



Willow Spring High School Bands

1704 Old Honeycutt Road | Fuquay-Varina, NC 27526

Kevin M. Still, director

Phone: (919) 694-8030 | kstill@wcpss.net

August 26, 2025

Dear Symphonic Band student and parent,

This letter is to provide information regarding Honors credit for concert band classes. Honors credit is applied to students enrolled in the Proficient or Advanced levels of band. Students enrolled in these sections would receive an additional $\frac{1}{2}$ point to their GPA. Honors credit for band requires additional practice commitments and musical study. Students should review Honors credit requirements below and select a course of study to follow. Please note that Honor credit sections are heavily independent, and students will be held to very high standards in terms of creative output, musical learning and deadlines. The band office will inform the guidance department of any course changes; students may not register for Honors credit without permission from the director.

Course Numbers

Advanced Band Honors (52585X0AF)

Accomplished Band Honors (52575X0AF)

Requirements

Honors credit is available each semester for the Symphonic Band. Students apply for Honors credit using the forms provided through the band office. **Once notified of acceptance, students will be required to complete three (3) components within the established guidelines and deadlines in order to receive full credit.** Students who do not successfully complete all components will receive a lower grade in band class. A list of suggested components are included with this packet.

How many semesters can I do Honors Credit?

Honors credit is available each semester for students enrolled in an upper level concert band at WSHS. Wind Ensemble is automatic honors credit. Symphonic Band has the option of honors credit each semester. Concert Band does not have the option for honors credit.

Please let me know if you have any questions!

Yay Band!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "K. M. Still".

Kevin M. Still
Director of Bands
Willow Spring High School



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Willow Spring High School Band Honors Credit Application

Name _____ Grade _____

Instrument _____ Total # of Semesters in Band Class _____

Current GPA _____ Graduation plans _____

Guidance Counselor: _____

Class Schedule for fall semester

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

Are you in the Marching Band during the fall semester? YES NO

List any clubs or additional after-school ensembles you participate in.

I have read and understand the requirements for receiving honors credit for band class. I understand that failure to complete at least 3 activities will result in a lower letter grade (one letter grade per missing activity). I understand that Mr. Still must approve any activities not on the provided list.

Parent Signature: _____ Date: _____

Student Signature: _____ Date: _____

Director Signature: _____ Date: _____



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Band Honors Assignments

Students are to choose three (3) activities and complete them. Please make sure that you complete all components or you will receive a lower letter grade in band! Let Mr. Still know if you have any questions! All components are due by the scheduled exam period for each band class.

1. Participate in Marching Band, Winter Guard, or Jazz Band and write a 2-page, 12-font, double-spaced reflection on your experiences as a member. *You may write about only one after school activity.*
2. Complete three levels of *Master Theory* by Charles S. Peters and Paul Yoder.
3. Research information about a composer who lived during the Baroque, Classical or Romantic period (1650 – 1800) and look at how their music influenced future composers.
 - a. Turn in a paper explaining your findings. Paper must be 2 pages *minimum*, 3 pages *maximum*, 12-font, double spaced, Times New Roman, MLA heading.
 - b. Things to think about: How did the composer evoke emotions in their audience? How did that composer influence music theory?
4. Participate in an honor band that is approved by Mr. Still (examples: Triangle Youth Brass Bands, UNC Honor Bands, Youth Orchestras, etc.).
5. Attend two (2) formal band/orchestra concerts outside of Willow Spring High and write a 1-page, 12-font, double-spaced review of the concert. What music did they play? Did the music follow a theme? Did the ensemble play musically?
 - a. See the band office for potential concert dates/times.
6. Perform a solo for the class. The solo must be at least one minute in length and be of appropriate difficulty.
7. Practice a *minimum* of 100 minutes per week OUTSIDE of class time for a total of 6 weeks (600 total minutes). Practice logs must be turned in showing time practiced as well as *what* was practiced.
8. Research information about a professional musician who plays your instrument. Give details about their schooling, genre choice, teaching career, important performances, etc.
 - a. Turn in a paper explaining your findings. Paper must be 2 pages *minimum*, 3 pages *maximum*, 12-font, double spaced, Times New Roman, MLA heading.
9. Individual Student Project. Must be pre-approved by Mr. Still.



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PRACTICE RECORD

Name _____

Quarter _____

Mon.

Tues.

Wed.

Thurs.

Fri.

Sat.

Sun.

Wk 1:

Wk 2:

Wk 3:

Wk 4:

Wk 5:

Wk 6:

Wk 7:

Wk 8:

Wk 9:

TOTAL: _____

Student Signature _____

Parent Signature _____



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Practice Record Ground Rules

- 1) Practice must be performed on the instrument played in band class during the quarter, unless permission is granted by the director. (Not necessarily the specific instrument; e.g., baritones/tubas can use marching instruments at home, percussion can use pads.)
- 2) You must practice consistently; i.e., practice the required amount of time each week.
- 3) Only time "allotted for practice" during band class may be counted in your record, not full band rehearsals. Also, time spent with a private instructor is NOT practice time.
- 4) You may practice with a partner or in a small group.

