

Scarsdale High School Bands

2020-2021 Virtual Orientation



Overview

How will this year work?

- All of my classes will be meeting as a virtual class during the first semester of 2020-2021.
- You will attend synchronous (live) sessions at home on a “flipped” A/B cohort schedule.
- It is important to note that during the time of your **originally** scheduled in-person class, you will be reporting to the Brewster Road commons area (the “old” commons) rather than the Gyms as other classes are doing if you are in the building between in-person classes.
- Yes, this scheduling is confusing, but I have put everything into a spreadsheet on the next page to help guide you.

“Flipped” Remote Schedule

(You will get an email with a PDF of this)

SHS Teacher Schedule - Dr. Jason Noble												
Week 1						Week 2						
	Monday (Group B)	Tuesday (Group A)	Wednesday	Thursday (Group B)	Friday (Group A)		Monday (Group B)	Tuesday (Group A)	Wednesday	Thursday (Group B)	Friday (Group A)	
Remote AM	Pd. 1 (8:00-8:50)		Indiv. Lessons	Symphonic Band	Symphonic Band	Remote AM	Pd. 1 (8:00-8:50)		Indiv. Lessons	Symphonic Band	Symphonic Band	
	Pd. 2 (8:55-9:45)						Pd. 2 (8:55-9:45)					
	Pd. 3 (9:50-10:40)						Pd. 3 (9:50-10:40)	Digital Music		Digital Music		
	Pd. 4 (10:45-11:35)	Wind Ensemble		Wind Ensemble	Perc. Ensemble		Perc. Ensemble	Pd. 4 (10:45-11:35)		Wind Ensemble	Wind Ensemble	
	Pd. 5 (11:40-12:05)	Inst. Ensemble		Inst. Ensemble				Pd. 5 (11:40-12:05)		Inst. Ensemble	Inst. Ensemble	
Remote PM	Pd. 6 (12:50-1:20)	Symphonic Band	Symphonic Band			Remote PM	Pd. 6 (12:50-1:20)	Symphonic Band	Symphonic Band			
	Pd. 7 (1:35-1:55)						Pd. 7 (1:35-1:55)					
	Pd. 8 (2:00-2:30)						Pd. 8 (2:00-2:30)			Digital Music	Digital Music	
	Pd. 9 (2:35-3:05)	Perc. Ensemble	Perc. Ensemble	Wind Ensemble	Wind Ensemble		Pd. 9 (2:35-3:05)			Wind Ensemble	Wind Ensemble	
Note: Cohorts are "flipped" (A/B)												
Note: Report to the COMMONS on Brewster Rd during original in-person times												
Calendly Scheduler for tutorials:						Zoom Meeting Link (for ALL classes):						
https://calendly.com/jasonnoble/individual-tutorial						https://scarsdaleschools.zoom.us/j/2912581990?pwd=NUJwVVNvdGtxWk97MTMxP3cEpYc1E1QT09						
						Meeting ID: 291 258 1990						
						Passcode: Band2021						

How does asynchronous work?

- No “busy work”. Only relevant, enriching, specific, measurable musical work is assigned.
- All work will be submitted via Google Classroom (audio/video).

Concerts

- All members of Symphonic Band, Jazz Band, Instrumental Ensembles, and Wind Ensemble will perform a virtual concert as the culminating experience of your first-semester work in our courses.
- Winter Concert: **TUESDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2020 – 8 PM**
- Spring Concert: **TUESDAY, APRIL 20, 2021 – 8 PM**
- Repertoire: Each ensemble will perform 2-3 works virtually. You will record your individual part (audio/video) using a click track, and we will have the audio/video professionally edited.
- Opportunity for extra credit (A+, 4.4) for anyone who wishes to perform solos (classical or jazz) as a recital.

Lessons (Tutorials) and Enrichment

- I am available by appointment every Wednesday for lessons.
- Each Freshman band member will be asked to schedule one lesson per quarter. This is so I can get to know each of you as well as possible and help you as much as possible on your musical journey. If you are taking lessons privately, I would still like to see you so we can work better together.
- Upperclassmen and advanced musicians may schedule lessons as needed. Applied Music (lessons for credit) is a different program.
- **CALENDLY** is the system I will be using. To sign up for a lesson time, visit: <https://calendly.com/jasonnoble/individual-tutorial>

INSTRUMENTS AND MUSIC

How do we pick
up?

What about
percussion?

- If you play an instrument that is **SCHOOL-OWNED** (tuba, euphonium, horn, bass clarinet, contrabass clarinet, bari sax), you will be sent an invitation to fill out a Google Form to schedule pick-up in the next two weeks. This will be coordinated with Ms. Lisa Forte, our K12 Performing Arts Coordinator. If you have an intermediate or pro model instrument at home, please use it.
- Percussion: I have proposed (two months ago) a plan where percussionists will be given SCHEDULED access to the band room to practice parts and record your individual parts for each concert. As of the time of this presentation, a final decision has not yet been made. I will communicate this to you just as soon as the Administration has made a decision on how to grant you access.
- Where to keep your instrument? ALWAYS AT HOME. If we convert to all-remote learning at any point, it might be difficult to retrieve your instruments. There is NO sharing of instruments permitted.
- All music will be posted on my Google Classroom as PDFs for safety and portability.

