

BAND SYLLABUS 2017-2018
General Expectations for all Band Students

1. Be in attendance at all rehearsals (early morning, during school, after school, or any other scheduled times.) THEY ARE MANDATORY, PART OF THE COURSE, AND ARE A **GRADED** EXPERIENCE!
2. Be in attendance at **ALL** performances. THEY ARE MANDATORY, PART OF THE COURSE, AND ARE A **GRADED** EXPERIENCE!
3. Be on time for **ALL** ensemble activities.
4. Be prepared for each and every class and rehearsal with the necessary equipment:
 - instrument
 - music, including Chromebook for theory lessons & method book practice
 - pencil
 - all accessories for your instruments (extra reeds, valve oil, etc.)
5. Be sure your instrument is always in great working condition and with you at every rehearsal and performance. NOTE TO PARENTS: Mrs. Dickerson is able to fix some instruments in the school. Please have her look at the instrument **FIRST** before you take it to a repair shop.

General Rehearsal Hall Rules

1. You may come into the rehearsal hall before school, during your ensemble class time, and after school. You should not be in the rehearsal hall without a director present unless you have received permission prior to entering the room. This permission must come from the Director.
2. There will be absolutely **NO EATING, DRINKING, OR CHEWING GUM IN THE REHEARSAL HALL AT ANY TIME**. I will ask you to leave the room until you are finished eating/drinking.
3. All books, personal items, etc. should be placed in your assigned cubby or in a book bag against the walls - out of the set-up. All books left in the room will be turned into lost and found.
4. It is vital that all students respect our facilities and equipment at all times. Vandalism is a criminal act, punishable by law. Report vandalism immediately, no matter how small. Students who demonstrate an inability to show respect for our facilities and equipment will not be allowed to participate in outside of school activities, including ensemble trips.
5. **NEVER**, under any circumstance, leave money or other valuables in the rehearsal hall. We cannot be responsible for carelessness.
6. All instruments shall be stored in the instrument room storage room unless specified by the Director.
7. Percussion equipment is for the use of the drummers **ONLY**; no percussion instruments are to be played without the Directors' permission. **DO NOT STACK ANY THING ON THE PERCUSSION EQUIPMENT EVER!**
8. The phone in the Directors' office may be used by band students after school only. During school use is permitted in case of emergency.
9. **NEVER** enter the Director's office for any reason unless they are present and invite you to enter. Always knock first!
10. **DO NOT CALL THE DIRECTOR AT HOME OR ON CELL PHONE FOR ANY REASON**. Information can be obtained from your student band leaders or your booster parent officers. They will get in touch with the Directors in case of extreme emergency.

Concert Lab Fees

There is a mandatory concert lab fee for every student participating in the NHS Bands which covers every aspect of the band program, especially given our serious budget short falls. The fee is \$ 100.00 per student. Students with financial issues who are unable to pay the full amount should contact Mrs. Dickerson immediately to work out a payment plan – dickersonk1@fultonschools.org.

Your fee covers the following (but not limited to):

Music for all concert bands
Clinicians for Pre-LGPE Clinic and throughout the year
Dinner & Snacks for Pre-LGPE Clinic
Charter Busses to LGPE (Festival)
Entrance fees for LGPE
Plaques for Performance Commendations
Recordings from LGPE that we send out to get invited to special performances
Classroom supplies (i.e. oil, reeds, mouthpieces)

CHARMS

We will now require all students to register online using the CHARMS website. This is the central location for all event dates, fees owed, fees that have been received, sign-ups for All-State Band & Fulton Co Honor Band. Go to www.charmsoffice.com LOGIN under PARENTS/STUDENTS/MEMBERS School code is **northviewhighband** ID is your student ID number.

Rehearsal Rules and Guidelines

1. Bringing your instrument to class every day is a minimum requirement. A “zero” will be assigned for your daily grade each day you are without your instrument or do not play in rehearsal. You must be in your seat with your instrument out before the bell rings, or 10 points per day late will be deducted from your daily grade.
2. Always have a pencil on your stand. Number measures in your music.
3. Learning your music is your responsibility. Learn it BEFORE you get to rehearsal. Polish it before the stage performance.
4. Talking during rehearsal is prohibited. When someone is on the podium working with or addressing the ensemble, give them your FULL attention. If you need to say something or ask a question, raise your hand. If any adult should enter the rehearsal room to speak to the directors, do not use it as an opportunity to begin a conversation of your own. Courtesy is a sign of maturity.
5. NEVER do homework for other classes during ensemble rehearsal. Any homework for other classes done during rehearsal WILL be collected and NOT returned to you. This will also result in a lowering of your daily participation grade. You are expected to participate every day.
6. By following these guidelines, we are ensured of a productive and enjoyable rehearsal for all members. The more prepared you are for rehearsal, the more fun you will have. THE PAYOFF IS IN THE PERFORMANCE!

Enforcement of Regulations

1. Small infractions of a minor nature will result in lowering of your daily participation grade. See ‘Grading Contract’ for specifics.
2. The Directors reserve the right to modify the severity of the consequences due to circumstances including disrespect, poor attendance, and general attitude.

Dismissal from the Program

The Directors reserve the right to dismiss a student from any performing organization for excessive unexcused absences from rehearsals or performances, use of drugs or alcoholic beverages while with the NHS Band, an ongoing failure to demonstrate a cooperative behavior and attitude, and/or any gross infraction of Fulton County Schools policies or codes of student conduct.

