

Symphonic Band

Full Year: 2017-2018
Teacher: E. S. Wright
Department: Performing Arts/Music

Queen Anne's County High School
Prerequisites: Concert Band or
Teacher Approval
Credits: 1

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course is designed to provide students the opportunity to develop ensemble musicianship within the concert band setting through the use of traditional band literature. Specific attention will be given to intonation, articulation and other elements of music. Participation at multiple performances throughout the year will be required as part of the course grade.

COURSE OUTCOMES:

1. Identification of elements of music, including melody, rhythm, harmony, form, texture, expressive devices, and tension and release, using music performed in the ensemble.
2. Demonstration of appropriate posture, embouchure, breath control, articulation, sticking, or any other techniques relevant to the performance medium.
3. Demonstration of the ability to tune one's musical instrument.
4. Demonstration of the ability to properly care for one's musical instrument.
5. Demonstration of well-developed ensemble skills.
6. Playing with correct phrasing, appropriate expression, suitable tone quality, and accurate intonation.
7. Playing with alternate fingerings to improve intonation or playing efficiency.
8. Following a conductor while maintaining proper tempo, balance, blend, and style.
9. Demonstration of the requirements for an ensemble performer, including proper rehearsal and concert behavior, part preparation, and responsibility to the section.
10. Interpretation of pitches, rhythms, and other notational symbols using musically appropriate techniques.
11. Demonstration of skill in reading music by correctly playing passages from music appropriate to the grade level.
12. Performance of ensemble literature from a variety of historical periods, styles, and cultures and will relate its characteristics with the elements of dance, theatre, visual arts, and other disciplines.
13. Demonstration of appropriate performance styles while playing music from a variety of eras and ethnic origins.

COURSE OUTLINE:

Topics/ Unit of Study	Time Frame (No. of Days/Weeks)	Assessment(s)
Fundamental Music Concepts	On-going	Written assignments, tests, and quizzes
Posture	On-going	Rehearsal and Performances
Proper Breathing	On-going	Rehearsal and Performances
Tone Quality	On-going	Rehearsal and Performances
Balance	On-going	Rehearsal and Performances
Musical Interpretation	On-going	Rehearsal and Performances

EXPLANATION OF ASSESSMENTS:

Symphonic Band is a performance based course of study. The student's grade will be based on his/her efforts to participate, to demonstrate superior instrumental performance and achieve a unified instrumental quality within a performing group. Assessment will be made by teacher observation. Other course outcomes will be assessed by tests, quizzes, and written assignments.

ACTIVITIES/ PROJECTS:

The primary activity for this course is the rehearsal of music to improve the group's performance. Performances should be regarded as a large group project for the entire band. Some individual written assignments will be given to review basic musical concepts as well.

TEXTBOOKS/MATERIALS:

Each student will be responsible to purchase the Essential Musicianship for Band ensemble method book. The books may be purchased from Mr. Wright for \$7 for all Winds and \$10 for Percussion. Additionally, each student will be required to have a single subject spiral notebook or composition book to be used exclusively for their band journal. The instructor will provide all students with the necessary music.

CLASSROOM REQUIREMENTS/ PROCEDURES:

Requirements

1. Students are expected to report to class on time.
2. Students are expected to follow all directions given by the director.
3. Students are expected to bring all needed materials to class. (instruments, music, pencil)
4. Students are expected to be courteous to one another and to the director.

Procedures

1. Assemble Instrument
2. Read the Band Board for daily instructions.
3. Participate in the rehearsal as required.
4. Return all equipment/music to its proper place.
5. Make sure that our rehearsal facility is neat in appearance.

HOMEWORK POLICY:

Practicing instruments is an ongoing homework assignment for all band members on an individual basis and is important to the success of each individual student. Class attendance is important to the final success of the whole group's performances. Other homework that may be given will be minimal.

GRADING POLICY:

Attendance at all concerts and performances is **mandatory**. All school approved public performances will be graded unless otherwise indicated by the director. Appropriate uniform as discussed in class is required of all students. The absence of any band member and inappropriate uniform directly affects the performance of the entire group and may result in a lower grade. Absences can be excused for the following reasons:

1. Illness of the student performer, **documented by a doctor's note**.
2. Pre-approved (by the director) absence, 10 days in advance of performance date.
Examples of acceptable absences include student conventions or school related 'honors' activity. Sporting events and family vacations will be considered by the director on a case to case basis. **Student should submit request in writing to the director.**

It is the student's responsibility to communicate with the director and receive any make-up work as appropriate. Failure of the student to contact the director for make-up work will result in a grade of zero for missed performance.

The final grade will be composed of the following components:

Formative Assessments 40%

Class participation
Written Assignments
Written/Performance Quizzes

Summative Assessments 45%

Written/ Performance Tests
Concert Performance Participation

Final Exam 15%

Symphonic Band

It is expected that students keep a record of their grades so that they may determine their standing at any time during the semester.

Parent/Guardian Signature _____

Parent E-Mail Address _____

_____ I would like to have my address added to the band's group e-mail list so that I may receive regular information about upcoming concerts and events for the band.

Student Signature _____

Student E-Mail Address _____

Date _____

Mandatory Performance Dates

October 24, 2017	Pops Concert
November 30, 2017	Winter Concert
March 14, 2018	Sr. District Band Festival
May 3, 2018	Spring Concert
June 1 or 8, 2018	Graduation

Additional Dates to Know

May 8, 2018	QACHS Night of Jazz Concert
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Required Concert Attire

Formal Wear...

*Each student will be fitted and assigned concert attire for the year. Students will be required to furnish **black dress shoes (closed toed), also white dress shirt for the boys.***

Informal Wear...

In addition, each student will be required to have available the following:

*Long sleeved white blouse or shirt.
Black knee length skirt for girls (no mini's or slits!)
Black dress pants for boys
Black shoes (closed toed)*

Other attire for concerts will be discussed in class and decided upon by the director and the members of the band.

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