

**ANCHOR BAY HIGH SCHOOL
INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC DEPARTMENT**

***2026-2027
HANDBOOK***



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ABHS INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC PROGRAM HANDBOOK

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ABHS INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC PROGRAM HANDBOOK

Introduction

Welcome! We are happy to have you as a member of the Anchor Bay High School Instrumental Music Program. The instrumental music program here has many strong traditions and fond memories from past years, performances, and trips. The staff hopes that you will also accumulate many fond memories in your years with us. Many of our Anchor Bay Band Alumni look back on their times in the program as some of the best times of their high school careers.

The Anchor Bay Instrumental Music Program is well known in our community, and state, for fine performances and student behavior. It is our goal to commit ourselves in maintaining this respected image of our band, school, and community.

Administration, Instructional Staff, and Student Leaders

Mr. Mike Mackenzie, ABHS Principal

Mr. Jonathan Carrothers, ABHS Instrumental Music Director

Mr. Daniel Fenton, ABHS Instrumental Music Director

Warren Daughtry, Marching Band Senior Drum Major

Mackenzie Vietto, Marching Band Senior Drum Major

Alyssa Williams, Marching Band Senior Drum Major

Abigail Marleau, Marching Band Junior Field Commander

Maxwell Slivensky, Marching Band Junior Field Commander

John Stein, Marching Band Junior Field Commander

Exit Outcomes and Philosophy of the Program

Through the study, rehearsal, and performance of music, our students will demonstrate that they are:

Creative Problem Solvers who think critically and can make decisions, through artistic modes, in situations where there are no standard answers.

Culturally Aware Citizens who have a sense of history and an appreciation of the fine arts through multi-cultural experiences.

Service-Oriented Leaders who have a strong interest in self-development, life-long learning, elevating those who they come in contact with, and a commitment to excellence in citizenship.

Collaborative Workers who are confident, receptive to others ideas, and utilize peer input to develop interpersonal relationships within the framework of their setting.

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Ensemble Opportunities and Responsibilities

Cadet Band

The Cadet Band is a full year course designed for developing woodwind players to help develop overall technique and musicianship and will periodically rehearse and perform with the Concert Band. A wide variety of music and styles will be addressed. Participation in the Cadet Band will result in mandatory performances and rehearsals, including Winter and Spring concerts, pre-festival concerts, and participation at the District 16 MSBOA Band Festival.

Concert Band

The Concert Band is a full year course designed for developing brass and percussion players to help develop overall technique and musicianship and will periodically rehearse and perform with the Cadet Band. A wide variety of music and styles will be addressed. Participation in the Concert Band will result in mandatory performances and rehearsals, including Winter and Spring concerts, pre-festival concerts, and participation at the District 16 MSBOA Band Festival.

9th Grade Symphonic Band

The 9th Grade Symphonic Band is a full year course designed for the advanced 9th grade instrumentalist. Comprised of woodwinds, brass, and percussion, the members of the 9th Grade Symphonic Band will be selected through an audition process or teacher recommendation. This band rehearses and performs a wide variety of music and styles. Participation in the 9th Grade Symphonic Band will result in mandatory performances and rehearsals, including Winter and Spring concerts, pre-festival concerts, Graduation, and participation at the District 16 MSBOA Band Festival.

Symphonic Band

The Symphonic Band is an intermediate ensemble, and a full year course. Comprised of woodwinds, brass and percussion, members of the Symphonic Band will be selected through an audition process or teacher recommendation. This band may be scheduled into separate hours, yet will combine in performance. This class performs a wide variety of music and styles. Participation in the Symphonic Band will result in mandatory performances and rehearsals after school, including Winter and Spring concerts, pre-festival concerts, Graduation, and participation at the District 16 MSBOA Band Festival.

Wind Ensemble

The Wind Ensemble is an advanced ensemble, and a full year course. Comprised of woodwinds, brass, and percussion, members of the Wind Ensemble are selected through a successful audition. This band rehearses and performs various styles of music such as classical, pop, marches, jazz, contemporary, etc. The music that is rehearsed and performed is at a greater difficulty level, and thus, requires that its members be more dedicated while displaying a higher level of technical ability. Participation in the Wind Ensemble will result in mandatory performances and rehearsals, including Winter and Spring concerts, pre-festival concerts, Graduation, and participation at the District 16 MSBOA Band Festival.

