

ETHS Band Honors Credit Program

Outline & Planning Packet

Philosophy

The ETHS Music Department Honors Credit program is designed to encourage students to enrich their musical experience beyond the standard curriculum. Students are awarded *Performance* points for their contribution to our many co-curricular and extra-curricular opportunities, *Scholarly* points for their analysis, evaluation, and critique of compositions and performances, and *Service* points for their volunteer efforts, which help our program function at a very high level. These opportunities are led or supervised by the ETHS faculty, and are facilitated with the specific intention of fostering a greater depth and breadth of musical understanding, leading to a greater appreciation and enjoyment of music as an art form.

Honors Credit Categories

The ETHS Music Faculty has grouped all of the enrichment activities and projects that make up the Honors Credit Program into three categories, encouraging a holistic approach to exploring music. As music is a performing art, the majority of the requirements needed to qualify for honors credit are from the *Performance* category, made up of teacher-led ensembles or teacher-facilitated performance experiences at ETHS. The *Scholarly Projects* category provides opportunities for students to study aspects of music theory, analyze and evaluate musical compositions, study composers, genres, and time periods, and critique compositions and performances, so as to deepen and broaden their awareness of the foundations of music. Finally, the *Service Projects* category exists to connect students with the program and each other on an intrinsic level, providing an awareness of the time, thought process, attention to detail, and planning it takes to execute music events and experiences at ETHS while fostering a greater sense of community within the ETHS Fine Arts Department.

Honors Credit Point Requirements

The point requirement system outlined below was constructed with consideration given to the level of access our students have to the spectrum of ETHS co-curricular and extra-curricular offerings throughout their four-year experience. For example, it is unlikely that a student will make Symphony Orchestra or be involved in the All-School Musical Pit Orchestra during their freshmen year, so their lack of access to these experiences and their corresponding points are reflected below. Likewise, as our students become more acclimated to ETHS and develop a greater technical facility on their instrument after years of practice and rehearsal, we encourage them to become more involved in our program, which is also reflected below. Additional care and consideration was taken so as not to require added financial measures to make Honors Credit, while still emphasizing and encouraging the importance of private lessons and their place in one's musical development.

When determining benchmark requirements for each grade level, we as a Fine Arts staff also created an opportunity to recognize students whose involvement exceeds these expectations. The Silver and Gold point levels can be achieved by taking advantage of *many* musical opportunities each semester while still leaving plenty of room for student choice. For example, a student can garner Silver or Gold Honors by choosing to be a part of several ensembles (i.e. Marching Band, the Jazz Program, Choral Lab Groups, Basketball Pep Band, etc.) or by auditioning and/or performing in several solo, ensemble, or honor groups (i.e. Honors Recital, Solo & Ensemble, ILMEA, Northshore Honor Band, etc.).

Students who garner Honors Credit at any level will be moved to the "Honors" section of band in the grade book where it will appear on their transcript. There will also be added recognition in the form of a certificate denoting the level of honors achieved for each semester at the Spring Band Concert.

Honors Credit Point Requirements Per Semester

	Academic Honors	Silver Honors	Gold Honors	Required For All Levels
	<i>Performance Points</i>	<i>Performance Points</i>	<i>Performance Points</i>	<i>Scholarly & Service Points</i>
Freshman	4	5-6	7+	2
Sophomores	5	6-7	8+	2
Juniors and Seniors	6	7-8	9+	2

Procedure

The Honors Credit Program Outline & Planning Packet will be distributed to all band, choir, and orchestra students at the beginning of the school year. During this time, the ETHS Faculty will review the requirements, due dates, and procedure for the program and will provide an overview of all ETHS Fine Arts co-curricular and extra-curricular activities that qualify for the Honors Credit Program. Students and families are encouraged to study the *Performance Planning Form* included in this packet and brainstorm a realistic plan for achieving Honors Credit in Band for both the Fall and Spring semesters, taking into consideration the minimum point requirements as outlined in the next section of this document. Likewise, students are encouraged to consider the list of suggested *Scholarly Projects* and plan for their independent study in these areas. Throughout the year, your directors will provide opportunities for *Service Projects* surrounding major events, or solicit help for specific tasks when needed. If you have a desire to volunteer your time or are in need of *Service Project* points, simply ask your director if there is any way you can help.

