

*Century High School Patriot Bands Handbook*

2017-2018

# *Welcome to the Century High School Band Program!*

At Century High School we are dedicated to guiding our students to reach their highest possible level of excellence. The ultimate goal of our band program is to instill a life-long appreciation, understanding, and love for music in all forms. We believe that music is an essential part of a comprehensive education. It enables all students to discover and develop their artistic potential through musical experiences in listening, performing, analyzing, moving, and creating. Musical experiences enhance the student's quality of life through heightened aesthetic awareness, healthy social relationships, and fun! Music incorporates understanding from all disciplines and leads to an improved self-concept, a broader cultural awareness, and a development of life-long skills.

The Freshmen Band, Prep Band, Concert Band, and Wind Ensemble are the foundation of the band program at Century High School. Although we provide numerous opportunities for music, these ensembles provide the full range of music education from which the other opportunities stem. Nearly all of the foundational goals for music education are met through our concert program. Students are required and highly encouraged to participate in several other ensembles, but they are secondary to the other bands. It is in these classes that music fundamentals are taught and musicianship flourishes.

Although performance is a major goal for these courses, it is not the only one. It is our belief that "the process is just as important as the product." All students are encouraged to participate in as many musical opportunities as they can both through and outside of the band program. Private lessons are strongly recommended. If a student is interested in continuing with music beyond high school, private lessons and involvement in as many musical opportunities as possible are essential for success.

This handbook is intended to serve as an informative resource guide regarding the policies, procedures and philosophy governing all aspects of the Century High School Band program. Please read all of the information included in this handbook and save it for future reference. If you have any questions or concerns at any time, please contact the Band Office (701) 323-4900 ext. 6654.

# *Rules of Conduct*

Whenever and wherever the band appears in public we are representatives of the entire music program at Century High School, the school itself, and anyone who is associated with this great school. Whether in uniform or out, at a performance or a practice, members of the Century High School Band Program conduct themselves in a mature, responsible, courteous, respectful, and professional manner. Anything done by a member of the band reflects upon the entire band organization, its leaders, and the school and community. Just as we strive for excellence in our musicianship and performance standards, we must also strive for excellence in our behavior and the manner in which we conduct ourselves.

## **WHAT GREAT BAND MEMBERS DO**

### **1. THEY RESPECT THEIR FELLOW BAND MEMBERS**

- Use appropriate and courteous language.
- Be sincere, fair, and nice.
- Treat the band room and auditorium with care.
- Pick up trash in the music area.
- Take good care of equipment.
- Look out for the private property of others.

### **2. THEY ARE ON TIME**

- Early is on time, on time is late, and late is unacceptable.

### **3. THEY THINK POSITIVELY**

- Look for creative solutions if you see problems.

### **4. THEY COOPERATE FULLY WITH THOSE IN A LEADERSHIP POSITION**

- No talking when anyone is "on the podium" working with an ensemble.
- Practice basic rehearsal etiquette: have all materials (instrument, music, pencil) at each class and sit with proper posture.
- You are responsible for all information presented in a rehearsal or posted on the white board in the band room.
- When in a sectional, your section leader is in charge and is to be treated in the same manner as your directors.

### **5. THEY ARE RESPONSIBLE WITH THEIR MUSIC, INSTRUMENT, UNIFORM, & BAND LOCKER**

- Music is kept safely in band folder.
- All folders have a pencil to mark pertinent information.
- Folders are stored safely in folder cabinets. (Not instrument lockers or cases.)
- Instruments are kept safely in designated instrument lockers.

## **GENERAL RULES FOR ALL**

1. If you're not making music, you cannot "hang out" in the music rooms, unless you have permission from a teacher.
2. Practice rooms are for practicing music only.
3. No food or drink in the music area during or after school unless supervised by a teacher. Water is allowed.
4. If you use a rehearsal space, leave it looking better than when you entered it.

5. Keep all personal electronics powered off and out of sight while in rehearsal or they will be confiscated.
6. The band office is off limits to all students unless you knock on the door and are asked to enter.

# *Attendance and Grading*

## **CONCERT ATTENDANCE**

Attendance at all scheduled performances is required and is part of the grading criteria in band classes. This is a fundamental and integral part of your membership in the Century High School Band. Concerts are a public demonstration of what has been learned in band. They are considered final exams for the class. Music is meant to be heard. Each performer in the ensemble is dependent on every band member being present to perform their specific and integral part.

If **WE** are to be successful, **YOU** must be there. Every member is a "starter" there are no "bench warmers" and no substitutions.

### **The only excused absences from a scheduled special rehearsal are:**

1. You are ill the day of the rehearsal, and if school were in session you would be absent from school.
2. A family emergency occurs.

### **The only excused absences from a scheduled performance are:**

1. You are ill the day of the rehearsal/performance, and are absent from school.
2. A family emergency occurs.

*Always notify the directors if you will be unable to attend. The band office has direct-answer 24 hour voice mail, (701) 323-4900 ext. 6654. Any other absence from a rehearsal or performance is unexcused.*

*Failure to notify the band directors in a timely manner of your absence is also unexcused.*

## **STUDENT JOBS OR WORK CONFLICTS ARE ABSOLUTELY NO EXCUSE FOR MISSING A REHEARSAL OR PERFORMANCE!!!**

Unexcused absences from concerts will negatively affect your grade in band, restrict your opportunity to earn a varsity letter in band, and may result in a meeting between, you, your parents, and the directors to discuss your continued participation in band. Use a planner to stay organized in managing your schedule and time.

