

How You May Still Earn Your Band Letters in the Midst of a Pandemic

As you know, our current societal situation precludes earning music points and service points in our traditional ways. However, many of you have worked diligently this year, and we (the instructors and the parent boosters in the band) believe that you should still have the opportunity to earn your band letters as a reward for that work.

Below you will find instructions on how to earn your band letters this year. Please note that this procedure is only in effect this year, and we will return to our more traditional procedure when society regains more of a degree of normalcy. Also, 4-year seniors will automatically letter (if they haven't already done so) just as usual.

In order to letter, a reckoning of each student's service and experience points will still be taken. However, this will be done differently in order to accommodate for our current (quarantine) situation. Please see below for details.

<Service Point Calculation>

Service Points have been counted through March 2020. In order to be understanding for students who were actively working toward a band letter, the following guidelines are in place for determining letter eligibility...*

1. Students with fewer than half of the required service points (fewer than 175) are not eligible to letter this year.
2. Students with half or greater, but fewer than all of the required service points (greater than 174.5 but fewer than 349.5 points) are eligible to letter, but should be prepared to participate in summer booster events (fund raisers, clean-ups, etc.) that happen before the award ceremony IF they are allowed to take place.
3. Students with 350 service points have already met all service requirements to letter, and MAY be eligible to earn an honor emblem if they had accrued over 400 service points by April 1, 2020.

NOTE 1: As students look at the service-point chart that is posted by the band boosters, they should be sure to mentally add in points earned for concert set-up, Keller crew and other events that may not be included there.

NOTE 2: If no further service point opportunities can be safely held before the ceremony this summer, then provisional awardees (those with between 174.5 and 349.5 service points) will become fully eligible to letter, though they still must submit an essay summary of experience points (see below).

FYI, by these rules, slightly over half of the band members are eligible to letter based on service points. However, band members must also provide details about the EXPERIENCE POINTS earned this year. Please see below for details...

<Experience Points Calculation>

All students wishing to earn a band letter or honor emblem must submit an essay detailing the following...

- A. Which awards they are seeking (e.g. a Marching Band Letter, or a Jazz Emblem).
- B. A summary (in paragraph form) of all the musical experiences that they had this year that they feel should count for Experience Points.

NOTE 1: The summary does not need to be long, and I don't need many details about each experience, but the essay should be as complete as possible so that I can get a feel for how many points were actually earned.

NOTE 2: Since experience points differ from class to class, a separate summary must be written for each letter desired (e.g. a student enrolled in marching, jazz and concert band wishing to earn a letter in all 3 classes would need to submit 3 different experience summaries).

NOTE 3: The essay is due by May 31st, 2020.

What if I need more Experience Points?

Any student who needs more Experience Points may earn them in the following ways (in order from most to least points given for completion). Please be sure to list these events in your summary.

- Complete the Coronalympics Decathlon (all 10 events) = 350 experience points
- Complete one of the Coronalympics Pentathlons (either all 5 instrument events or all 5 no-instrument events) = 150 experience points
- Complete any single Coronalympics event = 25 experience points per event completed (does not stack with the pentathlon and decathlon bonuses)
- Complete extra weekly classwork assignments (e.g. completing both the instrument and non-instrument concert assignments for a single given week) = 10 experience points per completed assignment

As you can see, there are plenty of ways to earn experience points... even when you are stuck at home, so let's get out there (err... in there?) and earn some points!!!

Happy lettering!

REMINDER: ALL students who wish to letter this year (except seniors earning a 4-year-automatic letter) must submit their essays to me (via Google Classroom) by May 31st, 2020.