



ECHSBANDS

2022-23 SYMPHONIC BAND COURSE SYLLABUS

Instructor:	Keith Johnson
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Remind Code:	@22-23sb
Google Classroom:	atdfbee
Class Schedule:	Mon: Block 4A (2:00pm – 2:45pm)
	Tue: Block 4A (2:00pm – 2:45pm)
	Wed: Block 4A (1:15pm – 1:55pm)
	Thu: Block 4A (2:00pm – 2:45pm)
	Fri: Block 4A (2:00pm – 2:45pm)

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, refining ensemble expression, and strengthening fundamentals through carefully selected repertoire for performance of solo, small ensemble, and wind band. Instrumentation is limited and an audition is required for ensemble membership.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

1. Understand and analyze musical concepts such as form, melody, harmony, tone, and intonation.
2. Strengthen music-reading skills and refine individual playing ability toward the collegiate level.
3. Listen to, analyze, describe, and evaluate music using specific criteria for quality and effectiveness.
4. Demonstrate technical abilities and apply knowledge of music theory, history, and cultures through individual and group performance.

CLASS STRUCTURE & EXPECTATIONS

- **Daily Class Meetings**
Class attendance is crucial for student learning and the success of the ensemble. It is expected that all students attend class daily, on time, prepared with all required materials. **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. Learning your part is your responsibility and a basic expectation.
- **Coaching Days**
We are fortunate to have professional musicians work with us twice a month. When working with our coaches you need to be on your best behavior and respect them and their time. Make the most of it!

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 acceptable. 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 (one extra for double reed players).
- **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 *(All black attire)*

Option 1: Black concert dress

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

Option 3: Black suit (**must be a complete, SOLID BLACK**), black 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

Concert Band is a performance-based class. Application of material covered in class is demonstrated in performance. **All curricular 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 can affect a student's grade by up to two full letter grades. **No make-up work can or will be assigned for missed performances.**

HOMEWORK, ASSIGNMENTS, PROJECTS, & EXAMS

- **Performances** (50 points each)
Curricular performances are considered class midterms and finals. These performances are listed below. Extra curricular performances (i.e. trips, football games, etc.) will not be graded and are optional.
 - 1) **Fall Concert** (Q1): Friday, October 14, 2022
 - 2) **Winter Concert** (Q2): Friday, December 16, 2022
 - 3) **Spring Concert** (Q3): Friday, March 17, 2023
 - 4) **CMEA Band Festival** (Q3): Friday, March 24, 2023
 - 5) **Year-End Concert** (Q4): Friday, June 2, 2023
- **Daily Practice**
Students are required to practice for at least **30 minutes a day**, Monday through Friday. It is expected that students practice instrument specific exercises and etudes (provided by the director and master teachers), individual parts for large and small ensemble projects, scales, and sight-reading. Below is a breakdown of how you should break up your practice time. **Individual parts must be learned by the end of the fourth week of the concert cycle.** Students that do not have their parts learned will be required to submit weekly practice logs.

SAMPLE PRACTICE SCHEDULE

- **Method Book/Handout Work** (10 minutes)
Technical exercises; articulations, slurs, finger dexterity, sticking, rudiments, range, etc. Pick one concept to work on (can be guided by your master teacher; ask questions!).
- **Repertoire** (10 minutes)
Repertoire can include your band music, etudes from your method books, chamber music, or anything you're working on in small ensembles.
- **Scales** (5 minutes)
Each quarter we will be working on a set of scales. Each day work one or two scales to master them. Don't try to cram scale practice on the week of a test, it won't work!
- **Sight-Reading Factory** (5 minutes)
This won't actually take you five minutes, but you need to practice sight-reading everyday.

- **Rehearsal Procedures** (2 points daily)
Procedures are based on daily preparedness by having all materials ready when class begins and participating in the warm-up and contributing positively to the rehearsal by having individual parts learned.
- **Solo Project** (16 points)
All students will select one etude/solo work as a semester project. Master teachers (instrumental coaches) will help guide students in selecting their solo repertoire. Students will perform their works at and end of the quarter/semester in an in-class recital or recorded and submitted digitally. All recital performances will be graded using the ECHS Band Performance Rubric.
- **Small Ensemble Project** (25 points)
In the spring semester, students will have the opportunity to work in small groups within their sections. Each small ensemble will select a piece to work on collectively throughout the semester. Some class time will be used for small ensemble rehearsals but students are encouraged to meet outside of class time to work on this project. A final performance will be graded using the ECHS Band Performance Rubric.
- **Recorded Assignments** (10 points each)
Recorded assignments will be assigned based on the progress of the group and/or individuals. All recorded assignments will be recorded using a cell phone or computer and submitted via Google Classroom. All assignments will be graded using our performance rubric.
- **Scale Tests** (5 points per scale)
 - Scale tests will be graded on demonstration of proper execution of major and minor scales.
 - All scales should be performed from memory.
 - You will be graded using a rubric (link to the rubric is in Google Classroom).
 - Each scale is worth 5 points.
 - Scales must be performed at least quarter note = 88 (please use a metronome) with the following rhythm:



- **Concert Reports** (20 points)
Listening to live music performances is important for all musicians. Students will submit one (1) concert report each semester in Google Classroom. Concert reports will be due by **Friday, December 9, 2022** and **Friday, May 19, 2023**. 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%
- **PROJECTS & EXAMS:** 30%