

Course Title:	Wind Ensemble
Grade(s):	10-12

Course Description
Wind Ensemble is an advanced honors-level performing ensemble for woodwind and brass musicians who are motivated by performing challenging literature. Students will develop advanced technical skills and musicianship through preparation of grade 3, 4, and 5 literature, select and apply rehearsal strategies to overcome individual and ensemble challenges, use research, social and historical context, and personal experiences to interpret music, and present music through performance in a meaningful way. Students will have the opportunity to perform for the school, community, and travel to destinations across the United States for performance. Honors-level courses are designed to challenge the advanced learner. Students should expect to reach a deeper scope of skills than the academic class: a higher reading stamina, the motivation to prepare and refine music, critical thinking skills, and the propensity to finish complex tasks in a timely manner. Students in honors-level classes are expected to have a solid foundation of skills from previous courses, an ability to connect these skills to new learning, and the ability to apply them in problem-solving. Students taking an honors-level class have demonstrated the ability to take responsibility for their own learning and work fluidly both independently and collaboratively. These students should consistently aspire to achieve higher-level quality work through self-reflection and self-advocacy. These classes are recommended to students by teachers who have evaluated a student's past practice and achievement.
Approved Curricular Materials/Textbook(s)
<i>Foundations for Superior Performance</i> by Richard Williams and Jeff King Concert Band Repertoire as selected by the Band Director

Unit Title	Unit Description (Include Unit Objectives)	Unit Pacing
Unit 1: Tone Development	1. Students will be able to demonstrate proper diaphragmatic breathing techniques to support a characteristic tone on their instrument.	4 weeks

	- Students will be able to demonstrate a consistent, appropriate embouchure in order to produce a steady tone on their instrument. - Students will be able to perform an articulated long tone with a steady pitch as indicated by a tuner and release at the appropriate time with a breath. - Students will be able to identify and perform unison pitches, octaves, perfect fifths, and fourths as in tune or out of tune by ear. - Students will be able to adjust pitch to compensate for intonation tendencies using voicing techniques or alternate fingerings as appropriate.	
Unit 2: Technique	- Students will be able to demonstrate appropriate posture and hand position with limited excess tension. - Students will be able to perform common (Concert G, C, F, Bb, Eb, Ab, Db, and Gb) one octave, or two octaves where appropriate, major scales and the chromatic scale in various rhythmic patterns, articulation, and tempos. - Students will be able to identify and perform using alternate fingerings where appropriate. - Students will be able to perform all rhythmic subdivisions longer than a sixteenth note, including quarter note and eighth note triplets, with various articulation patterns.	6 weeks
Unit 3: Artistic Interpretation I	- Students will understand that technical proficiency is necessary to effectively express meaning in music. - Students will interpret music notation, expressive markings, and compositional elements such as form, harmony, and style, to inform their presentation of musical work. - Students will identify and perform expressive and stylistic markings in repertoire with technical accuracy and characteristic tone. - Students will connect music to societal, cultural, historical, or personal context to deepen understanding or create meaning.	5 weeks

	5. In the absence of available context, students will use personal experiences to inform their performance. 6. Students will evaluate their own performance for technical proficiency and artistic interpretation.	
Unit 4: Literacy and Music Expression	1. Students will be able to sight-read and perform excerpts in a variety of keys, articulations, and rhythmic subdivisions, including all rhythmic subdivisions larger than a sixteenth note, including quarter note and eighth note triplets. 2. Students will sight-read larger works in the keys of B-flat, E-flat, F, and A-flat that contain rhythmic subdivisions larger than eighth notes and occasional sixteenth notes. 3. Students will identify and perform expressive and stylistic markings in repertoire with technical accuracy and characteristic tone. 4. Students will be able to perform twelve one octave, or two octaves where appropriate, major scales and the chromatic scale in various rhythmic patterns, articulation, and tempos. 5. Students will be able to prepare music and perform in self-directed, conductorless chamber music ensembles.	6 weeks
Unit 5: Artistic Interpretation II	1. Students will understand that technical proficiency is necessary to effectively express meaning in music. 2. Students will interpret music notation, expressive markings, and compositional elements such as form, harmony, and style, to inform their presentation of musical work. 3. Students will identify and perform expressive and stylistic markings in repertoire with technical accuracy and characteristic tone. 4. Students will connect music to societal, cultural, historical, or personal context to deepen understanding or create meaning. 5. In the absence of available context, students will use personal experiences to inform their performance.	6 weeks

	6. Students will evaluate their own performance for technical proficiency and artistic interpretation.	
Unit 6: May Concert/ Graduation	1. Students will select music based on societal, cultural, historical, or personal connections to a central theme. 2. Students will understand that technical proficiency is necessary to express meaning in music effectively. 3. Students will identify and interpret music notation, expressive markings, and compositional elements such as form, harmony, and style, to inform their presentation of musical work. 4. Students will evaluate their own performance for technical proficiency and artistic interpretation.	7 weeks