## **SCHEDULING CONFLICT RESOLUTION POLICY**

In the event of a conflict, communication is the key. Talk to your band directors. WE support YOU. Every attempt will be made to be fair and understanding in the event of unusual circumstances. If a scheduling conflict should occur with a band event and another school event you are involved with, we will utilize the guidelines found below.

### **Situation #1 – Band practice and SCHOOL RELATED\* activity practice**

*Action:* Communicate with the adults in charge.

*Resolution:* Split time with each 50/50.

### **Situation #2 – Band practice and SCHOOL RELATED\* activity game**

*Action:* Communicate with the adults in charge.

*Resolution:* Attend activity game.

**Situation #3 – Band performance and SCHOOL RELATED\* activity practice**

*Action:* Communicate with the adults in charge.

*Resolution:* Attend performance. (This includes concerts and pep band events.)

**Situation #4 – Band performance and SCHOOL RELATED\* activity game.**

*Action:* Communicate with the adults in charge.

*Resolution:* Objectively determine where you believe you are most needed, and which situation will allow you to make the greatest contribution to your peers and do the "greatest good." We will respect whatever thoughtful decision you make, but grade you accordingly.

*\*Please note that club sports are NOT school related activities.*

**GRADING**

Students will be graded in the following areas:

**Performances:** The reason to be in music is to perform. It is the culmination of all those hours of practice. By choosing not to participate in a performance, the student has effectively decided that the class has no purpose and that their role in the performance and the experience they would gain is unimportant. This is equivalent to not taking a final exam or not handing in a major paper. Each concert or marching performance is worth 100 points.

**Assignments:** A worksheet of recognizing basic musical terms, writing notes, concert evaluations, or other assignments may be a part of each quarterly grade. Points will be given for each assignment. **NOTE: Additional or early rehearsals and the West State Music Contest are considered assignments and will be graded at the director's discretion.**

**Participation:** Proper rehearsal etiquette is paramount for all ensembles to succeed. Each student will be allowed to accumulate three points daily, consistent with their participation. Proper participation includes being ready to play with all necessary materials (instrument, music, pencil, etc.) when the instructor is ready to begin. No food, gum, candy, or beverages are allowed in the band room. During rehearsals, all caps and hats are to be removed.

**Grading Scale**

A (Superior): 92-100

B (Good): 83-91

C (Average): 74-82

D (Poor): 65-73

F (Failure): 0-64

# *Course Offerings*

## **FRESHMEN BAND – Grade 9**

This course is open to any student at Century High School but is specifically aimed at incoming freshmen. It is designed to help students develop the skills necessary for high school band. Special emphasis is placed on scales, technique, intonation, and methods as well as literature graded 2-3. The literature is designed to be lighter in nature than that studied in Prep Band, Concert Band, or Wind Ensemble. Performances for this band include concerts, festivals, pep band events, special community appearances, and parades. Prior instrumental experience is strongly encouraged, but not required.

The concert attire for this ensemble is the concert style band uniform. This includes the jacket, ruffle, blue pants, long black dress socks, and Drillmasters with buckles.

## **PREP BAND – Grade 10**

This course is open to any student at Century High School and includes musicians who are earlier in their musical development. Special emphasis is placed on scales, technique, intonation, and methods as well as literature graded 2-4. Performances for this band include concerts, festivals, pep band events, special community appearances, and parades. Members of the Prep Band have the opportunity to participate in band tours, which occur on an alternating basis. Prior instrumental experience is strongly encouraged, but not required.

The concert attire for this ensemble is the concert style band uniform. This includes the jacket, ruffle, blue pants, long black dress socks, and Drillmasters with buckles.

## **CONCERT BAND – Grade 11, 12**

This course is designed to help students develop the skills necessary to progress to Wind Ensemble. Special emphasis is placed on scales, technique, intonation, and methods as well as literature graded 3-5. Performances for this band include concerts, festivals, pep band events, special community appearances, and parades. Members of the Concert Band have the opportunity to participate in band tours, which occur on an alternating basis. It is typical that a student who shows interest and works hard to improve his or her musical skills will move from Concert Band to Wind Ensemble during his or her high school career. Prior instrumental experience is required to participate as a member of Concert Band.

The concert attire for this ensemble is the concert style band uniform. This includes the jacket, ruffle, blue pants, long black dress socks, and Drillmasters with buckles.

## **WIND ENSEMBLE – Grade 9, 10, 11, 12**

This course is designed for students that have reached a high level of proficiency on their instrument. Advanced band literature (grades 4-6) will be pursued. **All members of the Wind Ensemble are required to audition for the North Dakota All State Music Festival as part of their course requirements.** Performances for this band include concerts, festivals, pep band events, special community appearances, and parades. Members of the Concert Band have the opportunity to participate in band tours, which occur on an alternating basis. **Prior instrumental experience is required to participate as a member of Wind Ensemble and placement in the group is by audition only.**

The concert attire for this ensemble is the concert style band uniform. This includes the jacket, ruffle, blue pants, long black dress socks, and Drillmasters with buckles.

