

Wind Bands

Wind Ensemble, Symphonic Band, and Concert Band

Overview/Course Goal: The SHS Wind Bands (Wind Ensemble, Symphonic Band, and Concert Band) are performance-based courses for instrumental musicians as a part of the Spartan Band program. Wind Ensemble is a select group admitted by audition process. The Symphonic Band is comprised of students studying music at the high school level who are not freshmen. Concert Band is a freshman course for those wind students transitioning from middle school to high school level performance tasks. These classes perform at all concerts and contests. All of these courses are designed to help instrumental students further their musical skills to their next level. In these classes, we work through a variety of technique programs and performance literature to become ultimately well rounded concert musicians who are ready for the demands of being an instrumentalist either in college or in their community. Students in this class perform in both Marching/Athletic and Concert contexts, and they will also work independently to prepare a variety of solo etudes, performance exercises, and chamber music for performance and/or assessment. Attendance at all assigned performances is required.

Objectives: Students will learn music reading skills, musicality, music terminology, music history, and music theory. Through performance, sight reading, and exercises students will learn the concepts of rhythm, texture, balance, blend, and rudiments as they develop their role as ensemble members.

Wind Band Students will be able to...

- ...develop an effective practice schedule and stick to it
- ...sight read rhythmic and tonal patterns from sheet music on their instrument
- ...identify and extrapolate notes based on sheet music representations of music
- ...sing general intervals and scales for tuning and general theory knowledge
- ...write creatively for their instrument or the wind band medium
- ...optimize their equipment for their use for performance
- ...tune to the group in several different ways
- ...perform literature (solo or in ensembles) commensurate with their skill level
- ...perform on their instrument and remain curious about learning other instruments
- ...gain skills on secondary instruments if approved/nominated by the director
- ...synthesize multiple sources of information to understand musical theory for pieces
- ...develop a listening list and analyze/describe music from it
- ...evaluate their performances and other musical performances
- ...understand the history and culture of their music and their instruments

Course Organization: The Wind Band classes have a few different modes of learning as follows...

Warmup: This will start as a teacher-directed activity and may be student-led at Mr. Brodin's discretion. This is a quiet time of getting ourselves focused for class and the detailed focus required to study music at a high level. All students should be focused on properly starting to use proper technique and playing accurately.

Group Lesson: This type of learning environment is similar to a classroom environment. Students may be working with music/worksheets, listening assignments, or with their instruments. This time is led by Mr. Brodin. We will be investigating a variety of topics through the year. Regardless of the topic, students should remain focused primarily on helping each other to a higher level of ability or general musical knowledge. There may be listening assignments or other homework for this learning mode.

Rehearsal: This is time for the entire ensemble to rehearse large sections of musical works or entire works. This time is led by Mr. Brodin. This time is precious. All students should be focused.

Practice Block/Sectional: This is a time of general practice in the classroom/practice rooms. During this time, students are expected to practice assignments or techniques as they/section leaders wish. Students may ask help from Mr. Brodin or sections leaders/upperclassmen and can ask for more material to practice any time. Those who do not use the time as a work time may lose points or may be subject to discipline.

Assessments: When we are assessed on any repertoire goals or etudes, Mr. Brodin will call students one at a time to assess. All other students will be quietly focused on their own practice. Failure to respect others as they test may result in discipline and/or loss of points on the assessment. There may also be an opportunity to turn in assessments online.

Transitions: There will be transitions between one activity to another. These can be fun but orderly times for rearranging the room. All transitions will be given a time limit so we can continue to move through rehearsal.

Materials for class:

1 folder for music

All music (handed out in class)

Instrument of Choice

Accessories:

1 Flip folder*

Tuner or similar app (recommended)

1 Lyre for your instrument*

Metronome or similar app (recommended)

All oils and greases required for instrument*

Other mutes (provided by school)

Reeds (keep multiple on hand)*

*denotes required accessory

Trumpet players: 1 Straight Mute*