



Ironwood Ridge High School Concert Percussion

2020-2021 Syllabus &
Member Handbook



IRONWOOD RIDGE
PERCUSSION

Table of Contents:

COVID-19 Addendum - 1

“Why Music?” - 2

A Letter from The Director - 3

What is Percussion Ensemble? – 4

Required Percussion Gear List - 5

Contest/Festivals - 6

Code of Conduct – 6

Grading Policy - 9

Concert Attire - 11

Fundraising - 12

Important Dates - 13

COVID-19 Addendum:

1.) Engaging in Online Classes:

To help prepare students for the start of the school year, we are providing the following information to help familiarize students with the routines teachers will be following:

Students should expect to engage their teachers in the Zoom environment with their webcam activated. If your student is not able to use a webcam, please email the teacher and let them know the circumstances.

- To be admitted into Zoom classrooms, students must have a neutral background, an appropriate environment, be appropriately dressed and ready to learn. Students who are in pajamas, laying in their bed or use an inappropriate background will be exited from the classroom and marked absent.
- Teachers will communicate information and/or email students using students' Amphi Gmail accounts. Student's Amphi Gmail accounts use the following format:
Student_ID_Number@student.amphi.com (Ex. 30012345@student.amphi.com)
- When using Zoom, students will need to use their first initial, last name to identify themselves to the teacher.
- Students need to follow proper etiquette in both the Zoom and Google Classroom environments, refraining from inappropriate language or off topic discussions.

2.) Attendance:

- Teachers will take attendance at the beginning of the class period; thus, it is important to enter class on time.
- Students joining class after 7 minutes will be marked Tardy.
- Students who exit the class session without being excused by a caregiver will be marked absent
- Caregivers are required to report student absence in order to be excused
- Only students with Excused absences will be allowed to make up work without grade penalty.

3.) Grades:

In light of the profound implications of COVID-19 on students' academic learning and social-emotional well-being, Amphitheater School District's Secondary Schools have adopted the following principles and protocols for grading and assessment for the 2020 – 2021 school year.

- Students are expected to complete and submit assignments by the stated/written due date. Students can submit work up to a week late with no penalty. Individual student challenges should be considered before assigning a grade
- The minimum grade that can be assigned to a student on any given assignment is a 50%. Students who are on track to meet state and course standards mastery, show effort, and meet deadlines can expect a grade higher than 50%.
- Please understand that a 50% is still **failing**.

“Why Music?”

The value of music in our society is so important because music it is truly everywhere in our daily lives: on television, the radio and now even on our smartphones. By studying music, people will really understand not only the fact that music is everywhere, but really grasp *how* it is made and *why* it is so important to us.

Music education not only teaches individuals how to play an instrument and perform, it also adds crucial life skills as well. Some of these include having high confidence in front of others, time-management skills, perseverance and dedication. All of those listed qualities I personally gained through music, and they have helped me later in life including securing a job, getting into a university, and keeping an organized daily schedule. As a music educator, I not only want to make great musicians, but more importantly ***great people***. Students who become involved in music during the formative years of their education tend to support fine arts programs later in life. This support and love of music can help future American fine arts programs save their music, dance, drama, and visual arts classes from disappearing in K-12 curriculums.

Letter from The Director:

Dear IRHS Percussion Students and Parents:

I would like to personally introduce you to the exciting world of the Ironwood Ridge High School music department!

At Ironwood Ridge High School, our music programs have established a long tradition of musical and personal excellence, earning a reputation as an innovative organization that pushes musical boundaries each year, while providing its membership with quality musical and educational experiences.

This handbook informs and reminds students, parents, family members, and friends of the commitment and responsibility that helps keep our traditions and standards in place each school year. The IRHS music programs are a collective “melting pot” of student backgrounds, with members coming from all different walks of life, making for an exciting and diverse learning environment. A central ingredient to the success of any group effort is the cultivation and maintenance of this collective group. Through our striving for excellence in orchestral music, we will develop not only as musicians, but also as people.

