



Concord High School Band

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SYMPHONIC BAND COURSE SYLLABUS

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Symphonic Band is a variable-level (beginner, intermediate, proficient & advanced) performance class for wind and percussion students with a minimum of two years playing experience on their instrument and the ability to read music. The class focuses on developing music skills including instrumental techniques and performance practices as it relates to various idioms of selected band literature. Typically, the course will cover literature ranging from grade III-V, which is set according to the guidelines of the North Carolina Bandmasters Association. Students perform as individuals, as members of small ensembles and as members of the large ensemble.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

- 1) Students use basic music theory knowledge to accurately sight-read and interpret music.
- 2) Students refine elements of proper instrumental technique as well as develop and use tools unique to wind band performance.
- 3) Students understand and use the cultural and historical context of works to shape aesthetic interpretation, and decision making in performance settings.
- 4) Students use criteria for evaluating quality and effectiveness in musical performance to form opinions on a composer's particular work. Students listen to, analyze, describe, and evaluate music and musical performances within specific guidelines.
- 5) Students understand the nature and value of community performance and public events.
- 6) Students explore opportunities of life-long music-making through clinicians, observations, festival performances, and personal projects.

LEARNING GOALS

- Students understand the value of the creative process in the performing arts (discipline, perseverance, self-reflection, self-monitoring, team effort, team spirit, analysis, interpretation, assessment) and can use this process in all fields of study.
- Students understand and use the cultural and historical context of instrumental music to shape performance interpretations and decisions as well as their future interactions with music performance.
- Students become and feel competent in creating quality music of all styles in a wind band setting.
- Students use the connections between music-making and personal experience to shape and develop their lifelong experiences with music.

PHILOSOPHY OF REHEARSAL TIME

Rehearsals are not to learn your part – rather they are to learn everyone else's part and therefore, the music. Rehearsals are time to work collectively, not individually. The discovery of how the composition works and creating the most profound and educated recreation of the composer's intent is the focus of rehearsal time. At this level, your part is your responsibility. This minimum standard is important for all to understand because it is the professional standard. As a member of this ensemble you will exhibit an appropriate attitude, professionalism, best effort, leadership and superior musical skills at all times during rehearsals.

REQUIRED MATERIALS

O Instruments

Students are encouraged to rent or buy an instrument for daily use. Students that do not own an instrument may check out an instrument from the CHS instrument inventory. School owned instruments are limited to Piccolo, Oboe, Bassoon, Bass Clarinet, Tenor & Baritone Saxophone, F Horn, Bass Trombone, Euphonium and Tuba. Some other instruments that have been donated to the school are also available, but are limited in number. Percussionists will have access to all school owned instruments.

O Sheet Music, Folders & Pencils

This year, Students will be required to have a Binder and Sheet protectors to hold their music for class. Recommended size is 1" so that it can hold their music, any handouts and their method book. Music will be provided to each student at the beginning of each concert rotation. It is always each student's responsibility to have their music and pencil in class. Students that do not have their music in rehearsal will lose participation points for that day and are required to do seat work assigned by the teacher.

O Method Book

The method book used for this course is called *Habits of a Successful Musician* by Scott Rush & Rich Moon. The cost of the method book is between \$10 & \$15 and can be found at a number of online resellers. I recommend J.W. Pepper.com or call ahead to Music & Arts at Concord Mills. This will be the method book that students will use throughout their time at Concord High. Students will need to have this book purchased and ready to use by the 2nd week of the semester. (September 4th or January 30th)

O Storage Room

Students may store their instrument in a designated locker in the instrument storage room. It is everyone's responsibility to put their instrument in their locker after every rehearsal. Lockers will be assigned at the beginning of the semester / year. A combination lock is **REQUIRED** for every student. This will insure the safety of all student and school loaned instruments. All students will sign a liability form in order to store their instruments on campus. Instruments and folders may NOT be left out in the band room under any circumstances. Shelf space is limited and should be used for music items only.

O Concert Attire

All band students are required to wear concert attire at all performances. Male students will be responsible for purchasing a black, button down, long sleeve dress shirt, black dress slacks, black business length dress socks and black dress shoes. Female students will be responsible for purchasing a black, floor length dress or black slacks and a black blouse. Ladies should also wear black, closed toe, dress shoes.

O Woodwind Students

Woodwind students are responsible for buying their own reeds. Students should have at least 3 reeds in their case at all times, and they should be no lower than #3. The recommended brand is Rico Reserve Classic or Vandoren (blue box / v12) for Clarinet and Saxes, and Fox for Oboe and Bassoon. Oboe and Bassoon students are encouraged to learn how to make their own reeds. Information will be made available by Mr. Harper. There will be a limited supply of reeds for students in the band room for use only in the case of emergencies.