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Jazz Ensemble

The Jazz Ensemble is an advanced ensemble that selects its members through an audition process, and meets for the entire year. This ensemble is made up of trumpets, trombones, saxophones, and a rhythm section (guitar, piano, bass, and drum-set). The band focuses on rehearsing and performing the various styles of jazz, R & B, swing, rock, fusion, etc. Time is also spent in the development and implementing of improvisation skills, along with the basic knowledge of music theory. During the musical, it will be required of some for the members to help to form the pit orchestra. The Jazz Ensemble performs in the community as well as at the CMU Jazz Weekend, at MSBOA Jazz Festival, at winter and spring concerts, and other possible gigs. Obligations to this class include after-school performances and rehearsals. Students interested in taking Jazz Ensemble must plan their schedule accordingly to create room for an extra elective outside of the Michigan Merit Curriculum. One option to free-up schedule space is by taking required courses online, at a community college, or night school. This is not necessary, but will provide students taking two band classes with more course choices during their high school career.

Marching Band

The Marching Band is a musical marching unit that meets as a 7th hour class during the first trimester of the school year. The prerequisite for the Marching Band class is concurrent concert band or jazz ensemble study during hours one through six. The ensemble consists of woodwinds, brass, percussion, and a color guard. Membership requires total dedication and maximum effort in all aspects of marching, playing, rehearsal, and performance. Failure to meet these requirements or disciplinary issues can result in a dismissal from the ensemble.

The Marching Band provides entertainment at home football games, local parades and events, and at the District 16 MSBOA Marching Band Festival held in early October. The class meets mid-August through mid-October in after school and evening rehearsals. The color guard and percussion sections may be expected to rehearse once every week in addition to the scheduled class meetings. Participation in the Marching Band will result in mandatory attendance at all rehearsals and performances, including the parades and band camps during the spring and summer.

Chamber and Other Ensembles

These ensembles are all student-run groups, and include: Jazz Combos, Pep Bands, Woodwind Quintets, Brass Ensembles, Saxophone Quartets, and all Solo and Ensemble events. Groups that fit into this category are excellent ways to become more involved with the overall program while also having fun and improving on your own musical ability. These groups sometimes get called upon to perform at various community events and festivals. Because these ensembles are student-run, the responsibility of the ensemble (i.e. - transportation to performances) falls solely on the members of the ensemble.

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Grading, Evaluation, & Audition Information

Grading & Evaluation Criteria

The grading for the Instrumental Music classes at Anchor Bay High School will be broken down into the following categories (percentages vary depending on the trimester):

1) **Daily Participation (Rehearsal Etiquette):**

- ☐ Being prepared with your music, instrument, reeds, etc.
- ☐ Arriving to class on time and immediately getting your instrument out to begin warming up.
- ☐ Acting appropriately during rehearsals. This includes not talking or playing out of turn, spitting out gum before rehearsal, respecting others and equipment, etc.

2) **Homework (Musicianship):**

- ☐ Always having your part learned for class.
- ☐ Playing all quizzes with minimal to no mistakes.
- ☐ Participating at all sectionals during school and after school.
- ☐ Participating at all rehearsals/sectionals that are held in addition to regular class meetings.
- ☐ Completing all handout/evaluation sheets.

3) **Performances:**

- ☐ Participating in all concerts and performances.
- ☐ Arriving to the performance at the stated call time.
- ☐ Wearing the proper attire required for that performance.
- ☐ Being prepared with the music, instrument, reeds, etc.
- ☐ Playing your part to the best of your ability.

NOTE - If you are absent from a performance due to an unexcused reason, you are in jeopardy of receiving a failing grade. Instrumental music is a performance-based class, and will be graded as such. Thus, the performance category is weighted much heavier than the other two categories. (see Attendance Policy). Cell Phones are prohibited in accordance with school district policy.