Current percussion members and their parents should read and or review the following handbook, as every year it is updated, to fit the current needs for the IRHS music department. This handbook will provide information regarding policies, rules, co-curricular activities, grading policies, calendar and other information necessary to give students and their families a picture of expectations and opportunities for each IRHS percussion student.

Being a member of the Ironwood Ridge High School Music Program comes with a great deal of commitment, hard work and a need for positive attitudes from every individual. These ideals are each an essential part for the string program’s growth and success.

Once again, welcome you to the Ironwood Ridge High School Percussion Program family! I cannot wait to begin our musical journey with each and every one you!

With regards,

Mr. Damon R. Knepper M.M.Ed.

Director of Strings & Percussion

Assistant Director of Bands

Ironwood Ridge High School

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What is Concert Percussion Ensemble?

- Concert percussion ensembles are one of the newest, most cutting-edge music ensembles in the world, despite the percussion family of instruments being the world's oldest genre of physical instruments. Setups of modern percussion ensembles range from using concert-style drums, keyboards, hand drums, cymbals, body percussion, electronics, and everything in between including: flower pots, scrap metal, and honestly anything that the composers wants to incorporate into their work.

Course Goals:

- To develop well-rounded percussionists, who possess an intermediate-advanced understanding of percussion techniques, repertoire, and the history of percussion.
- Create a culture of high performance and practice standards for the entire IRHS percussion program
- Develop and refine the 6 main areas of percussion:
 1. *Snare Drum*
 2. *Timpani*
 3. *Mallets (Both 2 and 4 mallet grips)*
 4. *Accessories (Tambourine, triangle, cymbals, etc...)*
 5. *Hand Drums*
 6. *Drumset*
- Perform public concerts for the local community
- Learn basic maintenance on most percussion instruments
- Develop/refine personal practice habits
- Instill a lifelong love and passion for music

Required Sticks/Mallets (with recommendations):

Much like brass and wind players must purchase mouthpieces, reeds, cases, and maintenance equipment for their instruments, all percussionists need the following items for **EVERY** class and performance (Ironwood Ridge will provide **ALL** instruments and music; students are only required to bring mallets/sticks). This investment is usually only necessary **ONCE** in a percussionist's high school career, as they can use the same mallets all 4 years. Returning students who already own these items, may choose to upgrade some of their items each year, expanding their sound palate. On the following page, the percussion staff has compiled a list of the **BEST** mallets for each category, and I recommend that every student should research the mallets they desire to use.

Required Percussion Gear Recommendation List:

- **1 set of concert snare drum sticks (NOT drumset sticks)**
 1. Cooperman – Graham C. Johns #1 ~ \$28.00
 2. Innovative Percussion – James Campbell ~ \$12.00
 3. Innovative Percussion – CL1 Chris Lamb ~ \$20.00
 4. Vic Firth SD1 Generals ~ \$10.00
 5. Vic Firth Symphonic Collection - Ted Azkatz ~ \$27.00 **Knepper's Choice!*
 6. Vic Firth Symphonic Collection - Tim Genis ~ \$27.00
 7. Vic Firth – Ney Rosauo ~ \$10.00

- **1 set of medium or medium-hard concert marimba mallets (2 Pairs recommend for 4-mallet playing!)**
 1. Innovative Percussion – IP240 ~ \$33.00
 2. Innovative Percussion – IP300 Medium Hard ~ \$34.00
 3. Innovative Percussion – Mark Ford IP813 Medium Hard ~ 40.00
 4. Mallettech - Concerto Series CN14 ~ \$37.00
 5. Marimba One – Double Helix DHB4 Medium ~ \$50.00
 6. Vic Firth – Virtuoso Series Medium ~ \$33.00
 7. Vic Firth - Robert Van Sice Medium ~ \$40.00 **Knepper's Choice!*

- **1 set of medium or medium-hard concert timpani mallets**
 1. Cleveland CDB7 Medium ~ \$42.00
 2. Innovative Percussion – BT4 Bamboo Mallets ~ \$45.00
 3. Innovative Percussion – CT3 ~ \$34.00
 4. Vic Firth – Tim Genis GEN5 ~ \$16.00
 5. Vic Firth – T1 Generals ~ \$24.00 **Knepper's Choice!*

