



EL CERRITO HIGH SCHOOL BANDS

Keith Johnson, Director

2018-19 SYMPHONIC BAND COURSE SYLLABUS

Class Schedule: **Mon:** Block 4A (1:41pm – 2:35pm)
 Tue: Block 4A (1:41pm – 2:35pm)
 Wed: Block 4A (12:51pm – 1:35pm)
 Thu: Block 4A (1:41pm – 2:35pm)
 Fri: Block 4A (1:41pm – 2:35pm)

Instructor: Keith Johnson
Office Hours: Daily, 10:00am -11:00am
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COURSE DESCRIPTION

Symphonic Band is a performance-based course for woodwind, brass, and percussion instrumentalists looking to continue sharpening their musical capabilities. This intermediate course focuses on strengthening individual playing ability, listening skills, music reading skills, and refining ensemble expression through carefully selected repertoire for wind band. Instrumentation is limited and an audition is required for ensemble membership. **Offsite performances, workshops, and sectionals are required of all members.**

COURSE OBJECTIVES

1. Understand the basic concepts of music including tone, melody, harmony, form, and intonation.
2. Refine individual playing ability and achieve instrumental competency.
3. Strengthen music reading skills.
4. Listen to, analyze, describe, and evaluate music using specific criteria for quality and effectiveness.
5. Demonstrate technical abilities and apply knowledge of music theory, history, and cultures through performance.

CLASSROOM EXPECTATIONS

- o Band members will contribute positively by arriving to class on time, prepared, with all required materials.
- o Students will focus on the success of the group by eliminating distractions and remaining engaged in the rehearsal. All phones, books, and electronic devices should be left in your backpack.
- o **Class time is a time to work collectively, not individually.** 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. This is the professional standard.

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.

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**

Sheet music and folders are supplied and are on loan to students for the duration of the school year. Students should keep a pencil in their folders at all times. 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 \$25 and replacement parts are \$5 each.

○ **Woodwind Players**

Woodwind players are responsible for buying their own reeds. Clarinet and saxophone players 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 **Vandoren**, however **Rico** reeds are cheaper. Medium and medium-soft double reeds from Forest Music in Berkeley are recommended for oboe and bassoon students. 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 should 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 performances is as follows:

Formal Performances

Girls: Black Dress

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

Informal Performances

Girls: Black dress pants, black blouse (no cutoff sleeves), black dress shoes

Boys: Black, 2 button suit (**must be a complete, SOLID BLACK**), white dress shirt, black necktie, black dress socks, and black dress shoes.

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

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 & ASSIGNMENTS

○ **Rehearsal Procedures**

Procedure grades are based on daily preparation and preparedness including punctuality, having all materials ready when class begins, and contributing positively to the rehearsal. Students that are consistently tardy, absent, and come to class unprepared will see a direct impact on their grade and/or be dropped from the class at the discretion of the Director.

○ **Homework**

Students are required to practice for at least 2.5 hours per week. On occasion, additional listening and written assignments may be given. Weekly practice time should be spread out daily over the course of the week. Cramming practice time into one day is highly discouraged. It is expected that students practice instrument specific exercises and etudes provided by the Director and master teachers as well as their individual parts in class. **Individual parts must be learned by the end of the fourth week of the concert cycle.** Students showing a lack of effort and/or improvement over the course of the semester will be required to submit weekly practice cards. Practice cards will require a parent signature and are to be submitted on a weekly basis through the end of the quarter. **Students that are placed on a practice card for two consecutive quarters will be dropped for the class.**

○ **Exams**

Students will demonstrate their ability to play assigned parts and exercises through playing exams. Playing exams will take place in class and online via audio recordings. On occasion, students may be given written exams. Below are the grading criteria for exams:

- **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.
- **Playing Exams** will be evaluated on note/rhythmic accuracy, intonation, tone quality, dynamics, and musicality.

○ **Concert Reports**

All band members are required to submit 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 14, 2018** and **Friday, May 17, 2019**. A list of acceptable concerts and critique formats are available on our website under the Forms and Docs tab.

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

- Playing Exams 5-25 points
- Performances 50 points
- Daily Procedures 2 points per day
- Each Tardy - 1 point
- Unexcused Absences -5 points

SYMPHONIC BAND 2018-19 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT FORM

Due on Friday, August 24, 2018

Student Name

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 20, 2018
 - 2) **Winter Concert** (Quarter 2): Thursday, December 20, 2018
 - 3) **Spring Concert** (Quarter 3): Friday, March 22, 2019
 - 4) **CMEA Band Festival** (Quarter 3): Friday, March 29, 2019
 - 5) **Year-End Concert** (Quarter 4): Friday, May 31, 2019

Student Signature

Date

Parent Signature

Date