

TAMALPAIS HIGH SCHOOL

MUSIC DEPARTMENT

HANDBOOK



Music Director

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Students and Parents:

Welcome to the Tamalpais High School Music Program! Please take a few moments to read the following information; it will help you to understand our overall vision, as well as specific goals to which all Tam music students must commit.

Vision

The Tam Music Program is dedicated to providing an environment to promote music as an essential element in life whereby respect, self-confidence, discipline, teamwork, and commitment are fostered by adhering to the highest possible musical and personal standards.

Tam's Music Program has established the following goals to help students to be fully accountable for their actions, committed to their craft, demonstrate a positive attitude, and work together as a team so that we, our families, friends, and community may experience the highest quality music and personal standards possible and therefore, achieve the vision of our program.

Goals

<i>Educational - Tam Music Students Will...</i>
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1. Obey all school and class rules at all times.
2. Demonstrate Respect, Responsibility, Resourcefulness, and Reliability (the 4 R's) in the classroom and during rehearsals and performances.
3. Demonstrate an eagerness to help others.
4. Understand the importance of practicing correctly and practice consistently at home.
5. Demonstrate proper care and maintenance of all instruments, especially their own.
6. Demonstrate correct posture and attentiveness while playing.
7. Perform with proper air support, tone quality, intonation, articulations, technique, dynamics, rhythms, expression, sensitivity, and phrasing.

Facilities/Equipment – Tam’s Music Program will provide...

1. A safe, clean, nurturing, and education-friendly environment at all times.
2. A classroom accessible to all music students.
3. Quality musical instruments and equipment for student use.
4. Ample storage areas for music books, sheet music, musical instruments, and supplies.
5. Resources for students to further their musical knowledge in all areas, including tone and technique, rhythmic and pitch sensitivity, theory and analysis, music history, composition, improvisation, and practical applications, including musical careers.

Technology – Tam’s Music Program will include:

1. Music technology to improve teaching and learning in music.
2. The use of multimedia components to enhance musical understanding and appreciation.
3. Student access to music software

Community – Tam’s Music will enhance the surrounding community by...

1. Performing public concerts and publicizing the music program offerings.
2. Making music available for community events.
3. Offering outreach to younger students.
4. Attending amateur and professional performances of other ensembles.

Academic Policies

Grading: 90-100% = A; 80-89% = B; 70-79% = C; 60-69% = D; 59 or below = F
30% - In class assignments and practice charts
(ie. Listening exercises, rhythmic dictation)
30% - Quizzes
(ie. Playing/ Singing quizzes)
40% Participation
(classroom activities, performances, conduct and attitude)

Class and Performance Attendance Policy:

1. Missing a performance without teacher approval (any concert, festival or field trip) will drop your grade by one full letter grade, ex: an A drops to a B, a B drops to a C.
2. Performances are mandatory - please look over the school calendar carefully. You may check the calendar at any time by visiting our school website, tamhigh.org

Class Rules:

1. Follow instructions and all school policies.
 2. Come to class prepared to learn and with all necessary materials.
 3. Come to class on time.
 4. Treat the Teacher and all Guest Artists with courtesy and respect
 5. Keep hands, feet and objects to yourself.
 6. Use appropriate language – no teasing, bullying, profanity, or put-downs
 7. No gum, food, or drink will be allowed anywhere in the music room during class time.
 8. Take care of instruments, supplies and music. Pack up equipment properly!
- * Respect everyone and everything in the room. You and your classmates have a right to learn and the teacher has a right to teach. Disruptive behavior of any kind prevents learning and teaching. It will not be tolerated. We must all work together to make a positive and productive learning environment.
- * Cell phones should never be on or visible in class. Cell phones will be immediately confiscated.

Consequences for poor behavior choices:

1. Verbal warning.
2. Call or email home to parent
3. Referral to AP
4. Two non participation days, per 6 week grading period, will result in the student's *participation* grade being lowered 1 full letter. Overall grade $\frac{1}{2}$ a letter (ie. A to B+)
5. Student will be given a warning, then notified they have received a non participation mark.

