

Symphonic Band Course Syllabus 2018-2019

Willow Glen Middle School

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Office Hours: By appointment

Texts and Resources Used in Class:

- Tradition of Excellence, Book 2, and other method books handed out
- Google Classroom, Forms, Docs, Drive, Calendar
- SmartMusic
- Sheet music in your band binder
- worksheets
- online websites, videos, recordings, and resources as assigned and needed

Required Class Supplies*

1. Band binder--provided to each student for the year.
2. Sheet music
3. Pencils
4. A working band instrument (with reed if needed) or your drum sticks **and** mallets
5. Cleaning supplies for your instrument
6. Woodwind players only: many working reeds at all times--**YOU must supply this**
7. Percussionists only: **REQUIRED:** one pair of snare sticks and one pair of xylophone or marimba mallets at all times. **SUGGESTED:** snare sticks, xylophone mallets, marimba mallets, and medium timpani mallets in a drum stick carrying bag. (This can be purchased at an educator's price for a discount if you see Mrs. Lee.)
8. Mini-plug headphones (the kind that will work in an iPhone)
9. Access to a computer, iPad, or smartphone with Internet to complete assignments. If you do not have this, they are available after school in the Willow Glen Middle School Library, at a local public library, and in Mrs. Lee's room.

HIGHLY RECOMMENDED AND VERY HELPFUL--BUT NOT REQUIRED:

1. iOS app called (not available for Android, unfortunately): **Rhythm Sight Reading Trainer** by Rolfs Apps. It's available for \$2.99 at the Apple App Store.
2. iOS app called (not available for Android, unfortunately): **A.P.S. Tuning Trainer** by A.P.S. Development LLC. It's available for \$4.99 at the Apple App Store.

Rehearsal Etiquette and Behavior

Students are expected to behave as if they are in a professional symphony rehearsal setting. Middle school band is a training ground for further development as a musician, and advancement into more advanced ensembles, such as high school, college, honor bands, and professional groups. As such, students are to be silent during rehearsal, listen respectfully to all conductors/teachers/section leaders, and be prepared for all rehearsals and performances. Being prepared includes bringing your instrument, supplies (reeds, oils, mutes, etc.), band binder, and having a pencil at **every** rehearsal. Being prepared also includes knowing your

music before rehearsal begins. Rehearsal is the time and place to put musical elements together, not learn your notes and rhythms.

Cell Phones and Other Electronics at School:

Cell phones will be used rarely in class for web-based learning. If you have one, we may occasionally use it in class. When we are not using them, do not have them out, or they will be confiscated according to school rules.

HOMEWORK AND GRADING POLICY

Grades will be assigned by **proving** what you know and can do in music. Not every assignment will be entered into the gradebook. It's frequently necessary in music instruction to "fail" multiple times in order to learn how to improve one's playing. Feedback is crucial to improvement. Failure is an important part of learning music, for to "FAIL" is often the First Attempt In Learning.

Practicing is the most important thing you can do to improve in band. Practice a little bit everyday that you eat. :)

You will be graded upon your successful completion of summative playing tests, quizzes, theory worksheets, assigned SmartMusic assessments, in-class performances (live), and homework completion. Homework will be primarily practicing assigned material from class. However, there will also be music theory/history assignments and journal reflections on your playing. Homework may also include goal setting and reflections upon how you can personally improve your playing.

The Categories that You Will Be Graded On Are:

Performance (practicing, practice reflections, rehearsal etiquette, playing tests)	60%
Music Theory/History (worksheets, quizzes, projects, assignments, etc.)	40%
TOTAL	100%

Instruments:

If you are able to provide your own instrument, please do so. Instruments can also be rented from a local music store. Any student needing an instrument due to financial constraints will be provided with one. Priority for school instruments is by financial need.

Instrument Check Out Forms:

Instruments borrowed from the school must be checked out on the "WG Instrument Check Out Form." The student and parent are fully responsible for returning the instrument and the case in the same condition in which it was received. If you break, damage, or otherwise destroy a school instrument, **YOU and your parents** are responsible for the cost of repairing and/or replacing that instrument. Instruments are very expensive--\$500 to \$6,000 each depending on the instrument. Be careful!

Concert Dress:

Students will be issued a concert uniform top (tuxedo shirt, bow tie, and vest) to borrow for the year. Students need to provide their own nice looking black pants, black shoes, and black socks. Please let Mrs. Lee know as soon as possible if you need financial assistance purchasing the uniform pants, socks and/or shoes.

ALL Performances are MANDATORY in a Performing Group! NO EXCEPTIONS!!!!

Attendance at all performances is mandatory. There is NO good excuse to miss a performance other than your own hospitalization or death of a family member. If you miss a performance your grade for the missed performance will be a "F," AND your grade for the semester will be lowered by one whole letter grade automatically.

Required Concert Dates:

1. October 13, 2018--evening time TBA. WGHS Theater Grand Opening Gala
2. December 19, 2018 at 7pm, Winter Concert, WGHS Theater
3. Tentative: Late March/Early April--Disney Magic Music Days Tour
4. April 3, 2019 at 7pm, Spring Concert, WGHS Theater
5. May 23, 2018 at 7pm, May Pops Concert, WGHS Theater

Fundraisers:

There will be many fundraising opportunities this year so that the entire Symphonic Band, Jazz Band, and chaperones can attend the Anaheim trip. Students are expected to participate in fundraisers as part of being a "team player" and band "family member." This year's trip is **NOT** a school sponsored trip, therefore, **payments** will be required. Every effort will be made to assist band students who need financial assistance, however, there is no additional funding this year from the Performing Arts Boosters.

*See Mrs. Lee as soon as possible if you will need financial assistance for any of the class supplies, an instrument, or help getting access to an Internet enabled computer.

Instructional Support for English Learners:

It is our hope that all students continue to develop their skills in reading, writing, and speaking English. To help English learners realize greater academic achievement, Willow Glen Middle School teachers use a variety of instructional strategies, including:

- Differentiated support in all content areas according to English Learners' CELDT levels.
- Building students' background knowledge and activating students' prior knowledge at the beginning of units and daily lessons.
- Providing sentences frames, graphic organizers, writing templates, and exemplars for writing assignments.
- Supporting students' reading growth with differentiated texts depending on students' reading levels.
- Pre-teaching targeted vocabulary

- Using strategies such as word walls and flash cards to encourage continued use of words that students have learned.
- Frequent use of peer-to-peer and group collaboration in lessons
- Use of structured oral language activities to develop students' oral language skills.