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MASTERY BAND (Wind Symphony) COURSE SYLLABUS 2024-2025

Overview

The Villa Rica High School Band Program seeks to create and foster functionally literate, independent musicians, who continually exhibit the highest level of character as ambassadors for the school. The Symphonic Band is the top tier ensemble of the Villa Rica High School Band Program. Students in this ensemble focus on refining individual skills and performing quality literature of a higher difficulty level.

This course allows students to develop and acquire mastery level skills in music reading and performance techniques. Students in this ensemble perform a variety of standard band literature from various historical and contemporary styles and genres. Students extend their knowledge of music theory, including analysis of form and style. Students continue to develop appropriate tone quality, intonation, balance, precision, phrasing, and technique. Students must demonstrate a high level of consistent sight-reading skills and respond appropriately to expression markings in the musical score. Students explore compositional and improvisational techniques of instrumental music. Assessments will be primarily performance-based; however, written assessments will be administered as well. Private lessons are highly encouraged to enhance individual performance skills. Repertoire will vary from year to year so that a student may enroll for as many as four years without repetition of material.

Requirements

- Students in the Wind Symphony will prepare and present multiple concerts per year, as noted on the band calendar.
- Students in the Wind Symphony will participate in sectionals before and/or after school, as determined by the band directors and noted on the CHARMS calendar.
- Students in the Wind Symphony will prepare the GMEA District and All State Band audition material
- Students in the Wind Symphony will participate in the Georgia Music Educators Association (GMEA)
- Large Group Performance Evaluation (LGPE) Clinic in February, and at the LGPE in March.
- Students in the Symphonic Band will prepare for the winter concert in the Fall Semester and Solo and Ensemble Performance Evaluation in April.

Ensemble Method Books

Foundations for Superior Performance, Habits of a Successful Musician, 101 Rhythmic Rest Patterns, Symphonic Warm-ups for Band, I Recommend

The band program provides the books referenced above for all students. Students must also access all other warm-ups and instructional materials below from [Google Drive](#):

Harmony Training
Fingering Charts
Circle of Fifths
Transposition Chart

Wind Symphony Chord Exercise
Flow Studies
Key Signature Chart
Staff Paper (at least 5 pages)

GMEA Scales (Symphonic Band Grades 11-12)
Part 2 No. 2
Practice Tips
Scalapalooza
Velocity

Materials

Students should be prepared with the following items daily:

Wind Players

Instrument (in good playing condition), reeds, reed saver, mouthpiece, slide cream, valve oil, tuner, pencil, three ring binder, staff paper, notebook paper

Percussionists

Refer to the percussion equipment list distributed in class or click [here](#).

Course Standards

The course standards are aligned with the National Standards for Music Education and the Georgia Standards of Excellence for band.

HSMB.CR.1 – Improvise, compose, and arrange music within specified guidelines.

HSMB.PR.1 – Sing alone or with others.

HSMB.PR.2 – Performing on instruments through a varied repertoire of music, alone and with others.

HSMB.PR.3 – Read and identify elements of notated music.

HSMB.RE.1 – Listen to, analyze, and describe music.

HSMB.RE.2 – Respond to music and music performances.

HSMB.CN.1 – Understand relationships between music, other arts, other disciplines, varied contexts, and daily life.

Rehearsal Preparation Guidelines

In an effort to create a more positive learning environment and make rehearsals more efficient, the following policies will be in effect:

12:40 PM – 12:45 PM – Students should enter the room, immediately get their instruments, and find their seats. The locker room is too small to be a hangout space. This is a fire hazard. **Students that are not in the room by 12:20 PM are tardy to class.**

12:49 PM – Students are seated, performing their individual warm-up.

12:51 PM – Group warm-up will begin. Students must have warmed up for 4-5 minutes by this time.

1:34 PM – Pack-up/Dismissal (Students are to make no more sounds on their instruments after dismissal)

Rehearsal Expectations & Etiquette

- At no point should a student distract another student's ability to learn.
- The only sounds allowed during rehearsal are musical sounds from instruments, or the director giving feedback. Students must follow proper protocol for discussion and talking during class. Students should raise their hands and wait for permission to speak.
- The time in between agenda items should be silent and should require minimal movement.
- Percussionists may not sit during the rehearsal period.
- ALL students must have their own music, instructional materials, instrument, and pencil each day.

The band directors will assess students weekly on the guidelines stated above. Students earn a total of 100 points per week for demonstrating exceptional rehearsal preparation. Students who choose not to adhere to the guidelines will lose points. The ultimate goal is to create an environment that mirrors professional musical ensembles; therefore, these expectations are in place to educate our students on being professional in their approach to rehearsal, not to punish them. High rehearsal standards will always yield high quality performances!

