



## St. Charles East High School Band Handbook

Welcome to the band program at St. Charles East High School! We are very fortunate to have great students to work with each day, along with committed and active parents, making our program one to be proud of. We are lucky to have the resources to bring great guest artists, conductors, soloists and composers out to perform along with our students. The 2009/2010 school year promises more of the same, with wonderful activities and opportunities for our students. By working together, parents, students and teachers, we will help make this year a wonderful one.

The St. Charles East Band Program has achieved an enviable record of performances and has earned accolades and awards throughout its history. The band has traveled to perform at Walt Disney World eight times with the next trip planned for June, 2011. The Wind Ensemble has performed two clinics at the Illinois Music Educators State Conference, performed in Carnegie Hall in 2006, traveled to China in 2007 on an eleven day, four concert tour and performed a clinic for teachers at the 2007 Midwest Clinic in Chicago. The Jazz Workshop has performed at the Illinois Music Educators State Conference, the International Association of Jazz Educators Regional Convention, the Midwest International Band and Orchestra Clinic and three times as a finalist at Jazz at Lincoln Center's Essentially Ellington Competition and Festival. The Jazz Workshop also performed in China in 2007. Our freshmen concert and symphonic bands welcomed guest soloist Andrew Miller last spring while the wind ensemble hosted composer Steven Bryant. We are also excited that this school year brings the debut of a new concert group, the wind symphony, created to give our students even more musical opportunities. No matter what group your high school student is participating in, they will have a wonderful experience.

We have hosted the marching bands from the University of Wisconsin and the Ohio State University and the wind ensembles from Illinois Wesleyan University, Indiana University, and Wheaton College. Our marching band has also performed with Jim Peterik of the Ides of March and Survivor, playing his great hit "Vehicle". We have hosted guest composers Stephen Melillo, Timothy Broege and Jonathan Newman, with each member of the band program getting an opportunity to perform with them. Our Wind Ensemble has also performed with composers Steven Bryant and John Mackey as well as guest cornet soloist Susan Rider of "The President's Own" United States Marine Corp Band.

Our jazz bands have featured concerts with wonderful local and nationally renowned guest artists. The list is quite impressive:

Saxophone: Mark Colby, Mike Lee, David Bixler, Kevin Flanigan, Mike Bazan, Loren Schoenberg and Wess "Warmdaddy" Anderson.

Trombone: Jeff Childs, Steve Horne, Tom Garling and Morgan Powell.

Trumpet: Tom Tallman, Mark Hoffman, Jim Seeley, Mike Steinel, Ray Sasaki, Bob Lark and Marcus Printup.

Bass: Dan Anderson

Guitar: Rick Haydon and Jim Bonney.

Drums: Chris Cash, Dave Mancini, Bill French and Herlin Riley.

Piano: Mike Kocour, Reggie Thomas and Vince Maggio.

Our band program is structured around our concert groups as the core groups of the program. We have two Concert Bands made up of 9<sup>th</sup> graders, two Symphonic Bands made up of 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> graders, the Wind Symphony, an audition group made up of 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> graders, and the Wind Ensemble, our premier auditioned group, which is made up of 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> graders. These groups combine in the first quarter to make up the Marching Band, which performs at all home football games, the Homecoming Parade, and three St. Charles Parades, the Christmas, St. Patrick's Day and Memorial Day parades. This large group is also split into two pep bands to perform at selected girls and boys basketball games.

We also have two jazz bands that meet every day during the school day. All wind and percussion students must also be members of the concert bands. We have one mixed level jazz band, and the Jazz Workshop, the top group, which is made up of 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> graders, with membership by audition only.

It is our goal to make each one of our performing groups the best it can possibly be. It is important that each group, on its own, represents our program in the best possible fashion. If someone only hears our band at a basketball game, we want that person to come away with a favorable impression, as it might be the only representation of our program they get.

There is room in our program for all interested students. We serve a wide-ranging clientele, with students involved for many different reasons, from social to musical. This diversity of students is both our greatest strength and greatest liability. It is up to every student to take the responsibility of being in the group seriously enough that they give their best effort at each and every rehearsal and performance. If students desire a truly outstanding musical experience, auditioning into our top groups should be a goal of theirs. Audition material for these groups will be posted in late October, with auditions occurring during first semester exams. Private lessons are definitely encouraged for those students, and we have a list of wonderful teachers we can recommend. Students will not be able to cram for these auditions, as the material is difficult as to better ascertain not only the student's ability, but also more importantly, their work ethic.