Special Events

- World-renowned musicians from the New York Philharmonic, the Metropolitan Opera, the New World Symphony, Columbia University, NYU, and the Boston Symphony Orchestra to present special master classes and seminars.
- Seminars will be announced at least 3-4 weeks in advance, and you will be excused from your regular synchronous class
- Symphonic Band will continue our sectional program (a once-weekly small section rehearsal that separates brass, woodwinds, and percussion). This rotation will begin in October
- Composers of the pieces we are playing will ZOOM with us and provide seminars/creative sessions
- Social events will be scheduled once it is safe to do so.

Special Events ...part two

- Memorial Day - We will present a special “America, the Beautiful” virtual performance for the members of the Scarsdale American Legion/VFW in order to receive usual credit for this performance in May 2021.
- Graduation - All bands (**grades 9-11**) perform in the annual Scarsdale UFSD Graduation on Friday, June 25, 2021. This performance serves as 50% of your final 4th quarter grade in Symphonic Band or Honors Wind Ensemble. We do not know if it will be virtual or in-person at this time. Stay tuned.

Auditioned and Extra Groups

- **Jazz Band** – submit a video (details will be posted) if you wish to join. Meets on Wednesdays during after school tutorial block.
- **Varsity Band** - will be offered with a virtual option that involves contributing to school-life, school spirit, school community, and social/emotional wellbeing. If you wish to sign up for Varsity Band, please see your Dean. No audition required.
- **Instrumental Ensembles** – saxophone choir, clarinet group? Be creative! We can take larger groups this year because of the virtual setting! This is an extra 0.5 credit. Instrument switchers can also get extra credit this way.
- **Applied Music:** receive credit for private lessons with a private teacher! A+ credit (4.4) will also be applied to your large ensemble class. Visit: <https://www.scarsdaleschools.k12.ny.us/Page/13784>

What about Early Morning?



- In lieu of an early-morning requirement, we will be hosting special seminars in a “webinar” format.
- All freshmen can attend “Freshman Band Seminar” and receive the attendance credit that you would have received for our early morning program.
- Upper classmen may serve as volunteers to present musical excerpts and materials to the Freshman Band Seminar in an effort to foster the sense of community and family that is so important in our band program.
- The early morning program will not resume until we return to 100% in-person instruction and 100% in-person concerts.

What about TRAVEL?

- At this time, Scarsdale UFSD is not allowing any groups to travel in 2020-2021.
- We will be offering a unique opportunity to this year's Senior class (Class of 2021), last year's senior class (Class of 2020), and any Scarsdale Band alumni via a special summer **ALUMNI BAND TOUR** that will happen the first summer post-Covid-19. This will not conflict with college schedules and will be a separate event completely removed from the SUFSD. (Scarsdale Band Alumni Association)
- SHS Bands will resume our every-other-year touring in **February 2022** and maintain that schedule going forward **if the Covid-19 pandemic is resolved and it is safe to do so.**
- We will make all travel decisions smartly, with science and safety in mind. If circumstances change, we are willing to change and adapt as needed.

Grades

Intrinsic
Motivation

Wellness

- My grading model in all classes is an intrinsic motivation factor method. A+, A, or Incomplete is the goal.
- This course is NOT one which you should worry about your grade, but you SHOULD focus on your own musical journey. The “We are all in this together” mindset (a refrain heard many times) is ever-important.
- It is critical to establish a comfortable and welcoming musical sanctuary in a time of tumult. The most crucial part of developing an honest narrative revolves around a positive (not punitive) curriculum, the amount of time spent helping each member of the band improve their musicianship, and the rapport and joint sense of discovery that emerges through our work together.
- Section leaders and band officers/band council will be expanded with a special focus on fostering community and camaraderie.

FRIENDS OF MUSIC & ART

JOIN IT...

NOW!

- If you have not joined this organization, please consider doing so. They are a wonderful group of parent volunteers who assist our programs in so many ways.
- Please visit their website at <http://www.scarsdalearts.org/> to become a member.

Communication

- Please **EMAIL ME FIRST** if you have a question, concern, or do not understand something. Email me first. EMAIL ME FIRST! I always respond quickly. **EMAIL. ME. FIRST.**
jnoble@scarsdaleschools.org
- Check-in with your section leader in Zoom breakout rooms if anything does not make sense or you need extra time.
- Sign up and FOLLOW our Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/scarsdalebands> for the most up-to-date information. The Scarsdale Bands page will be featuring student bios (with proper publishing release) and student musical groups every week beginning in October.

Epilogue

Five Thoughts

- Band is a function of community made all the more powerful by the awesome and life-changing power of instrumental music
- The act of making music together, simultaneously, in a large ensemble, is something that cannot be replicated virtually or through individual experiences alone. We realize this and will do our best to make the experience as robust as possible.
- Band is bigger than any one personality, no matter how much larger than life that personality may be.
- We must listen to the voice of the individual as we move forward.
- The field must progress in a manner that respects the individual and treats students as “persons with projects” (Allsup, 2008), and not transactional.