

Percussion 2 Class Syllabus

Instructor: Mr. Del Moro

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Classroom: Instrumental Music Building

Course Description

Welcome to Percussion 2! This rigorous course is designed for experienced percussionists seeking to refine their skills, explore advanced techniques, and tackle challenging repertoire. We will delve deeply into the demands of competitive marching band, as well as the intricate artistry of percussion ensemble and concert band playing. Students will cultivate exceptional technique, sophisticated musicality, leadership qualities, and advanced ensemble skills, preparing them for collegiate-level music programs and professional performance opportunities.

Course Goals

By the end of this course, students will be able to:

- Demonstrate highly refined grip, posture, and advanced technique on a wide array of percussion instruments.
- Read and interpret complex rhythmic and melodic notation, including multi-meter and polyrhythmic passages.
- Perform competitive marching band show music with exceptional precision, uniformity, and musical expression.
- Perform advanced concert band and percussion ensemble literature with nuanced musicality and stylistic authenticity.
- Master percussion instrument care, maintenance, and tuning (e.g., timpani, mallet instruments).
- Develop highly effective and efficient individual practice habits, including goal setting and self-assessment.

Materials Needed

- **Percussion Sticks/Mallets:** A basic set of snare sticks is required (e.g., Vic Firth SD1 General or IP-LDs) and a pair of medium-hard rubber mallets (for bells/xylophone) is suggested.
- **Pencil:** Always bring a pencil to class for marking music.

- **3-Ring Binder/Sheet Protectors:** For organizing music and handouts.
- **Metronome:** Highly recommended for home practice.
- **Appropriate Clothing:** Comfortable shoes for marching band activities. and closed toed shoes.

Grading Policy

Grades will reflect a student's mastery of advanced concepts, leadership, and consistent high-level performance.

- **Daily (30%):** Active engagement in class, materials, positive attitude, preparedness, and consistent effort during rehearsals.
- **Playing Tests (25%):** Demonstrated mastery of assigned material through individual playing tests.
- **Performances (25%):** Successful performance and attendance at concerts/games.
- **Rehearsal (20%):** Participation in afterschool rehearsals.

Practice Expectations

Consistent practice is the cornerstone of musical improvement. Students are expected to practice **at least 20-30 minutes, 4-5 days a week** outside of class. This time should be focused and productive, working on assigned material and addressing individual technical challenges. Quality of practice is more important than quantity.

Communication

I encourage open communication between students, parents, and myself. Please do not hesitate to contact me via email if you have any questions or concerns. Regular updates on student progress and upcoming events will be shared through Aspen, Canvas, and the DB band email updates.