

## 2023 - 2024 Symphonic Band Syllabus - Period 3A/3B (10:15am - 11:09am)

“Be who you want your band to be.” - Dr. Matthew Arau, Lawrence University

**Long-Term Goals** - Symphonic Band is a safe, inclusive, and positive learning environment for all 10th - 12th grade students to improve their musicianship, leadership, communication, and life skills through rehearsals, performances, lessons, and assessments as an individual and an ensemble.

**Materials** - Students are required to have all of the following materials everyday for rehearsal.

- Instrument: This includes all of the necessary accessories to clean and maintain the condition of your instrument. **ALL INSTRUMENTS SHOULD BE PROFESSIONALLY CLEANED BEFORE SCHOOL STARTS.**
- Folder with assigned sheet music.
- Habits of a Successful Musician - Already purchased by students except for the class of 2024.
- Pencil (Should be on your stand during every rehearsal and every lesson).

**Instruments** - All students are expected to have their own instrument and materials listed above so they have the ability to play in school and at home. If students need to rent an instrument or any of the materials listed above, please contact Mr. Westley.

**Instrument Care** - Instruments are expensive and we want to make sure that our instruments are well taken care of so we can perform to the best of our ability. Students should be consistently cleaning their instruments after rehearsals and performances.

- **Brass Instruments:** Make sure valves and slides are oiled/greased properly. Instruments should not have any dents. If they have dents, please take it to get professionally cleaned and fixed. Do not attempt to fix anything or pull out a stuck mouthpiece on your own.
- **Woodwind Instruments:** Should have all of their pads working properly and have reeds in great condition. Students should not be playing on chipped, rotten, or warped reeds/mouthpieces.
  - **STUDENTS SHOULD HAVE A MINIMUM OF 2 REEDS IN ROTATION AND 2 SPARE REEDS READY TO USE.**
  - Students should also have a reed case to preserve each reed so they will last longer and play better.
- **Percussion Instruments:** All of the percussion instruments you need will be at the HS. Students need to make sure that they have proper sticks/mallets for each percussion instrument. If you need any recommendations, please let me know. Percussion instruments need to be put away properly **AFTER EACH AND EVERY USE** and there should be no sticks/mallets or music left out after each rehearsal and performance. Percussion students will clean and organize the percussion section after each rehearsal and performance. **It is the percussionists' job to take care of our percussion equipment before and after rehearsals and performances.**

**Communication** – Most communication will be done through the [Band Website](#), Google Classroom, Remind, Email, and Skyward. Please make sure you are constantly checking these sources to get the latest updates on concerts, lessons, etc.

**Google Classroom** - All concert band students must be signed up for google classroom with their school email account. We will be posting information about performances, rehearsals, music, assignments, and any necessary communication. **The code to get into google classroom is x53n3kv.**

**Attendance/Timeliness** – All rehearsals, lessons, and concerts are required. Students are expected to be in the performance space in their seats with all their materials ready to warm up by 10:19am. If a student is not ready to perform when the downbeat is given, they will be marked tardy. It is important to be on time and to be at rehearsal.

**Practice vs. Rehearsal** – Practice is personal preparation for the rehearsal. When the song is learned by individuals in practice, the rehearsal then becomes about the team working together to shape each song and each segue into a collective experience for everyone involved. Practice is personal. Rehearsal is relational. It is vital that every student comes to rehearsal prepared so all of our members are successful.

**The Rehearsal/Performance Spaces** - It is very important that the ensemble maintains the quality of our equipment and our spaces. Students will take ownership of their space to improve the quality of rehearsals.

**Food/Drink** – You may bring your own water to rehearsal. **All other items are prohibited in any rehearsal, performance, or practice space.**

**Music Open Lab** - This is a fantastic opportunity given to all music students to get help and build an outstanding community of positive people. In order to keep this amazing opportunity for future and current students, we need to make sure that we are constantly building a successful, inclusive, and respectful community. Make sure you sign in at the scanner found in the big band room before the period starts. You are NOT allowed to come to the music commons from 10:15am - 11:09am. Students who are not using their time effectively will not be allowed to use this privilege.

**Practice Rooms** - We are very fortunate to have adequate space to practice our instruments individually and as a group. Students are allowed to use practice rooms for actively practicing only. Two stands and two chairs should be left in the practice room when finished using the practice room.

**Respect** - All students are welcomed to play, perform and excel in this group. We are to treat everyone with kindness. We are all here to support each other and to help each other become better people and better musicians. The only way we will find success is if we understand that we are all in this together and want to make the world a better place. You cannot control the events that take place, but you can control your response to produce the best outcome possible.

