

CONCERT BAND SYLLABUS

Teacher: Mr. Jake Cuppernull | 4th Block: 1:47-3:16 PM

Riverheads HS Fine Arts Dept. | cuppernull.jb@augusta.k12.va.us

Course Overview

The Riverheads High School Concert Band course is a performance-based class designed for students who play a wind or percussion instrument and wish to grow as musicians through ensemble, small-group, and individual performance. This course emphasizes the development of individual technique, ensemble skills, musical literacy, and artistic expression. Students will study and perform a diverse repertoire of band literature, from traditional marches to contemporary works.

As part of the Riverheads HS Concert Band, students will also gain music theory, history, and technology resources and skills. Assignments will be both playing-/performance-based and group or individual project-based. Music is a creative space, and students will learn about different ways that they can express themselves that have to do with more than just playing an instrument.

Course Objectives

Members of the Riverheads HS Concert Band will . . .

- Improve technical proficiencies on their select instrument(s) (tone, intonation, finesse, articulation)
- Develop broader ensemble performance skills (balance, blend, sound quality)
- Strengthen general musical abilities (music-reading, rhythmic knowledge, tempo, pulse)
- Actively engage with and work on their sight-reading abilities
- Generate new practice resources (how to productively practice at home, resources we can use, etc.)
- Be exposed to different types of external musical aspects (music theory, music history, technology)
- Demonstrate responsibility, collaboration, and discipline through ensemble performance
- Contribute their best efforts every rehearsal so we can form a unanimous, polished concert product

Course Materials

Members of the Riverheads HS Concert Band will need to have with them their . . .

- Instrument (either personal or school-provided)
- Folder w/ ALL music (school-provided)
- Chromebook (CHARGED!)
- Pencil
- Extra instrument supplies (reeds, cork/slide grease, slide/valve oil, cleaning swabs, neckstraps, etc.)
- Uniform *for concerts* (dresses are *school-provided*, everything else is NOT)

Assignments

Students will be assigned work based on the content that we're covering in class or rehearsal. This could look like a playing test/learning check from a passage of music that we're rehearsing, a project relating to lecture-based material, or sight-reading examples. Examples of assignments could include the following:

- Brief presentation/come up with a game on music history or music theory concept
- Play & Record Measures 49-72 of *piece of music*
- Worksheet or group project on musical emotions and feelings

Assessments

Students will be assessed four times throughout the year. Two of these assessments will be projects or larger-scale playing tests, and the other two will be culminating concerts that the Concert Band shares with various other musical groups at RHS. Dates for these concerts are listed on *Page 4*.

Grades

The Riverheads HS Concert Band course adopts the RHS 10-point grading scale as well as specific weighing policies for certain categories that students will be assessed on. The grading scale is as follows:

<u>RHS 10-Point Grading Scale</u>		<u>RHS Grade Percentage Weights</u>	
98-100% : A+	78-79% : C+	%	Category
92-97% : A	72-77% : C	40%	Major Assessments (Projects, Concerts)
90-91% : A-	70-71% : C-	30%	Minor Assessments (Some playing tests, SR)
88-89% : B+	68-69% : D+	20%	Participation (Preparation, attendance, etc.)
82-87% : B	62-67% : D	10%	Practice (Playing quizzes, etc.)
80-81% : B-	60-61% : D-	**Note: Specific assignments will be posted online via Canvas and all grades will be posted in Infinite Campus for students & families to view and access.	
0-59% : F			

Communication Platforms & Methods

All students and parents will be using ParentSquare to communicate with Mr. Cuppernull regarding any updates, absences, or other related points of information. More information will come soon as we dive into the school year and transition fully to this new ACPS-sponsored platform. Mr. Cuppernull will also send a band newsletter home at the start of each month via email to ensure all families are up to speed with all information.

Please email Mr. Cuppernull at cuppernull.jb@augusta.k12.va.us with any other questions. Email is the preferred method of contact, as students' digital school accounts are synced with their Google accounts.

Classroom Expectations

Members of the Riverheads HS Concert Band are expected to . . .

