

WHS Bands

Syllabus

Rules for Student Conduct

Studies have shown that students learn more and at a faster rate when in a positive and supportive environment. In order to create an environment where students can flourish and where the teacher feels comfortable, a couple simple but important expectations of student conduct must be established and followed.

1. Show respect for those you work with as well as for the facility and tools you use for the class.
2. Consistently contribute to the learning atmosphere of the class.
3. No food or drink in the music rooms.
4. No cell phones at any time in the band room.
5. Use only your instrument. Do not use instruments that do not belong to you.

Students who do not meet these expectations will be dealt with in a manner appropriate to the situation, including but not limited to;

- Verbal reminder/reprimand
- Private discussion with teacher
- Parent notification
- Parent conference
- Administrative notification and action

Attendance

Students are to be in their seats with instrument, notebook, pencil, music, and any other materials necessary for that day's activities by the time the final bell rings. Students not complying with the above shall be marked absent. If they appear later they shall be marked tardy.

Along with adhering to standard WHS attendance and tardy policy students will lose participation credit for unexcused absences or tardiness.

Objectives for Student Learning

Upon completion of this course of study students will be able to;

- Demonstrate an understanding of musical concepts related to the structural and stylistic elements of music.
- Demonstrate a knowledge of music as a creative art form in a cultural context.
- Demonstrate the skills necessary to perform musical operations including:
 - Care and maintenance of the instrument.
 - Proper playing technique.
 - Musical literacy.
 - Use of aural imagery.
- Demonstrate a working knowledge of acceptable performance and listening behaviors in a variety of settings.

- Support and show a commitment to the musical life of the ensemble, the school, and the community.
- Respond to music aesthetically, intellectually, and emotionally.
- Make value judgments based on critical thinking and analysis.
- Develop, implement, and evaluate strategies for improvement.
- Continue their musical learning independently.

Major Projects and Assignments

The bands and musical groups are performance ensembles. These groups are expected to perform often throughout the year. Our exhibitions are meant not only for entertainment, but as a way for the public to witness our individual and ensemble growth and for you, the student, to gain the experience of public presentation. Students will be expected to attend all performances and special rehearsals on time, in appropriate uniform, with all necessary music and equipment.

The nature of most of our work consists of cooperative, group based learning. It is necessary, however, for me to keep track of each student's learning and progress so that I might better assist them in their success. Toward this end students will be assigned specific technical exercises and excerpts from the current literature and will be evaluated on their progress through individual 'auditions' and examinations. Students will also be required to keep a journal reflecting their own progress, ideas for improvement, and the success of those ideas over time.

Homework in the way of assigned music and exercises will be given out daily. It is the student's responsibility to come to class prepared to contribute his/her best work to the group. This can only happen if they have put in the necessary work outside of class.

One or two extensive out of class written assignments will be required each year. The specifics of these assignments will be made clearer later in the year.

Assessment and Grade Policy

Students will be assessed daily, in class and in sectionals, by their teacher, their peers, and by themselves. These assessments should be used as indicators of personal strengths as well as guides to areas that need improvement.

Students will be graded on the following

- Participation in class including 35%
 - preparation of music
 - equipment and instrument in good working order
 - all necessary music and materials
 - focused rehearsal practices
 - assigned sectionals
 - timely attendance
- Musical Achievement determined through 35%
 - in-class and performance observations by teacher and student
 - auditions by teacher
 - tape and computer testing of assigned materials
 - worksheets and examinations in music theory
 - worksheets and examinations in music history

- sectional observations by student, peers, teacher
- Event Participation including 30%
 - equipment and instrument in good working order
 - all necessary music and materials
 - proper dress/uniform
 - timely attendance
 - appropriate behavior

The grading scale for this class will be as follows

A	90-100%
B	80-89%
C	70-79%
D	60-69%
F	0-59%

Makeup Policy

All written work and skill demonstrations must be completed and returned by the assigned due date. Late work (except where due to an excused absence) will be evaluated but will not be given credit toward a grade.

Written work and skill demonstrations can be made up for full credit following an excused absence. Such work must be completed and turned in within one class period following the absence. In the case of long absences students should make arrangements with the teacher for an extended makeup schedule. Such arrangements must be made the first class period following the absence. **It is the student's responsibility to ask for missed assignments in a timely manner.**

Students cannot make up missed performances or special rehearsals. Such will result in a loss of credit for that performance unless excused **ahead of time** by the teacher.

Event & Special Rehearsal Attendance

Prompt, consistent attendance at performances is necessary not only for the success of the group but to keep the attitude of all members of the group high. Students arriving late, out of uniform, or without necessary equipment/materials may not be allowed to participate in that performance (with an accompanying loss of credit for that performance.)

Acceptable reasons for a missed performance might include a family emergency, medical emergency, school related sporting event in which the student is a 'suited-up' participant of the team. Under no circumstances will students be excused from a planned event because of employment. In order for students to receive credit for a missed performance they must;

- Inform the teacher as soon as possible of the conflict. (Non emergency conflicts must be reported *at least 2 weeks in advance.*)

- Make *every* reasonable attempt to attend the event.
- Receive permission from the teacher and section leader to miss the event.

My policy regarding conflicts with sports is generally (but not always);

- Band performances always take precedent over sport practices.
- Sporting events (meets, games, etc.) will usually take precedent over band practices. Students must be suited up and eligible to play in such cases.
- Band rehearsals are usually split with athletic practices.

In any case, students must communicate the conflict to both the band director and the sports coach *as soon* as the conflict is recognized in order to be excused.