

# High School Concert Band Syllabus

2016-2017 School Year

Miss Paulsen

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## **Course Description:**

This course is designed to provide students with an enriching and diverse instrumental music education by performing music of various genres and time periods. The class will perform two concerts during the year to demonstrate their learning of such music. The daily objective of the course is to foster and promote music growth through the playing of an instrument by the student, at an appropriate level of difficulty. As the band works as a team, group effort and cooperation are necessary for a successful program. Band is a skilled effort in which each student is expected to show technical and musical growth throughout the course.

## **Required Materials:**

- Instrument (If supplied by the school, a release form must be completed)
- Supplies (As needed, at least two extra reeds at all times, valve oil, cork grease, slide oil, etc.)
- Music Folder (Provided)
- Pencil at every rehearsal

## **Classroom Rules:**

- Arrive to class on time. Once the bell rings, you have 3 minutes to be seated with your instrument and music, ready for rehearsal.
- No food, gum, candy or beverages anywhere in the classroom. Water is permitted.
- Be prepared with your instrument, music and pencil every day (no pen).
- Respect the people, equipment, and furnishing of the band room.
- Absolutely no cell phones!
- Observe all rules in the student handbook.

## **Attendance:**

Your attendance during class and at performances has a direct effect on your grade as band is a participation/performance based course. As each member of the group is valued and important, attendance at performances and extra rehearsals is mandatory unless otherwise noted. Please be aware of the concert dates, listed later in this syllabus, and plan accordingly.

Excused absences include:

- Extreme personal illness with doctor's note (or absence from school)
- Family health emergencies verified by parent/guardian
- Approved academic conflicts
- Required religious observances (with notice)

Communication with the director is crucial when an anticipated absence is known. The director should know of any conflicts at least two weeks prior to the event in question when applicable. The best method of communication is via email by the parent or guardian of the student. Absences that are excused will be subject to a make-up assignment equal to the weight of the event missed. Unexcused absences will result in a total loss of credit for the event.

**Grading Policy:**

The student’s grade will be based on participation points, performances, playing tests, and written tests. The grading scale follows that used by the district.

Participation Points: Students will receive 25 points per week (5 points a day) for classroom rehearsals. Students who come to class prepared, on time, participate, and follow classroom rules and school policy will receive all 5 points for the day. Failure to be prepared, tardiness, and inappropriate behavior will result in loss of participation points.

Performances: All performances are mandatory. The director will provide the students with performance dates with ample time to make adjustments in personal schedule. Performance attendance will be a heavily graded aspect of the class. Unlike a written test, performances cannot be made up or reproduced as band is a group activity where students must rehearse and perform in a collaborative fashion. In the event of an excused absence, the student will be given a make-up assignment to be completed outside of class time. Unexcused absences will result in a total loss of credit.

Playing Tests: Students will be given various playing tests based on concert music as well as handouts from the director. Tests will take place during the class period. Students will be given prior notice to be able to prepare before any playing test.

Written Tests/Assignments: Students will be given various written tests and assignments based on concepts learned in class. Such assignments may include written dictation of music or music composition assignments on a small scale. Many practice opportunities will be given prior to testing.

Graduation: Participation at graduation will count as the student’s final grade. If a student is unable to attend, a make-up assignment will be given.

**Philosophy of Rehearsal Time:**

Rehearsals are not to learn your part – rather they are for you to learn everyone else’s part and its relation to your own and therefore, the music. Rehearsals are time to work collectively, not individually. The analysis of the composer’s intent is the focus of rehearsal time. At this level, your part is your responsibility. This means you must practice at home and learn your part early in the learning process so that you are prepared to participate fully in rehearsal. If you are having difficulty with your part, please consult with the director to schedule a time for assistance.

**Important Dates:**

Christmas Concert: Wednesday, December 14, 2015 – 7:00 p.m.

Spring Concert: Wednesday, May 17, 2016 – 7:00 p.m.

Graduation: June 8, 2016 – 8:00 p.m.

**Concert Dress:**

Students are to wear dress clothes and shoes. No jeans, t-shirts or tennis shoes. All clothing should follow school rules. The goal is to look professional and avoid becoming a distraction from the music.

(Please detach section below and return with student.)

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I have read the course syllabus for the High School Concert Band, and understand the expectations and guidelines of the class. I am also aware of the scheduled concert dates throughout the school year.

Parent/Guardian Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent /Guardian Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_