

ICA BAND SYLLABUS
2009-2010

Dear Band Family,

I hope you are all ready to take on another exciting and challenging year!

Over the past years it has been so exciting to see the growth in the ability of our bands here at ICA. The Lord has provided us with students who work hard and parents who encourage their students to practice and develop talents for God's glory. It will only be through continued and increased parental involvement that we will continue to see improvement in our band, not only in numbers but also in ability.

This is the revised handbook for this year's secondary band program. Please make sure you give special attention to each of the sections. I ask that both parents and students read the entire handbook together. You are also asked to return the portion of this page to me by September 9th, signed by both the student and parent (or legal guardian.) If you have more than one child in the band, only one slip needs to be returned per family.

To assist you again this year, I will be posting this and other correspondence on the school's web page at www.indianchristianacademy.org. This will help you to reference the calendar any time you need to know about upcoming events as well as check out any other information concerning the band program.

Please feel free to contact me to clarify anything you may not understand in this syllabus. You may reach me at school (643-7884 ext. 215) or home (641-7966) or you may e-mail me at jerry.ascher@gracetoanderson.com.

Here's to a great year!
Sincerely,

Jerry Ascher
Band Director

(Please clip and return to Mr. Ascher by Sept. 9)

I have read and understood the rules and regulations set forth in the handbook. I also understand the corrective action that may occur as a result of not following any of the rules or regulations contained herein.

Date

Student's signature(s)

I have read and understood the rules and regulations set forth in this handbook. I also understand the corrective action that may occur to my child as a result of not following any of the rules or regulations contained herein.

Date

Parent's/Guardian's signature

INDIANA CHRISTIAN ACADEMY BAND CALENDAR

DATE	EVENT	TIME	LOCATION
Sept. 2	GBC orchestra rehearsals begin	6:30 p.m.	Little Chapel
Sept. 9*	Syllabus must be signed/pencils in folders		
Sept. 23*	Article due - "The Art of Practicing Well"		
Oct. 21*	Article due - "Practice, Practice, Practice"		
Oct. 30*	Grandparents' Day		GBC Auditorium
Oct. 31-Nov. 6	Fine Arts Festival		Bob Jones University
Nov. 18*	Article due - "Remembering Sousa"		
Dec. 15*	ICA Christmas Concert	7 p.m.	GBC Auditorium
Jan. 20*	Article due - "Getting Students to Watch"		
Jan. 29, 30	Great Lakes Music Festival		Maranatha Baptist Bible College
Feb. 10*	Article due - Specialty articles		
	Flute - "Aim for a Perfect Sound"		
	Oboe - "Double-reed Care"		
	Clarinet - "Single-reed Articulation"		
	Saxophone - "First Lessons on the Saxophone"		
	Horn - "With Joy and Enthusiasm"		
	Trumpet - "Basic Trumpet Truths"		
	Trombone - "First Lessons on Trombone"		
	Baritone - "With Joy and Enthusiasm"		
	Tuba - "First Lessons on Tuba"		
	Percussion - "Percussion Rolls"		
March 3*	Article due - "Beyond the Beat: An Interview with Stephen Squires"		
March 18, 19*	Senior High Academic Meet (The band competition is Thursday p.m., March 18.)		TBA
April 12-16*	AACS Competition		Bob Jones University
April 21*	Article due - "Begged, Borrowed, and Stolen"		
April 22, 23*	Junior High Academic Meet		Colonial
April 27*	ICA Spring Concert		GBC Auditorium
May 21	ICA graduation		GBC Auditorium

ATTENDANCE

Attendance to all scheduled events is crucial. The group's morale suffers when a student is either late to or absent from rehearsals or performances. Your child's participation in the group mandates their attendance at the required events. Please plan vacations and weekends away so that each student will be able to fulfill their responsibility to the group.

AWARDS

John Philip Sousa Band Award - This annual award recognizes superior musicianship, leadership, dependability, loyalty, cooperation, and testimony. It is awarded to the most deserving student in the 9th-12th grades.

Letter - Any student can letter in band as many as four times, once each of his or her high school years, by the accumulation of 1,600 points, as well as by displaying the qualities of musicianship, dependability, loyalty, cooperation, and maintaining a good testimony.

CHALLENGES

The seating arrangement in band has been chosen for the good of the group and not for the good of any one individual. However, if a student would like to move up in his section, he can have that opportunity through challenges.

Rules and procedures for challenging:

1. Check the chosen piece with Mr. Ascher.
2. Tell the member being challenged as soon as you know the piece of music to be used. Failure to do so will nullify the challenge.
3. Challenges are held the day following their announcement. If a challenge is asked for on Wednesday, it will be held on Monday or the next day full band meets.
4. Challenges may be waived at the discretion of the conductor if there are extenuating circumstances for one member.
5. Challenges may be made for only one chair higher at a time.
6. Chairs are frozen two weeks before a concert or competition. A person who loses his chair on the deadline, however, will have one opportunity to get the chair back, but those intentions must be made immediately.
7. It is considered fair for a member to practice hard before announcing his intention to challenge since all players have an equal opportunity to practice. However, the player intending to challenge must make the folder available for equal time if he shares a folder with the person he intends to challenge.
8. Challenges will be limited to one per day.
9. The band will vote on the outcome of the challenge; the conductor may veto any vote he deems inaccurate.
10. Band members may challenge only once each week.
11. There will be no forfeits; a member must accept when challenged.
12. Each member must keep in mind that the challenge system is intended to produce a better band for God's glory, not their own. Therefore, if a bad spirit arises between certain players, challenging may be denied to those players.

