

2016-2017 Schuylkill Valley High School Band Syllabus

BAND
BAND/CHORUS

1 Credit – 6 days per cycle
0.5 Credit – 3 days per cycle (days 2, 4, & 6)

Teacher: Mr. Deininger
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COURSE DESCRIPTION

Band is a course for all students who wish to participate in any school instrumental activities. Concert band will be the fundamental performing group of this course and offers an opportunity to learn a variety of musical styles, including contemporary, pop, show, jazz, marching, and standard band literature. All students will be given academic credit for their work in Band. Requirements for this course include: regular lesson attendance, quarterly playing exams, and participation in all concerts, marching performances, and preparatory rehearsals.

Students intending to participate in jazz band, Panthers-On-Parade, orchestra, and smaller ensembles, in addition to those interested in auditioning for and participating in county, district, region, and state band and orchestra, are required to schedule Band.

Band may be scheduled in combination with Chorus. In that event, students will receive a 0.50 credit for Band. Scheduling conflicts with other courses may be resolved for partial Band credit with the approval of the band director.

RULES

1. Be a nice person.
2. Always do your best.
3. Respect yourself, others, and your school.
4. Do things that will not prevent me from teaching, you or others from learning.
5. Have fun!

EXPECTATIONS

1. Bring a positive “can do” attitude everyday.
2. If necessary, use the lavatory on your way to band.
3. Be ready to play (in your seat) with all required materials by three minutes after the late bell. Entering the band room or not having your instrument or music by this time makes you late.
4. Listen attentively throughout the entire rehearsal. This requires that you speak only when spoken to by the instructor. If you wish to speak, raise your hand and wait until the instructor addresses you.
5. Follow directions the **first time** they are given.
6. Bring all required materials to rehearsals and performances all the time. Come prepared with all necessary supplies (reeds, valve oil, music, pencil, sticks)
7. Mark your music as necessary during rehearsal.
8. Attend all rehearsals and performances in their entirety.
9. Band rehearsal is not a study hall; therefore, homework may not be done during rehearsals. School books should be left in your instrument locker during this period.

10. Forgetting an instrument is not an excuse to do homework. If you are without your instrument, you must sit quietly and listen to what is going on in rehearsal. If your instrument is being repaired, a note is required from your parents.
11. Folders will be assigned for your use in school and at home. While some of you may be sharing folders, it is imperative that they are in school every day. Even if you will not be in band, your folder must be there so that your partner has music for rehearsal. Folders should be kept in the assigned slot in the folder rack or in your instrument locker.
12. It is the duty of each individual and section to leave their area organized and clean at the end of each rehearsal.
13. No food or drink in the music area at all times. Water is acceptable.

Note: All school rules also apply, including the rule referring to electronic devices. Cell phones and any other electronic devices will not be tolerated unless given permission to use for something specific at teachers discretion.

MATERIALS

1. Instrument and all necessary accessories (reeds, oil, grease, drum sticks, etc.)
2. Pencils and erasers
3. Folder with all music

BEHAVIORS AND CONSEQUENCES

Students who do not comply with the rules will be handled on a case-by-case basis. Actions taken may include (but are not limited to): phone call home, teacher detention, referral form, and ultimately, dismissal from the band program. The idea is for behavior modification, not for Mr. Deininger to be a disciplinarian.

ATTENDANCE AND TARDY POLICY

Students are expected to be in school and on time. Rehearsals will begin three minutes after the late bell rings, at which time you should have your instruments out ready to rehearse. Failure to attend rehearsal and be on time will result in a lower grade. In addition, tardiness will be handled as cited in the Student Handbook as needed.

CONCERTS/PERFORMANCES (Please let your parents, employers, or any other schedule conflicts know now!)

1. As this is a performance oriented course, your participation in all performances and their preparatory rehearsals is mandatory. Performances will range in scope from traditional concerts to marching appearances. Additionally, you may have the opportunity to participate in Marching Band, Jazz Band, Panthers-On-Parade pit orchestra, and small group ensembles.
2. The performances and extra rehearsals for the 2016-2017 school year are listed below. Please make note of them on your personal and family calendars.
3. Please note that in order for your current year to qualify for band participation towards the co-curricular awards, which are presented during your senior year, your record must be free of any unexcused performance absences.

