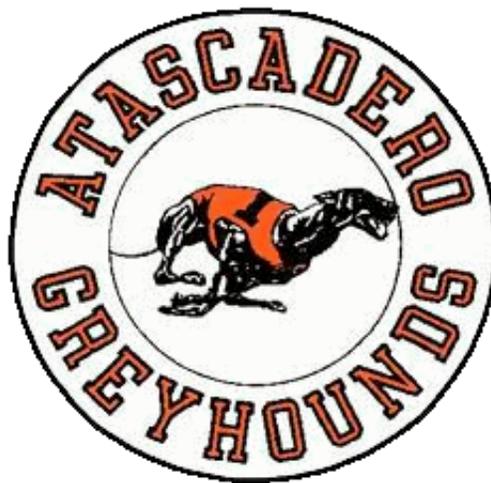




BAND HANDBOOK

2014 – 2015

Band Director: Nathanael Conrad



Atascadero High School
1 High School Hill
Atascadero, CA 93422
School Phone: 805.462.4300
Mr. Conrad's Office: 805.462.4212

Dear Students and Parents,

I would like to welcome you all to the beginning of what promises to be an exciting and productive year of music as part of the Atascadero High School Music Program. I hope that you have all had a great summer, with plenty of time to relax (and practice), and that you are now ready to get down to business. In the following pages you will find all of the information needed to make this year a successful one for you and the ensemble(s) you are participating in. ***This handbook is intended to be read and signed by both parents and students, so please read the entire book carefully.***

If you have any questions or concerns about the information contained in this handbook, please feel free to contact me and I will be happy to make time to discuss them with you.

I look forward to an exciting and productive year working with you and your students!

Sincerely,

Nathanael Conrad

AHS Band Director

805.462.4212

nathanaelconrad@atasusd.org

About Director Nathanael Conrad

Nathanael Conrad graduated with a Bachelor's Degree in music with emphasis on performance, composition and education from California State University East Bay. He has played lead trombone for the Cuesta College Day Band, the CSUEB A Jazz Band, principal trombone for the CSUEB Wind Ensemble, and the CSUEB Chamber Ensembles.

Mr. Conrad has written compositions for a number of different musical groups, including:

- The Cuesta College Jazz Combos
- The CSUEB Trombone Ensemble
- The CSUEB Jazz Ensemble
- The CSUEB Jazz Band
- The CSUEB Jazz Combos
- The CSUEB Symphonic Band
- Chord Four
- The AHS Jazz Band
- The AHS Marching Band

In the summer of 2006, Mr. Conrad's composition for wind ensemble, "Gifts", was performed by the La Sierra Music Camp Wind Ensemble under the direction of Timothy Smith. Conrad adjudicated and was a clinician at the CSU East Bay Jazz Festival in 2005 and 2007. He also presented a master class on trombone performance at the Hayward Jazz Festival in 2005.

Mr. Conrad has performed with a number of prestigious and accomplished musicians, including Bill Watrous, Steve Turre, Brian Bowman, Bob Sheperd, Tom Scott, Chris Vidala, Ron Miles, Ray Brown, Ingrid Jensen, Bill Liston, Peter Epstein as well as many other professional musicians from around the world. He plans to continue writing music for a variety of groups and working to further develop his trombone playing.



**Go
Greyhounds!**

Music Program Statement

It is the goal of this music program to:

- incorporate the National Standards for music education.
- expose all students to a wide variety of musical experiences.
- increase the musical abilities of all students involved in the music program.
- participate in music festivals in both the fall and spring semesters.
- provide students (who have shown the director that they are capable of leading) with leadership opportunities.
- be a role model of music excellence to the community and to other musical organizations
- to help provide and nurture personal habits for each student that will in turn help them to be successful individuals after high school.

What's Good About Music Education

By studying music, human beings develop a wide variety of skills that will help them throughout their lives, in whatever career they choose to pursue. The study of music teaches students to:

- work well with others.
- develop self discipline.
- use simple and complex math.
- learn self expression
- develop and use problem solving skills
- develop a strong self image.

Studies show that music students, on average, score higher on tests, get higher grades in all subjects, and are more likely to be successful in their career choices. The most important thing music education teaches us is that hard, focused, intelligent work equals success. Please don't just take my word for it, feel free to look up studies and research the advantages to studying music for yourself. There are many studies posted online; here are some links to get you started:

www.menc.org/publication/books/standards.htm

www.childrensmusicworkshop.com/advocacy/12benefits.html

<http://musiced.about.com/od/beginnersguide/a/pinst.htm>

National Standards

It is the goal of the Atascadero High School Band Program to educate and inspire its students to reach their potential as performers, composers and critics of a variety of musical genres. To this end, the AHS Band Program follows national curriculum standards set by MENC and can be found on their website, www.menc.org/publication/books/standards.htm. These standards include:

1. Singing a varied repertoire of music, alone and with others.
2. Performing a varied repertoire of music on instruments, alone and with others.
3. Improvising melodies, variations and accompaniments.
4. Composing and arranging music within specified guidelines.
5. Reading and notating music.
6. Listening to, analyzing and describing music.
7. Evaluating music and music performances.
8. Understanding relationships between music, the other arts and disciplines outside the arts.
9. Understanding music in relation to history and culture.



