

Marching and Concert Band Syllabus
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Course Description

This course is a comprehensive approach to learning how to play an instrument as well as gaining a general understanding of the many aspects of music. We will explore the effects of music on our culture and society while learning about the different social and cultural influences in music. Through performance in band, students will learn instrument specific techniques, listen to recordings of professional musicians, make musical decisions based on knowledge of varying styles and genres, evaluate the quality of musical performances, and learn how to convey a composer's intent to an audience through the use of musical techniques.

Instructional Philosophy

This will be a hands-on course where students will be expected to actively participate in marching and/or playing on a daily basis. In-class question and answer occurs regularly; being focused and knowing what is going on will be expected. There will be some required writing assignments. The students will be expected to prepare and practice outside of band class, either individually or with other members of their section. This is in addition to the full band scheduled evening practices.

Students are expected to attend all evening practices and performances. Schedules have been given far in advance and conflicts should have been handled.

Course Goals

By the end of the year, the student will be able to:

1. Identify music forms from various cultures and historical periods and be able to perform representative repertoire with stylistic accuracy.
2. Play in a group, demonstrating technical and stylistic accuracy and musical expressions with appropriate responses to a conductor's cue and gestures.
3. Read and perform music repertoire using a variety of tonalities while demonstrating an understanding of the language of music
4. Analyze and evaluate music selections based upon established criteria.
5. Develop and apply specific criteria for making informed, critical judgments about quality and effectiveness of music works, both written and performed.
6. Articulate similarities and differences between music and other content areas.
7. Apply problem solving and creative thinking skills used in music to other content areas.
8. Develop leadership qualities that can be transferred to other areas of life.
9. Demonstrate an understanding of reasons why people value music and demonstrate respect for diverse opinions regarding music preferences.
10. Perform in front of an audience, conveying expression and emotion while demonstrating technical facility on his/her instrument and an understanding of the basic elements of music.

Major Course Projects and Instructional Activities

Because this is a performance-based class, major projects will be performances. The first quarter will contain more performances than the other three. Performances will include, but are not limited to parades, football games, competitions, concerts, basketball games, and pep rallies.

Students will also participate during class and after school rehearsals as well be tested periodically on the music we are playing in class.

Other performance opportunities will be offered to students such as indoor percussion, honors band, solo and ensemble, jazz band, and pit orchestra. Students will be encouraged to take part in these activities as extended parts of the band curriculum.

Course Assessment Plan

Playing/Rhythm/Written Testing	30% of total grade
Daily Class Preparation and Performance	15% of total grade
After School Rehearsal Preparation and Performance	15% of total grade
Performances	40% of total grade

Attendance at each rehearsal, performance, or class period is not enough to earn full credit. Students will be visually and aurally assessed to determine the grade for each assignment. Proper posture and playing techniques are expected daily as well as during after school rehearsals. Marching and playing grades will be based upon set standards for each grade level as those determined by the Ohio Music Education Association.

If you have any other questions or concerns, please refer to the band handbook or contact me via e-mail (samantha.preisner@swantonschools.org).