2016-2017 Performance and Extra Rehearsal Dates:

First Quarter

1. Temple Halloween Parade – Saturday, October 1, 2016 – Evening: exact time TBA (18 pts.)Home
2. Football Game (Wyomissing) – Friday, October 14, 2016 – 6:35 PM (17 pts.)

Second Quarter

1. Holiday Concert dress rehearsal – Monday, December 5, 2016 – 7:00-9:00 PM (10 pts.)

2. Holiday Concert – Tuesday, December 6, 2016 – 7:30 PM (H.S. Aud.) (20 pts.)
3. High School Holiday Assembly – Date TBA – Tentative (5 pts.)

Third Quarter

1. District Dinner/Concert - Saturday, March 4, 2017 – EVENING/TIME TBA (35 pts.)

Fourth Quarter

1. Spring Concert Dress Rehearsal – Tuesday, May 9, 2017 – 7:00-9:00 PM (5 pts.)
2. Spring Concert – Thursday, May 11, 2017 - 7:30 PM (H.S. Aud.) (20 pts.)
3. Armed Forces Day Parade – Saturday, May 20, 2017 – AM (optional in lieu of 4th qt. playing exam)
4. Commencement (underclassmen only) - Thursday, June 8, 2017 - 6:30 PM (10 pts.)

ALL PERFORMANCES ARE MANDATORY. IF YOU MISS A PERFORMANCE UNEXCUSED, YOUR GRADE WILL BE LOWERED.

PLEASE, SEE MR. DEININGER WITH ANY QUESTIONS.

GRADING POLICY

1. Since everyone is blessed with different degrees of musical talent, grading is based largely on participation and effort. Your primary task is to perform to the best of your ability. That means you will be expected to prepare your music at home as well as in rehearsal at school.
2. Lessons are an important part of the course and you are expected to attend lessons each cycle. Each band member will come for one individual or small-group lesson each cycle. Lesson time assignments will be made according to study hall schedules. This will eliminate students having to miss an entire period of one class.

Grading Breakdown

- | | |
|---|-------------------|
| 1. Lessons (5 per quarter – 4 points per lesson attendance): | 20 points |
| 2. Quarterly playing test: | 15 points |
| 3. Positive Participation (includes additional dress rehearsals): | approx. 30 points |
| 4. Performances: | approx. 35 points |
| TOTAL: 100 points | |

Above & Beyond Points: maximum of 10 points

points may be awarded for the following:

exceptional musicianship, participation in additional school musical groups, attendance at additional programs, auditioning for other musical groups (Co. Band, Dist. Band, etc.), and/or completion of an independent study project on instrumental music.

Points will be deducted from the above categories for:

- failing to appear and participate in all performances, rehearsals, or lessons
- not being prepared with music and instrument at rehearsals and lessons
- failing to put all equipment and music away (in the assigned places) after rehearsals
- gum chewing!
- displaying less than appropriate behavior in rehearsals and at performances
- failing to maintain the assigned folder and music

In order to receive the highest grade possible, the following is expected from each student:

1. Members must exhibit consistent and positive participation in all rehearsals.
2. Members must attend a minimum of five lessons per cycle.
3. Members must display an attitude of constant improvement of individual and group

musicianship.

4. Members must maintain their assigned folder and equipment, and properly mark music.
5. Members are expected to participate in all scheduled rehearsals and performances.
6. Members must complete all required quarterly playing exams.
(Requirements differ by grade level)
7. Members must complete a year-end exam.

CONCERT PERFORMANCE ATTIRE

BOYS:

White (no off-white) collar dress shirt (long or short sleeves) – No polo-style shirts
Dress pants, BLACK (no denim), Dress shoes (no sneakers)
Black Music Department ties (provided)

GIRLS:

BLACK skirt with WHITE blouse, or BLACK pants with WHITE blouse - No off-white please!
Dressy BLACK pants are okay – **no** casual slacks or denim
Dress shoes (no sneakers). *Shoes must have a closed heel or heel strap.*
No "flip-flop" type shoes or open-heeled or strapless-heeled sandals permitted.

