

Percussion Class Syllabus

Academic Year: 2016-2017
Instructor: Todd Manson
Office Phone: 770-288-3222 ext 110
E-mail: todd.manson@henry.k12.ga.us
Web-Site: www.olahighschoolband.com

Course Description:

The Ola High School Percussion Classes will study a large repertoire of marching and percussion ensemble literature. The class will train students in advanced musical skills. This group will also provide appropriate quality musical programs for the school and community.

Goals:

- Students will experience and perform appropriate percussion literature using proper percussion techniques.
- Students will interpret standard musical notation and will sight read.
- Students will analyze and describe percussion elements of diverse genres, and stylistic periods.
- Students will relate percussive learning to all musical experience, history and culture, to the other arts, and to other "core" disciplines.

Units/Topics to be studied:

- Development of individual and ensemble musicianship skills
- Appropriate concert literature for the modern percussion ensembles
- Technique building in both marching and concert percussion ensembles
- Enhanced development of cognitive and psycho motor skills
- Performances of studied musical genres

Class Rules and Expectations:

- Act with dignity and grace
- Show respect for everyone and their personal belongings
- Attend class regularly
- Practice and master your individual parts
- No food, drink, candy, or gum will be allowed in the band room
- School-owned percussion instruments damaged by negligent student behavior can and will result in repair costs to be paid by the student

Materials

- 3 ring binder with pockets or appropriate folder given by the director
- Pencil
- Proper Implements. This is a performance-based class, and it is expected that each student come to class with the proper implements for performance

* Percussionists are required to have the following during concert ensemble season:

- Vic Firth SD1 or SD2 Sticks
- A pair of Marimba Yarn Mallets – Innovative Percussion, or Mike Balter
- A pair of Xylophone/Bell Mallets – Innovative Percussion, or Mike Balter
- Timpani Mallets – Suggested, but not required – General - Clevelander, or Adams(Duff)

The main goal with the percussionists is that they provide their own concert implements and do not use school owned mallets/sticks for class band or percussion ensemble music. When in doubt, please ask Mr. Manson about mallet choice.

Grading Policy:

Four basic areas will make up a student's grade in percussion class: daily rehearsals, musical progress (tests), after school rehearsals and performances, and Final Exam.

Grades will be determined as follows:

Daily Rehearsal/Participation Grades	20%
Musical Progress (Test Grades)	20%
Concert Performances & After school Rehearsal Grades	40%
Final Exam	20%

1. Daily Rehearsal Grades -20%:

Students are expected to participate in rehearsal every day. If a student is well enough to attend school, he or she is well enough to rehearse.

- Class participation points are **earned**. If a student is behaving inappropriately or is asked to leave the classroom, participation points will not be earned.

2. Musical Progress -20%:

Students will be evaluated periodically on their musical progress. These tests consist of scale tests, rhythm tests, and other material chosen from current method books or repertoire performed.

- **Private lessons are strongly encouraged.** The knowledge gained from a professional player on your specific instrument far surpasses the daily knowledge you will gain in class. As we establish our program here at Ola High, we will provide a list of private instructors that live in or near this community.

3. After-school Rehearsals and Performances -40%:

Please refer to the band calendar for all rehearsals and performances. This is also located on the band website – www.olahighschoolband.com

One hundred points will be earned for attendance at after-school rehearsals. **These rehearsals are not optional!** After-school rehearsals will be few and held only when necessary. Students will be given at least two weeks' notice for these rehearsals. Any absence must be cleared in advance.

Attendance at percussion concerts/performances is required. If a student has an unexcused absence from a concert, he or she will be prohibited from participating in future performances outside of school, i.e. concert festival. In addition, an unexcused absence from a performance may result in the failure of the course for the semester.

100 points – concert attendance and participation

25 points deducted – late to performance or unacceptable behavior during the concert

0 points – absent from performance

Excuses must be approved in **advance** with the appropriate director. NO EXCEPTIONS! Transportation and work are never excuses and will result in a 0 for the concert grade.

4. Final Exam -20%

The Final exam will be a culmination of the curriculum throughout the school year. Please do not neglect the importance of doing well on the final exam because it is weighted fairly heavily. The final exam for the band classes will take place during the month of May.

Band Parent Organization:

All band parents are encouraged to become involved with the OHS Band Parent Association (Band Booster club). As a band organization, we hold monthly parent meetings in the band room (Check band calendar for dates). This is the opportunity for parents to learn about the current happenings of our band program. If you would like to have input in decisions that are made for the band students, we invite you to attend. A successful band program will only thrive with parental support and enthusiasm for the students' well being!!