

# Wauwatosa West High School Band Syllabus

Class Meeting Times below cited are for M. T. R. F.  
Symphonic/Concert Band and Concert Band (5th Period) 11:55 AM – 12:45 PM  
Class Meeting Times below cited are for Wednesday.  
Symphonic/Concert Band and Concert Band (5th Period) 11:33AM-12:11PM

7:00 AM for Jazz Ensemble 1 M.W.F  
7:00 AM for Jazz Ensemble 2 T.R

## COURSE DESCRIPTION

**Symphonic Band – Concert Band** 1 year, 1 credit; grades 9, 10, 11, 12; Prerequisite: Enrollment in middle school band. All students must possess the desire to improve musically.

All students in the Symphonic Band/Concert Band class constitute the Wauwatosa West Trojan Marching Band. Field and Parade marching are a required part of this course. Attendance at all rehearsals, summer band camp, sectionals, and marching performances is required.

Symphonic Band and Concert band may meet together or split into two groups based on ability and instrumentation. This occurs after the conclusion of marching band. Students electing Symphonic Band must demonstrate sufficient previous experience and training on the instrument they will be playing. This ensemble offers wind and percussion players an opportunity to study and perform some of the world's great instrumental works for wind bands - as well as some that are just for fun. Emphasis is placed on polished musical performance achieved through detailed understanding and appreciation of the music. Members of the ensemble will be expected to continually develop their independent performance skills as well as their knowledge of all music-related topics. Course content includes the study, experience, and public performance of music in the marching, concert, solo, small ensemble, and pep band performance mediums as well as limited music theory, history and appreciation.

Attendance at all performances, rehearsals, and activities, including August preparation and training camps, is a course requirement. Students and parents should reference published rehearsal and performance schedules before electing to take the class. Students will be expected to pay a one-time yearly fee of \$100.00 to help cover several meals and activities, camp expenses, additional instruction, instrument purchases, contest medals and many other booster sponsored advantages. Additional individual expenses may include some personal and instructional items, as well as course-related expenses such as marching shoes, gloves, lyre, T-shirts etc.. Percussionists are required to provide their own concert snare sticks and mallets. All band related expenses can be paid through student fundraised (ISA) money.

Students in Symphonic Band/Concert Band are required to prepare for and perform at the Wisconsin School Music Association District Solo-Ensemble Festival. This always falls on the first Saturday in March and is hosted at Tosa West HS. Other performance opportunities for Symphonic Band/Concert Band members include Jazz Ensemble I or II, Percussion ensemble, Symphony Orchestra and Pep Band.

**Jazz Ensemble 1**— 1 year, meets Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, during zero hour (7:00 AM-7:50 AM), 1/2 credit; by audition only.

**Jazz Ensemble 2**- 1 year, meets Tuesday and Thursday, during zero hour (7:00 AM-7:50 AM), 1/2 credit

The Tosa West Jazz Ensembles are advanced performance classes for students who are concurrently enrolled in band, choir, or orchestra and who have the necessary playing proficiency on a standard jazz big band instrument. This course is also offered to students who play guitar or piano. Students playing guitar or piano must be studying privately and able to read music.

Students will experience an intensive rehearsal experience in big band jazz literature including big band charts, swing, Latin, funk, blues, and straight-ahead jazz. Historical perspectives and listening to jazz are a part of the course. Students will work on improvisation skills and ability to improvise is strongly recommended before taking this course.

Auditions for this ensemble will take place in at the start of the school year and students will be placed in the ensemble which is most closely aligned with their performing ability. Students are expected to be consistent in meeting all course obligations including attending class and being on time for class. Failure to meet these requirements will negatively impact a student's grade and may result in being dropped from the course.

Concert Attire: For all jazz ensembles, students should wear semi-formal attire that is all black for their concerts. This entails dress pants and collared shirts.