- **1 stick bag/case (Make sure to label your bag/case)**
 1. Balter MBMB Mallet Bag ~ \$26.00 **Knepper's Choice!*
 2. Innovative Percussion MB1 ~ \$33.00
 3. Liberty I Jumbo Mallet Bag ~ \$32.00
 4. Vic Firth Stick Bag ~ \$20.00

- **1 practice pad (10"+ pad preferred or the pad will bounce around while playing)**
 1. 12" Evans 1 Sided RealFeel Pad ~ \$18.00
 2. 12" Evans 2 Sided RealFeel Pad ~ \$28.00
 3. 12" Vic Firth Stock Pad ~ \$45.00 **Knepper's Choice!*
 4. 12" Vic Firth Slim Pad ~ \$40.00
 5. 12" Offworld Percussion V3 Pad ~ \$65.00

Retailers/Websites for the best value:

- Instrumental Music Center (a local favorite owned by a percussionist/former band director)
 - steveweissmusic.com
 - lonestarpertussion.com
 - wwwbw.com
 - interstatemusic.com
 - musicarts.com
 - percussionsource.com
 - amazon.com
- *some websites may offer educational stick and mallet "pre-packs" containing the needed snare, keyboard, and timpani mallets**

Contests/Festivals:

ABODA Festivals, Contests and All-State are only a few of the outside experiences offered to the orchestra students. Students participate in contests and festivals to learn new approaches to musical learning through working with highly successful and recognized conductors and other highly-skilled orchestra students. Participation in festival does not conflict with indoor percussion and is highly recommended for all percussion students to experience high level playing in both concert and marching ensembles.

ABODA Regionals and All-State Festivals:

Participation in the AMEA Regional Band/Orchestra and All-State Festivals are prestigious and highly recommended ensembles for all Arizona high school musicians. Preparation involves rehearsals outside of the school day. Students can audition for the ABODA Regional Festival on **January 23, 2021** at **The University of Arizona** and will receive their results the following Monday. If selected, the students will participate in the 2021 South-Central Region Band or Symphony Orchestra from **February 19 - 20, 2021**, missing a Friday of school. An excused absence form will be provided.

Regional Fees:

- \$25 Audition fee
- \$25 Participation fee

All students who are in the top 50% of audition scores for regionals are eligible to advance to the ABODA All-State Festival. Auditions will be held at a *Gilbert H.S.* on **March 13, 2021**. This prestigious festival is a three-day event in April, held this year at **University of Arizona** from **April 15 - 17, 2021**, and will require the student to miss a Thursday and Friday from school. An excused absence form will be provided by Mr. Knepper. The ensembles are comprised of some of the top musicians from around the state of Arizona. The festivals are led by conductors of the highest caliber, from around the world.

All-State Fees:

- \$25 Audition fee
- \$35 Participation fee

Code of Conduct:

Rehearsal Conduct:

Be respectful to your peers & clean up after yourself.

Treat others with respectful & caring behavior.

Remember to listen, pay attention, & use manners in class.

Put pride into your work.

Phones are to be out of sight at all times, ***unless*** being used as a tuner or metronome.

Performance and Off-Campus Conduct:

In performance or off-campus activity situations, orchestra students are expected to exhibit professional behavior that favorably represents IRHS and the music program. Students will comply with IRHS dress code and with the uniform requirements set by the director. Students will behave with modesty and decorum while in concert attire.

IRHS Music Program Policies on Discipline:

The IRHS Music Program strongly believes that all students have right to learn within a safe and productive learning environment. IRHS faculty will not tolerate actions or behaviors that detract from this right.

First Infraction – Verbal warning

Second Infraction – Verbal warning, loss of participation points and phone call/email to parents

Third Infraction – Written referral and removal from classroom

Fourth Infraction - Written referral, removal from classroom and meeting with student, parents and administration

IRHS has **zero tolerance policy** for bullying or threatening behavior towards students, teachers and guests. Any form or display or form of this behavior will result in immediate removal from the classroom and an administrator will be immediately contacted.