### **JAZZ ENSEMBLE #2 – 9, 10, 11, 12**

Jazz Ensemble #2 is designed for the developing jazz student and is open to anyone involved in the band program. Good, quality jazz music will be pursued. Special emphasis will be placed on correct jazz articulation, style, and improvisation. This group performs four times a year at concerts and various jazz festivals. **Participation in another concert instrumental ensemble (band or orchestra) is required to participate as a member of Jazz Ensemble #2.**

Concert attire for this ensemble is provided by the student and must be **ALL BLACK**. For gentlemen this means black dress pants, a collared black dress shirt, long black dress socks, and black dress shoes. All gentlemen must also wear an appropriate neck tie of their choosing. Ladies may wear a black dress with a skirt at or below the knee if they wish or a black shirt/pant combination. If socks are worn, they must be long dress socks. (**Black jeans, yoga pants, athletic pants, flip flops, sandals, and sneakers are not acceptable concert attire.**)

### **JAZZ ENSEMBLE #1 – Grade 9, 10, 11, 12**

Jazz Ensemble #1 meets on a daily basis and is for students that have reached a high level of proficiency on their instrument. Advanced jazz literature that is scored for saxophone, trumpet, trombone, and rhythm section, will be pursued. Special emphasis will be placed on correct jazz articulation, style, and improvisation. This group performs several times a year at concerts and various jazz festivals. **Participation in another concert instrumental ensemble (band or orchestra) and prior instrumental experience is required to participate as a member of Jazz Ensemble #1. Placement in the group is by audition only.**

The concert attire for this ensemble is provided by the student and must be **ALL BLACK**. For gentlemen this means black dress pants, a collared black dress shirt, long black dress socks, and black dress shoes. All gentlemen must also wear an appropriate neck tie of their choosing. Ladies may wear a black dress with a skirt that goes at or below the knee or a black shirt/pant combination. If socks are worn, they must be long dress socks. (**Black jeans, yoga pants, athletic pants, flip flops, sandals, and sneakers are not acceptable concert attire.**)

# *Additional Musical Experiences*

## **PEP BAND**

One of the responsibilities of the Century High Band is to support various school activities. **All students are expected to perform at all pep band events as part of basic band membership.** Participation in pep band counts towards a band letter and is part of the overall band grade. The pep band performs at all home football games, select boys and girls basketball events, and two hockey games. The events at which the band performs are determined by the band directors in conjunction with the school activities director. Band members will be released after half time of football games, pre-game of the second basketball game, and prior to the start of the hockey games. **Attire for all performances is the pep band shirt.** The following guidelines are in place to ensure the safety of yours and the school's instruments as well as to provide an environment which is conducive to allowing for a high quality performance:

1. ***Good bands look organized at all times.*** We want to look good as well as sound good! Behavior in the bleachers is a vital element of the impression we give the public about our band program. One of our main functions at athletic events is showing our enthusiastic school spirit and supporting the team at the event we are participating in as performers.
2. ***Be alert!*** Watch the game, things happen quickly! Be prepared to play the school song after each football-touchdown is scored.
3. **No gum, candy, soda, or food of any kind is allowed in the band.**
4. Friends are not allowed within the band set-up.
5. Sit in your section (clarinets together, trumpets together, percussion together, etc.). This will enable us to sound our very best.
6. Keep your eyes to the front. When the chart has been called, move quickly and be ready for the downbeat. When playing the music, watch the director so that we start and stop together.
7. No individual playing during the game. We play either as a section or the whole band.
8. **You** are responsible for bringing your own instrument, music, lyre/stand, and pep band shirt to every pep band event. (Only the euphonium, tuba, and percussion sections do not need a lyre.)
9. Watch your instrument carefully to avoid any damage and handle your equipment only. **Never play other people's instrument!**
10. For safety and liability reasons, if you need to leave the band for whatever reason, **ASK.**
11. At the end of the game, take all of your materials (music, stands, etc.) with you and return it to school as soon as possible.
12. Have fun!

**Remember:** You are an important part of this team. As a member of this team, you represent this band as well as this school. DO NOTHING that will impair the reputation and professionalism of the bands at Century High School.

### **MARCHING BAND**

Consisting of every member in the band program, this ensemble performs at the Autumnfest Parade in the fall and the Band Night Parade in the spring of the year. Because these events combine the members of all four bands, students will be required to attend a limited number of extra rehearsals, outside of school prior to the performance.

The marching band is considered one of the premiere ensembles at Century High School. Throughout our history, the marching band has participated in nationally known parades, such as the Tournament of Roses Parade in Pasadena, the Endymion Parade in New Orleans, and the Fiesta Flambeau Parade in San Antonio. It has also performed at the Statue of Liberty, Mount Vernon, the United States Capitol, and Colonial Williamsburg.

### **SMALL ENSEMBLES**

**All students are required to participate in at least one ensemble group each year.** While most only participate in the yearly solo and ensemble contests, some are active throughout the year and entertain at art exhibits, holiday parties, and other school and community celebrations. Examples of small ensemble groups include flute choir, clarinet choir, saxophone quartet, brass quintet, percussion ensemble, and trash can band.

