

# *Husky Music Handbook*

*Riles Middle School*

*2011-2012*



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*Music Director*

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## ***Welcome***

Welcome to the Riles Husky Music program! It is an honor and a privilege to become a member of our performing groups. We have a fine reputation and we intend to keep it. The Husky Music Department consists of the following organizations:

Advanced Band – 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> grade band students. Director approval required  
Beginning Band – 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> grade beginning musicians  
Choir – 7<sup>th</sup> – 8th grade men and women beginners, and experienced  
Guitar – Beginning and advanced students, acoustic instruments only  
Jazz Band – 7-8 students Director approval required

## ***Objectives***

1. To learn how to play your chosen instrument accurately, producing a pleasing tone. (Band & Guitar)
2. To emphasize the development of singing and music reading skills necessary to make an enjoyable contribution to a quality music organization.
3. To enjoy making music. Music is fun, but there is no fun in mediocrity. To ensure the success of the group, each student, parent, and director must realize his/her responsibilities. Each must be willing to sacrifice individual desires for the betterment of the band.
4. To have a good attitude about band. The amount of satisfaction and fun you receive from your band will be no greater than the amount of hard work and enthusiasm you are willing to consistently contribute. Your attitude will have a direct impact on your achievements.
5. To understand the importance of proper conduct, consideration of others, and courtesy as a vital part of the group.
6. To develop an understanding of music fundamentals and theory.
7. To learn how to perform, write, and create music.
8. To develop the ability to analyze, describe, and listen to music.
9. To develop the ability to match pitch and sing on pitch.
10. To develop an understanding of music as it relates to history and culture.

## **COURSE DESCRIPTION Beginning Band & Advanced Band**

This is an elective course offering beginning and intermediate instruction for the wind instruments and percussion. You will learn to perform a repertoire of instrumental literature representing various genres, styles, and cultures with expression, technical accuracy, tone quality, and articulation, by oneself and in ensembles. The course also includes music fundamentals, theory, songs, performance, listening, composing, improvising, analyzing, and learning how to read standard music notation.

## **COURSE DESCRIPTION Guitar**

This is an elective course offering beginning instruction for the guitar. You will learn open chords, power chords, moveable chords, accompaniment techniques, and a variety of playing techniques and styles, including both the pickstyle, and fingerstyle approaches to the guitar. The course also includes music fundamentals, theory, songs, performance, listening, composing, improvising, analyzing, and learning how to read standard music notation, and tablature.

## **COURSE DESCRIPTION Choir**

This is an elective course offering beginning and intermediate instruction for vocal music. Proper sound production, breathing, diction, and harmonizing will be taught. You will learn to perform a repertoire of vocal literature representing various genres, styles, and cultures with expression, technical accuracy, tone quality, and articulation, by oneself and in ensembles. The course also includes music fundamentals, theory, songs, performance, listening, composing, improvising, analyzing, and learning how to read standard music notation.

# ***Classroom Routines and Expectations***

Self-discipline is an important element of music rehearsal and performance. Students must realize that they are a member of a group or team with an excellent reputation. Their behavior during school classes and at public performances reflects on both Riles and the Music Department. Please remember the following basic rules:

- **Respect yourself and others!**
- 100% positive participation will prevent disruptive behavior. Criticizing another student's voice or effort is not allowed.
- Be on time in your seat, with your music and **pencil** in hand, ready to begin when the bell rings.

- Keep hands and feet to yourself
- Touch only your instrument, not your neighbors (Guitar & Band)
- When we are ready to rehearse—you are quiet and ready.
- We expect students to leave all food, gum, and drinks outside of the room. Students may bring containers of water into the music room.
- No books, gym bags, etc. will be allowed on the risers. Leave all supplies on the bookshelves and pick up your folder as you enter the classroom. We expect our students to take all of their belongings with them each day when they leave the music room.
- Follow directions **the first time asked**
- Take responsibility for your actions
- Bring all music and instrument (band & guitar) to class every day
- Students may not play the piano or adjust any sound equipment.
- Proper concert etiquette will be observed at all performances.

*“You are not the center of the universe; put others first!”  
Professor Myers, Ancient Wise Guy (Also, a pretty good trumpet & guitar player)*

### ***Rewards for positive adherence to guidelines***

- Good Grade
- Section Awards
- Permission for Field trips and performances

### ***Consequences for noncompliance of guidelines***

- 1<sup>st</sup> warning – verbal
- 2nd warning – 1<sup>st</sup> part of BIF – phone call home
- 3rd warning – 2<sup>nd</sup> part of BIF – phone call home
- 4<sup>th</sup> warning – 3<sup>rd</sup> part of BIF – detention and phone call home
- 5<sup>th</sup> warning – Behavior Referral and sent to the office

# ***Grading***

The diligent, hard-working members of the Husky Music Department know that being in music doesn't necessarily mean an "easy A." Grades are an important part of music education, and it is important for each member to be acquainted with the expectations of the Riles Music Department grading system.

. Grades will include but are not limited to the following:

## **Daily Participation**

Daily rehearsal grades will be determined by attitude, respect, cooperation, effort, sectionals, sight-reading, attendance, and improvement.

## **Performances**

All performances are mandatory. **Failure to attend a musical performance may result in failure of the course for that grading period, if the absence is unexcused.** A performance is considered an examination of the material that has been covered in the music class.