It is the student's responsibility to apply for Honors Credit each semester by completing a series of online forms located on the ETHS Bands webpage (www.ethsbands.com). The ETHS Music Faculty will review each application during the week following the due date and will communicate Honors Credit status to each applicant as well as to the scheduling department for transcript purposes. At that time, all student schedules will be adjusted to reflect Honors or Standard status.

External Performance Participation Not Sanctioned By ETHS

Many of our students choose to participate in additional music ensembles and experiences that meet outside of ETHS and are not affiliated or sanctioned by the ETHS Music Program. These outside programs are wonderful opportunities for our students to be involved in and we highly encourage and support all of our students who choose to pursue this level of music enrichment. In addition, the ETHS Music Department acknowledges the great benefits our program receives from the additional experience, knowledge, and depth of understanding these students bring back to the ETHS program. However, the ETHS Honors Credit program is designed to maintain a strong program of additional co-curricular and extra-curricular opportunities at ETHS and only awards Honors Credit points for ETHS facilitated or sanctioned experiences. Programs such as MYA, CYSO, Merit Academy, MIC, School of Rock, Etcetera Music, etc. are examples of supported but not affiliated or sanctioned activities for ETHS Honors Credit.

Transfer Students

The ETHS Music Department is committed to providing an equitable experience and achievable path to Honors Credit for students who transfer to ETHS during the school year. Any transfer student wishing to apply for Honors Credit once the school year has started will be given a modified variation of the Honors Credit requirements to be determined on a case-by-case basis.

Band Honors Credit Scholarly Projects

The following is a list of Scholarly Projects for those taking band for honors credit (1 Point Each). Variations on each project are encouraged in order to better reflect your own interests and musical needs. Discuss any project variations with your directors before submitting your work in the Scholarly Project Google Form.

- 1) Performance Review:** Attend an off-campus classical music performance (solo, chamber, or large ensemble) and write a one-page, typed review detailing the repertoire performed, techniques displayed, and overall critique of the performance. You must submit a hard copy of the concert program to your directors (it will be returned).
- 2) Album Review:** Review a professional solo/ensemble album and write a one-page, typed review detailing the repertoire performed, techniques observed, overall critique of the performance, and how this is applicable to your own playing.
- 3) TED Talk:** Watch a music performance TED Talk and write a one-page, typed overview/summary of the topic(s)/techniques discussed and how this is applicable to your own playing.
- 4) Article Review:** Read an article from the newspaper or music journal/periodical that has to do with some current issue in music or music education. Write a short paper describing the content of the article and your reactions, relating it to your own personal experience in some way.
- 5) Music & Social Justice/Political Influences:** Research a composition or series of compositions (does not need to be classical or band music) that are inspired by or influenced a political or social justice issue and write a 3-5 paragraph essay about said work(s).
- 6) Form & Analysis:** Analyze a piece (or several pieces, depending on their length) for musical form, labeling the score or solo part by section and/or the phrases for phrase form. This could be an ensemble piece we are working on as a class, or a solo/chamber piece.
- 7) Program Notes:** Research the actual composers of the music currently being performed in class and create program notes to be read or spoken at concerts. Other Spotlight activities might include multimedia or multi-discipline activities presented in the lobby before a concert.
- 8) Composer of Color Research:** Research a composer of color and write a one-page, typed biography of the composer's life and accomplishments. You must include their name, date of birth, date of death (if applicable), country of origin, inspiration for their works, and a list of pieces they have written with the date of publication. You are encouraged to include more details than just the requirements listed. If you are looking specifically for concert band music, run your Google search against the published works at www.jwpepper.com
- 9) ETHS Concert Review:** Attend a concert of an ETHS group you are not a member of and write a one-page, typed review detailing the repertoire performed, techniques displayed and your overall impression of the performance. You must submit a hard copy of the concert program to your directors in order to receive credit. Concert to attend include (but are not limited to): jazz big band concerts, jazz combo concerts, choir concerts, orchestra concerts, exchange concerts, the flute choir recital, and the percussion ensemble recital.

Band Honors Credit Service Projects

The following is a list of Service Projects for those taking band for honors credit (1 Point Each). It is your responsibility to log these volunteer hours in the Service Project Google Form.

