

# **SHS Percussion Studio**

**Overview/Course Goal:** Percussion Studio is a unique 9th - 12th grade learning community for all Stanwood percussionists as a part of the Spartan Band program. In this class, we work through a variety of technique programs and performance literature to become ultimately well rounded concert percussionists who are ready for the demands of life and percussion music. Percussionists in this class will join with the school's wind classes for performances (both Marching/Athletic and Concert Bands), but 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.

## Percussion Students will be able to...

- ...develop an effective practice schedule and stick to it
- ...sight read rhythmic patterns on drums with a variety of sticking approaches
- ...identify and extrapolate notes based on sheet music representations of music
- ...sight read tonal music on keyboard instruments
- ...write music creatively in a percussion context
- ...sing general intervals and scales for timpani tuning and general theory knowledge
- ...tune timpani using several different methods
- ...perform literature (solo or in ensembles) commensurate with their skill level
- ...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.
- ...care for and transport the percussion instruments appropriately

**Course Organization:** The Percussion Studio has 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 whether we are warming up on keyboard instruments or on a practice pad. All warmups will be memorized by all students.

Studio Meeting: These will occur at the beginning of each week. We will go over the outline of the week and share goals, successes, and struggles. We can help by assigning students to help on things that others need help. By sharing how we want to get better we can all help each other get better faster. Mutual respect of each other is key to these meetings as the most successful programs must have trust to work at a high level.

Group Lesson: This type of learning environment is similar to a classroom environment. Students may be working with music/worksheets, at keyboard instruments, or at seats with practice pads. This time is led by Mr. Brodin. We will be investigating a variety of topics as there are a variety of skill levels and skill sets in the studio. Older students may be paired with younger students to provide feedback or extra help. Regardless of the topic, students should remain focused primarily on helping each other to a higher level of ability. There may be listening assignments or other homework for this learning mode.

Rehearsal: This is time for larger groups of students 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. Those not involved in the rehearsal will be on the side of the room practicing quietly, listening to rehearsal, or being used as a rehearsal tech by Mr. Brodin.

Practice Block: This is a time of general practice in the classroom. During this time, students are expected to practice any solo/etude assignments, repertoire assignments, or technique building as they wish. Students may ask help from Mr. Brodin or sections leaders/upperclassmen and can ask for more material to practice any time. Students may practice in pairs or groups as long as they are productive and their dialogue does not distract them from their work. 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 at the front of the room. 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.

Set up/Clean up: Students should be set up for warmup no later than 5 minutes after the bell or risk losing points for tardiness. Mr. Brodin will set a timer to go off 5 minutes before the end of each period to remind Mr. Brodin to allow time to get fully cleaned up. The alarm does not release students to clean up, Mr. Brodin will dismiss students when a stopping spot for the lesson is reached.

## **Materials:**

1 binder/folder for music with all music (handed out in class) and a pencil

Percussion Kit/Stick Bag Should contain the following...

### **1 set of marching/corps sticks\***

*Vic Firth MS1 or Similar*

1 set of thinner "drum set" sticks (optional)

*Vic Firth 5A or 5B or similar*

### **1 set of basic orchestral sticks\***

*Vic Firth SD1 or SD2 or similar*

*Second set of yarn mallets (vibe/marimba) (optional)*

*Different mallet firmness is a plus*

### **1 set of yarn mallets (vibe/marimba)\***

*Timpani mallets (optional)*

### **1 pair of medium xylophone/bells mallets \***

*hard rubber or plastic*

*Metronome or similar app (optional but recommended)*

**Practice Pad (provided by school)\***

**\*denotes required part of kit**