



Indiana Christian Academy Elementary Band Syllabus

2011-2012

Dear Parents,

Thank you for encouraging your child to be a part of the ICA beginning band program. This is an exciting time in the life of every student who desires to begin a musical instrument. For the parent, the amount of patience needed is sometimes greater than that needed by the student. Hopefully, the things found in this information memo will help make this new adjustment very smooth.

Please read this, then sign and return the portion that indicates you have done so. If questions arise throughout the year, you may reference this policy sheet on the school's web page at www.indianachristianacademy.org or you may feel free to call me at school (643-7853 ext. 215) or home (810-3478) with any questions you may have regarding the band program. You may also e-mail me at sherrydubois.ica@gmail.com. I count it a privilege to work with the students here at ICA and am looking forward to a great year.

Sincerely,

Miss Sherry DuBois
Indiana Christian Academy
Director of Music

PRACTICE REQUIREMENTS

Each student will keep track of the weekly band assignment in his/her school assignment book, which will be checked by the homeroom teacher the first day of every week. **The first nine weeks, each student will be required to practice a certain number of days per week, but no practice time will be recorded. Beginning the second quarter, however, a specific amount of practice time will be required.** This will be combined with an effort grade which will be more subjective and is determined solely on how he/she measured up to his/her potential on the instrument. The following is a breakdown of the practice time expectations.

For an A, each student must practice 20 minutes per day (average) for 5 days.

This will equal a total of 1 hour and 40 minutes per week.

B = 15 minutes per day (1 hour and 15 minutes per week)

C = 10 minutes per day (50 minutes per week)

D = 5 minutes per day (25 minutes per week)

F = 0 minutes per day

The total practice time **must** be accompanied by a **parent's signature** in the assignment notebook to receive proper credit.

Here are some helpful hints for practicing:

I. Planning the practice

- A. Place: The same place each practice time; should be quiet and free from distractions.**
The room should have adequate lighting.
- B. Time: Regular**
(Note: a little practice EVERY day is better than a lot of practice once or twice a week.)
- C. Schedule: Make a practice schedule by setting a time limit for each page or each piece.**
For example: 20 minutes can be divided like this:
 - 3 minutes: warm-up (long tones, scales, buzzing)
 - 6 minutes: pg. 12 #32, 33
 - 8 minutes: pg. 12 #35 - variation
 - 3 minutes: warm-down, clean instrument

II. Tools for practice:

- A. Pencil** - mark problem spots and difficult fingerings with a pencil.
- B. Metronome** - helps keep common, recurring time.
- C. Music stand** - helps student maintain good posture throughout practice time.

PRACTICE RULES TO BE OBSERVED

1. **Never practice mistakes** – Many think, “I’ll fix it later,” but beginners tend not to.
2. Practice **SLOWLY** at first - beginners tend to practice their pieces too quickly.
3. Set specific goals for practice time. “I want to accomplish _____.”
4. Select passages for practice - isolate problem spots.
5. Practice small portions; avoid the tendency to start and stop at the same places all the time.
6. Repeat correctly three times - the 3 penny game. (Explained on first day of band)
7. Practice the piece as a whole.
8. Practice for fluency and flow without pauses or hesitations. **BE CONSISTENT!**
9. Practice until perfect.

YOUR STUDENT’S FINAL GOAL - “DID I PLAY IT WELL?”

2011 Elementary Band Calendar 2012

DAY	EVENT	TIME & LOCATION
August 30*	Band memo signed and returned to Miss DuBois	
November 4*	Concert for Grandparents Day	8:30 a.m. - GBC Auditorium
December 13*	ICA Christmas Program	6:30 p.m. - GBC Auditorium
Feb. 3*	ICA Elementary Academic Meet	TBA--Cornerstone
April 24*	ICA Spring Concert	7:00 p.m. - GBC Auditorium
May 25*	ICA Year-End Awards Ceremony	8:30 - GBC Auditorium

*indicates required event for all band members.

LESSONS AND BAND SCHEDULE

The normal elementary band schedule will be as follows:

Monday - full band
Tuesday - woodwinds
Wednesday - percussion
Thursday - brass
Friday - full band

In preparation for concerts and academic meets, this schedule could be modified a little. However, this is the normal schedule! Please make sure that your child brings his/her instrument and book on the proper day. Failure to do so will result in a mark, unless it is determined the band director is at fault for not communicating. I'll try to keep these times to a minimum!!

Private lessons are available on a weekly basis from trusted, talented local area teachers. These teachers come to ICA and make themselves available for 30 minutes per student for private or group lessons. PRIVATE LESSONS ARE HIGHLY RECOMMENDED FOR ALL BEGINNERS! There are many incentives for students to take lessons, but the most important reason is so they can master their instruments and use the talents the Lord has given them! Lessons occur during the school day, and each student will receive approximately 28 lessons per year at a low rate of \$10 per lesson. Group lessons are also a great way to save a little money on lessons, so please, consider helping our program and your student by enrolling him or her in private or group lessons! Please sign up for these lessons TODAY, if you have not already done so.

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 (i.e. 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. Also, students and families can rent-to-own through Muncie Music. Please contact Miss DuBois for details!

CONCERT DRESS

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

Boys

Black pants with a black belt
Black dress shoes (**no tennis shoes**)
and dark socks
White dress (button-up) shirt
Conservative tie
(No "lights" or "characters"...)

Girls

Long or mid-length black skirt
(Must cover the knees when seated)
Solid-colored top (no patterns)
Dark knee socks or dark tights
Black Dress shoes (**no tennis shoes**)

Please help your students look their best for each performance. In trying to keep costs down, we have omitted the use of sweater vests, as used in the past. However, we want our performers to be sharp! Shirts tucked in, hair combed and/or neatly styled. Also, we'd like the young ladies especially to try to keep their hair out of their faces—they're so pretty and have such angelic faces when they sing or play! We'd like to be able to see those. ☺ And please keep make-up and accessories or jewelry to a minimum.

GRADING

Besides practice and a daily effort grade, each student will receive grades on theory and history worksheets as well as periodic playing exams. These worksheets and playing exams correlate with the Accent on Achievement books.

COSTS

Each student must have the "Accent on Achievement" book which correlates with his/her instrument. This book must be present at each rehearsal. The purchase cost for this book will be applied to your school bill (\$6.95).

Reeds and oils may be purchased in our school bookstore for a reduced rate. Any other needed items may be ordered through the school at a reduced rate as well.

FINAL THOUGHTS

As an instrumentalist who began playing clarinet when she was already 16 (several years older than your beginners!), I know how difficult learning a new instrument can be! I also know how expensive lessons, instruments, oils, reeds, etc. can be! I appreciate the sacrifice you and your family are making to help your student(s) learn how to play his or her instrument. If the cost of lessons or instruments or accessories stands between your student and his or her learning how to play, please let me know. I'll do anything I can to work with you and make these dreams a reality! Together, we can breathe new life into the ICA Music Program, and together we can see these students go on to accomplish amazing things as musicians! I look forward to and am praying for the year ahead. Thanks so much for this opportunity!

Please sign and return this by August 30 to indicate that you have read and understand this memo.
(One per family)

Thanks!

Parent's signature _____

Student's signature (s) _____