- 1) ETHS Jazz Festival:** Volunteer two or more hours at the annual ETHS Jazz Festival in February by being a student guide, operate cameras, setup or tear down equipment, help in the concession area, etc.
- 2) Music Library:** Maintain our inventory of several thousand music titles by refilling music after concert cycles, distribute music prior to a new concert cycle, enter new pieces into our database by creating a new entries and file boxes, or file loose music in its original box.
- 3) Instrument Change:** A point will be rewarded *per semester* for a student who switches to an instrument that will improve the instrumentation of the program at the request of the directors. These points are good for up to the first year of the change.
- 4) Evanston Symphony:** Assist as an usher or program distributor at ETHS hosted Evanston Symphony Concerts. Sign up through the orchestra director.
- 5) Miscellaneous Projects:** There are always a myriad of background tasks that come up throughout the year. If you are in need of service project points, please see your directors for other options.
- 6) Band Yearbook Staff:** Using a "read me" file and a series of Google Folders, create source material for the annual ETHS yearbook publication. This position is worth 2 Service Points per semester.
- 7) Guitar Maintenance:** ETHS owns 30 guitars for use in Guitar classes. Each year, more than 80 students will take a guitar class and use these instruments. Students who restring, polish, and realign guitars (once in fall, once in spring) will earn 1 service point per semester.

ETHS Band 2022-2023 - Honors Credit Performance Planning Form – (Page 1)

NAME: _____ ID: _____ EMAIL(print clearly): _____

1st Quarter:

- Concert Band Program
 - Wind Symphony Member..... 1 Point
- Marching Band
 - Member..... 2 Points
 - Student Leader/Spirit Leader, Drumline Or Colorguard Member (must attend additional rehearsals) 3 Points
- Jazz Program
 - Jazz Big Band OR Jazz Combo Member 1 Point
 - Jazz Big Band AND Jazz Combo Member, or Jazz Ensemble Member 2 Points
 - Jazz Ensemble Member AND Jazz Combo 3 Points
- Vocal Ensembles
 - "Non-Auditioned" Group (Vocal Jazz, Handbell Choir)..... 1 Point
 - "Auditioned" Group (Harmonia, Lake & Dodge), OR Two "Non-Auditioned" Groups (See Above) 2 Points
- Mentorship Program (open to all band members)
 - Mentee 1 Point
 - Mentor..... 2 Points
- ILMEA All-District Auditions
 - Internally at ETHS and Externally at District Level (Concert Band, Jazz Band, Orchestra, Choir) 1 Point
- YAMOrchestra
 - Board Member and/or Composer of 3 or more works..... 1 Point
- Private Lessons (with approved instructor on a weekly basis - see Private Lesson Verification Form)
 - Primary Instrument (Concert Bands)..... 1 Point
 - Primary AND Secondary/Tertiary Instrument 2 Points
- Independent Performance Project (See Directors)
 - Per Approved Project 1 Point

Q1 TOTAL: _____

2nd Quarter:

- Concert Band Program
 - Wind Symphony Member..... 1 Point
- Jazz Program
 - Jazz Big Band OR Jazz Combo Member 1 Point
 - Jazz Big Band AND Jazz Combo Member, or Jazz Ensemble Member 2 Points
 - Jazz Ensemble Member AND Jazz Combo 3 Points
- Pep Band / Winter Drumline
 - Wind Member 1 Point
 - Drumline/Drumset..... 2 Points
- Symphony Orchestra (by audition - meets two days per week during 6th period)
 - Wind or Percussion Member..... 2 Points
- Vocal Ensembles
 - "Non-Auditioned" Group (Vocal Jazz) 1 Point
 - "Auditioned" Group (Dazzling Dames), OR Two "Non-Auditioned" Groups (See Above) 2 Points
- ILMEA All-District Festivals
 - All-District Festival Participation (Jazz/Band/Orchestra/Choir)..... 2 Points
- Winter Color Guard (open to all band members, regardless of instrument)
 - Member 2 Points
- Mentorship Program (open to all band members)
 - Mentee 1 Point
 - Mentor..... 2 Points
- Midwest Band And Orchestra Clinic
 - Student Attendee 1 Point
 - Future Music Educator Program Attendee (Nominated by Directors) 2 Points
- ILMEA All-State Festival
 - Composition Contest Submission(s) 1 Point
- Honors Recital Auditions
 - One solo or ensemble audition 1 Point
 - Two or more solo or ensemble auditions..... 2 Points
- Northshore Honor Band (by recommendation of Directors only - based on Fall Band/Chair Auditions)
 - Nomination - with or without acceptance (acceptance is not in our control) 1 Point
- Private Lessons (with approved instructor on a weekly basis - see Private Lesson Verification Form)
 - Primary Instrument (Concert Bands)..... 1 Point
 - Primary AND Secondary/Tertiary Instrument 2 Points
- Independent Performance Project (See Directors)
 - Per Approved Project 1 Point