AHS Musical Ensembles

Atascadero High School is pleased to offer several opportunities for students to participate in one of the finest music programs in the county. Read about each ensemble in the following pages and decide which group is best for you.

Auditions for the Marching Band and Jazz Bands will be held in the Spring for the following year. They will consist of a prepared excerpt/piece assigned by the director, sight reading and any two major scales of the director's choice. Chair placement will be decided by Mr. Conrad.

Marching Band

The Marching Band at AHS is a large part of the fall semester music program. Out of all the instrumental ensembles at AHS, it involves the largest number of students. Marching Band performs at all home football games, entertaining the fans with a halftime field show as well as music during the game. In addition, the Marching Band performs in local parades and field shows, as well as community events upon request and schedule permitting.

Because the Marching Band is such an integral part of the fall semester and involves the most students, it is imperative that parents and students be aware what is required of them. With this in mind, please follow these guidelines:

1. Students will be issued all music for the marching season. The student is responsible for their music, and **any music lost by the student must be paid for by that student.**
2. Students are expected to be at every rehearsal and every performance unless the absence is excused ahead of time. If the school excuses your absence from school for the day, then you are automatically excused from classtime rehearsals and any other rehearsals for the day. **In addition, if you are absent for a majority of the academic school day then you are not allowed to participate in any after school rehearsals that day.**
3. For field rehearsals, students must be **ready to play** (with instrument and any materials that are required) by the specified time. If rehearsal starts at 6pm, you need to be in position on the field and ready to go at 6pm. Here is a helpful way to look at arriving for rehearsal on time: "If you show up on time, you are late. If you show up early, then you are on time."
4. Music for the field show must be completely memorized by the end of the second week of school. **There will be playing tests as needed.**
5. Grading for this class will be based on attendance, attitude, always working your hardest and overall music improvement. Nobody is perfect, and everybody should therefore be improving all the time. Students will be evaluated through the use of playing tests and music theory worksheets. Students will also be given points based upon how well they meet the objectives listed in the first sentence of this paragraph. If you are late to class or after school rehearsals you will lose points. If you do not have the materials you need for the rehearsal then you will also lose points.



Symphonic Band

The Symphonic Band performs during the winter and spring. This ensemble performs a variety of music. At least two evening concerts are performed and the Symphonic Band also performs at community events upon request and schedule permitting. Please follow these guidelines when participating in the Symphonic Band:

1. Each student will be given a folder that will contain their own individual parts for every piece they play. **Every student must have their own copy**, as it is imperative that all students have the option to practice their music outside of regular classtime and scheduled rehearsals. **Any music lost by the student must be replaced (paid for) by the student.**
2. All students are expected to begin working on their music as soon as they receive it. The student is responsible for learning any musical aspect addressed in class. Students will be evaluated on their progress by the director during the next rehearsal. Each student's individual ability will be taken into account, and their progress will be evaluated accordingly. That being said, students should always be improving their musical abilities.
3. All students will be issued uniforms for concert season. Boys will wear tuxedos and girls will wear concert dresses. Both will be bought/rented through the music program, and **students will be responsible for dry cleaning their symphonic attire.**
4. Grading will be based on attendance, attitude, and overall improvement throughout the semesters. Playing tests and theory worksheets will be used to help evaluate student improvement more accurately. Students will also be given points based on how well they meet the objectives listed in the first sentence of this paragraph. If you are late to class or after school rehearsals, you will lose points. If you do not have the materials you need for rehearsal, you will lose points.
5. All performances are graded based on individual effort. Missing a performance is like missing a test that cannot be made up. **Missing a performance will lower your grade by one full letter.**

Jazz Band

The Jazz Ensemble performs during the spring and travels to several competitions and festivals throughout the state. Additionally, the Jazz Ensemble will perform at community events upon request and schedule permitting. This is a very competitive group, and under most circumstances no parts are doubled.

1. All students will be given their own folder containing their own individual parts for every piece they play. **Every student must have their own copy**, as it is imperative that all students have the option to practice their music outside of regular classtime and scheduled rehearsals. If music is lost, the student is responsible for buying replacement parts. These parts can be very expensive to replace, so be careful with them! After a chart has been sight read and put in the folder, the student is responsible for learning the part for the next rehearsal.
2. Students will be given new scales and scale patterns to learn on a regular basis. These scales and scale patterns will be tested every other week. The tests will consist of students playing these patterns during a designated rehearsal. **These scales will make up 20% of the student grade.**
3. Rehearsal attendance is even more imperative than other ensembles because no parts are doubled. Missing parts leave huge holes in rehearsals and **GREATLY** effect the success of the ensemble. If a person is missing from rehearsal, the ensemble cannot function. **PERIOD. If a student has an unexcused absence, it will effect their grade accordingly.**
4. From time to time students will be required to attend after school rehearsals. These rehearsals will take place no more than once per week, typically on Thursdays. Start time will be 15 minutes after school gets out and rehearsals will last for 2 hours. Rehearsals will be scheduled as needed and students will be given ample time to adjust their schedules. Absences from these rehearsals must be excused by the band director in advance. Students/Parents, please let Mr. Conrad know if there may be any upcoming conflicts. **Unexcused absences from rehearsals will effect the student's grade.**
5. Missing a performance or a festival is like missing a test that cannot be made up. Missing these will lower the student's grade by a full grade.

