

High School Band

Class Syllabus

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Class Objectives

- Develop reading and performing instrumental music
- Develop appropriate instrumental techniques
- Learn and apply appropriate rehearsal techniques
- Perform music on campus and off campus
- Experience music of different styles, periods and cultures

Class Contents

- Mastering an instrument: develop good instrumental technique that will allow playing for entire life
- Score elements: learn musical elements like staves, notes, note values, rests, expression marks, and interpretation vocabulary
- Rehearsals: Develop skills like time management, peer learning, and folder organization
- Performances: Develop skills like stage presence, following the conductor, proper dress, time management

Class Materials

- All music rehearsed and performed will be provided by the instructor
- Students will provide instruments like flutes, clarinets, saxophones and trumpets. Students also provide all reeds and lubricates needed to maintain their instruments. There is a limited amount of instruments to be rented from the school if needed. A rental agreement will be provided and the rental fee will be added to the school bill.

Course Schedule

Month	Content Emphasis	Month	Content Emphasis
Oct – Nov	First Performances	Mar	Performance Assessment
Dec	Christmas Performance	Apr	Spring Concert
Feb – Mar	More Performances	Apr	Music Festival

Major Class Components

Performances. The purpose of the band is to perform for audiences. So attendance at all performances is mandatory. Most of the performances will be on weekends. Why is attendance mandatory?

- Performances provide an experience that cannot be reproduced in the classroom.
- Performances are also the means by which the skills learned in class are evaluated.
- Instrumental playing is a team effort. Any performance is weakened by missing instrumentalists. As with any team effort, we rehearse and perform together.

If the student misses a performance, only partial credit for the performance grade will be given. Only one excuse for missing a performance will be accepted per semester. Unexcused absences will affect the student overall grade.

Rehearsals. Each student must follow the rules of class rehearsal as follows:

- Arrive on time when second bell rings
- Bring instrument and folder to each rehearsal
- Set up instrument, stand, and music stand before director stands on the podium
- Remain attentive and follow the instructor at all times
- Shows respect for self and others.
- Do not talk when the instructor is speaking or conducting the band
- Do not bring food, drink or gum to class. Water is permitted.
- Do not operate any electronic devices during rehearsals
- Place instrument and stand in assigned area after rehearsal

The actions of each student can either help or hinder the entire ensemble in both rehearsal and performance. Self-discipline from each student is required. Repeat offenders will be removed from the class at the instructor's discretion.

Theory/Projects. Each student may be assigned music exercises to increase their musical knowledge and skills. The music assignments will be given in the first and third quarters. Most will be completed in class but some may need more study and research and be turned in by a specific due date. Assignments with due dates will be posted so both student and parent can know what is expected.

SmartMusic

SmartMusic is an Internet-based rehearsal tool that may be used for instrument practice at home. For a student to progress in playing an instrument, they must spend time out of class practicing with their instrument. Assignments may be given in this software and be included as part of the student's grade. To use the software the students must have the following items.

- Internet connection to computer
- Speakers for the computer
- A microphone (can be purchased from SmartMusic)

If a student does not have access to the Internet at home, there will be school computers available for them to complete their assignments.

Grading Method

Grades are earned by assessing each student's knowledge (classroom assignments and projects), skills (sight-reading assessments), and participation in daily rehearsals and required performances. Grades will be assessed on a point system as follows:

All performances, rehearsals and assignments will be worth 10 points. Students who cooperate and accurately complete the activities and assignments will receive the full ten points. Points will be deducted by the following method for each grading element.

Performances – One point per occurrence

- Late to announced time
- Dressed improperly
- Playing a part not as rehearsed or not at all
- Choosing not to follow instructions

Rehearsal – One point per occurrence

One point will be deducted for each infraction of the rehearsal class rules as stated above. Three or more infractions in one-week period will result in disciplinary action that may include a parent/teacher conference.

Assignments and Projects

Each assignment and/or project will be accompanied by a grading criteria with a specific due date. The points earned will be based on the grading criteria for the assignment or project.

Grading Categories and Weighting:

Performances	50%
Rehearsals	30%
Theory/Projects	20%

Grade Point Scale

A+	4.00	B-	2.70
A	3.75	C+	2.30
A-	3.50	C	2.00
B+	3.30	D	1.00
B	3.00	F	0

Uniform. Each band member will be required to provide the following clothes for performances. A blue vest and tie will need to be purchased from the school. The cost will be \$50.

Girls and Boys: Blue vest and tie, white shirt, black dress pants and black dress shoes

Folders. Students must keep all the assigned music in a marked folder. No additional writing should be put on the front or back of the folder. A folder record will be kept and a grade will be assigned at the end of the term for good care of the folder and music. At the end of the semester, all music must be returned to the music department.

Transportation. GMAA does not have buses and will not provide transportation to any performance. It will be the responsibility of the student to arrange for transportation to and from a designated performance within the Miami metropolitan area.

An electronic copy of the syllabus can be reviewed at www.gma.edu under the **Download** section of the website. It will also be available on the **Schoology** application that the students use for their classwork.

Please review it and sign this page as confirmation you agree to the syllabus of this class.

Printed name of student

Student Signature

Date

Parent Signature

Date

Teacher Signature

Date