

Course Syllabus for Instrumental Classes

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Course Description

Instrumental and percussion classes are performance-based classes. The instrumental program at Warner Robins High School does not offer a non-performing class. **If a student registers for a class he or she is expected to perform with that class at all functions.** Students are exposed to elements of music history, music theory, and music performance while participating in a performing ensemble. Students learn various aspects of solo and ensemble playing in a number of musical styles. Music compositions studied in these courses range from grade two to grade six in difficulty level (based on the GMEA scale of 1 – 6).

Objectives:

The following National Music Standards will be met: 1) Singing alone and with others 2) Performing on instruments 3) Reading and notating music 4) Improvising melodies, harmonies & accompaniments 5) Composing and arranging within specific guidelines, 6) Listening to, analyzing & describing music, 7) Evaluating music & music performance, 8) Understanding relationships between music and other disciplines, 9) Understanding music in relationship to history and culture.

Teacher Expectations, Rules, Requirements:

To receive credit for this course, students are expected to participate in ALL semester performances and complete any written assignments. These performance dates will be published at the beginning of the semester on the band calendar which students will receive and sign off. The written assignments may be in the form of rhythm charts, notes from performance evaluation, band notebooks, etc.

While the school does own a limited number of instruments for student use, students are expected to purchase or rent their own instruments. Students using school owned instruments and equipment will pay a **\$25 rental fee** and will be responsible for repairs to the instrument while it is signed out in your name. Percussionists are expected to furnish their own mallets and sticks. Likewise, students are expected to furnish all needed accessories for their instruments (mouthpieces, reeds, valve oil, etc.). Music, folders and other instructional materials will be provided. All music should be returned after its use. Students using school owned instruments must be responsible for any repairs due to misuse or mistreatment of the instrument while the said instrument is signed out to the student and may be responsible for an additional rental fee.

***Note:** There is a \$25 activity fee per semester to cover music purchase, equipment repair, uniform cleaning, transportation to events, special instruction, and other miscellaneous needs. This is in addition to the equipment rental fee if you are using school owned equipment. This fee should be placed in the “black box” by the directors’ office in an envelope. If you participate in marching band your fee is included in the marching band activity fee.

Concert Attire: All students will be required to wear the uniform concert attire – Information regarding this purchase will become available in September.

Students are expected to have **all materials in class every day.** Should an instrument need to be repaired, the student and the parents should notify the director and have the repairs made **as soon as possible.** Since the focus of the class is learning to play an instrument, each day that a student does not have an instrument hampers that student’s chances at successfully completing the course.

ALL nonessential materials such as books, notebooks, magazines and homework from another class will NOT be allowed in the rehearsal area. No food, drink or gum is allowed during rehearsal (please act responsibly in this regard.)

Grading Procedure:

If a student adheres to the procedure, a grade of A will be received in the class. Grading Procedure: Each student must participate in class each day, adhere to all band rules, complete all written assignments, and attend all performances & rehearsals. End of semester term paper on a teacher approved subject must be completed for each performance missed.

Class Participation = 50% - Student must FULLY participate in each class. This includes having all required materials.

Performance Participation = 50% - Students must FULLY participate in each rehearsal & performance – A calendar of events is available on-line at www.wrhsband.net. This calendar has also been distributed to the student. This includes the Symphonic Band Camp.

Required Materials:

Each student will be required to purchase a “Foundations for Superior Performance” book for class work. The books can be purchased through local music retailers at cost of approximately \$7.00.

I, _____ have read and understand all of the objectives, requirements, and expectations taught by Mr. Howell, & Mr. Ryles.

Parent Signature _____ Date _____

Student Signature _____ Date _____

Class Materials:

- 1.) Instrument in good playing condition.
- 2.) Anything needed to play your instrument (i.e. reeds, mouthpiece, valve oil, cork grease, etc.)
- 3.) Cleaning Kit for your particular instrument.
- 4.) 3 Ring Notebook **at all times**
- 5.) Pencil **at all times**
- 6.) Music Folder and Music (Provided by Directors)
- 7.) *Fundamentals for Superior Performance* Technique Book
- 8.) Concert Attire (Can be purchased through the Band Boosters)
- 9.) Locker and Lock (Provided by the Directors)

Recommended Mouthpieces and Reeds:

We strongly suggest that the students use the following items for their specific instruments. We do this in order to achieve the most uniform sound possible.