**Visit our website: [www.tosawestbands.com](http://www.tosawestbands.com)**

#### **MISCELLANEOUS/OTHER:**

**Throughout each band class students will be asked to do the following to enhance their skills.**

**Music Literacy: Students demonstrate and understanding of rhythms, notes, symbols and music vocabulary**

- Counting and reading rhythms
- Naming/identifying pitches in treble and bass clefs
- Defining music terms
- Identifying rests
- Reading music
- Discuss music using the appropriate and correct terminology

**Active Engagement: Students will demonstrate organization and responsibility in rehearsal and concerts.**

- Listening skills: eye contact and not talking during instruction.
- Visual: Responding to conducting patterns; tempo changes, dynamics, and articulation as directed.
- Notating of any corrections such as accidentals, rhythmic counting, or key signatures when needed.
- Circling interpretive markings when requested, noting repeats, dal segno marks, da capo marks, codas and other logistical markings on your music IN PENCIL.
- Stopping when the conductor stops and not playing when the instructor is teaching.
- Your instrument (including your mouthpiece and your reeds) or drumsticks, mutes, and your folder in class daily..
- Percussionists must also assist in setting up the equipment in their section based on the tunes to be rehearsed and must put away, cover and release tension on the percussion instruments used during the rehearsal.

**Musicianship: Students will demonstrate and understanding of performance skills and techniques. Students will demonstrate an understanding of rehearsal skills and techniques.**

- Using correct posture for playing your instrument.
- Embouchure, stick or mallet grip.
- Instrument holding position, correct height adjustment of concert snare drums, use of timpani stool, bass drum playing position.
- Hand position above valves, keys or striking surface.
- Observation of all articulation markings, sticking markings.
- Use of diaphragmatic air support or use of proper grip and technique.
- Knowing and executing scales or rudiments being studied.
- Executing all stylistic and dynamic level markings in the music.
- Incorporating all instruction given during rehearsals, setting a reasonable practice schedule taking all of your responsibilities into consideration, studying privately if possible.
- Using the best equipment you can afford including sticks, reeds, mouthpiece, and instrument.

**Music Appreciation: Students will demonstrate and understanding of music's social, historical, and cultural relevance in rehearsal.**

- Relate Music to other cultures
- Relate music to other disciplines
- Understand the development of music and the progression of music throughout history.
- Understand how music influences and impacts societal changes.

#### **COURSE BENCHMARKS**

**Benchmarks: Music K-12, Wauwatosa, WI                      2019-2020**

1. Create: Imagine, Plan and Make, Evaluate and Refine, Present
2. Perform: Select, Analyze, Interpret, Rehearse, Evaluate and Refine, Present
3. Respond: Select, Analyze, Interpret, Evaluate
4. Connect: Synthesize and relate knowledge and personal experiences, Relate musical ideas and work to varied contexts and daily life

#### **UNIT AND ASSESSMENT SCHEDULE**

##### **Quarter 1 Grades:**

Video recorded Marching Band Individual Playing Assessment

Halftime Performance #1

Homecoming Parade

Homecoming Halftime Performance #2

Halftime Performance #3

Halftime Performance #4

Halftime Performance #5

Evening Marching Rehearsals

Performance Reflection

##### **Quarter 2 Grades:**

Individual Playing Assessment

Holiday concert Tech Rehearsal

December Concert

Performance Reflection

Final Exam

### **Quarter 3 Grades:**

Individual Playing Assessments  
Pep Band Performances  
District Solo and Ensemble  
Performance Reflection

### **Quarter 4 Grades:**

Individual Playing Assessments  
Spring Concert  
Performance Reflection  
Final Exam

### **TEXTS AND MATERIALS**

Please make sure to bring your instrument to class daily since we will use that as our largest learning tool.

### **GRADING POLICIES**

In this course your grade is determined by your mastery of the Course Benchmarks. [See above.] The teachers who teach this course have collaboratively agreed that the skills and concepts identified in the benchmarks are so important, that all students must learn them. You will have multiple opportunities throughout the semester to show mastery of each benchmark, because they are assessed over time. Teachers of each course collaboratively decide which summative assessments will be calculated into the course grade. Teachers make these decisions to best reflect students' ultimate mastery of course benchmarks by the end of the semester. Benchmark scores are determined by averaging the summative assessment scores. Your semester grade will be the average of all your benchmark scores.

