

West Salem High School

Percussion Ensemble Syllabus

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I. COURSE DESCRIPTION

Percussion Ensemble is comprised of musicians that play percussion instruments. Teaching the elements of music through performance in band is the primary focus of this class. These elements include ensemble performance skills, individual performance skills, music theory, music history, music analysis, and an appreciation for quality music literature.

Students in the course are grades 9-12. Some students in this class will perform with Concert Band at concerts and festivals, some will perform with Advanced Band, and some will perform with Wind Ensemble.

Prerequisite: Audition by director.

II. REQUIRED MATERIALS

- Instrument, music, pencil, and other necessary accessories.
- Concert Snare Drum Sticks (VF SD1 General), Timpani Mallets, Yarn Mallets
- Stick Bag with name on it.
- Practice Pad (keep at school, or take back and forth).
- Tools and supplies needed to properly maintain your instrument (see handbook).
- Metronome.

III. REQUIREMENTS AND STANDARDS

- Students performing with Advanced Band or Wind Ensemble must prepare, record and submit All-State/All-NW Audition Recordings to Mr. Zimbelman. However, submitting these recordings to be considered for All-State or All-NW is optional for the student since the participation fee is substantial. Students should not request to have their recordings submitted for consideration unless they plan to follow through and participate at the State or NW levels. Screening fees are \$15-20. Participation expenses for All-State or All-NW can range from \$280-380.
- Students performing with Advanced Band or Wind Ensemble must audition for and participate (if selected) in the Salem-Keizer All-City Honor Band. There is a small screening/participation fee of \$10-15.
- Students performing with Advanced Band or Wind Ensemble must perform a solo or small ensemble piece at the OMEA District Solo and Ensemble contest.
- Students must maintain 95-100% attendance level.
- Students must continually meet the performance standards in this class.
- Students must have their parts prepared at the highest level at all times.
- Students must attend all festivals and competitions for this course.
- Students performing with Wind Ensemble must attend the Wind Ensemble retreat.
- Students must prepare, record, and upload part proficiencies and semester proficiencies to Google Drive as assigned each semester.
- Students must complete the assignments for class.

IV. DESCRIPTION OF GRADING AREAS

Participation/Performance Points (70%)

Students are expected to attend (as well as be prepared for) all rehearsals and performances.

1. Class Meetings
2. Sectionals
3. After School/Evening Rehearsals
4. Performances (Football Games, Parades, Competitions, Concerts)

Your grade is determined by a combination of your attendance, professionalism, music preparation and performance. In case of illness, departmental or professional conflict, members must notify the director **in writing** before the absence. In the case of last minute conflicts, members are expected to make every effort to notify the director. You may email, call, or bring a written note from your parents to the band office. Excused absences for medical reasons, family emergencies, illness, and extraordinary events will be determined on a case-by-case basis. Communication is the key to your success in this area.

Avoid making doctors/dental appointments during band rehearsals. Every attempt should be made to schedule work and other special events (birthday parties, mini-vacations) around the band schedule. Everyone is valued in this program: commit to the program, commit to the ensemble, and commit to the schedule.

Your grade is lowered one letter grade for each unexcused absence from any rehearsal. Absence from a dress rehearsal lowers your grade one and a half. Absence from a performance results in a failing grade for the Semester. Excessive excused absences or tardies will also adversely affect your grade.

Students are expected to prepare the music in advance of rehearsal. Individual practice with a metronome and tuner is required. Memorization testing will take place throughout the school year.

Proficiencies (15%)

Students are expected to perform/record twelve technical proficiencies per Semester. It is recommended to achieve one per week. See the proficiency sheet for each specific Semester.

Assessment

1. Students are assessed based on a 10 point scale for each proficiency
2. See the handout "Proficiency Performance Standards"
3. Students may perform and record each proficiency until desired grade is achieved
4. Students performing live for the director will receive immediate feedback
5. Students recording proficiencies will receive feedback as soon as possible

Daily Testing/Assignments (15%)

Students will be tested and given assignments throughout the school year. Late assignments may or may not be accepted. In-class performance testing will be based on specific musical assignments given to the students in advance.

Daily Testing

1. Ensembles are sampled (students selected to perform) throughout the Semester in class
2. 1-10 points are received (average of the student and director scores)
3. Introspection, self-assessment, and performing in front of others is a critical part of the overall developmental process

Typical List of Assignments

1. Strobe Sheets
2. Long Tone Charts
3. Music Theory/History Handouts
4. Rhythm Counting Sheets
5. Practice Records
6. Scale Pattern Proficiencies
7. Daily Testing

Assignments are due at the beginning of the class period on the assigned due date.

V. CLASSROOM PROCEDURES

Attendance is essential to successfully understand concepts taught in the band course. The attendance policy is outlined in the student planner.

Professional behavior must also be practiced in order to maximize educational opportunities. Disruptive and disrespectful behavior may result in detention and parental contact.

Come into class and immediately get your instrument out. Sit in your assigned seat (with all materials), and start warming up. You will be given an extra 2 minutes at the beginning and end of class to assemble and disassemble your instrument.

You are required to keep your assigned instrument storage area clean and free from non-music related items. Do not keep personal belongings in these areas. These areas are not secure.

NO FOOD, DRINK, OR GUM PERMITTED IN THE BAND ROOM

NO CELL PHONE, I-POD, OR GAMING DEVICE POLICY

1. **All Cell Phones and Devices Turned Off At All Times**
2. **Consequences**
 - A. **First Offense: Cell Phone/Device Taken Away**
 - B. **Second Offense: Cell Phone/Device Taken Away Until End Of Day**
 - C. **Third Offense: Cell Phone/Device Taken Away For Multiple Days**
(call to parents to agree upon appropriate length of time)

Students that have a positive attitude, work hard, follow the procedures/rules, and behave appropriately in all situations THRIVE in the band program at West.

Welcome to the West Salem Band Program!!!