Ensemble Placement Information

Placement for the various ensembles generally takes place in March/April and information is provided to the students as to when, where, and what is required for the assessment. The process usually consists of a one-on-one performance with one of the directors or an MSBOA professional. All students must complete a Spring Assessment for individualized instruction and independent ability-based improvement. We meet the students where they are at! Major scales and etudes will be evaluated with emphasis on tone production, rhythm accuracy, and major scale knowledge. It is also wise to remember that every day in rehearsal is an audition for placement. In some cases where scores are tied, directors may take into consideration classroom behavior, motivations, and participation. Thus, each student is evaluated from the first day of school as to their preparedness of performance and concert music, their attentiveness, and their willingness to work positively in the rehearsal environment.

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Band Member Responsibilities

Attendance Policy

The unique nature of the band class has, as part of the curriculum, performances outside of the scheduled school day. The success of our organization and ensembles depends directly upon the full and complete participation of all of its members. Calendars are provided at the start of each school year. These are updated and available on the website and in the classrooms. The performance expectations of the ensemble are outlined in the course description published prior to course selections and the band handbook as a reminder at the start of the year. It is reasonably expected that with this notice, as a member of the Anchor Bay Bands, you will attend every rehearsal and performance. Please do not schedule avoidable conflicts with rehearsals or performances. These include driver training, job commitments, family vacations, baby-sitting, doctor and dentist appointments, senior pictures, etc. Band is an academic class and is graded. Attendance will be taken at every rehearsal and performance. There is nothing that can truly replace the absence of a performance. **To begin the potential make-up process, a parent must contact the band director at least two weeks before the requested rehearsal or four weeks before the requested performance detailing the situation, and the student must see the band director for the details of the make-up assignment.**

School-Related Conflicts:

It is expected that students who choose to participate in several activities or classes that have an "after-school" practice/performance component will make every effort to completely fulfill their obligation to each group. In many cases, splitting time fairly between the two simultaneous activities is the best compromise. Graded academic activities, such as performances within the arts, must take precedence over non-graded extra-curricular activities.

School-Related Athletics:

Performances/games take precedence over practices/rehearsals. The student and/or parents should resolve practice conflicts by giving advanced notification to that student's coach. If possible, the director will make special arrangements to limit the amount of practice time missed.

Performance/game conflicts should be resolved with full understanding and cooperation of all involved including complete and open communication between the students, teachers, parents, and coaches. Students can only be excused if they will be participating in the sporting event's game. If possible, arrangements may be made to split time between the two events.

Because our calendar is available from the beginning of the year, it is expected that students check their schedule against the band schedule. **Any conflicts should be addressed at the beginning of a sport's/activity's season.** All conflicts must be worked out no fewer than at least two weeks before the requested rehearsal or four weeks before the requested performance. This will allow coaches and directors to make the necessary adjustments to their ensemble or team. **The sooner conflicts are communicated, the better!**

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Attendance Policy (cont.)

Emergencies/Illness:

If you suddenly miss a rehearsal or performance due to an emergency or illness, **a parent must attempt to contact the director within 24 hours of the missed event.** This is still required if the student has been excused from school during the day.

Make-Up Work:

Upon the notice of an excused absence, an assignment will be given to earn the points lost while missing the performance. The assignment due date will be determined by the director and will be completed before the end of the marking period that contained the missed performance. The director reserves the right to deny make-up work to a student who does not provide four weeks or more notice for missing a performance. Partial credit may also be given for situations that arise within the four-week window. For emergency absences, the student is held responsible for the missed performance and should arrange to get the make up assignment with-in five days of the performance. It is the student's responsibility to arrange for and complete the required assignment. Failure to complete the assignment within the time frame allotted will result in a "0" (zero) entered into the grade book for that performance.

Uniform Wear, Care, and Cleaning

Our band uniforms are very expensive and must be treated accordingly. This applies to all parts of the uniform, including accessories. Always hang up your uniform, whether at home or at school. Never leave your concert uniform at school. Your uniform will be clean when you receive it. It is your responsibility to keep your uniform ready for inspection at any time. If you get your uniform dirty, it is your duty to have it cleaned. You will be held responsible for any damage that is done to the uniform you check out. Don't make switches! Wear the band uniform with pride, and wear it completely. This means never wear the uniform for a performance with the coat unbuttoned, or parts missing. When you wear your uniform, remember that you are representing our school, our band, and our community. **It is expected that you will act accordingly.**

Code of Conduct

Each band member is a representative of our school and our community. Our code of conduct applies to all band activities, in or out of uniform, at school, in our community and out of town. We and your parents expect you to act in an appropriate manner, including appearance, behavior, and language. Band members should be considerate of other organizations, students, staff, and chaperones. Please show respect for other people's property. Individual problems will be dealt with in accordance to the severity of the situation. This includes being sent home, at your expense, if we are out of town. Of course, alcoholic beverages, smoking, vaping, and illegal drugs are absolutely prohibited. Simply remember that all school rules are in effect at any band function and use common sense.

