

## 2008-09 Course Syllabus and Class Schedule for Bands, Orchestra and Percussion

### **2007 – 2008 Course Titles:**

2<sup>nd</sup> period – Symphonic Band, freshman section.

3<sup>rd</sup> period – Symphonic Band, upper class section.

4<sup>th</sup> period – Symphony Band.

5<sup>th</sup> period – Mr. Harrison Lunch.

6<sup>th</sup> period – String Orchestra.

7<sup>th</sup> period – World Percussion Music.

### **Course Description:**

Symphonic Band (two sections), Symphony Band, String Orchestra and World Percussion Music provides opportunities for the students to develop their musical potential and aesthetic understanding through learning to play a string, woodwind, brass or percussion instrument.

Emphasis will be placed on playing position, basic tone production, rhythmic precision, interpretation of musical symbols, and care of an instrument. More advanced students will refine their skills and help in tutoring beginning students. Emphasis will be placed on tone quality, familiarity with basic key signatures, scales, rhythm patterns, musical expression and exposure to as much standard literature of the medium as possible.

**Symphonic Band, Symphony Band and String Orchestra** (along with percussion members) perform several concerts throughout the school year and participate in district concert festival in March each year. All 3 performing ensembles draw students from the World Percussion class to complete whatever instrumentation for percussion is required by the selections performed. All students who are registered for class credit (all classes) are required to attend all concerts and district festival in order to earn the maximum grade for each semester. Class participation grades will be averaged with daily grades, and quizzes and exams for a final class grade each quarter and semester.

## **Major Course Objectives:**

- The students will study, analyze and perform music from all style periods of history.
- The students will develop and reinforce techniques and skills related to playing a musical instrument, including playing position, tone production, scales, rudiments and expression.
- The students will identify intonation problems, musical elements, understand musical forms, and expand conducting skills.
- The students will sight-read simple rhythmic patterns and melodies using simple notes and rests.
- All students will utilize the computer music lab for enrichment/remediation learning rhythms, key signatures, musical terms, etc.
- The students will learn to evaluate musical experiences by demonstrating appropriate behavior and by verbalizing ideas and feelings that music can communicate (class writing component).
- The students will know how to properly care for their instruments and keep them in good condition throughout the year.
- The students who seek to attain the highest grade possible will perform in all concerts and festivals during the school year.
- The students will perform as soloists or in a small ensemble.
- Students will learn and have opportunities to participate in leadership and character building activities throughout the year.
- All students in Symphonic and Symphony Band, regardless of their participation in marching band (a co-curricular activity) will spend some time learning the music for football games, school pep rallies, etc.

## **Annual Concerts for SHS Instrumental Program**

1. Nov., Chamber Concert Series – All wind players from class.
2. Special Concerts as scheduled and published.
3. Dec., Holiday/Christmas Concert – All bands and orchestra.
4. March, Pre-Festival Concert – All bands and orchestra.
5. March, District Festival (LGPE) – Two bands and orchestra.
6. March, Percussion Concert – SHAPE and Ocean Spray.
7. May, Spring Concert – All bands and orchestra.
8. May, Annual Awards Banquet – Jazz band or steel band.
9. 6-9 Local/Civic functions throughout the year; small groups.

## Grading by Semester:

The majority base of each student's grade is daily participation. Each student is required to participate in class daily and lack of participation due to a forgotten instrument, repair issue, etc. will result in a lowered grade unless the student completes the director's daily written assignment. Completion of the daily assignment will maintain their participatory status and thus keep up their daily grade.

### Grading Criteria

First Quarter Exam Grade.....	15%
Second Quarter Chamber Ensemble participation and evaluation.....	15%
Third Quarter - Practice Record (replaces chamber ensemble participation)....	15%
Fourth Quarter Year-end evaluation.....	15%

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<b>Participation:</b>	<b>70%</b>
<b>Concerts and District Festival Participation:</b>	<b>5%</b>

<b>Class Test and Exams:</b>	<b>10%</b>
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Extra Credit is given for performances other than those required. Extra credit is also given for concert attendance outside the school environment (i.e. a symphony or college ensemble concert). A written critique is required for credit. At the end of each academic year students will be ranked for the upcoming year, on advice from the adjunct faculty. Ranking and placement does not affect their academic grade.

### **Types of Assignments and Projects:**

All students will prepare a solo or chamber ensemble piece for a local chamber concert scheduled during the school year.

All students will participate in school and community concerts during the school year.

Tests will be given periodically on assignments.

Section leaders are responsible for marching sectional rehearsals. All members of the section must pass off the material as assigned.

**Procedures for Make-Up Assignments:** Students will have five days to turn in make-up work after an absence. Tests must be made up within one week of absence. Unexcused absences from **concerts** and **festivals** cannot be made up.

**Personal Responsibility:**

1. Students who come unprepared to class more than once per nine weeks will receive a written (in-class) assignment for a maximum grade of 70.
2. Conflicts with other after-school activities must be worked out primarily by the student but assistance can be obtained from the director.
3. Notification of illness or other school- approved absence is the responsibility of the parent/guardian and/or student.

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Detach, sign and return to the band box for a grade by Aug. 8, 2008

**I have received the semester schedule and understand that in order for my child to receive full credit for second semester, the attendance and participation requirements must be completed.**

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<b>Parent/Guardian signature</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Child/Student name</b>
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Updated: 7/31/2008