eLearning Assignments

Band and Music Appreciation

In the event of eLearning, an assignment will be posted in Teams for the following eLearning plans. You will submit your written responses in Teams using the assignment link provided. Complete each daily task using your instrument if available, or whatever materials you can improvise at home. Consider taking a video of your practice session so that we can review it once you return to school.

Your teacher will be available through office hours online via Teams in the event of eLearning, in case you have questions.

Each activity should take about 50 minutes:

- **~10 minutes video/article**
- **~25 minutes daily task**
- **~15 minutes reflection/writing.**

However, you are welcome to spend as much time as you like on your hands-on work project 😊

eLearning Day 1: Tone and Breathing

Focus: Breath control and sound quality
Supplies: Instrument (or just breathing exercises if unavailable)

1. **Watch:** Breathing Gym: Brass and Wind Warmups (5 min)
2. **Task:** Spend 10 minutes doing the breathing exercises. Then, play 5 minutes of long tones (holding notes for as long as possible with steady tone). Repeat this cycle 3 times.
3. **Questions (Written Response): Complete on a separate sheet of paper or upload in Teams**
    - How did your sound change after focusing on breath support?
    - Which exercise was most helpful and why?
    - What goals do you have for improving tone?

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eLearning Day 2: Rhythm Reading

Focus: Rhythm accuracy and internal pulse
Supplies: Pencil, paper, instrument (optional)

1. **Watch:** Counting Rhythms Made Easy (6 min)
2. **Task:** Clap or tap out 8 rhythm patterns you create yourself (write them out using quarter, eighth, and sixteenth notes/rests). If possible, play them on your instrument on one pitch.
3. **Questions (Written Response): Complete on a separate sheet of paper or upload in Teams**
    - Which rhythms were easiest/hardest? Why?
    - How can rhythm practice improve full ensemble performance?

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eLearning Day 3: Music and Emotion

Focus: Listening and interpretation
Supplies: Paper, pencil

1. **Listen:** Holst – *Mars, the Bringer of War* (7 min)
2. **Task:** Write a short response (1–2 paragraphs) describing the emotions and images the music creates for you. How do rhythm, dynamics, and instrumentation contribute to the mood?
3. **Extension:** Try to play 8–12 measures of your favorite piece (or scales) with the same intense energy you heard in the recording.
4. **Questions (Written Response): Complete on a separate sheet of paper or upload in Teams**
    - What musical elements made the piece feel powerful?
    - How can you apply those techniques in your own playing?

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eLearning Day 4: Scales and Creativity

Focus: Technique and improvisation
Supplies: Instrument

1. **Read:** Why Scales Are Important
https://www.connollymusic.com/stringovation/importance-of-practicing-scales
2. **Task:** Practice your concert Bb, Eb, and F scales (or your band's assigned scales) slowly, focusing on even tone and fingerings. After warming up, improvise a short 8–12 measure melody using only the notes of one scale.
3. **Questions (Written Response): Complete on a separate sheet of paper or upload in Teams**
    - Which scale is easiest for you and why?
    - How did improvising with a scale feel different than just practicing it?

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eLearning Day 5: Score Study and Reflection

Focus: Understanding the full ensemble sound
Supplies: Paper, pencil (instrument optional)

1. **Watch:** "How to Read a Band Score" (6 min)
2. **Task:** Choose a piece your band is currently rehearsing (or a favorite piece you've played before). Without playing, imagine how your part fits with other instruments. Sketch a quick diagram showing which sections carry melody, harmony, and rhythm at different points.
3. **Questions (Written Response): Complete on a separate sheet of paper or upload in Teams**
    - What role does your instrument usually play in the piece?
    - How can knowing other parts help you perform better?
    - What surprised you when thinking about the "big picture" of the music?