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Practice Requirements

We do not require practice sheets for grades 9-12. However, it is imperative that you maintain a consistent level of practice. A minimum of two hours per week is recommended to promote individual growth. This is important from the standpoint of being at your very best. Everyone has a crucial role and part within the ensemble, so PRACTICE, PRACTICE, PRACTICE!!!

Instrument Care

It is the student's responsibility to take care of their instrument and keep it in good working order. This applies to school owned and individually owned instruments. If you need repairs, it is up to you to see the director as soon as possible. If the director cannot fix the problem, it will be the responsibility of the students, and or parents, to take the instrument to the repair shop. Please take care of all repairs well in advance of any performances we might have. It is recommended that you take your instrumental music needs to either of the following places:

Ardis Music, 49 N Walnut, Mt Clemens, MI 48043, (586) 468-0282

Port Huron Music, 2700 Pine Grove Mall, Port Huron, MI 48060, (800) 284-7891

Marshall Music, 1965 Larchwood Avenue, Troy, MI 48083, (866) 788-2031

Band Booster Organization

The Band Booster Organization is designed to supplement the overall band program with fund-raiser activities as well as the chaperoning of various trips and events. If you have a child in any of the bands, you automatically become a booster, and are asked to lend your support to the organization. This year's AB Band Booster executive board is as follows:

<i>President</i>	<i>Tim Vietto</i>	<i>586.524.7891 / president@anchorbaybands.org</i>
<i>Fundraising</i>	<i>Stacie Borowicz</i>	<i>586.344.0063 / fundraising@anchorbaybands.org</i>
<i>Special Events</i>	<i>Cindy Majewski</i>	<i>586.945.1536 / specialevents@anchorbaybands.org</i>
<i>Treasurer</i>	<i>Tiffani Bokano</i>	<i>586.630.1143 / treasurer@anchorbaybands.org</i>
<i>Financial Secretary</i>	<i>Joe Marleau</i>	<i>248.250.1235 / financialsecretary@anchorbaybands.org</i>
<i>Recording Secretary</i>	<i>Jessica Downham</i>	<i>586.945.1597 / secretary@anchorbaybands.org</i>
<i>Inst. Music Director</i>	<i>Jonathan Carrothers</i>	<i>586.648.2525 / jcarrothers@anchorbaybands.org</i>
<i>Inst. Music Director</i>	<i>Daniel Fenton</i>	<i>586.648.2525 / dfenton@anchorbaybands.org</i>

Please feel free to contact these individuals when questions arise with the events of the AB Band Booster organization. The Executive Board is always working toward the best interest of our students and can provide help whenever it is necessary.