Class Procedures:

1. Leave your backpack out of the rehearsal space.
2. You are to be in the music room ready to rehearse in a prompt fashion.
3. Come to class prepared each day with your instrument, music and a pencil.
4. Students unable to participate (ie. braces tightened, sick, forgotten music or instrument) will be required to fill out a rehearsal evaluation. Failure to fill out an evaluation will result in the student receiving a nonparticipation mark.
5. Bring a good attitude to class.
6. Last 3 minutes of class will be used to pack up and store equipment properly

Parents: Music is a wonderful combination of artistic expression, creativity and discipline. Involvement in music not only looks great on college applications, but can also develop the skills needed to succeed in college and in life. Please demonstrate integrity and personal responsibility by requiring your student to honor their commitments to come to class and all shows!

Music:

Students are responsible for their own music. Music must be brought to class daily. Sheet music should be treated as the text for the class. Music should be put away at the end of class. Students will be expected to take their music home and practice. Music should be marked when necessary with a pencil only. All music must be passed in at the time requested. If not turned in on time, you will be asked to file your own music. If you lose your sheet music, you will pay for replacements.

Instruments:

Keep your instrument in working order at all times. Maintain accessories for your instrument (reeds, straps, oil, grease, mutes, rosin, strings etc.). Your instrument must be cleaned at least once a semester. Keep instruments in a locker in the music room. Any instrument used must be put away properly.

Practicing:

Home practice is essential. Your parts, exercises and playing assignments must be practiced and performed in a satisfactory manner. In other words: evidence that shows that you are truly attempting to improve your playing. Students should maintain a home practice routine with at least 30 minutes a day, five days a week of serious practice on their instrument.

Performance Dress Code:

Boys

Black coat, white buttoned shirt, black slacks, black dress shoes and black socks (pseudo tux)

Bow tie provided (on loan) by Music Dept

Girls

Black dress, or black short sleeved blouse and black skirt, black dress shoes (black dress pants OK)

No Dress Code for Guitar/Percussion class concerts

Football Game Dress Code – Tam Music Polo's (provided by THUMB)

TUHSD Essential Standards for Music

Standard #1 Goal – Students will perceive and respond to artwork using appropriate vocabulary

- Students will develop the ability to discuss and describe music utilizing a functional dialogue
- Through written responses, students will describe the objective elements of the music and their personal impact

Standard #2 Goal – Students will make and/or perform self-generated work

- Students will perform both original and previously existing work in either small or large ensembles
- Students will have the opportunity to write an original composition
- Students will have the opportunity to perform and develop interpretive skills as a soloist

Standard #3 Goal – Students will examine and relate the role, history, and development of art in culture

- Based on the repertoire, students will examine musical elements indicative of historical time periods in music
- Based on listening/lecture, students will familiarize themselves with characteristics of musical time periods
- Students will understand the chronological order of genre related to Western European music traditions and North American jazz
- Students will be exposed to music and cultural traditions outside Western European and American music

Standard #4 Goal – Students will analyze, interpret, and judge performance and/or artwork through critique and self-reflection.

- Students will critique peer performances using appropriate music vocabulary
- Students will critique a professional performance using appropriate music vocabulary

Standard #5 Goal – Students will relate the value of their work to society and their life.

- Students learn life-long attributes like persistence, patience, perseverance through the pursuit and performance of music
- Students will recognize their personal strengths and weaknesses through the practice and development of their artistic voice
- Students will gain the skills of personal responsibility and make the connection of what they learn in music class to how they can make positive contributions to society

Tam High Music Program Contract

Parents and students please sign this form and return it after you have read and fully understand the Tam High Music Program Handbook.

Please return only this page and keep the handbook for your reference.

- We have read the Tam High Music Program Handbook.
- We have looked at the music calendar and have made a note of all required performances for this student.
- We understand all grading policies, procedures, rules and responsibilities described herein.

I am enrolled in the following music class(es):

- Intermediate (Concert) Band Advanced (Symphonic) Band Jazz Ensemble
- Guitar/Percussion String Orchestra Concert Choir

Enclosed is my \$50 THUMB membership check

I am not joining THUMB

Students name

Student's signature/date

Parent/Guardian name

Parent/Guardian signature/date

Parent/Guardian home phone number: _____

Parent/Guardian cell phone number: _____

Parent/Guardian e-mail: _____

(please print legibly)