INSTRUMENT STORAGE

Each woodwind and brass player will be given a locker for instrument storage. You will be assigned an instrument locker. Your instrument should be kept in your locker when it is in the building and it should be marked with your name. Do not leave your instrument in the band room, a practice room, or the hallway!

Band lockers should only have instruments, music, and any accessories (reeds, mouthpieces, sticks, etc.) in the locker. Textbooks, food, drinks, and any other items will be removed and discarded, or turned into the office. Failure to comply with these rules will result in a loss of locker privileges. This policy will be strictly enforced!

BAND ROOM "HOURS"

The Band Room is a place where you are welcome whenever you have free time in your schedule. If you want to come down to the band room for personal practice, you must see Mr. Deininger ***BEFORE*** coming down to the band room, at which time he will sign your passbook. If you come down and Mr. Deininger is not here, you **MUST** return to class (unless you have a sectional and there is no cancelled sign on the band room door). Failure to do so will result in progressive discipline included in the *Behaviors and Consequences* section of the syllabus.

In addition to the band and chorus rooms, there are two practice rooms and an electronic keyboard lab for your use. Every practice space has a piano keyboard. As this is like a second home to many of us, please do your part to keep the facilities clean and in good condition.

While in the music area, all school rules and band rules are to be followed at all times. Lessons take priority during any given period. Mr. Deininger reserves the right to send you back at any time.

SCHOOL INSTRUMENTS

Schuylkill Valley High School has a limited amount of instruments you may borrow/loan throughout the year. All instruments, especially SV owned instruments, must be treated with care.

FOOD AND DRINK POLICY

There will be absolutely NO FOOD OR DRINK in the band room other than water (FLAVORED WATER IS NOT PERMITTED). Whether it is school issued food or food from outside of school, it is not permitted in the band room. Any violators of this rule will have consequences. Your full cooperation is greatly appreciated.

BAND SEATING

All woodwind and brass players must play for their seat in concert band. This is not an audition to make concert band, but a way for Mr. Deininger to ensure that the part assigned to each player will be both challenging and attainable. Failure to play for Mr. Deininger will result in a seat at the bottom of the section. If multiple students from each section do not play for Mr. Deininger, then a drawing will be done to determine seats. Students who do not play for their seat will not be granted a challenge until February 2017. Stay tuned for dates and more details.

CHALLENGE SYSTEM

To emphasize student preparation and performance, chair placements are held once in the fall for student placement within each section. A challenge system is in place for students to move up within their sections. The Schuylkill Valley Concert Band Challenge System guidelines are as follows:

1. One can only challenge the person in a position immediately above them.
2. The challenge is only official after it is confirmed by the Band Director.
3. The person challenging must tell the person being challenged at the same time they tell the Band Director.
4. Five school days will be given for preparation.
5. Music for the challenge may include concert music, material handed out by the band director, and sight-reading.
6. The challenge must be "played off" on the 5th or 6th day after the challenge is made.
7. A person may decline a challenge; however, they must forfeit their chair.
8. Both parties do not have to be present at the time the challenge is "played off," but must play on the same day.
9. If the challenger wins, the challenged has the option to challenge back the very next day.
10. Should the person being challenged win, the challenger must wait 2 weeks before re-challenging.
11. There will be no challenges within 10 school days of a performance.
12. Challenges **will not** count as sectionals.
13. Time for challenges include: before school, after school, lunch, or during lessons.

Note: All challenges are based upon the Band Director's approval, and the decisions made are final for that challenge. The Band Director may deny, delay, or even terminate any challenge, at any point, for any reason(s).

JAZZ ENSEMBLE PROGRAM

Students in good standing in the band program will have the opportunity to participate in jazz band. Auditions for ensemble entrance applies to jazz band. More information will be handed out at the end of October/beginning of November.

HONORS & FESTIVAL ENSEMBLES

Every year, Schuylkill Valley students with good standing in the band program have the opportunity to audition for Berks County Senior High Band (Grade 10-12), Pennsylvania Music Education Association District 10 Band (Grade 7-12), and Berks County Junior High Band (Grades 7-9). The wind, brass, and percussion sections of the orchestra at each level are also taken from the band auditions. In order to make Region V (or

Region IV/V Orchestra) and PMEA All-State Ensembles, you must re-audition at the District 10 Festivals. (In order to re-audition at the festival, you must successfully audition and make the District 10 Festival first). Region and All-State Ensembles are only open to students who are in grade, 10, 11, or 12.