Clarinets reeds: Vandoren B45 / Mitchell Lourie 3-3 ½ (1 box)

Alto Sax reeds: Selmer C* / Vandoren 3-3 ½ (1 box)

Tenor Sax reeds: Height Premier / Rico Royale 3-3 ½ (1 box)

Baritone Sax reeds: Selmer C* / Rico Royale 3-3 ½ (1 box)

Bass Clarinet reeds: Rico Royale 3-3 ½ (1 box)

Trumpet mouthpiece: Bach 1 ½ C

French Horn mouthpiece: Bach/Conn Constellation 5BW or 3BW / Holton Farkas Model #25

Baritone mouthpiece: Bach 6 ½ AL (small bore)

Trombone mouthpiece: Bach 6 ½ AL (large or small bore)

Tuba: Conn Helleberg

NO PLASTIC REEDS OR MARCHING BAND MOUTHPIECES

Provided Materials:

The music provided by the directors will be given out only once. It is the students' responsibility to keep up with their music. A \$0.50 fee will be charged per page for every sheet that has to be copied and replaced. The lockers and locks will be provided by the directors. Please refer to the attached rules and signature page concerning rules, regulations, and fees concerning band room lockers.

Concert Attire:

The uniform for the concert season is listed below. The uniform can be purchased through the band boosters in September. In addition to the items below, guys and girls who choose the tux must have a pair of solid black slacks, solid black jacket, black socks, and black dress shoes. The marching band shoes will suffice for dress shoes. Girls who choose the formal dress must have black dress shoes that are appropriate with the formal dress. **Under no circumstances when we are at performances is it appropriate to be out of uniform, you must show up fully dressed and leave fully dressed.** This means that the tie, cummerbund, and shoes stay on at all times. The concert attire will be worn by all students who participate in the concert band programs.

GIRLS – May choose: Black formal dress (Alterations Required)

Tuxedo pants, jacket, shirt, tie & cummerbund

BOYS - Tuxedo pants, jacket, shirt, tie & cummerbund

Performances / Rehearsals:

All students are required to attend and participate in all rehearsals and performances. If a student misses a rehearsal or performance, an alternative assignment will be given and the student will have 5 days to make up the work missed. The assignment will be at the discretion of the directors and it will reflect the time and event missed. Please see attached calendar for all dates.

Advanced/Symphonic Band Camp

All members of the Advanced Concert & Symphonic Bands are expected to attend the annual Adv/Sym Camp. Clinicians will be brought in to help prepare the bands for the upcoming Large Group Performance Evaluation. Make plans to be available for the duration of the camp (Friday afternoon through Saturday afternoon.) There will be a fee of \$25 for this camp.

Attendance / Tardy Policies:

The classroom policy for attendance and tardiness shall be consistent with that of the WRHS Student Handbook. The ninth graders coming from Rumble Campus will be allowed two additional minutes beyond the tardy bell to arrive to class on time and to have all materials out and ready to go. The ninth graders going to Rumble Campus will be allowed to leave the class **two minutes** earlier to arrive to their next class on time. Any student that is late will sign and date the tardy log. The disciplinary action for tardiness is as follows:

1st Tardy – Verbal Warning

2nd Tardy – Parent Phone Call & 30 Minutes After-School- Detention

3rd Tardy – Office Referral = 1 unexcused absence

All Offenses after this will receive an Office Referral

Make-up Work:

We will follow the school policy concerning make-up work as described in the WRHS student hand book. The student will be allowed to make up any test or assignments within the allotted five days after the student's return from being absent. It is the student's responsibility to come to the teacher for any missed work.

Teacher Detention:

Teacher Detention will be given to students, who cannot adhere to the classroom policies. The students will be serving this detention in the band room for 15-30 minutes depending on the severity of the infraction. A student can receive detention for the following actions:

- 1.) Chewing Gum.
- 2.) Food or Drink in the Band Room.
- 3.) Leaving Class to go take care of other business.
- 4.) Excessive Talking
- 5.) Any Signs of Disrespect
- 6.) Being Disruptive to the Learning Environment

Expectations:

Because of the nature of band classes, it is necessary to give personal help during the course of rehearsal to individuals. In order to improve and be successful each student must have this type of one on one help. Therefore, it is essential that when you are not being worked with you should remain courteous of others so that when it is your turn, you can get the help that you need without rude and thoughtless interruptions.

Band is considered a co-curricular class. This means that there will be performance such as concerts held outside the normal school day. Each Band at Warner Robins High School is a premier musical group and will perform the best possible concert representing the school at the Fall, Christmas, Pre-Festival, Large Group Performance Evaluation, & Spring Concerts. All concert dates are included on the calendar in this syllabus. **Your attendance is required.**