Rehearsal Procedures for All Ensembles

1. At the beginning of class all students are expected to be sitting in their assigned seats. Students will have up until the third minute of class to put instruments together, have their music in order for rehearsal and warm up on their own. Individual warm-ups consist of those given to you by the director, a private instructor, or soft to medium volume long tones.
2. When the director is on the podium, all individual warm-ups must stop. **There should be no talking during individual warm-ups.** The class will end when the director dismisses the class. **Do not pack up until dismissed!**
3. Any written assignments must have the student's name, date and the class period in the upper right hand corner of the page.
4. From time to time we will do some in-class sectional rehearsals. These rehearsals will be run by the section leaders or individuals appointed by the director. **Students must follow the musical directions of the section leaders. All ensemble members must show respect to each other and the director at all times.**
5. All instruments are to be kept in complete working order. All students are responsible for maintaining their own instruments. If you have a school instrument, refer to the school instrument parent/student contract for liability. If a school instrument needs repair work due to natural wear and tear, let Mr. Conrad know as soon as possible. **If repairs are needed and not taken care of in a timely manner it will negatively effect your grade.** If you cannot afford to make the necessary repairs, make it known to the band director and arrangements acceptable to both the student/parent(s) and the director will be made. The bottom line is that your instrument needs to work so that you can effectively study music.

Attendance

The success of any ensemble is directly related to how the ensemble functions as a whole. Every time someone misses a rehearsal, it directly effects the overall sound of the group. The people that sit next to you rely on you for their balance and blend. Balance, blend, intonation and expression can only be perfected as a group. Without the full group we cannot make sufficient progress towards our goal of the "perfect performance."

Grading Policy

The following grading scale applies to all classes and ensembles. Keep in mind that any specific grading policies for an individual ensemble will be included in their respective sections on the previous pages.

95-100% A	94-90% A-
89-86% B+	85-83% B
82-80% B-	79-76% C+
75-73% C	72-70% C-
69-66% D+	65-63% D
62-60% D-	59-1% F

Grading in all music classes will be based on a point system. Points will be assigned at the discretion of the director and will include, but not be limited to the following:

- Performances, including games, competitions, concerts and festivals.
- Rehearsals
- Playing tests and scale tests
- Music theory worksheets



Classroom Rules

To assure that things run smoothly during class, Mr. Conrad has set up some standard ground rules. They are as follows:

1. No talking while rehearsal in in progress, unless specified by the director.
2. Raise your hand and be recognized by the director before speaking.
3. Have appropriate materials in class, including a pencil, music, instrument, reeds, valve oil/slide oil.
4. No food or drink, aside from bottled water, is permitted in the Band Room.
5. Show respect to all members of the band. In essence, speak kindly to others and keep your hands and feet to yourself!
6. Come to class having prepared the material covered from the last class meeting.
7. Come to rehearsal with a positive attitude and prepared to give 100% effort no matter how your day, week .onth or year is going. If you struggle with this, please seek help from Mr. Conrad!

If the aforementioned rules are not adhered to, the following consequences will be enforced:

Frist offense: Verbal warning.

Second offense: Call home to parents.

Third offense: Meeting with parent(s), Mr. Conrad, and possibly school administrators.

Fourth offense: Student will be dismissed from class and sent to the office until a meeting with the parent(s) can take place. This could mean missing more than one class session.

Fifth offense: Student will be dismissed from the band for one full semester or longer.

If any student blatantly and/or maliciously causes a serious classroom disruption Mr. Conrad will bypass consequences up to the fourth offense and the student will be sent to the office immediately.

School Instrument Use

All school instrument use must be approved by Mr. Conrad. There will be a special contract that must be signed by both the parent and student. Once that instrument is assigned to a student for use during the year, that student is responsible for keeping it in working order. Any damage sustatined while the instrument is in the care of the student must be paid for by the student/parent. Please let the band director know as soon as the instrument is damages so that it can be sent out for repair. There is no fee for using a school instrument, but donations to help keep the instruments in working order are greatly appreciated.

Ensemble Auditions

Auditions for the Marching Band and Jazz Bands will be held in the Spring for the following year. Auditions will consist of a prepared excerpt/piece assigned by the director, sight reading and any two major scales of the director's choice. Chair placement will be decided by Mr. Conrad.

I have read the information contained in the Band Handbook and understand each stipulation contained in the Handbook. I understand that if the guidelines contained in the Handbook are not adhered to, appropriate consequences will be enforced.

Parent Signature

Date

I have read the information contained in the Band Handbook and agree to follow each stipulation contained in the Handbook. If I do not follow the guidelines contained in the Handbook, I understand that the appropriate consequences will be enforced.

Student Signature

Date