The dates for this years auditions are: Berks Senior County Band – Tuesday, November 22, 2016 (at Governor Mifflin HS); Pennsylvania Music Education Association District 10 Band – Saturday, December 3, 2016 (at Parkland HS); All-County Jazz Band – Monday, January 9, 2016 (Snow Date – January 16, 2016) (Location TBD); and Berks Junior County Band – Tuesday, February 21, 2017 (Snow Date – February 23, 2016) (at Governor Mifflin HS).

In order to be permitted to audition and participate you must complete the following:

1. Application with fee
2. Play your scales and solo for Mr. Deininger at least one week prior to the audition.
3. Audition – show up prepared for the best chance of admittance into each ensemble
4. Attend all rehearsals and performances.

(More information for Berks County Festivals and audition requirements can be found at:

<http://www.berksmusic.com/>)

(More information for PMEA District 10 Festivals and audition requirements can be found at:

<http://www.pmeadistrict10.org/files/main.html>)

FINAL THOUGHT

These guidelines are in place, not to restrict your musical potential or personal enjoyment, but rather to insure that we can have fun together learning and performing to the best of our abilities in an atmosphere void of chaos and confusion. I hope each of you will approach this year with that goal in mind. Keep these sheets in a safe place for future reference and do not hesitate to contact me anytime you have a question or concern.

Mr. Deininger is looking forward to a great year of making music that is fun, enjoyable, and performed at a high level. Not everyone will major in music after high school, but music, specifically band in this case, can teach you a lot about life. We all work as part of a team all the time. Everyone in the band needs to come to class every day with a great attitude ready to work. We all must work together to make each selection better. We are divided into sections according to instrument (specialization), and each instrument has a role or part to bring to the entire group. Band is like group work in other classes, but on a larger scale and all the time.

Studies have shown, students who play instruments do better on SAT's and a large percentage of instrumental students attend college following high school. More chief executive officers of major companies and corporations have a humanities (art and/or music) background than any other background.

Finally, upon leaving Schuylkill Valley High School, you can still make wonderful music, hopefully on your instruments. Colleges have scholarship money available for students who are not music majors but participate in athletic bands (marching and basketball bands) and concert bands. There are also many community bands to continue playing over the summer or after college. Regardless if you continue to play in ensembles or not, please, please, please continue to support the arts, specifically music and visual arts (public school programs) so future students can have the same quality experiences and memories that you have been fortunate enough to gain.

Here is to a wonderful 2016-2017 school year! It is going to be fantastic sharing it with so many wonderful, dedicated, and talented students!!

DETACH AND RETURN BY WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 7, 2016

After reviewing the course outline and this information sheet with your parents, please detach the bottom portion of this page, and return it with the appropriate signatures by Wednesday, September 7, 2016.

Students

I acknowledge that I have reviewed the concert band course requirements outline and information sheets. I understand that, to remain a member in good standing of this organization, I must abide by these guidelines. I also understand that failure to comply with any or all of these guidelines will result in a lower grade for the concert band class. **Finally, I confirm that I have placed all rehearsal and performance dates on my personal and family calendars.**

Student Name (Print): _____

Student Signature: _____ Date: _____

Parents

I acknowledge that I have reviewed the concert band course requirements outline and information sheets. I understand that, for my son/daughter to remain a member in good standing of this organization, he/she must abide by these guidelines. I also understand that failure to comply with any or all of these guidelines will result in a lower grade for the concert band class. **Finally, I confirm that I have placed all rehearsal and performance dates on my personal and family calendars.**

Parent(s) Name (Print): _____

Parent Signature: _____ Date: _____

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION NEEDED

Please complete the following information by **printing clearly**:

(student primary email)

(student school/Google email)

(alternate/additional parent email)

(alternate/additional parent email)

(student cell phone – emergencies only)

(parent(s) cell phone – emergencies only)

(USE THE BACK OF THIS PAPER TO LIST/DESCRIBE/INFORM ME OF ANY ADDITIONAL YOU SEE FIT)