

RHS Bands

2009-2010 Syllabus

Class Expectations

A. Performances and Rehearsals

1. Will be scheduled outside of the school day, are required, and are a normal function of the class.
2. Every student is expected to participate in all scheduled functions.
 - a. Motto – ON TIME IS LATE!!! We start on time, we end on time.
 - b. Excusable schedule conflicts should be brought to the director's attention, in writing, as soon as it is discovered. Avoidable last-minute notification, due to irresponsibility, may affect the student's grade.
 - c. "Auto-Excused" absences include family emergencies, most school-sponsored events (e.g., sports – *see sports conflict section*), and serious illness. Notification in writing is expected.
 - d. "Excused" absences would include some special circumstances worked out only with the director. If the student is to miss a performance situation, the student is responsible for playing any material that will be covered in that event, prior to the absence. A grade will be assigned based on that playing evaluation, making up for the missing participation grade.
 - e. Absences will be considered "Unexcused" if:
 1. No notice is given prior to the absence (excluding emergencies).
 2. Reason for the absence is not acceptable after consultation with administration.
 3. Notice is too close to event, due to neglect. Ample time must be given for the band to accommodate for the absence.

- f. School sports conflicts.
 - 1. Students are expected to make every effort to participate in both functions.
 - 2. It is the student's responsibility to keep coaches and directors informed of any schedule conflicts, ASAP.
 - 3. Conflict resolution:
 - a. Sports Practice vs. Band Rehearsal = Split time difference, and go to both.
 - b. Sports Game vs. Band Rehearsal = Go to game.
 - c. Sports Practice vs. Band Performance = Go to performance.
 - d. Game vs. Performance =
 - i. Game, if it is a conference or district-qualifying event, as long as it is not a last-minute rescheduled game.
 - ii. Performance if it is a district or state event.
 - iii. Other conflicts should be worked out with coaches and director.
 - 4. The band director and coaches may be able to work out an agreement of how students will be placed in order to benefit both groups.
 - g. Unexcused absences may result in the following:
 - 1. Out for additional performances
 - 2. Lower grade
 - 3. Removal from marching show design
 - 4. Loss of chair in ensemble
 - 5. Exclusion from trips
 - 6. Repeated offenses will result in removal from the band program.
3. Behavior unbecoming of a RHS Band member will result in removal from the program.

B. Homework Policy

- 1. All music must be prepared for rehearsal on or before assigned date.
- 2. It should be understood that rehearsals are not for the preparation of notes and rhythms, but for the preparation of music.
- 3. Personal practice time will be necessary of each student. The amount of daily time will vary between students. The goal is to be prepared for each rehearsal.

C. Equipment Expectations

1. Music – Every student should have his/her own copy of music at each rehearsal. Lost music will be the responsibility of the student to replace.
2. Instrument in good working condition. Students using school instruments must have a contract on file and are responsible for keeping the instrument in good playing condition and undamaged.
3. Pencil (not a pen), at all times.
4. Any other material given out by the director (i.e. calendar, scale sheets, rhythm sheets, etc.).

D. Attitude – A positive attitude toward music and an awareness of the team concept are necessary for the band to function.

E. Care and Use of the Music Complex

1. Any activity which infringes upon the rights of others will not be tolerated.
2. Percussion and other large instruments are to be stored in designated areas only.
3. Lockers and storage areas may be assigned, and are for instruments, music, and items necessary for daily band functions only. Items not allowed to be stored in the band lockers are: Uniform parts, books, food or drinks, coats, backpacks, other personal belongings. Use of personal locks is strongly recommended.
4. Practice rooms are for practicing only. Students should seek permission for any other activities. Access to the locked practice rooms may be obtained from any music director.
5. Chalkboards and bulletin boards are to be used only for band-related activities.
6. Music, instruments, and all other personal belongings are to be taken care of after each rehearsal.

E. Marching Band

1. All students will be expected to memorize their music, or colorguard work, and drill locations for the marching show. A significant portion of each student's grade will be dependant on memorization tests by their posted due dates.
 - a. Students may play the required material for directors, drum majors, or other director-appointed band members.

Grading Policy

- A. Grades will be assigned based on the following criteria:
 - 1. Preparation
 - 2. Participation
 - 3. Personal Improvement
 - 4. Written assignments and quizzes
 - 5. Musical Evaluations

- B. 1st trimester grades are based heavily on memorization of marching music and participation.

- C. Extra credit may be received by attending applicable live musical performances, participating in extra-curricular performances, etc.