Practice Tips

- 1) Schedule a consistent time to practice. Make it a habit.
- 2) Practice in a quiet location, with as little distraction as possible.
- 3) Always practice with good posture; use a music stand!
- 4) Tools of the trade: pencil, metronome, tuner, mirror.
- 5) It is much better to practice 3-4 days per week for 30-45 minutes than 1 day per week for 1.5 hrs.
- 6) Develop a routine:
 - a. warmup (long tones, lip slurs, slow scales/arpeggios)
 - b . technical work (slow-fast with a metronome/always strive for evenness of rhythm and consistency of tone)
 - c. excerpts from band music (work on passages that need attention, including lyrical passages; work on tone, phrasing and dynamics.)
 - d. play-throughs (to build endurance)
 - e. sight-reading/fun music (to keep it fresh and reward a good practice session)
- 7) Keep a journal of progress. Note passages practiced, metronome markings, etc.
- 8) Record yourself!



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Band Honors *Course of Study*

These *Courses of Study* are designed to allow students to put together different components in a way that helps them focus on a particular subject matter in music. Students may find an area of particular interest and use these *Courses of Study* to pursue that interest. Students do not have to adhere strictly to each *Course of Study*. These are suggestions and a good place to start! Ask Mr. Still questions if you have them!

Music Theory

1. Practice a *minimum* of 50 minutes per week OUTSIDE of class time. Practice logs must be turned in showing time practiced as well as *what* was practiced.
2. Complete three levels of *Master Theory* by Charles S. Peters and Paul Yoder.
3. Research information about a composer who lived during the Baroque, Classical or Romantic period (1650 – 1800) and look at how they used music theory to write their music.
 - a. Turn in a paper explaining your findings. Paper must be 2 pages *minimum*, 3 pages *maximum*, 12-font, double spaced, Times New Roman, MLA heading.
 - b. Things to think about: How did the composer utilize music theory to evoke emotions in their audience? How did that composer influence music theory?
4. Write a 1 page review on a song from the pop, country or rock genres and discuss the music theory used to write the song. Review must be double spaced, Times New Roman and 12-point font.

Music Composition

1. Practice a *minimum* of 50 minutes per week OUTSIDE of class time. Practice logs must be turned in showing time practiced as well as *what* was practiced.
2. Complete three levels of *Master Theory* by Charles S. Peters and Paul Yoder.
3. Write a composition lasting at least one minute of music. Compositions must have a stated theme and may be written for any instrumentation. Compositions may be performed for the class at the end of the semester.
4. Research information about a composer who lived during the Baroque, Classical or Romantic period (1650 – 1800) and look at several of their compositions
 - a. Turn in a paper explaining your findings. Paper must be 2 pages *minimum*, 3 pages *maximum*, 12-font, double spaced, Times New Roman, MLA heading.
 - b. Things to think about: What style did the composer utilize to evoke emotions in their audience? What techniques did the composer use in writing?



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Music Performance

1. Practice a *minimum* of 100 minutes per week OUTSIDE of class time. Practice logs must be turned in showing time practiced as well as *what* was practiced.
2. Perform a solo for the class. The solo must be at least one minute in length and be of appropriate difficulty.
3. Perform at least twice in a community function *outside* of the band program. Examples could be churches, retirement homes, festivals, honor bands, etc. Photos of the performance must be submitted along with a 1 page review on how the performance was prepared and how it went. Review must be double spaced, Times New Roman and 12-point font.
4. Research information about a professional musician who plays your instrument. Give details about their schooling, genre choice, teaching career, important performances, etc.
 - a. Turn in a paper explaining your findings. Paper must be 2 pages *minimum*, 3 pages *maximum*, 12-font, double spaced, Times New Roman, MLA heading.

World Music Studies

1. Practice a *minimum* of 50 per week OUTSIDE of class time. Practice logs must be turned in showing time practiced as well as *what* was practiced.
2. Find 7 videos from YouTube regarding World music and cultures (Mr. Still can provide suggestions). In a notebook, review in each video, focusing on questions like "What country of origin?" or "What is the cultural significance of this music?". Finish by comparing and contrasting a different culture's music to Western style music.
3. Research information about a professional musician who plays your instrument. Give details about their education, genre choice, teaching career, important performances, etc.
 - a. Turn in a paper explaining your findings. Paper must be 2 pages *minimum*, 3 pages *maximum*, 12-font, double spaced, Times New Roman, MLA heading.
4. Pick music from a country you are not familiar with and listen to it. Write a one page review describing what you hear, how it is produced and what it's used for (ceremonial, religious, celebrations, etc.). Review must be double spaced, Times New Roman and 12-point font.