In the case of a serious infraction of rules, the Directors (possibly with the input of the principal) will determine the appropriate consequence. The student’s parents will be notified of the rules infraction and the resulting action to be taken.

Probation Status

It may be possible for a student to commit an infraction of school/band rules that is serious, but not serious enough to dismiss her/him from the program. A student in this situation may be assigned probation. Probation in the Band Program would consist of a pre-determined period of time in which the student would forfeit any privileges such as awards, offices, trips, etc. As with permanent dismissal from the program, parents will be notified of the rules infraction and the resulting action to be taken.

Band Grading Contract

Band grades are comprised of five categories:

1. 30% = Concerts, Clinics, Solo Performance, Small Group Performance

Performances and rehearsals are mandatory. Unexcused absences from performances will result in a significant lowering of your grade for the nine-week grading period. Performances are the focus of what we work towards as an ensemble. It is each person’s responsibility to honor our commitment to each other. **Every band member is important and integral to our success.** We want to know we’ll be able to count on your presence. Careful planning with your Band schedule will eliminate any unnecessary conflicts! Students will perform a solo piece at the end of the fall semester and a small ensemble piece at the end of the spring semester.

Any unexcused absence or tardy from/for a rehearsal - which includes early morning, after school, concert clinics held over a weekend, or any other scheduled rehearsal called by the Directors or section leaders will result in a lowered grade. Attendance at a performance or rehearsal results in a grade of 100. A tardy to rehearsal or performance results in a grade of 85. An unexcused absence from a rehearsal results in a grade of 50. And finally, an unexcused absence from a performance results in a grade of a 0. Notice of a predetermined absence must be given to the Directors at least 24 hours in advance.

A 24 hour notice does not guarantee being excused. Situations will be considered on an individual basis. Excuses made after the fact will not be considered unless it is an emergency situation, which can be called in or sent in the next day by the parent.

Unexcused and Excused Absences

The success of the Band program is dependent upon each student. A calendar with band activities is distributed as part of the handbook at the beginning of each school year. Please refer to it often to avoid unnecessary conflicts. The following statements are deemed as inexcusable for absences:

Unexcused Reasons

1. "Had to work"
2. "Couldn't get a ride"
3. "Didn't know about it"
4. "Parents didn't know about it"
5. "Parents made me stay home and study"

Solution

1. Make arrangements with your employer in advance
2. Be responsible, plan ahead, and let your Director know ASAP so they can help you find a ride
3. Be responsible, check your calendar often
4. Be responsible, check your calendar often, and remind your parents of upcoming dates
5. Be responsible and plan ahead!

Excused Reasons

1. Sickness or death in the family
2. Emergencies that cannot be helped (bring a note from the parent the following day)
3. If you are sick and/or cannot make it to a performance, it is YOUR responsibility to call or email the Band Director and let her know ASAP (as soon as possible.) This will allow time to make adjustments for the performance.

Ex post facto (after the fact) excuses WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.

2. 5% = Classroom Competency

Your individual musical progress is vital to the success of the Band program. It is essential that you have your instrument, music, and all necessary accessories each day to get full credit for your classroom competency grade. Your attitude and work ethic (behavior) will be reflected in this portion of your grade. Attitude makes the difference - in your playing, in your interaction with others, and in the rewards that you will ultimately receive. Grading for the 'Classroom Competency' component is as follows:

First offense (i.e. talking out of turn, or anything else that distracts from rehearsal) during class lowers your grade from a '100' to an '85.'

A second offense during the same class lowers your daily participation grade to a '0.'

You must be in your seat, with your instrument out and ready to play at the bell. If not, your **daily grade** will be **lowered** by 10 points **per day marked "tardy."**

3. 20% = Written Theory & Aural Skills (Ear training & singing)

My responsibility as your band director is to guide you to be an **Independent Musician Creating Quality Musical Performances**. We will accomplish this goal by meeting and exceeding minimum scores for understanding of basic music theory, music vocabulary, and training your ears to identify diatonic and chromatic intervals, major and minor keys, chord qualities, how to play in tune as the melodic line and the accompaniment as both rhythmic ostinato and chords. We will do the majority of the worksheets in class but there may be small amounts of written homework occasionally. There are also ample free apps to practice written theory and ear training on your own!

4. 30% = Playing Tests (Student Performance Skills)

This component is "formative" in nature and focused on identifying and improving deficiencies. Each student will play individually in class and will be objectively assessed by the teacher and their peers. Students will be evaluated and given feedback with suggestions for improvement on the following areas:

Tone quality, intonation, rhythm, technique, interpretation & musicianship, and articulation (demonstrating understanding of articulation markings and how to perform them on their instrument.)

5. 15% = Exams

Exams will account for 15% of the overall Band grade. The exam will be written and "summative" in nature. Students will be given a pre-test in the beginning of the fall semester to identify areas of strength and deficiencies, and theory lessons will be taught in a systematic schedule to cover all concepts of basic music theory in the written final exam.

Fulton County Provision for Improving Grades

Opportunities designed to allow students to recover from a low or failing cumulative grade will be allowed when all work required to date has been completed and the student has demonstrated a legitimate effort to meet all course requirements including attendance. Students should contact the teacher concerning recovery opportunities. Teachers are expected to establish a reasonable time period for recovery work to be completed during the semester. All recovery work must be directly related to course objectives and must be completed ten school days prior to the end of the semester.

Teachers will determine when and how students with extenuating circumstances may improve their grade