General Classroom Expectations & Procedures

- Students will bring instruments in good playing condition to each class meeting and rehearsal.
- Food, drinks, and chewing gum are prohibited in the band facility (water only).
- Book bags and other personal items should be stored **NEATLY** in the back of the band room.
- Use allotted time during class changes for restroom use; otherwise, restroom use is limited to emergencies only.
- Practice all evacuation and emergency procedures in a serious manner.

Consequences

- Step 1 – Verbal warning
- Step 2 – Teacher-student conference
- Step 3 – Parent contact via telephone or E-mail
- Step 4 – After school detention assigned by band director
- Step 5 – Office referral

Rewards

- Verbal praise and encouragement
- Positive notes and phone calls to parents
- Special recognition at the annual band banquet
- Selection for special performances and activities

Cell Phone Policy

- Cell phone use is strictly prohibited during rehearsal and instructional time.
- Cell phone use will be restricted to specific assignments. Students will be notified in advance as to when they may use their devices in class. Otherwise, cell phones should be stored in bookbags.

Rehearsals and Performances

- All rehearsals and performances are mandatory. Dates for rehearsals and performances are posted on the calendar in CHARMS.
- Any student who anticipates an absence from an after-school rehearsal or performance must fill out an [Absence Request](#) form. This form must be completed online and the directors must be notified via E-mail and in person one week prior to any anticipated absence. Please note that submitting the form does not guarantee that the absence will be considered excused.
- An absence will only be considered excused for one of the following reasons:
 1. Illness requiring an absence from school
 2. Death or serious illness in the immediate family
 3. Major religious observance
- **Personal conflicts such as work, homework, family vacation, birthday celebrations, etc. are NOT excused.**
- Students with an **unexcused** absence from a rehearsal will receive a zero.
- Students with an **unexcused** absence from a performance will be provided a make-up assignment. The assignment will be due one week after the date of the missed performance.

Concert Attire

Formal concert attire is required by all students in the Villa Rica High School Band Program.

Students will wear this attire several times throughout the school year for performances at the school, the Carroll County Performing Arts Center, District Honor Band, and LGPE. Please click [here](#) for more details and attire pricing.

School-Owned Instruments

Students playing school-owned instruments must fill out the Instrument Maintenance Contract before the instrument is issued for the year. The annual maintenance fee is \$100.00. Please click [here](#) to access the form. If the instrument is damaged, lost, or stolen while in the student's care, the student and his/her parents are responsible for the cost to repair or replace the instrument.

Band Class Curriculum Enrichment Fee

In order to maximize student achievement and performance level, the VRHS Band Boosters will assess a curriculum enrichment fee of \$125.00 for *band class only participants*. This fee should be made payable to VRHS Band Boosters. The funds are utilized to purchase music, method books, equipment, hire band clinicians, section coaches, and cover Large Group Performance Evaluation (LGPE) registration costs. The fee will also cover the cost of a band t-shirt.

Instrument Lockers

Lockers are available to all students. Please store your instrument in your assigned locker. Instrument locker use is limited to instruments and accessories. Please do not store food, clothing, books, etc. in this area. **Students will be assessed a \$10.00 replacement fee if a padlock is lost or misplaced.**

Grading Policy & Assessment

Individual and ensemble skill assessments will occur daily. The band director will administer formal and informal assessments, using the recording studio in Charms and Google Classroom. In class performances and section placement assessments will occur throughout the year.

100-90 = A 89-80 = B 79-71 = C 70 = D BELOW 70 = F

Formative Assessments (60%)	Summative Assessments (40%)
Daily Participation, Quizzes, Listening Tests, Rehearsals	Performances, Recording Assignments, Final Exam

Academic Dishonesty

Cheating is strictly prohibited. Any student found guilty of cheating will receive a zero on the assignment and may face administrative consequences.

Remediation

Students may remediate written and performance-based assessments at the discretion of the director.

Class Syllabus Parent and Student Acknowledgement (Please sign by Friday, August 2nd)

It is the intent of this class to provide a positive experience through the performance of quality musical literature. It is necessary to have a set of guidelines, procedures, and expectations in order to achieve the highest level of success in the music classroom. Our intent is to assist all students who have difficulties adapting to the rehearsal environment. Discipline concerns will be handled in the most expedient ways possible, according to the CCSS Code of Conduct. Students that choose to behave in a manner that disrupts the learning environment and culture of excellence may be subject to dismissal from the band.

I have read and understand the syllabus concerning the Villa Rica High School Band Program and agree to follow all policies contained within.

Please click [here](#) to electronically sign the acknowledgement

**The directors reserve the right to alter this syllabus in the interest of more effective instruction.*