
SYMPHONIC BAND

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Materials

All students must bring the following to rehearsals:

- Instrument
- "Foundations for Superior Performance"* book
- Metronome/Tuner Combination
- Pencil
- Necessary Instrument Accessories (Sticks, Oil, working reeds, reed bottle, mute, etc.)
- Assigned Music/Handouts

Grading Standards

Formal Assessments (70%):

- 1) Performances
- 2) Musicianship Standards

Informal Assessments (30%):

- 1) Participation in class
- 2) Written assignments

Technique

We will spend a lot of time working on tone, scales, rhythm and technique. These skills are necessary to be successful musicians.

Overview

It is the mission of the David W. Butler instrumental music program to create functionally literate, independent musicians, who continually exhibit the highest level of character. Our musicians accomplish this through individual musical growth, dedication, student leadership and loyalty. We represent Butler High School and the community as ambassadors of excellence, pride, respect and talent.

Course Objectives

1. The student will develop an understanding of their role as a member of a performance ensemble.
2. The student will develop an understanding of their role in support of community and school functions.
3. The student will develop and articulate their musical ability through the use of small ensembles and co-operative learning groups.

Evaluation

Students will be evaluated through performing tests along with written assignments.

What is a Rehearsal?

A rehearsal is a time when a group of musicians get together to work on musical issues that relate to balance, intonation, phrasing, dynamics, tempo, transitions, rhythmic alignment, etc. Rehearsal is not practice...practice happens alone, or with others at home or before/after school.

Homework

As with anything, success comes from practice every day. Students should practice at least 30 minutes each day.

SYLLABUS



Performance Guidelines

As performers we must respect our art form and our audience by presenting ourselves in a professional manner. In addition to our musical performance, this also means that we must dress appropriately. Only students dressed in proper attire will be permitted to perform.

Ladies: Black dress purchased from band boosters, black shoes. No bright, un-natural hair color and no bright nail polish. Jewelry should be silver or black.

Gentlemen: Black suit or tux, tux shirt, black bow tie, black belt black socks and black dress shoes. Shirt must be tucked in. No bright, un-natural hair color.

Class Expectations

1. **LEARN YOUR MUSIC.** Students are expected to prepare notes and rhythms during personal practice time at home.

2. **RESPECT YOUR INSTRUMENT.** If you own your instrument, you know how important it is to maintain its care. If you are using a school-owned instrument, treat it as if it were your own. Polish it, clean it, oil it, put it properly in the case, and store the case appropriately.

3. **RESPECT THE FACILITY.** This is your band room. Everyone is expected to pick up after themselves, store instruments in their proper location, and not bring food or drink into the room. Storage areas in the band room will be used for instruments and band equipment only. Please note that personal items (i.e. clothes, shoes, books, etc.) are not allowed in the instrument storage room.

4. **RESPECT ONE ANOTHER.** Respect one another by not worrying about anyone other than yourself when it comes to roles within the ensemble. Show respect for each other's instruments and personal property as well.

5. **BE PROFESSIONAL.** This is perhaps the most important expectation of all since it embodies and encompasses everything we do from rehearsal, to practice at home, to performance, to attending a concert.

- Be prepared for rehearsal.
- Practice at home, not at rehearsal. Amateurs practice until they get it right. Professionals practice until they cannot get it wrong!
- Remain quiet during rehearsal when you are not being addressed.
- Always mind what you say when representing the ensemble. Profanity is NOT tolerated!
- Extend respect to individuals outside of the ensemble and Butler.
- Leave a positive impression in the minds of others about our band and our school!
- When in concert (band, orchestra, choral, theatre etc.) never speak during the performance, either on stage or in the audience.
- Be human. Kindness can have the most profound impact of all. If you have nothing nice to say, keep it to yourself. If it will brighten someone's day, say it!