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS - as of 08/29/26

CHECK WWW.ANCHORBAYBANDS.ORG FOR UP-TO-DATE INFORMATION

DATE	ACTIVITY	REPORT TIME	EVENT TIME
August			
13 (Th)	Band Booster Meeting – ABHS Band Room		7:00 pm
20 (Th)	Jimmy John's Field Performance	TBA	TBA
27 (Th)	First Home Football Game vs. Port Huron at The Big House! (MB)	TBA	TBA
September**			
11 (Fri)	Home Football Game vs. Utica HS – 8 th Grade Night (MB)	3:00 pm	7:00 pm
21 (Mon)	Fall Assessment Begins (CaB, CB, 9SB, SB, WE)	In Class	In Class
26 (Sat)	Stoney Creek Scholastic Marching Band Invitational (MB)	TBA	TBA
October**			
02 (Fri)	Home Football Game vs. Lakeview HS – Homecoming/Alumni Band (MB)	2:30 pm	7:00 pm
11 (Sun)	Mini Band Camp – ABHS Football Field (MB)		1:00 – 7:00pm
14 (Wed)	MSBOA District 16 Marching Band Festival – ABHS HOSTING (MB)	TBA	TBA
16 (Fri)	Home Football Game vs. Stevenson – Senior Night (MB)	4:00 pm	7:00 pm
21 (Wed) or 22 (Th)	MSBOA All-State Auditions (Optional)	TBA	TBA
November			
07 (Sat)	Band Booster Auction Dinner (Open to ALL)	Doors at 5:30 pm	6:00 pm
December			
02 (Wed)	Winter Instrumental Music Concert (9SB, WE)	TBA	7:30 pm
03 (Th)	Winter Instrumental Music Concert (CaB, CB, SB, and JE)	TBA	7:30 pm
04-06 (Fri-Sun)	MSBOA High School Honors Bands – ABHS HOSTING (Optional)	TBA	TBA
January			
06 (Wed)	Band Booster Meeting – ABHS Band Room		7:00 pm
07 (Th)	Jazz Ensemble Mid-Winter Concert (JE)	6:00 pm	7:00 pm
13 (Wed)	Tastefest Fundraiser – ABHS Commons (Snow date Jan. 14)		6:00 – 8:00 pm
16 (Sat)	MSBOA District 16 High School Chamber Ensemble Festival (Optional)		(8:00 am – 5:00 pm TBA)
30 (Sat)	MSBOA District 16 High School Solo and Ensemble Festival (Optional)		(8:00 am – 5:00 pm TBA)
February			
04-05 (Th-Fri)	CMU Jazz Weekend – TENTATIVE (JE)		
12-15 (Fri-Mon)	ABHS Mid-Winter Break (hand out Spring Assessment material)		
18 (Th)	Anchor Bay School District Pre-Festival Concert (CaB, CB, 9SB, SB, WE)		(Afternoon/Evening TBA)
TBD	4th Grade Student Performance (WE)	During School	During School
March			
10-13 (Wed-Sat)	MSBOA D16 Band Festival (CaB, CB, 9SB, SB, WE) – ABHS HOSTING	TBA	TBA
20 (Sat)	MSBOA State Solo and Ensemble Festival (Optional)		(8:00 am – 5:00 pm TBA)
22-24 (Mon-Wed)	Spring Assessment Week (Auditions for 2027-2028 Ensembles)		
26-April 2	ABHS Spring Break		
Date TBD	Aretha's Jazz Café: "In the Tradition" Performance (JE)	TBA	TBA
April			
TBD	MSBOA State Jazz Festival (JE)	TBA	TBA
07 (Wed)	Band Booster Meeting – ABHS Band Room		7:00 pm
TBD	Drum Major Auditions		
TBD	Musical In-School Performance (Pit)		(School Hours)
TBD	Musical Performance (Pit)	TBA	TBA
May			
03 (Mon)	Band Booster Meeting – ABHS Band Room		7:00 pm
05 (Wed)	Spring Instrumental Music Concert (9SB, WE)	TBA	7:30 pm
06 (Th)	Spring Instrumental Music Concert (CB, CaB, SB, and JE)	TBA	7:30 pm
11 (Tu)	Marching Band Registration/New Marcher Orientation (2027-2028 MB)		
31 (Mon)	New Baltimore Memorial Day Parade (MB)	9:15 am @ NB Park	10:00 am
June			
01 (Tu)	Instrumental Music Banquet (Open to ALL)		
09 (Wed)	Marching Band Pre-Camp (2027-2028 MB) – Student Leaders and New Marchers		11:30 am – 3:30 pm
10-11 (Th-Fri)	Marching Band Pre-Camp (2027-2028 MB) – All Members		8:30 am – 3:30 pm

(MB = Marching Band, CaB = Cadet Band, 9SB = 9th Symphonic Band, CB = Concert Band, SB = Symphonic Band, WE = Wind Ensemble, JE = Jazz Ensemble)

**Please note that from August through mid-October the Marching Band class meets in the evenings and after school.
Please refer to the **Marching Band Class Schedule** for exact dates and times.

Daniel J. Fenton, Assistant Director

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Jonathan A. Carrothers, Director of Bands

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Parent/Student Commitment Form

**Parent-Student Commitment Form
(2026-2027)**