### **Classroom Expectations**

Students should be in their places with all necessary equipment two minutes after the bell, with the exception of first hour, where they should be ready at the bell.

Students will be given locker assignments. Most flute, clarinet and percussion players can share a locker, with everybody else given their own locker. These lockers are for musical material only—books should be kept in student's hall lockers. It is the students' responsibility to keep the instrument room and lockers free from trash.

Food and drink are allowed in the rehearsal rooms only at the director's discretion. Please dispose of all litter in the garbage cans provided.

All acts of vandalism or the willful misuse of school property will be dealt with severely and appropriately. We all need to be respectful of personal and school property, and always act in a mature fashion.

Practice and ensemble rooms are used for practicing, not social gatherings or homework. Students may be issued passes to the practice rooms out of study halls, but will have this privilege revoked if they do not practice when excused from study hall.

### **School Equipment and Instrument Repair**

Proper care and maintenance of school and personal equipment is vital to the success of the band program. All equipment must be kept in good repair so that proper individual as well as group progress is achieved. Please do

not take personal instruments to be repaired at an establishment that will not give you a loaner to be used. Check with the directors if you need help finding a competent repair person.

Any damage incurred to a school instrument must be reported IMMEDIATELY to the directors. All students that use a school instrument will have a specific instrument assigned to them. **NEVER ALLOW ANOTHER PERSON TO PLAY ON YOUR INSTRUMENT, AS YOU WILL BE HELD RESPONSIBLE FOR ANY DAMAGE!**

In order to maintain our equipment, we charge a rental fee of \$55 for woodwind and brass players using school-owned instruments and \$30 for all percussionists. There will be a form sent home in the September, which is also available on our website, [www.stcebands.com](http://www.stcebands.com). As we realize that everyone has already spent a great deal of money on school, it will be due in October, with the specific date given in the September newsletter.

### **Uniform Guidelines**

Students check out their individual uniform before performances and check them in again at the conclusion. Uniforms need to be hung neatly on the hanger when turned back in, and all parent volunteers are to be treated with the utmost respect. **THERE IS TO BE NO EATING WHILE IN UNIFORM. A \$25.00 dry cleaning fee will be charged directly to parents for damaged or stained marching band uniforms.** The only allowed drink is water—EAT BEFORE FOOTBALL GAMES!

The black marching band T-Shirt is to be worn underneath the uniform. Students are responsible for providing black socks and black shoes. The shoes need to be ALL BLACK-no stripes or any other color on the shoe, including the sole, is allowed.

Concert dress is black bottoms and white tops. Gentlemen need to wear a tie, black shoes and socks and ladies need to wear blouses with a collar and sleeves. Skirts should extend below the knee when standing. Sandals or flip-flops are not proper footwear.

### **Grading**

Attendance- Attendance is expected at all performances and at all pre-scheduled rehearsals. The only acceptable excuses are personal illness, death in the family, or family emergency.

Excuses for pre-arranged absences and tardiness should be submitted in writing with a parent signature. Please review the calendar for conflicts, and please use these dates when preparing your family calendar. It is essential that all members are present for performances. We do not have a “bench” to put in! All members participate always. We will never excuse work or job related activities, and the directors will use their discretion when excusing other activities.

Performances are an integral part of the band program and are factored into the student’s grade. By choosing to participate in band the student has committed to both rehearsals as well as all required performances. The required performances for each group can be found on the Band Calendar at the end of the handbook. Any missed performance will need to be made up by playing the concert music for the teacher as well as writing a three page paper on a topic selected by the student from the topic list provided by the teacher. The paper must be turned in within five school days of the missed performance and the music must be performed within three school days of the missed performance.

### **Communication**

We will e-mail information home weekly. Please take the time to read these to keep up with the latest information. Our band website is [www.stceastbands.com](http://www.stceastbands.com). Many thanks to super parent Sue Doeblner for her help

on this project, and we look forward to being able to use this site for communication as well. We are committed to keeping you informed and up to date. The website and director's e-mail will also be available from the East High School website. The band office phone number is 630/377-4797.

### **Band Boosters**

Please take the time to be involved in our booster organization. We truly cannot function as an organization without their help financially and through the myriad of volunteer positions they staff. A great variety of fundraising projects are planned that will help us purchase some needed instruments, provide guest artists and conductors, and commission music for our groups to play.

In conclusion, we are honored you have chosen to participate in our program. We look forward to a wonderful year!