



THE BANDS OF WOODLAND HIGH SCHOOL

Syllabus

Instructor: Mr. Russ Thompson

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Course Name and Code: Intermediate Band; Advance Band; and Mastery Band

Semester: Fall - Spring

Textbooks Used: N/A

Cost: \$50.00 School Instrument Rental Fee (*September 9, 2015*) *see below*

Supplementary Texts or Special Materials: GMEA 15-16 All-State Scales (printed online from www.gmea.org)

PERFORMANCE DATES 2015-2016:

1. Fall Concert	November 12 th , 2015	7:00 p.m.	Henry County Performing Arts Center
2. Pre-LGPE	March 2, 2016, 2016	7:00 p.m.	Henry County Performing Arts Center
3. LGPE	March 14-15, 2016	TBD	Henry County Performing Arts Center
4. Spring Concert	April 22, 2016	7:00 p.m.	Henry County Performing Arts Center
5. WHS Fine Arts Celebration	April 24, 2016	2:00 p.m.	Woodland High School

****All performance dates require mandatory attendance. Please see Attendance Policy****

Course Descriptions:

Wind Symphony – The WHS Wind Symphony is the premiere instrumental performance ensemble of the band program. The Wind Symphony is designed to provide students with an educational and performance experience of the highest level. Wind Symphony members will demonstrate technical, musical, and performance skills through practice, rehearsals, and the performance of high quality wind band/wind ensemble literature. The Wind Symphony will be carefully balanced as to instrumentation. Audition requirements for the group will be made available each spring. Members of the Wind Symphony may also be required to off music periodically for major performances (i.e. Large Group Performance Evaluations)

Symphonic Band – The WHS Symphonic Band is designed for the advanced level performer. Educational and instructional focus will be on advancing student's musicianship and performance skills, in preparation for mastery level ensembles. This ensemble will be carefully balanced as to instrumentation, and will have the same audition requirements as the Wind Symphony. Members of the Symphonic Band may also be required to off music periodically for major performances (i.e. Large Group Performance Evaluations)

Concert Band – The WHS Concert Band is designed to develop student's fundamental musicianship and performance skills. The WHS Concert Band is designed for the advanced level performer. Educational and instructional focus will be on advancing student's musicianship and performance skills, in preparation for the advanced and mastery level ensembles. Concert Band students will foster growth through practice, rehearsals, and the performance of quality band literature selected appropriately for skill level. Concert Band members may audition for Symphonic Band at the end of the academic year.

Special Assignments and Projects:

- Members of the WHS Concert Ensembles will be required to stay after school for rehearsals prior to our concerts. **Missing after school rehearsals will jeopardize a student's class grade and participation in the concert series.**
- Flute, Clarinet, Alto Saxophone, Trumpets, and Trombones are required to have their own instrument. Percussion students are required to have sticks, mallets, and a storage bag which is detailed on a separate handout. Failure to have an instrument within a reasonable period of time will result in dismissal from the band program into another elective. All low brass members should own their own mouthpiece for the school owned instruments.
- All band students are REQUIRED to purchase a concert uniform.** The concert uniform for males is a standard black tuxedo. The concert uniform for the females is a black concert dress. Male members may purchase their tuxedo on their own if they choose. However, we will fit all students for a tuxedo and provide the option of purchasing it through the school's vendor at a discounted cost of around \$120.00. **All female students are required to purchase a black dress from the school's**



vendor. The cost of the dress is around \$65.00 and will be ordered through the school. Detailed information regarding this uniform requirement will be sent home during the first few weeks of school.

4. **Any student playing a school owned wind instrument** (Oboe, Bassoon, Bass Clarinet, Tenor Sax, Baritone Sax, Euphonium, and Tuba) **is required to pay a yearly \$50.00 equipment maintenance fee. Marching Band members are NOT required to pay this fee**, as the maintenance cost is incurred in the marching band fee structure. ***This money is due by September 9, 2015*** and will be used for an end of the year professional cleaning. This fee also covers the cost of minor repairs, dents and scratches. Major damaged caused by student neglect that exceeds the expected wear and tear will be the responsibility of the student. **Failure to pay for the cost of instrumental repairs will result in the repair charge being added to the student's school account.**
5. I am here to help in any way I can! Please contact me via email or phone. We also hope that as a parent you choose to be involved in our Band Booster Organization. Decisions affecting your student, this program, and other important band related information will be shared at each meeting of the Woodland High School Band Booster Association. As a parent, you are automatically a member, and we hope to see you at our monthly meetings.