Communication:

All of my communication will be done in several ways, to ensure that all students and families know “what’s going on” at all times with our percussion program.

The two main ways I will communicate this year will be through email and *Google Classroom*

Attendance Policy:

As a performance-based class, rehearsal is an essential element of progress towards the student's performance learning goal, missed rehearsals may result in a lowered grade in that area. Every public performance or concert is a demonstration of each student's learning in the areas of reading, performing, listening, and evaluation. Performances are the equivalent of major formative assessments/exams and are weighted as such. Accordingly, **failure to attend a required concert will have a significant impact on a student's grades**. If a student continually misses public performances, he/she may be asked not to return to the program, as these absences negatively affect the entire ensemble.

Late Policy:

To be marked on time, you must be in your seat, with your stand, notebook and instrument out, completing your bellwork assignment 5 minutes after the tardy bell rings. This allows students to get their gear from the storage room and grab a chair and stand without having to rush. Any student, not in their seat 5 minutes after class starts, will be marked tardy.

Attendance must be recorded during the first 7 minutes of class, as per district rules. Any student that enters after this will be marked absent and I will have to change it to a tardy later in the day.

Supplies:

Students are required to have the following at every rehearsal:

- One black three ring binder for handouts
- A basic tuner or tuner app (I recommend *Tonal Energy Tuner*)
- A pencil, **NO PENS!**
- Their stick bag with required mallets/sticks
- All sheet music for exercises and repertoire

Students are graded daily on having these items. For each missing item, 1 point will be deducted from their daily participation points.

All sheet music is the property of IRHS and should be handled with care. Students will be assessed a fine for replacing lost or damaged music.

Practicing:

The district mandates that homework is a requirement for every class. As musicians, students are expected to practice regularly to hone their skills and musical development. Every student is required to practice at least 30 minutes a day. If a child is not practicing regularly, I will be in contact with parents to help find a solution.

Grading Policy:

All students enrolled in any of the music classes offered by IRHS will receive a grade for each quarter and semester. A student's grade is averaged against the total number of points possible per quarter/semester. As a performance-based ensemble, most of a student's grade depends on their personal preparation and attendance at concerts.

Grading category weights and their corresponding activities are as follows:

- **40% - Concert Attendance**
- **20% - Music Checks (Both digitally submitted and in-person)**
- **10% - Daily Participation**
- **10% - Music Theory Assessments**
- **10% - Final Reflection**
- **10% - Musical Enrichment**

A = 90%+ / B = 80-89% / C = 70-79% / D = 60-69% / F = 59% and below

What is Musical Enrichment?

Philosophy: Students will greatly benefit from musical enrichment activities and percussion-related community experiences. In addition to helping students grow as musicians, these activities will also help to create well-rounded individuals with positive character traits. 10% of semester grades will be based on the following point system (per grading term):

- 1 point Per private percussion lesson on either drumset or concert percussion
- 7 points Major research project presentation
- 3 points Audition for any outside ensemble, **even if you do not make it!**
- 3 points Each performance as a member of an outside ensemble
- 3 points Be an active member of the new IRHS Tri-M® Music Honor Society
- 2 points Tutoring middle school percussionists at one of our feeder schools
- 2 points Attend an **IRHS** music performance with a brief written review
- 1 point Attend any other music performance with a brief written review
- 1-3 points Miscellaneous community service projects at the director's discretion

10 points in any combination will earn a student the full 10% in this category. If a student earns additional points above and beyond the required 10, they may apply those points (at a rate of 1% extra-credit per point earned) in areas where they are below the possible percentage earned. For instance, if a student takes 8 private lessons, auditions for regionals, and attends 2 IRHS music concerts, they would earn 15 points for the term. The extra 5 points could be applied to their "music check" score as extra credit. Please see the following for further explanation (including restrictions) of each enrichment activity:

Private Lessons:

If a student is studying privately with weekly lessons (30 minute minimum), they must have their private instructor complete a private lesson verification form at the conclusion of every grading term.