## EVALUATION OF STUDENT PERFORMANCE

Assessments – both formative and summative – communicate student mastery of benchmarks. To be academically successful, you need to understand exactly how your benchmark mastery is being assessed. Rubrics help with your understanding by clarifying expectations of benchmark mastery. Below are the descriptors for the four levels of benchmark mastery. This set of descriptors informs the four-point rubrics that teachers create – collaboratively whenever possible – for their courses.

**4 (A)** Students consistently demonstrate **thorough mastery** of grade level or course benchmarks in new or extended contexts.

**3 (B)** Students consistently demonstrate **adequate mastery** of grade level or course benchmarks in familiar contexts.

**2 (C)** Students demonstrate **partial mastery** of grade level or course benchmarks in familiar contexts.

**1 (D)** Students inconsistently demonstrate a **partial mastery** of grade level or course benchmarks in familiar contexts.

**INC (Incomplete)** There is insufficient evidence of student work at this time to provide a grade. An unresolved incomplete eventually defaults to zero.

### FORMATIVE ASSESSMENTS (HOMEWORK, CLASSWORK, QUIZZES)

Formative assessments, including homework, classwork and quizzes, can be calculated directly into your grade up to a maximum of 10%. Formative assessments are an essential part of your success in this course. When formative work is counted in your grade, you can expect to receive timely feedback on that work. Please note, there still may be times when you are asked to complete formative assessments and this work will not be calculated into your grade. Your teacher will communicate when formative work is being counted in your grade.

### RETAKE POLICY

Teachers have the discretion in the decision whether to grant an isolated one-event retake of a summative assessment. Isolated one-event retakes are not a routine expectation for summative assessments. Retakes are offered in the spirit of promoting a culture of teaching and learning, not as a replacement for a lack of preparation for summative assessments. Also, teachers have the discretion to use various types of retakes other than the isolated one-event type. Some examples of these other types of retakes are spiraling, formative assessments, grading for recency, portfolios, etc.

Retakes at teacher discretion require an active partnership between teacher and student. Both the teacher and the student have a responsibility to ensure that any type of retake maintains the spirit of the Grading for Learning model, which honors multiple opportunities for students to learn and be assessed in a complex learning process.

In this partnership, the student will:

- Complete homework in a timely manner
- Participate in class
- Communicate with the teacher regarding their progress
- Reflect thoughtfully on their learning
- Fulfill teacher requirements for a retake

In this partnership, the teacher will:

- Make sure that there are multiple opportunities throughout a semester for students to show their learning
- Use grades solely to communicate how students are learning
- Provide timely feedback on student work
- Provide re-teaching opportunities to support student learning
- Provide clear expectations about the learning process and how students are being assessed
- Provide clear communication about retakes by conferencing with the student

#### **STUDENT ACCOUNT ACCESS**

In order to support clear communication between you and all your teachers, the school district has created accounts for students on the district website: [CLICK HERE](#). You should have received an email this summer from the district with a personal activation code and instructions how to set up your account. If you did not, please let me know. All students are expected to activate these accounts as soon as possible.

#### **TEACHER CONTACT:**

Guy Kammerer- [kammergu@wauwatosa.k12.wi.us](mailto:kammergu@wauwatosa.k12.wi.us), 414-773-3163

Alex Hunt- [huntal@wauwatosa.k12.wi.us](mailto:huntal@wauwatosa.k12.wi.us), 414-773-2691

If you have any questions or need help outside of class, I am available in Music Room 1 and the Music office during most of the school day and before school [usually from 6:45 on] and after school until 3:30. Do not hesitate to come in if you have any questions or need some extra help.

## **Trojan Bands Handbook**

**Welcome to the Trojan Bands** and another great school year filled with exciting opportunities and making great music! We are very excited at the prospects for your future and the future of our performing groups. We look forward to performances, travel, guest performers, clinicians, and attending special enrichment opportunities. These are just a few of the plans we have for this year in addition to the opportunity to create great music every single day! Because of your study of music, your life will be filled with experiences and opportunities that are unique to those who perform, travel, and grow through their involvement in musical activities. We plan to provide all of our ensemble members the highest quality musical and personal experience possible.