Classroom Rules and Discipline Procedures:

To ensure an optimum learning environment, please adhere to the following:

- Students will be respectful to all adults and classmates.
- Students will be seated in class when the bell rings.
- Students will not display cell phones, portable electronic devices or unauthorized materials in class.
- Students will use computers/technology appropriately at all times.

The following guidelines are used in all fine organizations and are the foundation of our rehearsal procedure:

1. Band members should bring the following items to all rehearsals:
 - a. Instrument
 - b. All music and/or charts
 - c. Reeds, mutes, oils, cork grease, etc...
 - d. Pencil!
 - e. Other materials, as specified by the director
2. Upon arrival to the rehearsal room, all non-productive attitudes and behavior will cease. Once in the room your main focus needs to be on having a productive rehearsal. This means that loud talking will end after admittance.
3. All personal belongings are to be left at the front of the room or in a locker after entering the band room.
4. Band members should spend the pre-rehearsal time assembling their equipment (instrument, music, stand, etc.) necessary for rehearsal.
5. For class rehearsals, **band members will have two minutes immediately following the tardy bell to complete their preparation for rehearsals.** When the director steps onto the podium, a student is considered tardy if he/she is not seated in his/her chair with the instrument, music, and stand in place.
6. When the directors or guests are on the podium, your full attention is required. Be quiet, listen, and watch.
7. Chewing gum prevents a student from playing correctly and poses a safety risk. **Chewing gum, candy, and/or the presence of any other food item will not be allowed in any part of the rehearsal room.** The disciplinary action will be at the decision of the band director.
8. The rehearsal room must be kept clean and orderly. It should emit a sense of pride. Store your instrument and music in the assigned places. The rehearsal room is not a locker room. Books and other personal belongings are not to be left in the rehearsal room or the instrument storage room.

Individual Practice

It is the responsibility of each band member to practice his/her individual music outside of band rehearsal time. Practice time should be spent on music, scales, and etudes assigned by the directors or private instructors. Practicing assures that the student is strengthening fundamental skills and learning assigned music. Furthermore, the individual improvement will directly affect the overall improvement, abilities, and success of the entire band. Students are strongly encouraged to take lessons with a qualified private instructor. You will increase your rate of improvement and success on your instrument by a notable margin. To obtain a private instructor, see the directors.

Attendance Policy

Attendance is vital to the success of any band. As a member of the band program, you occupy an important part and space in each band function. Every band member is expected to attend all major functions by his/her organization. These functions include rehearsals, concerts, adjudicated festivals, and contests, scheduled football games, and parades.

Please note the following quote from the Georgia Music News, "It is permissible under state law to include after-school activities as part of a student's grade as long as membership is not determined competitively."



If an absence is absolutely necessary, the student must contact a director in advance. If an absence occurs due to an unexpected circumstance, the student must bring a written excuse to the directors upon returning to the band. In both expected and unexpected absences situations, excuses are to be signed by the parent.

After turning in your written excuses form, the absence will fall into one of two categories:

1. Excused (advance notice given)

- a. Excused absences include personal illness (note from doctor required), severe ongoing illness (advance notice required), or sudden death in the family. Other situations may come up that could be excused and should be discussed with the directors in advance. The directors will decide whether or not the absence is excused. Excused absences from a performance will not count for or against the final grade upon completing a make-up assignment to earn credit for the missed performance.

2. Unexcused

- a. If an unexcused absence occurs during a public performance, the student will receive a zero, “0,” for the performance grade. NO exceptions will be allowed. Missing more than one unexcused performance in a semester means that you are electing to drop band.

Work, transportation, sporting event, etc, is NOT excused absences. Great effort should be made to schedule doctor’s visits and other appointments on days that there are no performances. A parent/teacher conference may be requested for any student who accumulates two unexcused absences. Planning ahead is a key to the success of participating in band, as nearly all events are published months in advance.

Make-up Work Policies:

All assigned make-up work (both written and playing) must be approved and completed by the designated date.

