



ACALANES HIGH SCHOOL MUSIC DEPARTMENT

2026-2027

Edwin Cordoba, Director

(925) 280-3970, ext. 7327 | ecordoba@auhsdschools.org

Welcome to the Acalanes High School Instrumental Music Program! The Acalanes Instrumental Music Program is dedicated to the teaching of music through performance and analysis, the advancement of underrepresented composers and performers and the development of life-long skills in its members. This handbook is intended to outline rules, policies, expectations and opportunities for our program.

Values

"Music can change the world, because it can change people"

- We believe in the concept of our **"MUSIC TEAM"**
- Positivity spreads when we start it **OURSELVES**
- We value and honor the **TEAM PROCESS**
- We consistently **SUPPORT** one another
- We are committed to continual **IMPROVEMENT**
- We believe our success is dependent on our **CONSISTENT EXPECTATIONS**
- We value each **INDIVIDUAL** musician
- We believe in **SECOND CHANCES**
- We enjoy **CELEBRATING OUR SUCCESSES**

Practices and Grading

"Qui audet adipiscitur."

Classroom Practices

1. Individual home practice is where you learn your part- classroom rehearsals are where you learn other people's parts.
2. Bring all necessary music, instruments and supplies to class (this includes a PENCIL)
3. As a member of this ensemble you are expected to exhibit appropriate attitude, best effort, leadership and professionalism at all times

Basic Grading Scale:

60% Performance Attendance

40% Daily Formative Assessments, Recordings, Tests, and In-Class Work

Participation Grades

You will receive a bi-weekly participation grade (10 points) based on attendance. Mondays are worth two points and block classes are worth four points. A tardy results in a 1-point deduction. Students are excused for school activities, religious events, and emergencies. Points can also be taken off during class in instances of talking out of turn, forgetting instrument/supplies, off task behavior etc. If you lose points, you may make them up by speaking with Mr. Cordoba.

Concerts

"Opportunity dances with those who take the floor."

Each day in class, we work together to create a balanced and specific sound. Our daily work means that each musician's contribution is unique and critical to our sound. One missing voice disrupts the balance of the ensemble. Because of this, all performances on our calendar are mandatory.

Failure to attend a scheduled performance without advanced acceptable notification will lower a student's grade. Please be aware that work is not an acceptable excuse for missing concerts. **MARK YOUR CALENDAR TODAY!**

Rehearsal Expectations

"Success is like a garden, it always needs tending."

- **RESPECT** everyone: musicians, directors, substitutes, etc.
- Always have your music and a **PENCIL** as well as reeds, oil, etc.
- Be on time: "To be early is to be on time, to be on time is to be late, to be late is to be sorry."
- Minimize talking, maximize playing
- Show your fellow students patience and understanding
- Leave your backpacks, cases or belongings in the locker room/perimeter of the room
- Leave the room in better shape than you found it (clean up chairs, equipment, music, etc.)
- **Display a positive attitude** 😊

*Forgetting your instrument, music, mouthpiece, reeds, etc., is the same as going to class without your books, binder, and writing implements. **DO NOT** forget your instrument or music folder. In high school, students can maintain this level of responsibility.*

Cell Phone Policy

"Just do it. "

During class, please put your cell phone away. Keep any electronic devices in your backpack so they do not distract you or those around you during class. Occasionally, we will use electronic devices for a particular lesson. In these cases, I will let you know when it is appropriate to have them out. Before rehearsal starts, you are welcome and encouraged to use your tuning apps/metronomes/musical dictionaries on your phone but phones must be put away before rehearsal begins.

Concert Dress Requirements

"One never has to apologize for looking nice."

• Orchestra and Wind Ensemble:

Option 1

1. Tuxedo (preferred), or black suit
2. White dress shirt that buttons at the neck; black bow tie; black cummerbunds; black dress shoes and black socks.

Option 2

1. Recommended: Purchase concert dress from the Instrumental Music Boosters.
 - a. Wind/percussion dress wearing musicians should also wear pearl necklaces, to be purchased from Instrumental Music Boosters
2. Floor length black dress
3. Black dress shoes

• Symphonic Band:

See options above: Option 1 (tuxedo) OR Option 2 (dress)

Option 3

1. All Black: Black pants/skirt (below knee), sleeved black shirt/blouse, black long tie (optional), black jacket (optional), black socks, black dress shoes. No athletic wear or jeans.

• **Jazz Ensemble:**

Option 1

Black suit, solid colored dress shirt (any color), long tie, black socks, black shoes.

Option 2

Black or solid colored blouse with black pants/skirt (below knee), black shoes.

Instruments

"To whom much is given, much is obliged"

Keeping your instrument in good repair is your responsibility. As with all equipment, your instrument periodically needs adjustment from a professional. The best time to get it "tuned up" is the summer or winter break. If you need help in locating a repair person, see Mr. Cordoba for suggestions. **Please do not take your instrument for granted; it is a very expensive piece of equipment.**

Do not leave your instrument in your hall locker or in your car for any extended time. When coming to school, wait for the jazz ensemble to finish rehearsal (8:20am), and then bring it in yourself. If you are participating in after school sports, please do not leave your instrument in the locker room. Ask your coach if you can store it in the coach's office. **Do not leave your instrument or music folder unattended.**

School Instruments

Musical equipment, instruments, and sheet music owned by the Acalanes Music Department are for the exclusive use of Acalanes instrumental music students for school-related music activities, and **NOT** for "out-of-school" performance groups. Equipment and instruments checked out to individuals in the Music Department may **ONLY** be used by that particular individual and are **NOT** to be "shared" with others for any reason. When a school-owned instrument is checked out to you for the year, the responsibility of **maintaining** that instrument is transferred to you and your parents for the remainder of the school year. This includes replacing it at the current **REPLACEMENT COST** if it is lost or damaged in any way. Failure to abide by these rules will forfeit any future privilege of borrowing school instruments.

