



West Contra Costa Unified School District

EL CERRITO HIGH SCHOOL BANDS

Keith Johnson, Director of Bands

2017-18 SYMPHONIC BAND COURSE SYLLABUS

Class Schedule:

Mon:	Block 4A (2:00pm – 2:50pm)
Tue:	Block 4 (2:00pm – 3:35pm)
Wed:	Block 4A (1:05pm – 1:45pm)
Thu:	Block 4 (2:00pm – 3:35pm)
Fri:	No Class

Instructor: Keith Johnson

Office Hours: Daily, 11:00am -12:00pm

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COURSE DESCRIPTION

Symphonic Band is an intermediate-level performance class for woodwind, brass, and percussion students. The course provides students with the opportunity to strengthen individual playing ability, listening skills, music reading skills, and performance fundamentals through carefully selected wind repertoire. Instrumentation is limited and an audition is required for acceptance into the ensemble. **Offsite performances, workshops and sectionals required of all members.**

COURSE OBJECTIVES

1. Refine individual playing ability
2. Listen to, analyze, describe, and evaluate music using specific criteria for quality and effectiveness
3. Strengthen music reading skills
4. Apply knowledge of theory, history, and cultures through performance

CLASSROOM EXPECTATIONS

- Students are expected to contribute positively in rehearsals by arriving to class on time, prepared, with all required materials.
- Students will focus on the success of the group by eliminating distractions. All phones, books, and electronic devices should be left in your backpack.
- **Rehearsals are time to work collectively, not individually.** Rehearsals (daily classes) are not to learn your part – they are to learn everyone else’s part and therefore, the music. At this level, learning your part is your responsibility and a basic expectation.

TARDY POLICY

Tardiness affects the performance and learning environment of all band students. Tardiness will be reflected in a student’s procedure grades as outlined in the grading breakdown.

ATTENDANCE

It is extremely important that students attend class regularly. Missing one rehearsal not only affects the individual student but also the entire ensemble. **Students will be dropped from Symphonic Band after three (3) unexcused absences in a semester.** All absences must be cleared through the attendance office. Please avoid scheduling appointments on scheduled class days/times. **Work conflicts, making up tests/work for another class, or conflicts within your control are not excused absences.** Student athletes will need to provide the Director with a game schedule, list of dates that require early dismissal/absence (with dismissal times), and contact information for the head coach. Students that miss class for a sport activity will need to make up missed class time by submitting a practice card totaling the amount of time missed in class. To receive credit, practice cards must be signed by a parent and submitted by the Monday following the absence/early dismissal.

REQUIRED MATERIALS

○ Instruments

Students are encouraged to rent or buy an instrument for daily use. Students that do not own an instrument may check out an instrument from the ECHS instrument inventory. There are not enough instruments to supply students with two instruments (one for home use and one for school use).

○ Sheet Music, Folders & Pencils

Students are responsible for having a pencil in class at all times. Sheet music and folders are supplied and are on loan to students for the duration of the school year. Folders must be stored away in the designated folder slot at all times unless the folder is taken home. **Students should not leave folders in their lockers under any circumstances.** Students are responsible for all loaned materials and must cover the cost of any lost or damaged items. Replacement folders are \$20 and replacement parts are \$5.

○ Woodwind Players

Woodwind players are responsible for buying their own reeds. Students are encouraged to play on size 3 reeds and no lower than lower than size 2 ½. The recommended brand for clarinet and sax is **Rico** (cheaper) or **Vandoren. Forest** reeds, from Forest Music in Berkeley, are the recommended brand for oboe and bassoon. Students should have at least 3 reeds in their case at all times.

○ Brass Players

All brass players are encouraged to purchase their own mouthpiece. **Bach 3C** for trumpet players and **Bach 6.5 AL** for trombone players. All brass players should also own a bottle of valve oil and/or slide grease. Trombone players should own a small spray bottle to keep their slide lubricated.

○ Percussion Players

Percussionists are required to own their own pair of drumsticks, a practice pad, and encouraged to purchase their own set of mallets.

