

2015-2016 Concert Band Course Outline

Section 1 - Philosophy:

The concert band experience provides many important life skills for all students. It is more than just a great chance to make music and increase the student's skill as a musician. It is an opportunity for students to learn team skills, respect, time management, and many other skills that will help them in every facet of their life. This can only be achieved when each member of the ensemble is committed to giving his or her best effort. As a result, the director of the band will hold high standards of accountability and ask that each student do his or her individual best at all times.

Section 2 - Expectations:

1. The director expects that each member of the band will give their best effort to be a positive contributing member at all times.
2. Each member will be expected to be at rehearsal on time. This means that each band member will have all necessary rehearsal materials and will be in their chair waiting to start rehearsal.
3. Rehearsal is a time for the ensemble to work on performing the music together. This means that all members of the band must work out their parts at home and have them ready for rehearsal. Band hour is not individual practice time, it is rehearsal time.
4. In order for this band to reach its maximum potential, all band members must observe the highest standards in rehearsal etiquette. Tardiness, excessive talking, lack of preparation, poor posture, disrespect to anyone in the ensemble, and things of this nature will not help the band get better. As a result, each member must do his or her part to maintain a positive rehearsal etiquette. Cell phone use during class time is strictly prohibited.

Section 3 - Grading:

Each member of the band will have the opportunity to get an A in band by giving his or her best at all times. The grading system will be as follows:

Daily Participation - 20 points per day

This grade will reflect the student's rehearsal etiquette, preparation for the rehearsal, and punctuality. This also includes having an instrument in proper working condition, any music needed for rehearsal, and a pencil. If the student meets all expectations for the rehearsal 20 points will be awarded. Students will self assess their effort on a daily basis. The director will work with the student to determine a weekly grade based on 100 points (20 points per day). The grading system, as well as expectations are explained elsewhere and are available at school and on the website (hudsonvillebands.org)

Testing - Various points

Many different tests may be given throughout the course of the year. Most will be worth 100 points. Test types are as follows:

Playing Tests

This includes chair auditions, technical exercises, scales, or tests on concert music. Anything handed out in class will be “fair game” for a playing test. The students will take at least one playing test during the year that will be a test grade and an audition for jazz band and the concert program.

Music Theory Tests

We will work to develop an understanding of basic music theory. Students will be given written tests throughout the year.

Concert Attendance

Students will be expected to attend all performances. Exceptions include a sudden death in the immediate family, or severe student illness. Missing school the day of a concert is not a reason to miss a concert. If a student cannot attend a concert a parent must call and speak with a director or leave a voice mail before the performance. Notes will not be accepted. Any unexcused absence from a performance will cost the student two full grades at the end of the trimester. Students will also lose points if proper concert etiquette is not observed, if they are late to the warm up, or if they are not wearing the uniform properly. Any prearranged absence for a concert may require an extra assignment to make up for the missed performance.

Section 4 - Chair Auditions:

There are no chairs for the 4th hour band 1st trimester. There are no chairs for the 5th hour band 2nd and 3rd trimester. Instead, the director will assign parts to the students so everyone has the opportunity to play multiple parts.

There are chairs for the Wind Symphony (2nd and 3rd tri - 3rd hour) and for the Symphony Band (2nd and 3rd tri - 4th hour).

Here is how chair auditions work:

1. Chair auditions will be assigned as a playing test.
2. Auditions will be held during 2nd trimester or the end of the 1st trimester (the previous school year).
3. Students may be asked to perform a prepared etude, sight reading, and scales. All playing requirements will be made clear well in advance of the chair audition.
4. All auditions may be performed in private on tape. Taped auditions will be a “blind audition” where the directors will not know who is auditioning. If the schedule allows, the students might play for the director.
5. Performances will be judged on: Tone, Intonation, Rhythm, Articulation, Accuracy, Fluency, Musical Style, etc.
6. Any decision by the director will be final. Every effort will be made to be fair to all students in the best interest of the individual and the band.

Section 5 - Challenges (only if necessary, see above):

1. The challenge sheet must be filled out three school days in advance of the challenge.
2. Students may challenge two times during a marking period.
3. Challenging more than one chair at a time is not permitted.

4. All challenges will be a blind challenge performed on tape.
5. No challenges will be permitted during the three week period before any performance.
6. Material to be used must come from the current music in the folder or book, one selection by the challenger, the challenged, and the director.
7. Decisions as to the outcome will be made by the director on a point basis and are final.
8. In the event of a tie, the students will remain in their seats.
9. The director reserves the right to cancel all challenges at any point in the school year.

Section 6 - Uniform:

The uniform will consist of black socks, black shoes, black pants, and a long sleeve black shirt. Each student will be asked to provide these items. This is the concert uniform for all HHS band students.

Section 7 - Concert Dates:

- 10/13/15 – HS Bands Fall concert – HHS Auditorium – 7:30 pm
- 12/16/15 - Christmas Concert – Hudsonville High Auditorium 7:30 pm
- 3/24/16 – Late Winter Concert – HHS Auditorium 7:30 pm
- 5/17/16 - Spring Band Concert – HHS Auditorium – 7:30 pm
- 5/18/16 - Booster Awards Banquet - HHS Cafeteria – OPTIONAL

Section 8: Other Groups

The Hudsonville High School band program offers a variety of performance experiences for the students. Every student is encouraged to consider participating in a group that meets outside the school day. Examples include:

Jazz Band: Jazz performs a variety of concerts. You must play a jazz instrument to be in the group. The band meets first trimester, third hour. An audition is required for acceptance into jazz band.

Pep Band: Pep Band meets during band class and performs at the home basketball games for boys and girls. Students may switch instruments to be in pep band.

Marching Band: Marching Band meets during and after school and performs at competitions and football games. Marching Band is the equivalent of a fall sport, drumline and guard members cannot do a sport and marching band. All other cases will be handled on an individual basis.

Winter Drumline: Winter Drumline meets after school and performs at competitions around the state. You do not have to be a drummer to perform with this group.

Winter Colorguard: Winter colorguard meets after school and performs at competitions around the state. You do not have to be a drummer to perform with this group.

Trip:

The entire high school band program is traveling to Orlando, Florida in 2017. Details for this trip will be released during the 2015/2016 school year. Students will need to sign up for the trip by April of 2016.

Awards Points:

All high school band students should track their work in band. This is not required, but there is a point system that awards students for taking lessons, giving lessons, attending classical concerts, performing outside of school, etc . . . Students must turn in a point request sheet in order to get credit. These are due by Spring Break. There is an award banquet in May.