Outside Ensemble Performances:

If a student rehearses and performs as a member of a chamber ensemble that is coached by either a private instructor or the percussion director, they will earn 3 points for every performance given. The literature performed must be different for each performance earning points. A few examples of performance opportunities would include The Tucson Philharmonic Youth Orchestra (TPYO), regionals, all-state, solo & ensemble competition, chamber recitals, church services, etc... documentation must be turned in to the percussion director verifying the performance.

Research Project

A student may earn points by doing a research project and presentation on a relevant musical topic approved by the director.

Regional Band/Orchestra / All-State Band/Orchestra

A student who auditions for Regional Orchestra / All-State Orchestra will earn 3 points for each round of auditions attempted. If the student is accepted in the ensemble, they will also receive 3 points for participating.

Tutoring feeder pattern string players

You may pre-arrange with an elementary/middle school director to come in and help them after school, or you may know a middle school string player who would like you to tutor them. Please document sessions with a cooperating teacher signature for each tutoring session.

Concert Attendance and Critique:

A student may earn 2 points for every IRHS band, orchestra, choir, marching band, musical or percussion concert/festival that they attend during the term. All other musical performance will be worth 1 point. The student must bring in a copy of the concert program or ticket stub and write a brief (1-page maximum) critique of the performance. A student may only use **five** K-12 concerts (in any combination) per term toward their point total, as the purpose of this enrichment activity is to expose our students to a higher musical standard such as college or professional ensembles.

Required Concert/Festival Attire:

Option #1:

- Black Long-Sleeved Collared Button-Down Shirt (No Black T-shirts)
- Black Dress Pants
- Black Belt
- Long Black Dress Socks
- Black Dress Shoes
- No excessive jewelry

Option #2:

- Black Solid Colored Dress
- Black Dress Shoes (No flip-flops, please)
- No excessive jewelry

****All attire must adhere to the IRHS dress code policy***

Fundraising:

***** Fundraising is essential for music programs to be successful! *****

Sheet music, repairs, festival registration fees, needed classroom supplies are paid for by fundraising. Without that money, we cannot function as a successful music ensemble.

All fundraising is voluntary, therefore is not required. However, we hope that every student will participate in at least some of the many fundraising opportunities that will be offered throughout the year. Some of the fundraisers will be to help fund the entire percussion class, while others will benefit the individual student. Regardless, all students who participate in any of the fundraising programs will be held accountable for all items being sold, as well as all monies being turned in.

We are always looking for new, creative ways to fundraise! Please do not hesitate to reach out via email with any new ideas you would like to see for fundraising.

More information will be given closer to fundraising dates.

2020-2021 IRHS Concert Percussion Dates:

*****Events in bold are required for ALL members of the percussion class*****

Fall 2020:

TBD – 4th Annual ARTS-a-palooza Festival @ IRHS – 6 p.m.

TBD in December – Winter Strings Concert @ IRHS - 7 p.m.

Spring 2021:

Saturday 1/25 – ABODA All-Regional Auditions @ U of A (\$25.00 Registration fee due to Mr. Knepper by November 1st)

Saturday 2/16 – ABODA All-Regional Festival @ Cholla High School (Field Trip)
(\$25.00 Participation fee due to Mr. Knepper by February 5th)

TBD in March – Spring Wind Ensemble/Percussion Concert (*Possible Feeder Concert*) @ IRHS - 7 p.m.

Saturday 3/13 - All-State Auditions @ Gilbert HS (\$35.00 Registration fee due to Mr. Knepper by 3/1)

Thursday-Saturday 4/15 - 4/17 - All-State Festival @ U of A (Field Trip) (\$35.00 Registration fee + hotel costs split among participating students)

TBD in May - End of the Year Wind Ensemble/Percussion Concert @ IRHS 7 p.m.

TBD in May - IRHS Graduation Full Orchestra Performance

More performance “gigs” may open up as the school year progresses and will be considered based on their educational value and necessary preparation time for students.

Any calendar alterations will be emailed to all parents and students.