### **COLOR GUARD AND "SPIRIT OF '76"**

Open to any member of the band program, the Color Guard and "Spirit of '76" meet outside of the school day and consists of the most impressive and dedicated marchers. This group has performed for hundreds of thousands of people in live performances, and millions on television, both regional and nationally. Audiences have included famous people and statesmen, including two First Ladies and the President of the United States.

### **PIT ORCHESTRA**

The pit orchestra is an ensemble that performs for the annual fall musical. This ensemble performs professional Broadway shows in conjunction with student actors and singers from Century High School, Bismarck High School, and Legacy High School. Recent shows have included *The Wizard of Oz*, *My Fair Lady*, and *The King and I*. Rehearsals are scheduled after school from September through October. See Mr. Dasovick for more details.

# *Leadership Roles*

## **STUDENT LEADERSHIP**

At Century High School, we advocate a system of student leadership utilizing a lead by example, "role model" approach for all band members. Elements of this model include the following:

1. Lead by example. Be a "role model" for all band members.
2. Anticipate problems and be solution minded.
3. Break down walls of cliques and assimilate all band members into our band family.
4. Serve to help others in our band be successful, and we will be successful as a group.
5. Treat others the way you want them to treat you.
6. Look for the best in everything.
7. The only person's behavior we can control is our own.
8. Integrity is doing the right things and making the right decisions, especially when nobody is watching me.

Student leaders are encouraged to continually work on improving our system to create a positive environment within which the students can self-evaluate and achieve quality work. One of the primary ways our program will achieve quality performances is if our student leaders continually work with the staff to improve our system of teaching and learning by communicating in ways that build trust.

The success of our program is directly related to the effectiveness and commitment of the student leaders and their ability to inspire hard work and lead their peers to excellence. All of the finest equipment, all of the hours of planning, all of the creative ideas, hard work, investment of time, and all of the best wishes of our supporters have very little meaning if our seniors and leaders fail to inspire quality performance. Even more important than their ability to perform is the ability of our leaders to set a good example as human beings and to encourage others to follow their lead. Please understand your important role within the organization and strive to fulfill it to the best of your ability.

## **CHAIR PLACEMENT**

It is necessary to place students in each section according to their level of performance. Each complete section will be present at the appropriate try-out time. The directors will pick out a first chair and seat the remainder of the students based upon their current level of skill. (Seniors may be given priority if the directors feel it is appropriate.) The first chair player must be capable of playing solo parts. NOTE: The second, third, fourth chair players etc. will not necessarily be seated next to chair number one. To ensure that all parts are played strongly, these players may be seated throughout the section at the discretion of the directors.

## **SECTION LEADERS/PRINCIPAL PLAYERS**

Section leaders/principal players are selected by the directors and are typically the first chair player in each section. Duties of the section leaders include: tune the section, call and run sectionals, check and encourage good posture, behavior, and responsibility, and serve as a good role model for other members in the section.

## **CHALLENGING**

Band students that wish to try out for the next higher chair in the section may challenge the player currently holding that seat. The directors conduct the challenge. The directors will choose a piece of music unfamiliar to both students. The students will be given the same number of days to prepare the piece. Each student will play for the directors. After the directors have heard both players they will decide the "winning" student and make any necessary changes. Two weeks must elapse before a re-challenge may take place.

# *Marching Information*

## **MARCHING BAND**

The Century High School Patriot Band has one of the most well-known and distinctive looks in the state of North Dakota. The colonial uniform, with historically accurate red coats, breeches, tri-cornered hats, and buckled shoes, originated with the founding of the school in 1975. The uniform – and by extension, the band – served as the model for the school mascot and represents the entire student body to the general public. We in the Century High School Band Program take pride in this fact and what our organization means to our community. Over the years, we have developed a marching style that is unique in the region. Power, passion, posture, and precision have made the band what it is today. Every member who learns this soon acquires the pride that comes from attaining excellence. Observing the following points will help keep alive the great traditions that have developed.

### **Point #1 – Marching Style**

We are one of the few bands in North Dakota that employs a “Corp Style” of marching. This style utilizes what is referred to as a roll step. This step, which hinges on the placement of the foot, is a critical element in making it look sharp. It is accomplished by placing down the heel, then rolling the outside of the foot to complete each step. Always start with the left foot. All other commands are given on the left foot, but executed on the right foot – WE ARE A RIGHT-FOOTED BAND!

### **Point #2 – Music**

ALL MARCHING MUSIC IS TO BE MEMORIZED!!!

### **Point #3 - Marching Commands**

When called to “At Ease,” there is to be no talking and each member is to be in their respective place with proper instrument position and feet slightly apart. The “At Ease” command is two short whistles. When called to “Attention,” each member give a salute with the left hand at the same time as doing a side kick with the left foot – feet are now together. At the point, there is no looking to the side, no talking, and total concentration is now given to all commands, exercises, and music. Eyes are focused straight forward and instruments are held in proper position.

### **Point #4 – Behavior**

Behavior while representing the band – in or out of uniform – must be exemplary! Good manners are to be exercised at all times.

