

Honour Band Handbook



**ONOWAY
JUNIOR/SENIOR
HIGH SCHOOL**

EMPOWERING LEARNERS

2022/2023 SEASON

...Keeping the Music Alive in our Community!...

Onoway High School Honour Band

Band Handbook & Expectations

Ms. E. Neufeld

Dear Parents and Band Members,

Congratulations on being accepted into the 2022/2023 Honour Band and becoming part of another season of musical learning, fun, and achievement in this talented ensemble! The band promises to be exciting, challenging, and rewarding experience! In order to successfully achieve these three goals it is imperative that each and every member contributes to their highest ability and possess the true “team spirit” of the group. Remember: “*Nothing worth having comes easy*”. We must all work hard and work together to uphold our history of fine musicianship and excellence.

Who we are:

Whether you know this or not, you have been accepted into one of the most talented and hard-working teams in Alberta! The Honour Band is a group of extremely dedicated and passionate musicians who are all focused on the same set of goals. To continue to be a part of the Honour Band you will need to try hard, practice lots, and perform with professionalism and confidence at all times.

What we do:

The Honour Band is given many performance opportunities from playing at the Winter Concert to playing at local and provincial adjudicated festivals. The band travels each year and frequently experiences master classes with professional musicians and guest conductors. When we are not travelling or performing, we are preparing, practicing, and rehearsing. Musicians in this group know that it takes lots of practice and focus to move forward as a team.

When we rehearse:

The Honour Band rehearses **Thursday mornings at 7:15am SHARP**. Plan to arrive at the school by 7:00am to give your-self enough time to set up and warm up. Ms. Neufeld may schedule extra sectional rehearsals on Mon/Tues/or Wed lunch hours if need be. Notice will be given in those circumstances.

What we rehearse:

Rehearsals could include a warm up, tuning session, sight-reading, and playing of music selections for festivals, performances, and events. The music played in Honour Band is at a higher level than the music played in grade 8/9 band. It is more challenging, more interesting and therefore more exciting to play! Music will vary depending on upcoming events.

What we wear:

The Honour Band performs in black socks/stockings, black DRESS shoes, black DRESS pants (no jeans or leggings), and a black LONG SLEEVED collared shirt, or a crew-neck long sleeved shirt. Similarly to a sports team, we would like to positively represent our school, appear as one united team, and show the community who we are. For those reasons, failure to appear with the specified uniform may result in a student being pulled from a performance, so please be sure to dress your best!

What we expect from you:

The Honour Band is a hardworking group of students who maintain their high level of discipline and musicianship by abiding by the following expectations:

1. **Attendance is mandatory**, and extremely important. **Do not be late.** Similar to a football team missing their quarterback, it is difficult to rehearse when the Soloist isn't there. We are only as strong as our least dedicated member, so do your part and be 100% dedicated. Each member of the Honour Band team is valuable and important - Remember, that's why you're here! In the event that you are unable to attend a rehearsal, please follow these steps:
 - a) Have your parent notify Ms. Neufeld ASAP via email or phone call to verify your absence.
 - b) Let your section leader know.
 - c) Catch up on what you missed – talk to your section leader and Ms. Neufeld or other members in your section.

If your reason for missing rehearsal is excusable and verified, you will catch up on what you missed. If you accumulate absences that are non-excusable and were not verified your future position in the Honour Band will be discussed with Ms. Neufeld. Students will be dealt with accordingly based on individual circumstances. Remember, 99% of absences can be avoided if proper planning happens beforehand.

Excusable Reasons:	Non-Excusable Reasons:
<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Doctor/dentist appointment- School field trip- Family Vacation- Verified sick/ill	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Sleeping in- Not having a ride- Not knowing it was your morning- Needed to finish homework/study

2. **Excellent Rehearsal Etiquette is expected at ALL times.** Listen and Concentrate on how your part fits in with the music. Many times your part will appear in another section's part. While Ms. Neufeld is working with another section, look at your music to see where you have that part too. This will save us countless hours of rehearsal time. ***There are times for fun, and times for serious concentration. The best musicians are able to toggle easily between both, and know when it is appropriate to do so.***

3. **Performances are mandatory**, and extremely important. A goalie who only shows up to practice and does not attend the games cannot help the team win games. In addition, performances are an entirely different experience from rehearsal and are an integral part to your growth as a musician and person. Plus, they are fun!

