

Symphonic Band

Syllabus

2016-2017

Mr. McDonald and Mr. Manson

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Band Website: www.olahighschoolband.com

I. Course Description:

The Ola High School Symphonic Band class will study a large repertoire of wind literature and will train students in advancing their musical skills. This group will also provide appropriate, quality musical programs for the school and community.

To qualify for this ensemble, each student must be judged proficient on his/her instrument by the directors. All students must meet or exceed the semester terminal objectives set forth by the director in order to continue in the Symphonic Band class. Any student who does not successfully meet the semester terminal objectives is subject for removal from the class.

Performances and Special Assignments:

Please refer to the band calendar for all rehearsals and performances. Our band program is very elaborate and we offer many different ensembles here at OHS. The best source of information for all performance and rehearsal dates is located on the band website:

www.olahighschoolband.com

II. Class Procedures and Expectations:

1. Begin class by putting ALL school supplies in the wings of the classroom.
2. Unpack your instrument from your case, and again leave your case in the wings of the classroom.
3. Bring to your chair, instrument, stand, music folder, and PENCIL...EVERY DAY.
4. Once you have had a seat, begin warming up on your instrument. Make sure to tune your instrument with your tuner prior to rehearsal beginning.
5. When rehearsal is complete, return your stand to the rack and put your instrument back in its cubby.
6. Show respect for everyone and their personal belongings
7. Practice and master your individual parts
- 8. No food, drink, candy, or gum is allowed in the band room**
9. School-owned instruments damaged by negligent student behavior can and will result in repair costs being paid by the student
10. Your cubby is not your locker. All items that are not band related will be put into the school lost and found.
11. You are responsible for your band instrument. While you are welcome to use the band cubbies during the day, you must take your instrument home with you daily. We are not responsible for any damaged or stolen items while your instrument is at OHS.

III. Materials

The following materials are mandatory for each instrument. Please come prepared to every class with the following:

Wind Instruments- Materials Needed:

Brass- Valve Oil, Slide Grease, Cleaning supplies, Proper Mouthpiece, **Tuner**

Woodwinds- Cork Grease, Ongoing supply of at least 4 reeds, Swab, **Tuner**

All instruments MUST be in working condition. This is a performance-based class and you must have a working instrument at all times. Failure to comply will result in a grade deduction

A note about the quality of instrument that a student performs on:

Band is a very unique class in that the student will be tested and assessed on ability, practice ethic, and sound quality/production. Obviously, a poor quality instrument can hamper sound quality and sound production. Often students will ask me what they can improve on and most of the time my response has to do with quality of sound. Students who are still playing on their 6th-grade instruments will not be able to achieve the optimum level of success. We certainly understand the financial restraints, but we strongly encourage that students advance in high school to an intermediate model of horn to make sure that their sound develops as they grow and mature.

A list of quality horns will be provided at the beginning of the school year and is also available upon request throughout the school year. Please do not hesitate to contact me when you are considering an instrument step-up. We will be happy to help you in your decision-making. And remember, if it costs \$200 at Sam's club, then it is probably not worth the headache. Good instruments cost money, and very rarely will you find quality instruments for next to nothing.

Percussion- Materials Needed:

1. **Drum Sticks** - Sticks should be Vic Firth American Custom - ST1 Generals or ST2 Bolero's
2. **Mallets**
Yarn Mallets - Mike Balter, Promark, Innovative Percussion
Xylophone/Bell Mallets – Mike Balter, Promark, Innovative Percussion
3. **Stick bag with your name** – VERY important!
4. **Timpani Mallets** – Suggested, but not required
General – Clevelander, or Adams (Duff)

We will provide a separate supply list during the first week of school for the percussionists and discuss what is acceptable and unacceptable. It is our goal for the percussionists to come to class with their own sticks and mallets throughout the semester, and we will be happy to work with what the student already owns, as long as it is functional for our purposes.

IV. GRADING POLICY

Grades will be determined as follows:

Homework or Class Assignments	20%
Musical Progress -Test/Quiz Grades	20%
Concert Performances & After-school Rehearsal Grades	40%
Final Exam	20%

1. Homework or Class Assignments -20%:

Most of the time the student's "homework" in band class will be to practice and master his/her individual music. There might be sometimes where we will assign outside work for the students. These assignments will encourage students to read and listen to their instruments being played professionally.

2. Musical Progress (Tests and Quiz) -20%:

Students will be evaluated periodically on their musical progress. These tests consist of scale tests, rhythm tests, theory tests, and other material chosen from current method books or repertoire performed, as well as the course Student Learning Objective testing. **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. We will provide a list of private instructors that live in or near this community.

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

There will be some after school rehearsals and sectionals. Students are expected to participate in all rehearsals. ALL students are expected to attend ALL concerts. 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. The calendar for the school year is posted on the bulletin board in the band room, and it will also be on the band website: www.olahighschoolband.com

Attendance at band concerts 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 performance

0 points – absent from performance

Excuses must be approved in **advance** with the appropriate director. **NO EXCEPTIONS!**

Transportation problems 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.

V. 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!!