

Senior High Concert Band
Course Syllabus 2023-2024
Teacher: Mr. Clewell, tclewell@shcsd.org

Course Description

The Senior High Concert Band is a course intended for instrumental musicians in grades 9-12 who have achieved a high level of proficiency on their instrument. Rehearsals consist of instrumental technique in scales, rhythm, articulation, and a variety of styles of music. The band rehearses every day to continue the development of musical skills that will enable them to perform more challenging and rewarding music. Performance opportunities include a winter and spring concert, county band, PMEA level festivals, Memorial Day ceremonies, graduation, sporting events, and more.

Required Materials

- Instrument
- Band folder that contains your warmups and concert music.
- Sound Innovations book
- Accessories (reeds, valve oil, etc.)
- Pencil

Method books that are property of SHCSD will be provided to you to use throughout the school year. You will return the books at the end of the year. Please use a pencil to mark things in your book. The method books are used in addition to the concert repertoire.

All music is to be respected and cared for while in the student's possession. Please mark your music in pencil. Music is expected to be returned in good condition at the end of the concert season. Please keep music neatly in your folders so that it doesn't crinkle or get ripped. Music is very expensive, let's take care of it!

The following items are available in the band room at no cost to you; reeds, valve oil, slide oil, slide grease, cork grease, and various cleaning supplies.

Practice

Individual practice is an important element of our success. Practice is when the students spend time working on their music outside of the rehearsal time. The rehearsal is when we learn how all of the parts fit together. An average of 20-30 minutes of daily individual practice should be the goal of every band student. It is much better to practice a little every day to build skills and techniques rather than trying to squeeze it all into one long practice session. While practicing at home is strongly encouraged, students must remember to bring their instruments and music to school to be prepared for class.

General Course Topics

Throughout the year, we will discuss the following topics (this is not an all-inclusive list): posture, playing position, breathing, tone quality, intonation, articulation, style, fingerings, scales, key signatures rhythm, rhythmic precision, syncopation, dynamics, balance and blend, phrasing, and instrument care.

Performances

Band students are required to attend all scheduled performances. Performances for high school band include; Christmas concert, Spring concert, Memorial Day (Cherry Grove Cemetery or Three Springs Cemetery and the American Legion in Rockhill), and commencement. In addition, I encourage students to perform often for parents, grandparents, church, scout groups, etc. The more you perform, the better you become. Only you can determine your limits.

Christmas Concert: Thursday, December 14, 2023 at 7 PM.

Spring Concert: Wednesday, May 1, 2024 at 7 PM.

Commencement: Friday, May 24, 2024 at 7 PM.

Memorial Day: Monday, May 27, 2024. Times TBA.

Festival Opportunities

Each year, the students have an opportunity to perform outside of school in county, district, region, or state level festivals. County Band is a non-competitive event open to any band student in grades 9-12. It is held annually at one of the county high schools. District Band is a competitive event where students compete for chair placement to qualify for the next level. Students in grades 10-12 are eligible to participate in district band. Students will audition in late September and participants will be selected in October. Should the students be successful, they will have the opportunity to move on to the region and state level festivals. All festivals are held in the spring semester.

Grades

Please refer to the attached pages about grading in band.

The Christmas and Spring concerts are a part of the band grade in the 2nd and 4th marking periods. Each concert is worth 100 points. Playing tests may be held throughout the year to test scales, musical passages, rhythm, etc. Written worksheets and assessments may be assigned periodically throughout the year, too. All grades will be reported on a points scale system.

Procedures

- 1) Enter the room in an orderly fashion and begin setting up for the day. Personal belongings may be kept at your seat or on the counter. Large instrument cases should be stored in your instrument slot during class.
- 2) Once you are set up, begin warming up on your own. Long tones, scales, exercises in the method book, and portions of your concert repertoire are all acceptable. Loud playing or seeing how high you can play will not be tolerated.
- 3) We will begin playing as an ensemble within 3 minutes of the final bell. Be ready to start when the cut off is given.
- 4) When class is over, put all materials away. Failure to comply will result in a loss of participation points.

Expectations

- 1) Report to class on time. Three (3) times tardy will result in an office discipline referral.
 - **BE READY TO PLAY OR BE MARKED TARDY.**
- 2) Be prepared with your instrument, folder, supplies, and a positive attitude.
- 3) Be actively engaged in class. Your attention is essential!
- 4) Show kindness and respect to others! Be a good listener!
- 5) **CELL PHONE USE IS NOT PERMITTED DURING CLASS! Cell phones are to be put away for the duration of the class period. Failure to cooperate will result in an office discipline referral.**
- 6) Be respectful of the band room and yourself! Instruments are a costly investment to your family. Never touch an instrument that is not yours. If you cause damage to another person's instrument, you will be held financially responsible.

Behavior Procedure

For students engaging in disruptive or inappropriate behavior, the following steps will be followed.

1. Conference with the student to discuss behavior concerns.
2. Email or phone call with the parents/guardians.
3. Discipline referral to the HS/MS principal.

Google Classroom & Online Instruction

Google Classroom will be utilized throughout the 2023-2024 school year. Students are expected to check Google Classroom for new assignments or class announcements regularly. All assignments, whether online or in-person, are a requirement of the course. Assignments are expected to be completed by the due date. Points will be deducted for assignments that are turned in late.

I am looking forward to a great year with the SHC Senior High Concert Band!