Performances each season are not limited to, but include the following:

- a) Remembrance Day Ceremony for OHS (during school hours)
- b) Remembrance Day Ceremony for Onoway & Community (November 11th)
- c) Winter Concert (December)
- d) Alberta International Band Festival in Edmonton (March)
- e) Annual Coffee House Fundraiser @ OHS (April)
- f) Music Monday Performance (May)
- g) Festival Tour Performances (April/May)
- h) Spring Concert (June)

4. **Practicing/preparation** requires hard work and discipline. If you didn't know already, developing a practicing routine is the easiest and most effective way to practice at home. Having a practice schedule allows your body and mind to prepare for practicing and will often result in a more productive practice session. Being prepared for rehearsal includes the following:

- a) Arriving on-time with instrument, music, supplies, pencil
- b) Arriving with your music learned (you know the notes, rhythms, and dynamics)
- c) Sleeping well the night before to ensure that your brain is ready for the morning.

5. **The Leadership Team:** Each section will have a leader. If you do not hold one of these positions, **your job is to follow and support your section leader**. Section leaders have experience and knowledge to share that is tremendously valuable. Regardless of how much you may like/unlike your section leader, it is important that you follow them. They have been chosen for good reasons and are working very hard to continuously make our band better. In addition, the section leaders are an extension of Ms. Neufeld. Often times they are used to pass information down from the director to the band in a more efficient manner.

6. **Class Band** - In order to be in the Honour Band, a student must be in their grade appropriate class band. The reason for this is so that the ability of the band stays at a high level. Class Band is designed to give you a well-rounded knowledge of music education, while the Honour Band is designed for performance. Lessons and skills are taught and developed in class, and then further applied in the Honour Band. **Exceptions will be made on a case by case basis.**

7. **Laugh and have fun...OFTEN!** We will joke often, laugh often, and shed tears of joy once in a while. Your experiences in this group will be entirely unique and special in so many ways. Your hard work and effort will pay off in ways you will not notice for years to come. ***It is my promise to you that I will do everything in my power to ensure growth, success, leadership, and fun within this dynamic group. Return that promise, and we will be unstoppable!***

If members or parents have any questions regarding the Honour Band expectations, please do not hesitate to call me @ 780 967 2271 and I will gladly discuss them with you.

Teacher References:

Each HB member is required to submit the teacher references form at the end of this handbook. Since being involved in the group will mean missing some school, it is important that all students have their teachers' approval prior to joining. Students must ensure that academics come first and that they are keeping up in their classes. Failure to do so could result in the member being removed from trips and performances until caught up.

Awards:

The Honour Band recognizes the achievements of musicians through a variety of annual awards:

- **Perfect Attendance Award** – awarded to those who attend every rehearsal and performance for the entirety of the year. Members who receive this award may be late no more than 3 times to achieve this award.
- **Leadership Award** – This award is presented to a senior member of the Honour Band who, through dedication, provides the leadership that enables the band or a section of the band, to better reach its full potential.
- **Musicianship Award** - This award is presented annually to a senior member of the Honour Band who displays the highest level of musical and technical finesse on their instrument. Through their excellence in musical interpretation and performance the whole ensemble is brought to a higher level.
- **Junior High Most Improved Award** – (for the whole band program) donated by Joe and Joyce Saumer. This award is given annually to one grade 8 and one grade 9 student who has displayed the strongest efforts to improve throughout the year, and who has risen to a higher level of playing ability and confidence as a result.

Concert Master:

Responsible, under the guidance of the Director, for the coordination of the band as a “concert” unit. This includes coordination of Section Leader duties as pertaining to general musicianship. Specific duties to include:

- Lead warm-up and rehearsal activities as required and assigned.
- Ensuring, through example, that all members are competent in matters pertaining to the band's image on and off of the concert stage.

- Prepare and direct the band on an assigned piece of music as requested by the Director. Perform this piece at the Year End Final Concert.
- Prepare an assigned section of the band, or the entire band, for performance or rehearsal.
- Conduct the band in rehearsal and concert situations as requested by the Director.
- Hand out, photocopy, and keep track of all sheet music.

Cost:

It takes a great deal of money each year to support the Honour Band in all of its musically enriching endeavors. To help accomplish our goals, the school has instituted a **\$90.00 Honour Band Fee**. This fee is in addition to their class band fee (\$40.00) for a total of \$130.00 if your child is in both Class Band AND Honour Band. All monies generated through the Honour Band membership fees will go directly towards costs incurred by the band. Payment of all band fees should go directly to the office. Thank you in advance for your attention to this financial commitment!