○ Lockers

Students will be checked out a locker in the instrument storage room. It is everyone's responsibility to put their instrument in their locker after every rehearsal. Instruments may NOT be left out in the band room under any circumstances. Lockers should be used for music class only.

CONCERT ATTIRE

Concert attire for all performances is as follows:

- **Girls:** Black Concert Dress
- **Boys:** Black, 2-button suit (**must be complete, SOLID BLACK**); white tuxedo shirt (wing-tip); black bow tie & cummerbund; black dress shoes and socks.

More information regarding concert attire orders will be made available during the first weeks of school.

GRADING & ASSIGNMENTS

○ Rehearsal Procedures

Procedure grades are based on student preparation including punctuality, having all materials ready when class begins, and contributing positively to the rehearsal.

○ Homework

It is expected that each student practice for AT LEAST 2.5 hours a week (30 minutes a day). In addition to individual practice the Director may assign additional work. Students showing a lack of effort over the course of the semester will be placed on a practice card. Practice cards will require a parent signature and submitted on a weekly basis through the end of the quarter.

○ Exams

Students should be always prepared to demonstrate the ability to play parts by themselves or in a small group.

- **Playing Exams** will be graded on accuracy, intonation, tone quality, dynamics, and musicality.
- **Written Exams** will be graded on musical terms, music theory, and music history.
- **Scale Tests** will be graded on demonstration of proper execution of major and minor scales.

○ Concert Reports

All band members are required to turn in one (1) concert report each semester. It is your responsibility to know when concert reports are due. Concert reports will be due by **Friday, December 15, 2017** and **Friday, May 18, 2018**. A list of acceptable concerts and critique formats are available on our website under the Forms and Docs tab.

○ Sectionals

Every section in Symphonic Band is required to have two (2) out of class sectionals each month, run by the principal player of that section. Detailed sectional expectations are available on our website under Student Resources.

PERFORMANCES

Symphonic Band is a performance-based class. Application of material covered in class is demonstrated in performance. **All performances are MANDATORY and are a part of the student's grade.** Performance dates will be given to students in a timely manner well in advance and are always available online. **Work conflicts, extra curricular sport and/or music activities or conflicts within your control, i.e. family vacations and/or trips, are not excused absences.** Missed performances due to illness are excused but require a doctor's note for verification. All other conflicts will be handled individually on their own merit and must be cleared with the Director PRIOR and WELL IN ADVANCE of the performance. Missed performances will affect a student's grade by at least two full letter grades. **No make-up work can or will be assigned for missed performances.**

GRADING BREAKDOWN

Final grades will be based on the following weighted categories and percentages for each quarter/semester:

- **REHEARSAL PROCEDURES:** 35%
- **PERFORMANCES:** 35%
- **EXAMS & HOMEWORK:** 30%

POINT BREAKDOWN

Rehearsal Procedures	2 points
Playing Exams	10 points
Reports/Midterms	20 points
Performances	50 points
Tardies:	- 1 point
Unexcused Absences	-5 points

GRADING SCALE

94-100% = A	74-76% = C
90-93% = A-	70-73% = C-
87-89% = B+	67-69% = D+
84-86% = B	64-66% = D
80-83% = B-	60-63% = D-
77-79% = C+	Below 60% = F

SYMPHONIC BAND

2017-18 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT FORM

Student Name (print please)

By signing this form you acknowledge the following:

- I have read and understand the information contained in the course syllabus and am responsible for all of the information contained in it.
- I understand the level of commitment and effort that is required as a member of this class and agree to the procedures and expectations set forth.
- My parents have read and understand the information contained in this document.
- I understand that I am required to participate in the following performances are a part of my final grade:
 - 1) **Fall Concert** (Quarter 1): Saturday, October 21, 2017
 - 2) **Winter Concert** (Quarter 2): Thursday, December 14, 2017
 - 3) **Spring Concert** (Quarter 3): Friday, March 23, 2018
 - 4) **CMEA Band Festival** (Quarter 3): Friday, March 30, 2018
 - 5) **Year-End Concert** (Quarter 4): Friday, June 1, 2018

Student Signature

Date

Parent Signature

Date