### **Point #5 – Appearance**

Whenever the uniform is worn, it is always worn complete. If it becomes necessary to remove part of the uniform after a performance, time must be taken for a complete change. A white t-shirt must be worn under the uniform at all times! No jewelry or noticeable make-up is to be worn and members must be clean-shaven or have neatly groomed facial hair! Also, if you are wearing earrings, they must be invisible. Long hair must be braided to the back or tucked inside the hat.

## **UNIFORM MAINTENANCE**

Once fitted and assigned, all uniforms will be kept at home. You are responsible for keeping your uniform properly stored on the hanger. Please remember that your uniform costs approximately \$1,000.00, so take good care of it. If it becomes soiled during the course of the year, it is YOUR responsibility to get it cleaned. Hang the uniform properly to retain its shape. A uniform fee of \$50.00/year is to be paid by each member. The fee covers the cost of yearly cleaning and overall maintenance of the uniform, purchases each student an initial pair of marching socks and shoes, and purchases the pep band shirt for first year

members. (The fee for members of the Wind Ensemble is \$66.00. In addition to the items listed above, it includes the registration fee for All-State auditions.)

Due to the tremendous expense of the uniform being entrusted to your care, **ANY LOST ITEMS WILL BE PAID FOR BY THE STUDENT!!!** The cost breakdown for replacement of uniform parts is as follows:

***Custom Made Jacket*** – \$470.00

***Custom Made White Marching Pants*** – \$235.00

***Custom Made Blue Concert Pants*** – \$235.00

***Custom Made Vest*** – \$86.00

***Marching Hat*** – \$50.00

***Marching Shoes*** – \$35.00

***Custom Made Ruffle*** – \$25.00

***Shoe Buckles*** – \$12.00

***Marching Gloves*** – \$12.00

***Marching Socks*** – \$8.00

Always store the uniform properly both at home and to and from performances. Obvious things, such as sitting on the ground while in uniform, or other inappropriate actions will not be tolerated. Proper respect must be exercised at all times both for the uniform and for the organization that it represents. Penalties will be assessed for improper treatment of the uniform.

At the conclusion of the school year, all items with the exception of the shoes and socks will be returned to the directors. A student returning a badly wrinkled and/or soiled uniform will be assessed an additional fee appropriate to the lack of care given to the uniform.

### **COLOR GUARD HISTORY**

The history of Drum Majors in our country has much to do with the Marine Band that was established in 1798. The early leadership of the Marine Band consisted of a Drum Major and a Fife Major. The Drum Major was considered the Leader of the Marine Band and the Fife Major's responsibility was to train the fifers. In July 1861, President Abraham Lincoln signed an Act of Congress reorganizing the Marine Band which created the positions of Leader, who was the principal musician, Drum Major, and 30 musicians. The title of Fife Major was abolished that year, and in 1881 the fife was removed from Marine Corps instrumentation. Currently the Marine Band Drum Major is responsible for the band's appearance, ceremonial drill, and military decorum. He is charged with directing the band in ceremonial commitments including the Inaugural Parade, and will regularly lead the band in review for U.S. Presidents, Heads of State and International Dignitaries.

At Century High School, it is the duty of the Drum Major to help foster pride in the spirit of the band and to be an example of maturity, dignity, and respect so all the students have a model that will carry on the traditions of the band. The Drum Major is to act as a drill instructor in marching routines, so as to efficiently rehearse the students to execute all commands and routines with precision and excellence. The Drum Major is picked in the spring of the year by the head director. The candidates must be seniors for the following school year, be a band member in good standing, and be able to demonstrate leadership ability. Additional members of the Color Guard include the Spirit of '76, flag bearers, rifle carriers, and trumpeters. These members operate as a unit and are requested to present colors for many functions throughout the school year. Good grades are important since there are times they may miss classes for Color Guard presentations.

# *Tours and Travel*

## **TRAVEL**

When traveling locally with the bands, members sometimes use district school buses. A list of students attending each event is used to take attendance at departure and arrival points. Students are expected to obey all rules and expectations of the bus driver and to leave the bus in the same condition as when it was boarded.

## **EXTENDED OR OUT OF STATE TRAVEL**

All band trips are:

1. Appropriately balanced with a good mix of educational, musical, and fun experiences.
2. Highly structured with an active and well planned itinerary in which students are busy throughout the trip.
3. Adult chaperoned with a ratio of one adult for every 10-15 students, who are with the students at all times. Whenever possible, a doctor or nurse travels with the band. Other district band directors often serve as chaperones as well.

The Century High School Band Department will offer an extended tour every two years. Eligibility for this trip is limited to Century band members in grades 10-12. Students in grade 9 are also eligible to attend if they are a member of Wind Ensemble or Jazz Ensemble #1. **All students are expected to follow all school and NDHSAA rules at all times during the trip.** These trips are optional and are in no way required for participation in the curricular bands. This trip will often, but not always, be scheduled over a break or after school is out to minimize the amount of school being missed. Past trips have included Chicago, Anaheim, and Washington D.C. These optional tours will generally cost between \$1,000.00 and \$2,500.00 per student.