COSTS

Each student must have an "I Recommend" book which will be used daily for warm-up exercises. These books presently cost \$5.35 per book. These can be purchased individually, or the cost can be applied to your school bill.

Reeds may be purchased as needed in our school book store. Clarinet reeds are \$2 each, and saxophone reeds are \$2.50 each. Any other needed accessories may be purchased in the bookstore or ordered through Mr. Ascher.

Students may need to bring money for meals for those events held away from ICA.

Any competitions or recitals may involve purchasing some music and include an entrance fee.

DRESS

ICA does not own its own uniforms. We ask each student to wear to each concert the following attire:

Gentlemen

Black dress pants and belt
Black dress shoes and socks
White, long-sleeved dress shirt
White t-shirt

Ladies

Black dress shoes
Black hose

The students will be asked to purchase a necktie (guys) or an outfit (girls) that is chosen for the entire group. **Please have these outfits clean and pressed for every concert.** The cost for these outfits will be applied to your school bill unless you contact the school office to make different arrangements.

INSTRUMENT RENTAL

A student who uses an ICA-owned instrument will need to pay a \$10 per month rental fee. This fee will be used for any needed repair on these instruments. Any accessories (e.g. reeds, oil, cream, etc.) will still be the student's responsibility. Each payment will be due by the first of each month and will be handled through the office.

INSTRUMENT REPAIR

Any minor instrumental repairs will be handled on Tuesdays. Tickets will be available to describe the problem so that the representative from Muncie Music can fix the instrument.

LESSONS

Private lessons are available on a weekly basis for only \$10 per lesson. Each private lesson will be 30 minutes in length and each student is guaranteed 28 lessons per year. The payments for these lessons will be handled through the school office.

PASSES

If a student wishes to practice during a study hall, they must obtain a pass before the day they wish to practice. Please follow the school's study hall regulations when obtaining any pass.

REHEARSAL PROCEDURES

Please be to rehearsals on time! Each person should tune before finding their place. The tuners will be located in two locations in the back of the band room. Have someone watch the tuner to insure proper results. Most rehearsals will begin with the "I Recommend" books. The order of rehearsal will usually be posted before each rehearsal. Music should be placed in that order on the stand immediately. Announcements will also be posted. Each student is responsible for reading those announcements.

Music is needed for each rehearsal. If a student takes the folder home to practice, but fails to come to school the following day of rehearsal, he or she is still responsible to get the folder back to school if they share that particular folder. Failure to do so will result in points being subtracted from their total. If a student for whatever reason does not have music for any rehearsal, they are responsible to get a replacement copy from the file, and to return the music following that rehearsal.

Each folder should be supplied with a pencil; music should be marked liberally, but **ONLY** with a pencil.

GRADES

Grades are based on four areas: practice, points, articles, playing exams, and effort. The most important part of the grade is practicing. If a student accumulates enough points for an A, but cannot play the band music, they will not receive an A. This is why practicing is such an important part of each student's progress. Points are also given for practicing; the breakdown is listed below. The playing exams will be given somewhere near the end of first semester. Each student must read an article from "The Instrumentalist Magazine" every month. Please consult the band calendar for the due dates. After reading an article, a report, located in my office, must be filled out. Each report will be graded on effort, content, and whether or not it was turned in on time. While a student may work ahead, no report will be accepted late. A late report will be docked one letter grade each day it is late. No points will be awarded for these articles. Extra articles may be read for points; no report is required for these extra articles. Points are tallied quarterly as follows: A=400 pts., A-=350 pts., B+=300 pts., B=250 pts., B-=200 pts., C+=150 pts., C=100 pts., D+=75 pts., D=50 pts., D-=less than 50 pts., F=0 pts.

POINT SYSTEM

Quality points:

1. Take private lesson20 per lesson
 2. Listen to a band, orchestra, or instrumental recording, classical radio or watch television program.(No soundtracks from R or PG-13 movies will be acceptable.) **Please turn in the following information: Title and performers.** The activity must be at least ½ hour in length.. 15 per event
(45 points allowable per week)
 3. Weekly practice: 2.5 hours (A) 35 points
2 hours (A-) 30 points
1.5 hours (B) 25 points
1 hour (C) 20 points
.5 hour (D)..... 10 points
- ***practice time is cut in half for percussion students and those taking more than one instrument ***
½ of rehearsal time counts as practice time
4. Prepare an outside report50 or more points
 5. Read articles from music periodicals or chapter from music related books and turn in the following: Title of book or periodical or title of chapter or article. (Check with Mr. Ascher for suggestions). 30 points
 6. Attend a concert (**must** be approved by director, and **must** include a program from the concert) 50 points
 7. Play in church orchestra (congregational acc.)..... 20 per service
 8. Play in an ensemble in public 40 points
 9. Play a solo in public..... 50 points
 10. Write a composition for some performing medium..... 100 points
 11. Arrange a composition for some performing medium..... 75 points
 12. Compete in any competition - solo 75 points
ensemble..... 50 points
 13. Help to the conductor..... 20 points
Specific date and function must be listed on point sheet for credit
 14. Challenge 20 points
 15. Win a challenge 10 points
 16. Conduct an instrumental ensemble 15 points
 17. Congregational accompaniment (piano) 20 points
 18. Accompaniment for special music (piano) 30 points

Penalty points:

1. Absent from a performance 100 points
2. Mistreating any instrument* 25 points
3. Forgetting instrument or music* 35 points
4. Mistreating music* 25 points
5. Dress code violation at concerts* 35 points
6. Unexcused absence from rehearsal* 50 points
7. Unexcused tardy to rehearsal* 15 points
8. Improper storage of instrument* 10 points

*Penalty points may also carry a demerit penalty as stated in the ICA handbook.