**Please take the time to read through this material** with the understanding that in order for any of us to have a meaningful experience, we all must make a few simple commitments. These are fundamental expectations common to all successful musical organizations regardless of age or experience and are in place to help each student grow. We are committed to providing each student with solid fundamental education while encouraging a broader understanding and appreciation for high quality musical performance.

**Please review the calendar and plan well in advance** to attend all performances. One of the most basic principles successful groups live by is that every member is dependent upon the other in order for the group to perform at a high level. Attendance at all performances is absolutely required and is an important individual responsibility for you. In extreme cases, students may be excused from the performance but they will have a significant make-up assignment. Please understand that some dates will be added to the calendar as special opportunities arise throughout the course of the year. This is especially true for jazz band and small group performances.

### **Fees**

Every year our membership absorbs much of the cost involved in providing a comprehensive educational experience for all of our ensembles. The operating expenses for all of our bands have been funded exclusively by three sources.

- 1) District money dedicated to instrument repair and purchases to offset some of the costs of replacing and maintaining school owned instruments.
- 2) The Wauwatosa West Band Boosters
- 3) Course fees which are a one-time-per-school-year fee paid at registration through the Band Boosters.
  - Students who wish to fundraise for any or all of their band fees may do so by participating in one of the many band fundraising activities we offer.
  - If you are interested in paying this money out of your ISA, keep your receipt and put it in the safe and the Boosters will reimburse you.
  - If you need to work out a payment plan, we will be willing to work that out with your family on an individual basis.

## Fundraising

This year will be a particularly intensive fundraising year as just one year from now we approach a major domestic trip for the 2020-21 school year. Fundraising is done for individual student accounts which act like savings accounts, to be used for trips or other approved band related fees or expenses. These student accounts are ISA's, or Individual Student Accounts.

**General account fundraisers** are held to generate booster funds which purchase instruments and equipment. All members are expected to participate in general fund raising activities in order to provide crucial support through our band parent's organization. We are in the process of developing our general fundraising process and a good start has been made with our annual concession revenues.

Band booster money that is fundraised is used for special purchases and projects such as uniform maintenance, instruments, equipment and clinicians etc. for all of our groups. This reduces the fundraising burden on the individual. In short, we all benefit. We feel that we provide an excellent value for each dollar spent and will be happy to answer any questions you may have regarding this process.

## Travel

Music based travel is a privilege and responsibility that we share as a musical organization and learning community. In 2019 the Band traveled to Puerto Rico. It's hard to believe that we that we experienced such life changing events during this fantastic trip. Currently we are in the early stages of planning for a major domestic or Hawaiian trip. All destinations are being carefully weighed for value and the educational/performance potential. Wherever we plan to go, this trip will absolutely be a great value and a unique way to experience the dynamics associated with music travel. During the 2019 marching season, the marching band will again take an overnight trip to the Wo Zha Wa parade in the Dells and various ensembles may take smaller trips to locations throughout Wisconsin.

## Band Letters and Awards

At the end of the 2<sup>nd</sup> semester, students will have the opportunity to fill out a form that demonstrates evidence of year-long activities and accomplishments that qualify students to earn Band Letter points. These points will accumulate throughout their music career at West. Details about the Trojan Awards System will be available upon request.

## Instruments

Students are expected to have a working instrument at all class periods.

**Percussionists will be expected to purchase one pair of med (5B) drumsticks.** Each percussionist will be responsible for securing their own sticks/mallets and having them ready for all marching and concert band rehearsals. Percussionists are also responsible for maintaining an orderly percussion section at all times.

**School Owned Instruments:** Students who use school instruments must fill out a rental contract for the year or semester per district guidelines. District mandated fees will apply to all school rentals in order to maintain our aging inventory. Students will be liable for additional charges assessed for loss or damage of the instrument. We will provide yearly maintenance on each instrument and students will be expected to maintain the instrument in good working



order by regularly cleaning, flushing, oiling, or greasing the instrument as needed. Students will not be required to pay for repairs due to normal wear.