Band and Sports:

You should be able to participate in band and sports. The policy we follow is that if there is a conflict of a practice for one and a performance for the other, the performance takes precedence (scrimmages do not count as performances). If there is a conflict of practices times you should attend half of each or a comparable scheduled agreement by all concerned. If there is a conflict of a performance and a game you will need to weigh the importance and make your choice. The directors’ must be notified in advance. **All problems can be solved if you talk to the directors and the coaches prior to the conflict!!**

School-wide Grading Requirements as follows:

Semester Final Average:

Final exam/EOCT	Fresh./Soph. level EOCT courses - 20%; Jr./Sr. EOCT courses - 15%
Course Final Average	Fresh./Soph. level EOCT courses - 80%; Jr./Sr. EOCT courses - 85%

Formative assessment

• **Practice (i.e., Daily Participation)- 20%**

All students will start with 100 points in participation, which is worth 20% of the Course Final Average. The daily participation grade WILL NOT BE EFFECTED if the student attends class with all required materials, a respectful attitude, AND contributes to progress on a regular basis. Additionally, all students must attend any and all before school/after school rehearsals. There may be several after school rehearsals and these will be announced at least one month in advance. Parents should contact Mr. Thompson with any problems prior to the rehearsal once the schedule is released. Daily participation grades may be reduced according to the following procedures:

1. Missing required materials = 5 points per day
2. Disruptive or detrimental behavior to the class = 15 points
3. Absence from after school rehearsal = 20 points

Summative assessment

• **Quizzes - 35%**

Throughout the course of the semester, there will be multiple playing quizzes. These playing quizzes will be based on the literature covered in each unit plan. Each playing quiz will be announced by the directors in a timely manner for students to prepare.

• **Major tests (Written Tests and Performance Evaluations) - 45%**

These points will be earned from attending the required band concerts and performances as outlined in the calendar. Full credit can only be earned for students that report to each event by the designated “call time”. Written test will be given in class. Material and timeline for test will be given in advance.



Within the framework of the course the students will learn the following concepts:

A. Scales and Key Signatures:

1. Major Scales
2. Minor Scales – relative to concert literature
3. Circle of Fifths/Circle of Fourths
4. Chromatic Scale
5. Identifying key center

B. Music Theory:

1. Major and minor intervals
2. Construction of major/minor scales and understanding their relationships
3. Basic triads and Seventh Chords
4. Relevant musical terms and symbols
5. Fundamentals of orchestration

C. Ensemble/Performance Skills:

1. Tone Production
2. Intonation
3. Dynamic contrast
4. Rhythm (simple, compound, and mixed meters)
5. Tone/Timbre

D. Musicality:

1. Recognition and performance of ALL musical signs and symbols
2. Phrasing & Shaping
3. Articulation
4. Dynamics
5. Respond appropriately to conducting techniques used by the director

E. Synthesis/Application:

1. Learn and demonstrate proper care and maintenance of instrument
2. Use of print, non-print, and technological media to access music information
3. Analyze and critique musical performances
4. Demonstrate music reading skills through performing sight-reading material one grade level below average performance level

Note: *the Formative and Summative Assessments equal 100% but fall under the category of Course Final Average which is 85% of the Semester Final Average (80% for Freshman EOCT courses).

*Grades for each 9 week grading period should include a minimum of the following: 3 tests in the summative assessment/Test category, 3 labs/quizzes in Lab/Quiz category and 9 Practice grades.

Academic Integrity Policy:

Academic integrity is a fundamental value of quality education; therefore, Woodland High School will not tolerate any acts of cheating, plagiarism, or falsification of school work. **Should it be determined that a student has committed an academic integrity violation, the school reserves the right to assign a grade of a zero and submit a disciplinary referral to the appropriate Assistant Principal.** The school also reserves the right to remove or suspend enrollment in any Advanced Placement/Honors classes as well as Academic Honor Societies.

Materials Needed:

1. Instrument
2. Pencil
3. Music Folder/Music
4. Tuner and Metronome

Technology Information:

Students **may be** required to use audio and/or video technology for periodic music assessments. Smart phone, iPad, iPod, or other devices may be used.



STUDENT/PARENT CONSENT OF UNDERSTANDING:
I have read and understand all of the objectives, requirements, and expectations for

_____ taught by _____.

Student signature

Date

Parent signature

Date



PLEASE SIGN AND RETURN, FOR A DAILY GRADE, BY FRIDAY, AUGUST 7, 2015.