



Course Syllabus | 2025-26

Course:	Symphonic Band [P]
Instructor:	Keith Johnson
Email:	keith@echsbands.com
Slack Channel:	symphonic-band-25-26
Google Classroom:	v7e4rwb3
Class Schedule:	M, T, TH, F: 2:00pm – 2:45pm Wed: 1:14pm – 1:52pm

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

Attendance and Participation

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. Absences must be communicated via email to the director at least 24 hours prior to rehearsal. This will allow the director to adjust rehearsal plans accordingly if your absence would negatively impact the rehearsal plan.

Coaching Days

We are fortunate to have professional musicians work with throughout the school year. **On coaching days class will end at 2:55pm.** Please plan accordingly. When working with our coaches you need to be on your best behavior and respect them and their time. Make the most of it!

Rehearsal Protocol

Class time is a time to work collectively, not individually. Rehearsals 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**, therefore, all members will:

- Have their individual part prepared and ready to go at each class rehearsal.
- Bring ALL their materials for class (music, mutes, mallets, reeds, pencil, tuner, etc.)
- Warm up within the first two (2) minutes of class.
- Reserve talking during rehearsal for relevant discussion of the music being rehearsed.
- Refrain from bring food into the rehearsal space.
- Leave cell phones in designated holders (located at the front of the classroom).

A word on individual preparation: Once we have sight-read a piece, it is *your* responsibility to get your individual part down. We need to focus on the larger musical concepts in these works and not on individual intonation and technique issues. ***Mark where you will need to practice during the sight reading so that it will be taken care of by the following rehearsal.*** The director reserves the right to switch players onto solos or parts if they deem it necessary due to lack of preparation. If you encounter problems in learning your part, please schedule an appointment with the director.

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.

PERFORMANCES

Symphonic 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.

CONCERT ATTIRE

Concert attire for performances is as follows:

- Option 1:** White tuxedo shirt (wing-tip)
Bow tie & cummerbund
Black 2 button suit (slacks and suit jacket)
Black dress shoes + black socks (no athletic shoes)
- Option 2:** Black Dress (below the knee; covering the shoulders)
Black dress shoes + black socks/hose
- Option 3:** Black long-sleeved dress shirt (no patterns or colors)
Black suit (slacks and suit jacket) + Black tie
Black dress shoes + black socks (no athletic shoes)

Unacceptable Performance Attire:

- Bare shoulders or midriff
- Sweaters
- T-shirts
- Spandex leggings
- Jeans or sweatpants
- Open toed shoes/sandals
- Athletic shoes

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

HOMework, ASSIGNMENTS, PROJECTS, & EXAMS

All members of the Symphonic Band are expected to participate and contribute in all rehearsals and performances as a part of the final grade. At the director's discretion, listening, writing, or recorded assignments maybe required and a part of your grade as listed below.

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.

- 1) **Fall Concert** (Q1): Friday, October 16, 2025
- 2) **Winter Concert** (Q2): Friday, December 19, 2025
- 3) **Spring Concert** (Q3): Friday, March 20, 2026
- 4) **CMEA Band Festival** (Q3): Friday, March 27, 2026
- 5) **Year-End Concert** (Q4): Friday, May 29, 2026

Daily Practice

Students are required to practice for at least 25 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!

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 to two etudes/solo works 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 fall 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.

o **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:



GRADING BREAKDOWN

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

- o **Rehearsal Procedures and Preparation:** 40%
- o **Performances:** 40%
- o **Projects, Assignments, and Exams:** 20%