O.M.P.A:

The Onoway Music Parents Association (OMPA) is a legal association consisting of ALL active Band Parents at Onoway High School. This includes Honour Band, Chamber Ensemble and Class Band Parents. By enrolling your child in band, you are automatically a member of this group. **Parents are always needed to help out either with executive rolls, or by volunteering your time.** Executive positions include:

- President
- Vice President
- Treasurer
- Secretary
- Public Relations
- Volunteer Coordinator
- Member at Large

Executive position holders must be able to attend ALL meetings. The OMPA helps serve the OHS Band Program in numerous ways including the following:

- Raise funds for new instruments & other equipment
- Reduce the cost of band trips and festivals
- Band trip supervision
- Run the Annual Coffee House
- Public Relations & Advertising of our events
- Bottle Drives
- Volunteer their time at numerous band events

\$100.00 Volunteer Deposit:

Each Band family is required to submit a \$100.00 Post-Dated cheque made out to "OMPA". Recently implemented, the \$100 volunteer deposit is designed to encourage more parents to help volunteer throughout the school year, thus spreading the workload out evenly among all band parents. Each parent is required to fulfill their volunteer hours. Once fulfilled, your cheque will be returned to you, or shredded. If the volunteer hours are not fulfilled by the end of the school year, the cheque will be deposited and used towards the band program.

The dates of OMPA meetings will be advertised throughout the year. Parents of students in band are ***STRONGLY encouraged*** to attend these meetings in order to have input into your child's music education, help make financial decisions for the betterment of the band, and assist in fundraising activities to reduce trip costs for your child. With the vibrant support of this group of parents, our band will be able to carry out our musical goals!

Trips:

Each year the Honour Band works hard to showcase our work at provincial or national festivals. These festivals take place all over Alberta and Canada. Each festival performance is a wonderful opportunity for students to grow further as a performer, musician, and teammate. All festivals we attend are designed for school-aged students and are geared towards enhancing their musical education. Past trips have taken this group to destinations as close as Red Deer, and as far away as Seattle, Toronto or Ottawa. As expected, each trip comes at a cost. Cost of the trip will always depend on the Festival and the Destination. Costs generally range between \$500 - \$1500. The OMPA works very hard to reduce the cost of these trips for all band students, however members are encouraged to work and find odd jobs throughout the year to help pay for their trip. Please feel free to contact me with any concerns regarding travel you may have: 780 967 2271.

Membership Contract:

Please carefully fill out and return the attached contract (keeping this booklet for future reference). No student will be officially considered an Honour Band Member until the following contract has been **completed and returned to Ms. Neufeld.** Thank you in advance for your cooperation in meeting this deadline.

Sincerely,

Ms. Neufeld
OJSH Band Director

-----Return by Thursday October 5thth, 2017 -----
(Don't forget! – your \$90.00 HB fee is due at the same time!)

This is to verify that I _____ Parent/Guardian of _____ have read and understood (**and also ensure that my son/daughter has read and understood**) the contents of the above document explaining the expectations and attendance policy for all Honour Band members.

For General Music 10/20/30 Students & Parents:

I _____ Parent/Guardian of _____ also understand that failure to adhere to these expectations when enrolled in "General Music 10/20/30" will result in your son/daughter being withdrawn from the course and no credit shall be earned on their report card. *Senior High students are encouraged to VERY CAREFULLY read the course outline for General Music 10/20/30 and ensure that they are able to commit to all aspects of the course in order to earn credit.*

By signing this contract and becoming an Honour Band Member, **ALL** members are committing to participate in **ALL** rehearsals and **ALL** performances. Here goes another outstanding year as one of the top Alberta Bands!

Student Name (printed) : _____

Student's Signature: _____ Date: _____

Parent Name(s): _____

Parent's Signature: _____ Date: _____

Parent Email _____ (*Mandatory*)

Onoway High School Honour Band Teacher References

Full Name: _____

Grade: _____

Members: Please speak to your teachers about joining the Honour Band. It is your responsibility to advise them of your absences for band and make a commitment to stay caught up in class. You must receive 2 CORE TEACHER references in order to complete your Honour Band enrollment.

Teachers: Please sign to give your consent for this students' involvement in Honour Band. If there are any concerns, please list them here or email me directly. Thank you in advance!

CORE Teacher Reference #1

Teacher Name: _____ Subject: _____

Comments: _____

CORE Teacher Reference #2

Teacher Name: _____ Subject: _____

Comments: _____
