for a grade, another name will be chosen instead and the absent student will be graded upon returning to class (*7 points each / 33% of quarterly grade*).

B. Major Performance Attendance. Percentage of major performances (Marching Band and Concert Band) attended in a quarter. Each performance counts equally in a quarter, but may be weighed differently if the number of performances varies between quarters. Students with valid reasons for missing a major performance have the opportunity to earn credit for the performance through make-up assignments arranged in advance. Students who have an unexcused absence from a major performance will not be allowed to earn back any of the credit (*33% of quarterly grade*).

C. Pep Band Attendance. Percentage of pep band performances (Pep Band) attended in a quarter. Each performance is counts equally in a quarter, but may be weighed differently if the number of performances varies between quarters (*17% of quarterly grade*).

D. Academic Work. The final component of a quarterly grade is the average of any assignments given in band class during the course of a quarter. These assignments may include scale tests, playing tests, memorization checks, writing assessments, and any other music enrichment activity as assigned by the director (*17% of quarterly grade*).

VIII. Lettering

The Letter Award is given to students in all sports and activities who demonstrate their commitment and desire throughout the year or season. It is an honor that not all students achieve. However, the lettering requirements for band are designed so that all students have the opportunity to earn a letter.

To earn a Letter Award in band, you must:

1. Earn a passing grade for each semester of the school year.
2. Participate in all scheduled concerts unless non-participation is unavoidable and arrangements are made with the director to complete an alternate performance-based activity.
3. Participate in at least 85% of all pep band performance opportunities, unless non-attendance results from duties as a player or as a performing spirit squad member.
4. Finish the school year in good standing.
5. Do one of the following:
 - A. Complete the year as a member of the Leadership Team in good standing.
 - B. Perform a solo or as part of a small ensemble at District Music Contest.
 - C. Perform as a part of Jazz Band, with a maximum of 2 unexcused absences from rehearsal.
 - D. Audition for an honor band, and participate if selected.

IX. Schedule

The schedule below is as complete as it can be at the start of the school year. All band students, with the exceptions outlined above, are expected to attend all performances. Failure to do so will affect a student's grade. Changes in the schedule will be announced in band class as soon as they are made. For out of town performances, an itinerary will be sent home with students and posted on the band website. Dates listed in *italic type* are potential pep band performances. The number of these performances the band will attend varies with the success of our athletic teams. All times listed are event start times; student report times will be announced in class and posted on the website.

Schedule begins on next page.

- September** 1 Home FB vs. Syracuse – 7:00 p.m.
15 Homecoming FB vs. Bennington – 7:00 p.m.
- October** 6 Home FB vs. Douglas County West – 7:00 p.m.
7 Lincoln High Links Marching Competition
14 NMEA All-State auditions @ Elkhorn High School
19 Home FB vs. Boys Town – 7:00 p.m.
21 NSBA Marching Competition @ UN-Kearney
24 Fall Concert – 7:00 p.m.
26 *State FB Playoffs, first round*
- November** 1 *State FB Playoffs, second round*
2/3 *VB District Finals -- TBD*
6 *State FB Playoffs, Quarterfinals*
10-11 *State VB Tournament @ Lincoln – TBD*
11 *State FB Playoffs, Semifinals*
16-18 NMEA All-State @ Lincoln for selected students
18 *State FB Championship @ UN-Lincoln*
30 Home GBB v s. Raymond Central – 7:30 p.m.
- December** 16 Home BBB vs. Bennington – app. 7:30 p.m.
19 Holiday Concert – 7:00 p.m.
- January** 4 Home GBB and BBB vs. Elmwood-Murdock – TBD
12 Home BBB vs. Raymond Central – 7:30 p.m.
18 Home GBB vs. Syracuse – 7:30 p.m.
22 UN-Kearney Honor Band for selected students
22 *GBB Conference Tournament first round – 7:00 p.m. (Only if AGHS hosts game).*
23 *BBB Conference Tournament first round – 7:00 p.m. (Only if AGHS hosts game)*
26-27 UN-Omaha Honor Band for selected students
- February** 1 Home GBB vs. Blair – 7:30 p.m.
10 Home GBB and BBB vs. Wahoo – TBD
15 Home BBB vs. Malcolm – 7:30 p.m.
23 *GBB District Finals– TBD*
26 *BBB District Finals -- TBD*
- March** 1-3 *GBB State Tournament @ Lincoln – TBD*
8-10 *BBB State Tournament @ Lincoln – TBD*
12 Winter Concert– 7:00 p.m.
17 NSBA Class B All-State Honor Band @ UN-Omaha
- April** 20-21 District Music Contest– TBD
- May** 1 Spring Concert– 7:00 p.m.
5 Downtown Square Concert – Late Morning
12 Commencement – 2:30
28 Memorial Day Parade and Exercises – Morning

X. Membership Contract (return to Mr. Jaworski by Monday, August 21)

I (first and last name) _____ hereby affirm that I have read and thoroughly understand the Ashland-Greenwood Public Schools band handbook. I further affirm that I will abide by the rules, regulations, and intent of said handbook, and understand the penalties for not doing so. I understand that an unexcused absence from a performance will seriously affect my grade in band. I have had all questions concerning the content of this handbook answered and will do my best to live up to the intent of this contract.

Student's signature _____ Date _____

I/We have read the Ashland-Greenwood Public Schools band handbook and have discussed it with my/our child. I/We will do our best to encourage him/her to abide by the rules and regulations of the band as expressed in the band handbook.

Parent/guardian signature _____ Date _____

Parent/guardian signature _____ Date _____