## **TRIP PROCEDURE**

Tour information, including eligibility, tentative itinerary and payment structure will be announced in accordance with the trip timeline, generally six months in advance. At that time, students will have the option to register for the tour by filling out a form and making an initial financial deposit indicating their interest in participating in the trip. Students will then make scheduled payments throughout the year, with the final payment occurring just prior to the departure date. Profits from band sponsored fund-raisers that have accrued in student accounts will be used to make tour payments. Late cancellation of trip participation after payment(s) have been made will usually carry a penalty from the contracted travel company. Any refund of trip payments will have to be negotiated with the contracted travel company. A parent/student information meeting may be held approximately one week before departure to dispense final trip information and answer parent questions about the trip. A complete packet of information, including the detailed trip itinerary, rules, etc. will be distributed to all participants approximately ten days prior to departure.

## **ACCOUNTABILITY**

All students traveling with Century High School Bands will sign a travel contract that states they will comply with Century High School policies and NDHSAA rules and regulations set forth for Fine Arts activities. All members are required to abide by these rules and exhibit respect both in and out of performance. **Irresponsibility in this area may result in a student being returned home from the trip at parental expense.**

## **FUNDRAISING**

Each student who participates in band fundraising activities has access to their money through a personal account system. This system allows students to deposit fund-raised money into their band account through participation in fundraisers and make withdrawals in their name for use on band trip payments or band fees such as instrument rental or uniform fees. All money is deposited in the school district band activity account, and at all times is the property of the Century High School Band Program. **Money cannot be withdrawn for cash or transferred to other students or family members.** It may not be used by a graduating student or someone who withdraws from the band program. No refund of any fund raising monies will be made even in the event of a tour cancellation. That money will stay in the band account. Remember that when a person sells something for an organization, the people buying the products are intentionally helping the organization, not individuals within that organization.

## **TOUR REHEARSALS**

Because these trips often combine students from one or more of the bands at Century High School, participants will be required to attend a limited number of special rehearsals, outside of school prior to the trip departure date, to prepare for the trip. These rehearsals will be scheduled well in advance of the trip and **attendance is required for trip participation.**

## **TRANSPORTATION**

All trips will be by deluxe air-conditioned motor coaches equipped with restrooms. Some extended tours may involve either a charter or domestic air-carrier. In order to qualify for group hotel and airfare rates and keep all trip participants costs minimal, we must guarantee to the travel company an exact number of participants all flying and staying together as a group. Therefore, students will be unable to use frequent flyer discount programs to arrange their own air travel and/or hotel accommodations (for obvious supervision/liability purposes as well.)

## **CHAPERONE PROCEDURE**

In order for us to go on tour, it is necessary that we have enough chaperones to ensure the safety of the students involved. Priority is generally given along these guidelines:

1. **A member of the medical profession.** This is very important. It is a major safety factor to have someone with who is either a doctor or a nurse.
2. **Teachers who are acquainted with a lot of the students.** This helps with discipline and for the students to feel comfortable with the adults along.
3. **Parents with experience chaperoning students or may have specific backgrounds that will enhance the tour for all concerned.**

Whenever chaperones come on any band trip, they do not pay. Their expenses are factored into the student cost. Since chaperones are volunteering their time, working hard, and since we simply could not go on a tour without them, I feel very comfortable with this arrangement.

## **PAST TOUR DESTINATIONS**

1976 – Philadelphia, PA

1977 – Portland, OR

1978 – Louisville, KY

1979 – Indianapolis, IN

1980 – Pasadena, CA

1981 – Buckhannon, WV

1982 – Portland OR

1983 – Philadelphia, PA and Washington, D.C.

1984 – Orlando, FL

1985 – Anaheim, CA  
1986 – Vancouver, BC  
1988 – Orlando, FL  
1989 – Shakopee, MN  
1991 – New Orleans, LA  
1993 – New York, NY and Williamsburg, VA  
1995 – San Antonio, TX  
1997 – Williamsburg, VA and New York, NY  
2000 – Williamsburg, VA and New York, NY  
2001 – Boston, MA, New York, NY, and Washington, D.C.  
2003 – San Antonio, TX  
2005 – Boston, MA, New York, NY, and Washington, D.C.  
2006 – San Antonio, TX  
2008 – Boston, MA, New York, NY, and Washington, D.C.  
2010 – Boston, MA, New York, NY, and Washington D.C.  
2012 – Chicago, IL  
2014 – Anaheim, CA  
2016 – New York, NY  
2018 – Orlando, FL and Nassau, Bahamas

# *Instruments and Band Fees*

## **INSTRUMENT STORAGE**

Band instruments should be kept in the storage area. People owning small instruments may wish to store them in their school lockers. **Mark your case clearly with your name, address, and phone number.** It may also be helpful to include a unique sticker to prevent other students from accidentally taking the wrong instrument home. It is highly recommended that you record the brand name, model, and serial number of your instrument at home for safekeeping.

## **INSTRUMENT REPAIR**

An instrument that is not working properly can be extremely frustrating for the student and is an obstacle to progress and success. If your instrument is not working correctly, contact one of the local music stores to have it inspected by a professional technician. Most technicians will give you an approximate cost of repairs when asked to do so. All costs for repair of personally owned instruments are handled between the music store and the customer.