- Be on time and arrive prepared with all materials, music, and resources needed for rehearsal
- Actively engage with others, participate in class, and put forth their best efforts to strive for success
- Treat one another and all music/instruments/other resources with respect and care
- ***PRACTICE NECESSARY PARTS OUTSIDE OF OUR CLASS PERIOD***
- Abide by both classroom rules and Augusta County Public Schools policies

Failure to comply with these expectations will result in behavior referrals, followed by conferences with student/parents/RHS administration. All students are subject and expected to abide by ***all*** RHS/ACPS policies.

Content and Instruction

To adhere to the Virginia Music Standards of Learning, part of each class period will be dedicated to a specific area of music that isn't related to playing instruments and rehearsing concert literature. Every day of the week will have its own focal point and students will be exposed to both new and familiar concepts relating to that point. The daily points of focus are as follows:

Monday: Music Theory &/or Music History	Tuesday: Fundamentals (playing instruments)	Wednesday: Audition Preparation (insts.)	Thursday: Extensive concert music prep.	Friday: Variety/Game of some sort
--	--	---	--	--------------------------------------

The point of this is to ensure that students are getting as much exposure to all things music as possible. An added bonus of this incentive is also that students are able to remain focused and engaged the entire time, so that students aren't simply playing their concert music for the entire 89-minute class period.

In terms of playing, students will be challenged with different levels and styles of music. In the Spring, the Riverheads HS Concert Band will participate in ***VBODA State Concert Assessment***, where we will take Grade IV music to perform for a panel of judges and receive a rating. To prepare for this, we will start by reading challenging pieces of music to incentivize diligent practicing and striving for success with new opportunities.

ACPS Non-Discrimination Statement

The Augusta County School Board does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, marital status, pregnancy, childbirth or related medical conditions, age, status as a veteran, national origin, or disability in its programs and activities and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups. The following persons have been designated to handle inquiries regarding non-discrimination policies:

Title IX Coordinator
Robert Lunger
Executive Director of Communication and
Administrative Services
540-245-5114

Section 504 Coordinator
Miranda M. Ball, Ed.D.
Deputy Superintendent
540-245-5108

PERFORMANCE & AUDITION DATES | FALL 2026

- Fall Band Concert: ***Monday, October 19***
 - RHS Auditorium | 7:00 PM
 - More details will be shared with students as we get closer to the concert
- MS Valley Honor Band Auditions: ***Wednesday, October 28***
 - **Riverheads HS** | Immediately After-School
 - ***As many students as possible are expected to help out with this event!***
- HS Valley Honor Band Auditions: ***Wednesday, November 11***
 - **Riverheads HS** | Times are TBD (likely will need all hands on deck after school)
 - Students are NOT required but HEAVILY ENCOURAGED to audition!
 - VHB event w/ Concert: *January 29-30 @ Stuarts Draft HS*
- District 5 Band Auditions: ***Saturday, December 5***
 - Waynesboro HS | Early in the morning (times are TBD)
 - Students are NOT required but HEAVILY ENCOURAGED to audition!
 - District Band event w/ Concert: *February 5-6 @ Staunton HS*
- After-School Practice: ***Wednesday, December 9***
 - RHS Auditorium | 6:30-8:00 PM
 - ***ALL STUDENTS MUST ATTEND THIS REHEARSAL!***
- Winter Fine Arts Concert: ***Thursday, December 10***
 - RHS Auditorium | 7:00 PM
 - More details will be shared with students as we get closer to the concert

***QUESTIONS? REACH OUT TO MR. CUPPERNULL!
LET'S HAVE A GREAT SCHOOL YEAR!***

SYLLABUS CONTRACT

PLEASE RETURN TO MR. CUPPERNULL BY MONDAY, AUGUST 17

I have read the course syllabus for the Riverheads HS Concert Band class, and I understand the expectations and the guidelines set forth. I understand that it is my responsibility to mark the concert dates in my calendar once they are set.

Parent's First & Last Name (please print)

Parent's Signature

Date

Student's First & Last Name (please print)

Student's Signature

Date

PLEASE RETURN TO MR. CUPPERNULL BY MONDAY, AUGUST 17

THIS CONTRACT WILL BE COUNTED AS THE FIRST PRACTICE GRADE