## **Band & Guitar**

40% weekly practice records

- Weekly practice records will be kept in the student's notebook, and it will be checked weekly.

25% Homework & quizzes

- Usually worksheets, or music that reinforce the material presented in the Method Book

25% Performance and Behavior

- All performances are mandatory and graded
- A weekly grade is given for participation in class, e.g. do they have their instrument, book, etc.

10% Project, or Performance Critique

- Students have a choice between, (1) attending one performance per semester, and writing a one page critique per performance, or (2) writing a three page report on a performing musician. (Preferably one who plays your instrument.)

## **Choir**

40% classroom participation and behavior

- A weekly grade is given for participation in class, e.g. do you have your book, and are you singing

25% Homework

- Worksheets that reinforce the material presented in class

25% Performances and Behavior

- All performances are mandatory and graded

10% Project, or Performance Critique

- Students have a choice between, (1) attending one performance per semester, and writing a one page critique per performance, or (2) writing a three page report on a performing musician.

## ***Attendance Policy***

As a member of the Husky Music Department, you have an obligation to your fellow group members to be at school, at all outside-of-school rehearsals, and at performances on time, prepared, and with all necessary equipment. We are not tolerant of poor daily attendance. Read carefully.

1. All students are expected to have excellent daily attendance at school.
2. Attendance at sectionals, rehearsals, and concerts scheduled outside of the regular school day is **required and graded**. Absence from sectionals or outside-of-school rehearsals can result in a reduction of grade and possible removal from performance opportunities.
3. Absence from outside-of-class rehearsals and concerts will be excused for the following reasons:
  - Medical emergencies or personal injury
  - Death in family

4. Examples of unexcused absences include but are not limited to:
  - Oversleeping
  - Transportation
  - Babysitting
  - Forgot
5. You must call if you are going to miss an outside-of-school rehearsal or performance.
6. Chronic absenteeism from school, unexcused absences from rehearsals or performances, and tardiness may result in:
  - Grade reduction
  - Loss of performance status
  - Removal from current group or removal of performance opportunities

## ***Class Supplies***

- **Pencil** - Students should have a sharpened pencil at the beginning of each class. It is a good idea to leave the pencil in the Music Room. Since music is used for many years, markings in the music must be non-permanent. Erasable pens are not acceptable.
- **NOTEBOOKS**  
 You will be receiving a number of handouts in this class including worksheets, songsheets, notesheets, improvisations, scales, etc. Therefore, you must maintain a separate notebook. A three-hole binder is recommended and should be organized as follows:
 

<b>Course Outline</b>	This page
<b>Assignment Page</b>	To keep track of group and individual assignments
<b>Notation</b>	notesheets, handouts dealing with rhythms, scales, sight reading, and ensembles
<b>Songs</b>	songsheets organized numerically, and alphabetically
<b>Theory</b>	worksheets and tests
<b>Practice Log</b>	Band & Guitar only

There will be weekly notebook checks. Have your notebook ready for your first check by\_\_\_\_\_.

- **Book for Beginning Band:** *"Tradition of Excellence" Comprehensive Band Method Book 1*, by Bruce Pearson & Ryan Nowlin
- **Book for Advanced Band:** *"Standard of Excellence" Enhanced Comprehensive Band Method Book 2*, by Bruce Pearson

## ***Uniforms / T-shirts***

All music students will have a Riles Music T-shirt, which must be purchased.

## ***Fundraisers***

We will be organizing several fundraisers throughout the year. Participation in these events is optional; however, strongly encouraged. Expenses continue to rise (music, musicians, entry fees, etc.), so we need to have a very successful and prosperous fundraiser to help pay for these costs! A portion of fundraisers may also be designated for music trips when applicable. Thank you for your support with this very necessary item!!

## ***Concert Etiquette***

Audience members are encouraged to follow some well-established standards for formal concert behavior.

- Refrain from talking during the performance.
- Remain seated for the entire concert if at all possible. If it is absolutely necessary to do so, move only between selections and exit at the nearest door.
- Wait to re-enter the auditorium until the performing group is finished.
- Applause is the only appropriate form of expressing appreciation. A good rule of thumb is to wait until the conductor lowers his or her hands to indicate the completion of the selection or work.
- Please eliminate disruptions by turning off pagers, cell phones, and removing small children who are crying or speaking loudly.
- Students are not permitted to leave until the end of the concert and are expected to observe all performing groups. This is part of the educational process.



# Husky Music

## Commitment Form

**Please complete and return this form by Friday, August 13.**

Student Name (print) \_\_\_\_\_ Choir Period \_\_\_\_\_

Mother's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Daytime phone # \_\_\_\_\_

Father's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Daytime phone # \_\_\_\_\_

Home Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Email Address \_\_\_\_\_ T-shirt Size \_\_\_\_\_

I am interested in assisting with choir activities. Please contact me concerning the following:

\_\_\_\_\_ Chaperone a trip or contest.

\_\_\_\_\_ Assist with fundraiser.

\_\_\_\_\_ Chaperone a party.

\_\_\_\_\_ Assist with uniforms.

\_\_\_\_\_ Provide refreshments.

\_\_\_\_\_ Sing/play piano (in public)

\_\_\_\_\_ Parent helper at concert.

\_\_\_\_\_ Other

I have reviewed the responsibilities of a Husky Music member. I am willing to participate and support the program in every way.

*Student Signature* \_\_\_\_\_

*Parent Signature* \_\_\_\_\_