**When having your instrument repaired, always ask for a completion date and inquire if there is an instrument you can use until yours is complete. Be sure to remove any mouthpieces and reeds from your case to use with the loaner instrument.** Century High School owns a few instruments for students to use when their instrument is being repaired.

## **SCHOOL OWNED INSTRUMENTS AND EQUIPMENT**

The following instruments will be issued as school equipment: piccolo, bassoon, Eb clarinet, bass clarinet, tenor sax, baritone saxophone, horn, mellophone (marching horn), euphonium, tuba, sousaphone, and percussion. You will be given a contract that explains your responsibilities for safekeeping the instrument. Return the signed contract to Mr. Stordalen. The fee can be paid on My Payments Plus or you can bring a check to Mr. Stordalen. School owned instruments will be issued after a completed contact is turned in and rental fees are paid.

If at any time your school owned instrument needs repair or if you are experiencing problems with it contact the band directors immediately. As a result of normal use and wear, school owned instruments will need regular maintenance and occasionally repairs. Repairs are costly and time consuming. Please take good care of your instrument! **Any damage or loss of this instrument outside of normal wear and use will be paid by you.**

During the last week of school, all school owned instruments will be collected for inspection and routine maintenance. Percussion instruments may not be checked out to go home unless advance approval is given by your band director.

**NOTE:** Privately owned instruments are not insured by the school. Individuals must check their homeowner's insurance policies to get these instruments insured.

## **PURCHASING INSTRUMENTS**

There are times when parents and students should consider purchasing a "step-up" instrument. Many high school students have physically matured and have literally outgrown their present instrument. When this occurs, please contact us so we may assist you by providing information regarding our recommendations of quality instruments at reasonable costs. We offer this as a service and receive no compensation from any musical instrument companies or dealers. Frequently, even merely upgrading to a higher quality mouthpiece or reed can make a significant difference and make the instrument easier and more enjoyable to play.

## **BAND FEES**

All band students are asked to pay certain yearly fees for participation in the program. Some fees are for all students, some are specific to certain instrument families, or members of certain bands.

### **Fees for all Freshmen Band, Prep Band, and Concert Band Members: \$50.00/year**

This fee covers the cost of yearly cleaning and overall maintenance of the band uniform, purchases each student an initial pair of marching gloves, socks, and shoes, and an initial pep band shirt.

### **Fees for Wind Ensemble Members: \$66.00/year**

This fee covers the cost of yearly cleaning and overall maintenance of the band uniform, purchases each student an initial pair of marching gloves, socks, and shoes, an initial pep band shirt, and covers the cost of the All-State audition.

### **Fees for students that play school owned instruments: \$90.00/year**

School owned instruments include piccolo, bassoon, Eb clarinet, bass clarinet, tenor sax, baritone saxophone, horn, mellophone (marching horn), euphonium, tuba, and sousaphone. The fee covers regular maintenance and cleaning of the instrument.

### **Fees for students that play percussion: \$100.00/year**

This fee provides percussion students access and repair to all Century High School percussion equipment as well as concert, marching, and pep band sticks and mallets.

### **Fees for students that play a school string bass: \$100.00/year**

This fee provide bass players in the concert ensembles access to a string bass.

### **Fees for all students auditioning for All State: \$16.00**

This covers the registration fee for members of the Freshmen Band, Prep Band, or Concert Band that choose to audition for All-State.

# *Awards and Lettering*

## **John Philip Sousa Award**

This award is given to a senior band member for outstanding and unique achievement and service in band through exemplary leadership, musicianship, attitude, and dedication. Selected by the directors, the recipient of this award will have their name inscribed on a brass plaque, which is proudly displayed in the band room.

## **Arion Band Award**

The Arion Award is presented to a senior band member for outstanding musicianship, achievement, leadership and dedication to music and the band organization. The “runner up” award to the John Philip Sousa Award, it is one of the most prestigious awards in the band program. The recipient of this award will have their name inscribed on a brass plaque, which is proudly displayed in the band room.

## **Semper Fidelis Award**

This award, selected by the directors, is given to a senior classman. Presented by the United States Marines Youth Foundation, Inc. and the Marine Corps League, it is given in recognition of diligence, dedication and musical excellence.

## **Patrick S. Gilmore Award**

Selected by the band staff, this award is given to the member of the Concert Band that demonstrates service in band through exemplary leadership, musicianship, attitude, and dedication.

## **Outstanding Freshmen, Sophomore & Junior Band Awards**

These awards are presented to select students in grades 9, 10, and 11 in recognition of outstanding dedication, superior service, and positive contributions to the band.

## **Louis Armstrong Jazz Award**

Named after the legendary American jazz artist, Louis Armstrong, this award is given to the outstanding senior jazz performer. This award recognizes leadership, outstanding creative jazz musicianship, jazz improvisation, and dedication to jazz band. The recipient of this award will have their name inscribed on a brass plaque, which is proudly displayed in the band room.

## **Woody Herman Jazz Award**

This award, selected by the directors, is given to the member of Jazz Ensemble #2 that demonstrates outstanding leadership, improvisation, and dedication to jazz band.