Q2 TOTAL: _____
SEMESTER 1 TOTAL: _____

ETHS Band 2022-2023 - Honors Credit Performance Planning Form – (Page 2)

NAME: _____ ID: _____ EMAIL(print clearly): _____

3rd Quarter:

- Concert Band Program
 - Wind Symphony Member..... 1 Point
- Jazz Program
 - Jazz Big Band OR Jazz Combo Member 1 Point
 - Jazz Big Band AND Jazz Combo Member, or Jazz Ensemble Member 2 Points
 - Jazz Ensemble Member AND Jazz Combo 3 Points
- Pep Band / Winter Drumline
 - Wind Member 1 Point
 - Drumline/Drumset..... 2 Points
- Symphony Orchestra (by audition - meets two to three days per week during 6th period)
 - Wind or Percussion Member..... 2 Points
- Vocal Ensembles
 - "Non-Auditioned" Group (Vocal Jazz) 1 Point
 - "Auditioned" Group (Dazzling Dames), OR Two "Non-Auditioned" Groups (See Above) 2 Points
- All-School Musical
 - Pit Orchestra or Cast Member 2 Points
- Winter Color Guard (open to all band members, regardless of instrument)
 - Member 2 Points
- Band Lab Groups
 - Flute Choir, Percussion Ensemble, Etc..... 1 Point
- ETHS Solo and Ensemble Festival
 - One solo or ensemble performance 1 Point
 - Two or more solo or ensemble performances 2 Points
- Mentorship Program (open to all band members)
 - Mentee 1 Point
 - Mentor..... 2 Points
- ILMEA All-State Festival
 - Qualifying Performer, Composition Contest Winner, or Future Music Educator Attendee (Nominated by Directors) 2 Points
- Honors Recital Performance
 - Performance 1 Point
- Private Lessons (with approved instructor on a weekly basis - see Private Lesson Verification Form)
 - Primary Instrument (Concert Bands)..... 1 Point
 - Primary AND Secondary/Tertiary Instrument 2 Points
- Independent Performance Project (See Directors)
 - Per Approved Project 1 Point

Q3 TOTAL: _____

4th Quarter:

- Concert Band Program
 - Wind Symphony Member..... 1 Point
- Jazz Program
 - Jazz Big Band OR Jazz Combo Member 1 Point
 - Jazz Big Band AND Jazz Combo Member, or Jazz Ensemble Member 2 Points
 - Jazz Ensemble Member AND Jazz Combo 3 Points
- Symphony Orchestra (by audition - meets two to three days per week during 6th period)
 - Wind or Percussion Member..... 2 Points
- Vocal Ensembles
 - "Non-Auditioned" Group (Vocal Jazz) 1 Point
 - "Auditioned" Group (Dazzling Dames), OR Two "Non-Auditioned" Groups (See Above) 2 Points
- All-School Musical
 - Pit Orchestra or Cast Member 2 Points
- Mentorship Program (open to all band members)
 - Mentee 1 Point
 - Mentor..... 2 Points
- Graduation Band
 - Performer 1 Point
- Private Lessons (with approved instructor on a weekly basis - see Private Lesson Verification Form)
 - Primary Instrument (Concert Bands)..... 1 Point
 - Primary AND Secondary/Tertiary Instrument 2 Points
- Independent Performance Project (See Directors)
 - Per Approved Project 1 Point

Q4 TOTAL: _____
SEMESTER 2 TOTAL: _____
YEAR-LONG TOTAL: _____