

Course Outline: Concert Band

Concert Band is a large ensemble that performs formal concert music. Instrumentation includes wind and percussion instruments. Activities involving performance techniques, general musicianship and creative/critical thinking are emphasized during rehearsals. Concert Band runs only first and third trimester, and satisfies the participation requirement for county, regional and all-state honors ensembles. It is advised students check their calendars carefully, as those who participate in honors ensemble auditions and fail to participate in trimester 1 or 3 will not be permitted to audition the following year and lose their “good standing” status. Course prerequisites: because the ensemble is focused on performing more challenging music, all students must apply for a seat through an audition/selection process.

Course Goals and Objectives

Ultimately, students in Concert Band present several performances throughout the academic year. Band members explore various styles of music including: concert compositions, jazz, folk, classical, marches, and music from film/shows. Students will experience various techniques and interpretive practices necessary to perform these styles. Creative strategies are utilized in order to expose students to a variety of related musical concepts including history, foreign language, improvisation, critique, conducting, and music theory.

Grading, Assessment and Course Responsibilities

Students begin this course with an average of 0 points. Each student will have the opportunity to earn at least 100 points through *preparation, participation, assessment, attendance* and *team work*- important because they foster responsible behavior.

A	93 -100 points	A-	90 - 92 points	B+	87 - 89 points	B	83 - 86 points
B-	80 - 82 points	C+	77 - 79 points	C	73 - 76 points	C-	70 - 72 points
D+	63 - 69 points	D	60 - 62 points	F	0 - 59 points		

Preparation-Assessment (approx. 60%): Students who are present and prepared with individual copy of sheet music and instrument earn 3 points each class session as follows: 1 point for bringing instrument, 1 point for bringing sheet music, 1 point for being present and preparing any material, if required. If the instrument is “in the shop” students must make arrangements to use a school loaner at least one day in advance or they will not receive credit for the session. Students who are not in class do not receive any points. Excused absences can be made-up within one week by making an appointment to practice and review any announcements/activities for two mods.

Additionally, there are 9 points (the same as 3 rehearsals) available for practice sections. Students may be asked to practice sections of music in advance of certain rehearsals, and they may then be asked to play

those sections during rehearsal. If called upon, these 9 points come into play. Students who are called a second time during the trimester will have the new number averaged with the old. Any student may use up to 2 “do not call” passes during the trimester, though these passes must be used when entering the room (before the students are actually called on).

Participation (approx. 40%): Dress rehearsal and concert (cumulative): students who attend the dress rehearsal/concert receive a participation score of 20 points each. Those who miss up to ten minutes of the session or come unprepared only receive 10 points. Students who do not participate in the dress rehearsal are usually not permitted to perform in the concert. Relevant dates are announced/posted the first week of class. Students should carefully check their after-school commitments before taking this course, as there is no make up option for dress rehearsals and performances.

Attendance: is crucial to musical growth. *There are no excused absences from class unless arrangements are made at least one day in advance.* Additionally, it is the student’s responsibility to obtain and prepare any assignments for the next class. Lateness is not excused unless accompanied by a teacher’s note. Students will have 1 point deducted from their preparation component for every 4 minutes of lateness. Cutting class has a negative impact on everyone and is not tolerated. Students who cut class lose one week’s worth of points from their final participation score.

Team Work: Students are expected to cooperate with each other and maintain a positive attitude—especially in areas concerning *safety, trust, and mutual respect*. All students must bring home their instrument after each class, as this contributes to good practice habits and opens needed space in the storage area.

Student Officers: Various student officer positions are available. All student officers (save Concert Master) must agree to be enrolled for both trimesters of band (1 and 3).

- Student Conductors (up to two)
- Librarian
- Band Manager
- Concert Master (automatically given to first clarinet)