## **Rehearsal Guidelines**

- Purpose:** To provide students with a clear understanding of rehearsal routine, behavioral expectations, and common goals.
- Premise:** Music is the reason we are together. The making of great music is a serious and challenging undertaking. Music classes deserve the respect of students in regard to the process, each other and the director.
- Guidelines:**
- Be on TIME! Be inside the room when the bell sounds. All school tardy guidelines will be followed. Assemble instruments and do preliminary tuning and individual warm-ups. Use this time wisely. This is not social time. Look over the goals for the rehearsal which are posted each day. Organize your equipment including mutes, sticks, and music for the rehearsal. Be sure to have a pencil that you can keep in your folder. Percussion members should prepare for each rehearsal by getting all parts ready and making sure that every specific part is covered for each scheduled selection. Be ready with everything you need to create successful musical experience.
  - No Talking! Period. The only instructor in the room is on the podium. Constructive, quiet communication will be allowed between pieces. Use common sense in this regard. Rehearsals will be conducted in an atmosphere of professional courtesy and mutual respect.
  - Stop playing immediately when cut. If you don't see the cut, you are not watching the conductor! Ignore the urge to finish the phrase. Stop when cut and do not play while instructions are given to others.
  - No gum, snacks, food or drinks will be allowed in the rehearsal room. This is not negotiable or subject to interpretation. You may bring water to sip as long as it has a resealable top.
  - Instruments are to be stored completely and properly. Music is to be put away each day. Percussion area is to be picked up and consolidated to facilitate cleaning and to prevent loss or damage to instruments and music.
  - Unexcused absence from rehearsal (cutting class or school) will not be able to be made up. Depending on the infraction of these expectations, rehearsal credit will be forfeited.
  - All guidelines are based on common sense, courtesy, respect for the music and each other. The success and enjoyment of the rehearsal depends on everyone being mentally engaged at a consistently high level. Be ready to bring your best to every rehearsal and every opportunity to make music!

## **Solo/ Ensemble Contest Participation**

All band members are required to participate in a solo or ensemble performance at district music festival. Students will be assigned to an ensemble and are required to attend the annual District Solo/Ensemble Contest Performance on the first Saturday in March. If an ensemble qualifies for State, it is expected that students will follow through with the process. District Ratings will themselves be treated and graded as the performance assessment they are.

## **Uniforms**

### **Marching Uniform:**

All band students participate in the Homecoming and Independence Day parades, home football games, and other special performances. The school provides the students with the majority of the uniform. Students are required to provide their own black socks and to purchase marching shoes. We sell used shoes and provide the service of ordering new shoes should a student choose to purchase a pair. Fittings are done at registration, band camp and other times as available. Uniform cleaning is provided by boosters. The marching uniform is the visual representation of "who we are". Instructions will be provided regarding the special care and the guidelines of wearing and taking proper care of the uniform. The uniform is to be respected and these protocols will be strictly observed.

### **Formal Concert Wear:**

For the majority of our concert performances, students will wear semi-formal, conservatively appropriate concert wear. All school dress code guidelines will be strictly observed when judging the appropriateness of student concert dress. Students wearing outfits deemed as inappropriate by the director will be asked to change or they will be removed from the performance.

### **Less Formal Concert Wear:**

For all jazz performances students should have a business casual outfit in all black. Men will wear black slacks and a black shirt with a collar. The outfit should be neat and clean. Ladies will be all black in pants or appropriate dresses if preferred. We now have a band polo shirt that will be considered be appropriate performance attire if the membership is agreeable.

## **Lockers**

We have instrument lockers in the band room assigned for band student use. Band room instrument lockers are intended for instrument storage only. Books, homework, clothing etc. should be kept elsewhere. Food is never allowed to be stored in lockers. Please choose the smallest locker possible which befits the needs of your instrument. Many times locker cages can be shared. The band and school district will not be responsible for instruments or belongings left in the room overnight. You are encouraged to lock your instrument cage each day using school approved locks only.