## **Danie Thomssen Memorial Scholarship**

This scholarship is given in memory of Danie Thomssen (Class of 2016). The recipient of this award will receive a \$1,000.00 scholarship upon graduation. It is presented to one senior in the Century High School Band Program that the band directors feel demonstrate a strong sense dedication to the band program, leadership in the classroom, self-discipline in their practice, and a high level of musical excellence.

## **Brad Melby Memorial Scholarship**

The recipient of this award will receive \$100.00 scholarship upon graduation from Century High School. Voted upon by members of the Concert Band and Wind Ensemble, it is presented to the underclassman that displays the most dedication, spirit, and enthusiasm. It is given by Ron and Carol Melby in memory of their son Brad.

**Tim and Deb Fogderud Scholarship**

This scholarship was established in 2010. Given by long time Century band director Tim Fogderud and his wife, this scholarship will supply two students with eight one-half hour lessons from the private lesson instructor of the student's choice.

**Harold Kepler Memorial Scholarship**

Given in memory of Harold Kepler, Century's first band director and composer of the school song, the recipient of this award receives a half-scholarship to the International Music Camp.

**Solo and Ensemble Medal**

The award is presented by the North Dakota High School Activity Association to any student who achieves a superior rating at the State Solo and Ensemble Contest.

**North Dakota All-State Member**

Each year students can audition for selection into the North Dakota Music Educators Association (NDMEA) All-State Band, Orchestra and Jazz Ensemble. Those selected are named as All-State musicians and participate in the North Dakota All-State Festival in March.

**Varsity Letter for Band**

All band members have the opportunity to earn a varsity letter in band. This award recognizes additional service and musical achievement through participation in band co-curricular activities. Each student wishing to be considered for a letter during any given school year should let the appropriate teacher know, and a folder will be started for that student. The student will be responsible for making sure that the folder is kept up to date. All decisions as to lettering will be made by the directors.

The Century High School Band Program is under the governing rules of the North Dakota High School Activities Association and Century High School. Band members are subject to the same policies regarding grades, attendance, chemical/tobacco use and sexual/religious/racial harassment policies as set by these institutions. Violations of the policies could result in suspension from band activities, and loss of co-curricular points.

**Requirement #1**

Participate in one of the three West State Music Contests throughout the year.

**Requirement #2**

Audition and/or participate in another festival such as North Dakota All-State or complete community service, i.e. set-up for concerts where the student is not already involved.

**Requirement #3 - one of the following**

1. Attendance at three community or school musical events each semester.
2. Private lessons in voice or instrument each semester.

**Requirement #4 - must be a member in good standing**

1. Eligibility.
2. Maintain a 3.5 GPA in band.
3. Appropriate behavior in the ensemble at all times.
4. Classroom effort/cooperation.
5. No unexcused absences from concerts or classes.

# *Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)*

## ***"Why band?"***

If you ask most current band students, they will probably tell you they couldn't imagine what high school would have been like without having been in band. High school band is more than just playing your instrument, it's more than a class, and it's more than a big group of friends. It's an opportunity to be a valuable part of an organization that is committed to showcasing incredible musical talent, serving as musical representatives of Century High School and doing all this while having a great time with your closest friends. Not to mention, band teaches you valuable personal skills like self-discipline and time management in a way that almost no other high school course can. It's a great learning experience that just happens to be a lot of **FUN** as well!

## ***"Can I be involved in sports and band?"***

**Absolutely!** We have students in a number of sports, clubs, and activities each year. Sometimes we have to work out schedules, but it can be done. Band students are given the entire performing schedule at the beginning of the year so they know when our activities are planned. We work very hard with our coaches and the school district's athletic director to ensure that you are not pressured to choose between sports or music. In fact, some of the coaches are the band's biggest supporters! While there may be a misperception that you can't be in both, over 85% of our students are involved in some sport, club, or other activity outside of band – football, basketball, swimming, skating, soccer, track, volleyball, speech, knowledge masters, etc. For more information, see the section entitled *Attendance at Concerts* in the handbook.

## ***"With so many required subjects, will I be able to fit band into my schedule?"***

**Yes.** Century High School is on an optional eight period day which allows our students to fit in the most class choices. The school district also has an outstanding early bird and summer program which if utilized will create even more room in your schedule. *You can fit band in if you want to!*

## ***"High school is hard and band takes so much time. Will I have time to study?"***

The over 210 students currently in our program prove that time is available. Many students in band are at the top of their class! Band members learn to manage their time and typically score higher than non-band students on standardized tests. Band students on the whole make better grades than non-band students – it's a fact! Our program is designed with your best interests in mind. You can balance music with academics if you choose to manage your time appropriately.

## ***"Will the work be too hard for me?"***

**NO!** Everyone starts from scratch, and like anything else, with hard work and practice you will get it. That's exactly why you need to be in band in the first place. Band helps you develop a good work ethic. Anything – sports, a job, etc. – takes work to be good. There is nothing wrong with work!

## ***"I'm tired of band - should I quit?"***

After all the years you have invested, you are just getting to the point where you are good enough to really enjoy band. Don't drop out now when you're on the verge of getting the most out of it and enjoying it to the fullest! At the very least, fully commit for one year.