**“All of us, at some time or other, need help. Whether we’re giving or receiving help, each one of us has something valuable to bring to this world. That’s one of the things that connects us as neighbors-in our own way, each one of us is a giver and a receiver.” - Mr. Fred Rogers**

**Performances** - Students will be notified well in advance of a given performance. Students are required to be at all performances in the correct attire.

**Concert Dress** – All students need to wear appropriate “Concert Black” attire that will allow the audience to focus on the music the ensemble is performing. Options are listed below for appropriate concert attire. All options require all students to wear black, floor length bottoms with black dress shoes, black dress socks and at least a crew cut top. If you need more clarification on this policy, please contact Mr. Westley.

- **Option 1** - Please wear a black button down dress shirt, black dress pants, black dress shoes, black socks, black belt.
- **Option 2** - Please wear a black suit coat, white button-down shirt, black bowtie, black dress pants, black dress shoes, and black socks.
- **Option 3** - Please wear floor black (dress or pants) with a crew cut top (or cardigan) and dress shoes (heels, shoes, or flats). Your uniform should be all black. A knee length black dress (with crew cut top guidelines) with black leggings underneath is also acceptable.

**Grading Policy** – Mr. Westley will be the teacher to contact about all grades in Symphonic Band.

- **Concerts (30 points)** – Attendance at all concerts are required. A concert is considered a major assessment tool in all fine arts curriculums. The only excuses allowed for a missed concert is a personal illness or family emergency. Working or vacations will not be accepted as valid excuses. In order to earn full credit for performances, students must arrive on time in the correct concert attire, play to the best of their ability, and attend the entire duration of the performance.
- **Assessments/Assignments/Rehearsal Decorum (5 - 30 points)** – Written and performance formal assessments will be given periodically throughout the school year. Students will be notified at least one week in advance for any assessments.
- **Lessons (15 points)** – All students in Symphonic Band are required to participate in individual or small group lessons once per week. It is the student’s responsibility to make sure that the student fulfills the lesson requirements each week. It is very difficult to make up missed lessons due to our busy schedules, so it is imperative you know when your lesson is scheduled.

**Community Guidelines** - During our first rehearsal, symphonic band students will create a set of guidelines for all of us to follow. [Here is the link to our completed community guidelines.](#)

**Mr. Graham P. Westley - [graham.westley@slingerschools.org](mailto:graham.westley@slingerschools.org) - (262) 551-5261 x1044**

## Symphonic Band Syllabus Signature Sheet

Please return this page by Friday, November 10th

I have read and understand the guidelines set forth in this syllabus. Return this page to your band director.

Student Name (Print): \_\_\_\_\_

Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

\*The band might travel to an event this year using school-supplied transportation. Please consider the signed syllabus as a "Permission Slip" to travel to all band events. Any type of travel will be notified well in advance.

Parents,

Throughout the School Year, the band needs various parent volunteers. Many (but not all) volunteer opportunities are run through SAMBA. Please mark any events in which you would be willing to help.

- SAMBA Fish Fry
- Band Night Fundraiser (Friday, September 15th)
- Passing out water at parades or other events
- Pulling the SAMBA trailer to various events (8.5' x 24') (6,500lbs fully loaded with brake assist)
- Jazz Fest (TBD)
- Solo and Ensemble (TBD)
- SAMBA Fundraiser (TBD)

Parents, if you checked any of the above boxes, please print your name below, and provide cell phone number and email address.

Parent/Guardian Name (print): \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Name (print): \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

# 2023 - 2024 Symphonic Band Performance Dates

\*Performance dates and time are subject to change. Students, please make sure to communicate with your parents about concert dates, concert attire, and arrival times.

<u>Event</u>	<u>Performance Time</u>	<u>Student Arrival Time</u>
● <b>Holiday Band Concert</b>	<b>Monday, December 11th - 7:30pm</b>	<b>7:00pm in Big Band Room</b>
● <b>Midwinter Band Concert</b>	<b>Monday, February 12th - 7:30pm</b>	<b>7:00pm in Big Band Room</b>
● <b>Solo and Ensemble</b>	<b>Saturday, February 24th</b>	<b>Appointed time at SHS</b>
● <b>Joint Concert with UWM</b>	<b>TBD</b>	<b>TBD</b>
● <b>Spring Band Concert</b>	<b>Wednesday, April 17th - 7:30pm</b>	<b>7:00pm in Big Band Room</b>
● <b>SAMBA Fish Fry</b>	<b>TBD</b>	<b>TBD</b>
● <b>SHS Mandatory Band Camp</b>	<b>August 5th - 9th, 2024</b>	<b>Afternoons</b>