

# Symphonic Band Syllabus 2016-2017

*This year we will build a LEGACY...*

## **EXPECTATIONS**

1. You will remain **quiet & focused** in class. Our class is one that is based upon your ability to hear instructions and follow them, so your silence and attention is essential.
2. You will be **prepared to learn**. An instrument that is not ready to play is worthless; make sure that you have everything you need in order to make beautiful music!
3. You will be **respectful** of the Band hall and each other. Our instruments are all expensive, and we don't want them to break. Never touch an instrument that isn't yours. Curiosity is great, but if that curiosity leads you to break someone else's instrument then you will be held financially responsible.
4. You will **be an enthusiastic music student**...making music is fun, and if you are not having fun then you are not doing it right! Practice hard, until you get it right; the better you play the more fun you will have!
5. **Communicate** with band directors in a timely manner regarding scheduling conflicts and absences.
6. **Be on time** – Students are required to be in class before the tardy bell. Tardy students will be required to sign-in and a parent conference will be held to help the student improve in this area. 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Athletics students must hurry. I will not accept this as your excuse.
7. **Be involved** – this is YOUR BAND!
8. **Improve** Fundamentals of your instrument through practice and private lessons
9. **Mastery** of Region 26 All Major Scales & Chromatic.
10. **Audition** for All-District Band and earn membership! This is REQUIRED for all members of the Symphonic Band.
11. Perform a **Solo** (also required), and, be a member of a **Performing Ensemble** at the RRISD Solo & Ensemble Contest
12. Participate in **Festival Competition Trip**. We will be the top performing ensemble from Cedar Valley MS at our contest this year! That means if we want that big trophy, WE have to take it!

## **CLASSROOM PROCEDURES**

1. Come prepared to class: instrument, books/music, supplies, POSITIVE attitude
2. Place instrument case in band locker. Keep locker locked at all times except during class. Only put "BAND THINGS" in the "BAND LOCKER".
3. Be in your seat with your instrument assembled and daily assignment ready within 2 minutes after the tardy bell.
4. Look at the board and be mentally set up for rehearsal.
5. Have metronome-tuner & contact microphone connected and ready to begin rehearsal on time.
6. Have a PENCIL on your music stand and use it during rehearsal
7. During class write down changes, circle important sections, and note areas for home practice.
8. Participate throughout the entire class period; all instruction relates to everyone.
9. Take your instrument home every night to practice!
10. Band class is meant to be a place where we put together the parts we learned at home.
11. PERCUSSION: instruments set up and ready to play and put all instruments away at the end of rehearsal.

## **PRIVATE LESSONS**

- **Students in the Symphonic Band are expected to have weekly private lessons. If you need financial assistance please see Mr. Alvarado.**

### **Graded Material**

Students will be constantly evaluated in class and before/after school on material that is to be prepared as a group and through individual practice. A six weeks average will consist of an accumulation of the following types of grades:

### **Daily Participation Grades**

Participation grades are daily/weekly assessments. Students who consistently follow instructions in rehearsals, who come to rehearsals with their music assignments prepared, who abide by behavioral norms in class (not talking at inappropriate times, respecting teachers and peers, etc.), and who have all of their required supplies on hand will earn a participation grade of 100. Points will be deducted at the director's discretion for not adhering to one or more of these components.

### **Supply Check Grades**

- Instrument in top playing condition (oiled, good reeds, sticks/mallets)
- Band Binder – organized at all times (we will do this as a class, so keep it organized)
- Tuner and contact microphone on and ready to go at start of rehearsal.

## Demonstration of Fundamentals and Performances of Music Selections

Students will be tested on fundamentals to show mastery of the basics of tone production, articulation, style & scale exercises. Additionally, students will perform passages from pieces performed in band class. Some of these will be taken live and others through MusicFirst. These tests will take place during our weekly sectional. Plenty of notice will be given of material that will be graded.

## Grade Percentages

Below is a description of the grade percentage breakdown for a single six weeks average:

- Daily Participation (15%) – Daily Grades based on your participation
- Assessment (50%) – Fundamentals, District Music, Concert Music and Solo.
- Performance Preparation (20%) – Football Games, Concerts, Sectionals
- Homework (15%) – Practice Logs

## Grading Timeline

It is currently our plan to assess students' musical growth and progress according to the following timeline:

- 1st Six-Weeks – displaying mastery of fundamentals, performance of selected band music, district music, district scales, pep-rally music and focus on tone/balance-blend/intonation.
- 2nd Six-Weeks – displaying mastery of fundamentals, performance of selected band music, district music, district scales, performance at the 2016 Hairy Man Festival, performance at Pep-Rally, football games, RRISD Festival of Bands. 8<sup>th</sup> graders will be participating in their respective band nights.
- 3rd Six-Weeks – performance of selected band music, district music, district scales, DISTRICT BAND tryouts, and participation in the Autumn Concert.
- 4th Six-Weeks – Performance of minor scales/exercises at specific tempi, performance of portions of UIL Evaluation music.
- 5th Six-Weeks – Performance at Pre-UIL Concert Evaluation, Performance at UIL Concert & Sightreading Evaluation, selection/preparation of a Solo at the RRISD Middle School Band Solo & Ensemble Festival in May, Perform at Spring Festival Competition - (awards ceremony at Six Flags Fiesta Texas)
- 6th Six-Weeks – Perform at RRISD Solo & Ensemble Festival (entry fee & piano accompaniment fee), participation in the Spring Concert, band placement audition for Cedar Valley MS or McNeil/Round Rock HS Bands.

## Tardy Policy

We understand that it will take students a longer amount of time to arrive in the band hall because of the distance required of them to travel. Therefore, the following stipulations will be required of the students to insure timely arrival in the band hall and back to the following class:

- Students will be required to arrive in the band hall before the tardy bell. Class will begin two minutes later. Any student not in his/her seat by the time class begins will be considered tardy.
- Students will be dismissed approximately three minutes before the bell to put up percussion equipment and to properly disassemble/swab instrument. If the students do not waste time this is ample time to make it to the next class without being late. We have walked the distance from the music wing to the furthest-most point in the school and found that there is enough time to make it to class without being tardy....move with a sense of purpose.

## Late Work Policy

Any performance evaluation must be completed within the band director's designated timeframe.

Any student who is unable to complete a performance evaluation in the required timeframe due to an extenuating circumstance will have one week to make up the assignment before a failing grade is recorded in the grade book. If a student misses a required rehearsal or a sectional due to illness or an emergency, he/she will be allowed a one-week window to make up the assignment for passing credit. There is no late work policy for live performances (District Band Tryouts, UIL Concert and Sight Reading Contest, Solo and Ensemble, Band Concerts, etc.). If you have a conflict with one of the performance dates, contact a band director immediately to work out a solution.

## Redo / Retake Policy

- Absence Request Form (Found ONLINE)
- SUBMIT 6 WEEKS PRIOR TO ABSENCE
- Sickness, death in family, etc. please submit form asap