Music Room Lockers

"I have far too much storage space. Said no one ever."

- The lockers are for instruments and music folders **ONLY**.
- Private combination locks are permitted as long as Mr. Cordoba has a copy of the combination.

Instrument Storage Disclaimer:

The Acalanes Union High School District, Acalanes High School, Music Department, and Director are not responsible for private instruments left overnight or on weekends. We will ensure that the room doors are locked, however, the ultimate responsibility for your instrument is yours and yours alone.

Pep Band, Private Lessons, Honor Ensembles

"The difference between ordinary and extraordinary is that little extra."

Pep Band:

Students are required to participate in 4 football games.

Private Instruction:

All students are highly encouraged to find a regular private teacher on their instrument. Private instruction enhances a student's competence, ultimate enjoyment, and contribution to their ensemble. If you need help locating a competent private teacher, see Mr. Cordoba for suggestions.

Extra-Curricular Youth Bands & Orchestras:

See Mr. Cordoba for more information and recommendations regarding youth bands and youth orchestras in the East Bay and greater Bay Area. There are a great number of wonderful groups in our area and can provide a fantastic supplement to our school program. These include the:

- San Francisco Symphony Youth Orchestra
- Young People's Symphony Orchestra (YPSO)
- Oakland Youth Orchestra (OYO)
- Diablo Wind Symphony (DWS)

All-State Orchestra and Band:

Being selected for the All-State Ensembles is the highest honor any high school musician in California can receive. Regardless of the results, the "process" of preparing for the all-state band and orchestra auditions will make you a better musician and performer. We encourage all members to audition! Here are the links. Be on the lookout for recording instructions as we approach the recording deadline.

[All-State Orchestra Audition Link](#)

Orchestra Recordings due October 15th, 2025

[All-State Band Instructions](#)

Concert/Jazz Band Recordings due October 15th, 2025

Contra Costa County Honor Band and Honor Jazz Band

Auditions for the Contra Costa County Honor Band happen in late November/December and consist of:

- All State Honor Ensemble scales
- A short excerpt of your choosing
- Sight-reading

CCC Honor Jazz Band: Audition information usually available late November/early December.

For information, go to gjif.org/honor-jazz-bands

APPENDIX

Wondering what something in our calendar is? Here's our cheat sheet!

APAB- Acalanes Performing Arts Boosters, our 501-c booster organization that is the umbrella organization that oversees the Choral Music Boosters, Drama Boosters and Instrumental Music Boosters (IMB). The APAB Board is comprised

AP Music Theory- a rigorous (and fun!) college-level course that develops students' abilities in music analysis, notation, harmony, ear training, composition, and aural skills through the study of tonal music and preparation for the AP Music Theory exam.

CMEA Concert and Sight Reading Festival- Our California Music Educator's Association Concert and Sight Reading Festival (We call it our CMEA Festival) is our most important festival of the year. Think of it like our Standardized Testing for music. In it, each group prepares a program of 3 pieces and is assessed on how well they present the 3 pieces. Then the group is escorted to a separate room and have 5 minutes to prepare and perform a piece the students (nor I) have

read before and then are judged on how well we can sight read. Our CMEA performance date falls on a Saturday in March. This is a required graded performance for the class.

CMEA Solo and Ensemble Festival- A new optional performance opportunity where students can showcase a solo or small ensemble piece, receive feedback from professional musicians, and grow their confidence as performers.

Concerts in the PAC- We have various concerts in our PAC. Fall Pops Concert, Fall Jazz Concert, Winter Concert, CMEA Concert/Sight Reading Festival, Spring Concert, Collage Concert. Most concerts start at 6:30pm.

Collage Concert- Our chamber music concert.

District Festivals- A series of choral, band and orchestra concerts that happen at the Stanley Gym!

Folsom Jazz Festival- A jazz competition that is ranked and rated. Usually happens the last week of January

Graduation- All band students perform at graduation! Wear your blue Instrumental Music shirts.

Homestead Orchestra Festival- A festival for our orchestra students in Cupertino, usually the first weekend of February.

Instrumental Music Boosters- a section of the Acalanes Performing Arts Boosters.

Musical- The most highly attended musical event. We are proud to have a successful pit orchestra year after year. Instrumentation contingent on musical needs.

Orchestra- The group will perform at the Pops Concert, Winter Concert, a CMEA Festival and the spring concert and the homestead orchestra festival.

Jazz Ensemble- The group will perform at the Pops Concert, Winter Concert, a CMEA Festival and the spring concert and the homestead orchestra festival.

Symphonic Band- a non audition ensemble that holds high expectations! The group will perform at the Pops Concert, Winter Concert, a CMEA Festival and the spring concert.

Wind Ensemble- Audition only ensemble made up of 10th-12th graders. The group will perform at the Pops Concert, Winter Concert, a CMEA Festival and the spring concert. They also perform at the Sonoma State Invitational

Yoshi's- Annual jazz concert at the historic Yoshi's Bar and Restaurant in downtown Oakland.