O Brass Students

Brass students should own a bottle of valve/rotor oil and/or slide grease. Students should also own a straight mute and cup mute. It is also recommended that you purchase your own mouthpiece. See Mr. Harper for more info.

O Percussion Students

You are required to own your own concert snare sticks (Vic Firth SD-1) See Mr. Harper for more information or, if you need recommendations on other percussion needs (sticks, mallets, mallet bags).

BEHAVIOR EXPECTATIONS

- Adhere to all school rules and policies
- Contribute positively in rehearsals by not talking, having all materials and being prepared on time
- Cell Phone use is prohibited, unless at the discretion of the band director
- Respect the person and property of others (if it isn't yours don't play it!)
- Represent our band and school in a positive manner always

*Note – Non-adherence to school rules will result in a disciplinary referral. Please consult the student handbook for specifics regarding discipline of students.

CLASS FEES

Concert Ensemble Fees and Payment Schedule

Due Date	Amount
September 15	\$10
February 1	\$10

The average cost per student for the concert/jazz ensemble program is \$250-\$300. Your ensemble participation fee provided to CHS, as well as funds made available through The Concord Band Boosters help fund everything from music, instructors, and entry fees for festivals to buses, etc. Ensemble Participation Fees of \$10 are a good start in helping to cover these costs. However, that still leaves a per-student difference of \$240-\$290. This shortfall is made up with various fundraising efforts.

ALL Concord Band families are asked to volunteer to work **at least** one event that benefits the Band Booster General Fund. In the past these events have included working at the Cabarrus Arena and Charlotte Motor Speedway. The Band Boosters also organize a variety of fundraising opportunities that enable families to earn credits toward their student Fair Share account. Past account credit fundraising opportunities include Sun Drop sales, Sponsorship drives, World's Finest Chocolate and Indian River fruit sales. Specific information about fundraising opportunities is available on our website and through our email communications. Participating in fundraising opportunities is an excellent way to meet other band families, support your student, and have **FUN!**

STUDENT ACCOUNT INFORMATION

We maintain a "Student Account" for each band student. This account operates similarly to a bank account and is applied, on your child's behalf, toward most band expenses. Money for the student account is earned through fundraising activities or deposits. Student account funds can be directed to any band-related expense, such as marching fees, concert ensemble fees, winter guard fees, or trip fees (if applicable). Positive account fund balances can be carried over from year to year. Student Account funds CANNOT be paid directly to a student (i.e. cashed out at the conclusion of their time at CHS). Should you have excess funds when your child graduates, they may be directed into a sibling account or the General Band Booster Fund. Upon graduation, any remaining undirected student account funds will be moved automatically to the General Band Booster Fund. We make updates to Student Accounts on a regular basis. You can get access your student account 24/7 through our CHARMS website. You can also contact our treasurer if you have questions.

COMMUNICATION

We offer several ways to stay connected and invite you and your parents to take advantage of them all!

REMIND TEXT MESSAGES: To sign up for text messages for the following groups, text the following to 81010:

@8da7b3c for Concord Bands General Info

@concordmar for Marching Spiders

@concordwin for Concord Winterguard

@concordja for Concord Jazz Ensemble

FACEBOOK

We have a closed group on Facebook located at www.facebook.com/groups/marchingspiders. The name of the group is Concord High School Bands. This is not just for marching band, but was originally established for that purpose. It now is used for all band communications and pictures from all of our events.

WEBSITE

The band's website is located at www.concordhsbands.com

CHARMS

You can log into your charms account at www.charmsoffice.com. Once you complete the online registration form at concordhsbands.com, we will give your student a login. It will be the student's first initial of their first name and their last name. You will then be prompted to create a password. This website offers us the ability to communicate (email and text) efficiently and also help sign up for fundraising and volunteer events.

GRADING POLICY

Excellence comes from hard work, commitment, dedication, and it is important that we effectively work together as a group. Listed below are some guidelines that will help us reach our common goal; doing our best! Your complete understanding of these policies is essential.

O Playing Assessments

Student progress will be assessed regularly on instrumental technique, music covered in class, and written theory assignments. Students should be prepared to demonstrate their ability to play parts by themselves or in a small group at any time.

- **Playing assessments** will be graded on accuracy, intonation, tone quality, dynamics, expression and musicality.
- **Written assessments** will be graded on musical terms, music theory and music history.
- **Scale tests** will be graded on demonstration of proper execution of major and minor scales.

O Homework

It is expected that each student practice for AT LEAST 2.5 hours a week (30 minutes a day). Students are required to practice specific methods and items as indicated by the Director. I will not require weekly practice records. It is evident whether or not you have practiced based on your performance in class or through playing tests. Students may also receive written homework assignments as determined by the Director.

O Performances

Application of material covered in class is demonstrated in performance. **All performances are MANDATORY and are a part of the student's grade.** Performance dates will be given to students in a timely manner well in advance and are always available online. **Work conflicts, extracurricular sports activities or conflicts within your control are not excused absences.** Missed performances due to illness are excused but require a doctor's note for verification. All other conflicts will be handled individually on their own merit and must be cleared with the Director PRIOR and WELL IN ADVANCE of the performance. **Students who miss a performance will have an ALTERNATIVE ASSIGNMENT that will be due before the end of the quarter in which the concert falls.**

O Honors Requirement (Proficient and Advanced Levels)

All students taking an honors level course which receives added GPA quality points, will have some additional requirements. I believe that students can best accomplish this requirement through advanced performance and research. The following options are available to students who are participating in an honors level course to complete these requirements:

- Perform with the Piedmont Primetime Community Band, or other local community ensemble (1st or 2nd Semester)
- Perform with an Indoor Percussion / Winds Ensemble (CWEA/WGI) (2nd Semester)
- Audition for All-District Band (1st Semester) or Audition for All-State Band (2nd Semester)
- Perform, alone or with a small group, for the state Solo and Ensemble Festival
- Prepare for a college music audition (1st or 2nd Semester)
- Perform with your church instrumental music ensemble or choir (1st or 2nd Semester)
- Write and 6 page research paper on a musical topic of your choice, with director approval and advisement (1st or 2nd Semester)

GRADING BREAKDOWN

Grades will be based on the following weighted categories and percentages for each quarter/semester:

Each Performing Ensemble's Quarter grade is comprised as follows;

Daily Academic Task Assessments = 70% (10 pts./day based upon completion of academic tasks throughout the class period)

Performance at Concerts, Playing and Written Assessments = 30% (in-class / home playing exams if no concert in Quarter)

Note* - If you are out for any reason, other than what CHS considers an excused absence, you will need to make up those points through individual after-school practice / private lessons with an upperclassman or Mr. Harper. Everyone is responsible for missed work, and our work is performance based.

IT IS VITAL TO THE STUDENTS' SUCCESS AND THAT OF EVERY ENSEMBLE THAT EACH MEMBER ATTEND SPECIAL REHEARSALS AND PERFORMANCES. IF A STUDENT IS **UNABLE TO ATTEND, WRITTEN NOTIFICATION** MUST BE RECEIVED FROM THE PARENT(S) IN ORDER TO PREVENT A SEVERE GRADE PENALTY. ADDITIONALLY, AN EXTRA PROJECT, REHEARSAL, OR MAKE-UP EXAM MAY BE ASSIGNED TO THE STUDENT IN THE EVENT OF AN EXCUSED MISSED PERFORMANCE/SPECIAL REHEARSAL. FAILURE TO COMPLETE THIS ASSIGNMENT WILL RESULT IN A SEVERE GRADE PENALTY AS CONCERTS/ SPECIAL REHEARSALS COUNT AS PERFORMANCE EXAM GRADES. UNEXCUSED ABSENCES ARE UNACCEPTABLE AND WILL RESULT IN A GRADE PENALTY.

Students must be in "good standing" with CHS, be clear of past debts or fees owed to the Band Boosters, and have paid membership dues (or have an alternative dues plan in place) to be eligible for music department field trips.

GRADING SCALE (Percentage of total points)

90-100% = A

80-89.9% = B

70-79.9% = C

60-69.9% = D

Below 60% = F

EXTRA CREDIT

Extra credit is available to make up points for absences determined eligible for makeup points by the Director.

You can receive up to 50 points per semester by turning in up to two additional concert reviews.

DRIVING PRIVILEGE STATEMENT

The Dropout Prevention/Driver's License legislation from the State of North Carolina requires that the CHS is to notify the Department of Motor Vehicles when a student is not making adequate academic progress or drops out of school. "Adequate academic progress" is defined as having passing grades in 70% or more of student's classes during each semester. A student on the 4 X 4 block (Cabarrus County high schools) will have his/her license or permit revoked if the student does not pass at least three (3) courses during a semester.

Students who drop out of school and are not making adequate academic progress will also have his/her license or permit revoked. A new Driving Eligibility Certificate cannot be granted for a period of six-months even if the student enrolls in a non-public school or community college.

