

George Washington High School

Course Syllabus



Course Name: Symphonic Band

Instructor Name: Cody Kesling

Contact Information: Call or email me with any questions or concerns.

- School Phone: **434-799-6410**
- School Fax: **434-799-5251**
- Room number: **E117 - Band Room**
- Email address: ckesling@mail.dps.k12.va.us
- Website: gwband.org (Band App Link at the end)
- Planning Period/Office Hours: 3rd and 4th Planning, 11:00 - 1:00

Course Description and VDOE Standards/Topics:

The Symphonic Band's emphasis is on training the individual students for advanced performance techniques.

Individual practice and numerous performances are required. Members are given the same opportunities as Wind Ensemble members, including the opportunity to audition for district bands and honor ensembles.

Course Competencies/Learning Objectives:

- Develop music literacy through practice and performance.
- Develop a system of sight reading for pitch and rhythm.
- Develop fundamental techniques for mastery of characteristic tone quality for their instrument.
- Prepare and perform music at Grades 2 - 4
- Perform music in small and large ensembles.
- Develop strategies for individual and small group practice.

Major Assignments:

- **Major Scale Pass Off Project** - October 2nd, 2026
- **Holiday Band Concert** - December 1st, 2026 at 7 pm
- **PreAssessment Concert** - March 2nd, 2027 at 7 pm
- **Concert Assessment** - March 11th and 12th, 2027
- **Spring Band Concert** - May 4th, 2027 at 7pm
- **Graduation Performance** - Final Exam - May 21st 2027 at 9am

Student Evaluation:

- (Gold) Tests, Projects, Labs, Final Essays 40 %
See Major Assignments
- (Silver) Quizzes, Lab Reports 35 %
Afterschool Rehearsals/Sectionals, Weekly playing tests on musical excerpts, written quizzes
- (Bronze) Classwork and Homework 25 %
Daily written work, Daily playing assessments

A = 90-100% | B = 89-80% | C = 79-70% | D = 69-60% | F = 59-0%

- **Final Exams** will count for 10% of the overall grade for each high school course.
 - Courses with Standards of Learning end-of -course assessments will count this test as the final exam and must calculate the score as 10% of the final grade

Student Goal:

During the 2026–2027 school year, all students will actively engage with High-Quality Instructional Materials (HQIM) and instruction provided by the teacher to earn a final course grade of 80% or higher, maintain 90% or greater attendance in the course, and pass the applicable End-of-Course SOL assessment or gain industry credential.

Promotion Requirements:

In alignment with the Virginia High School League, individual student promotion shall be based upon satisfactory performance as follows:

Grade Level	Required Credits
9th	0-5
10th	6
11th	12
12th	18

Promotion is based upon earned units of credits. Before a student can graduate, he or she must earn the required credits as indicated below:

1. To be classified as a 10th grader, a student must have earned a minimum of six (6) standard units of credit to include three credits, which must be from the disciplines of English, mathematics, science, history, or physical education.
2. To be classified as an 11th grader, a student must have earned a minimum of twelve (12) standards of credit to include six credits which must be from the disciplines of English, mathematics, science, history, or physical education.
3. To be classified as a 12th grader, a student must have earned a minimum of eighteen (18) standard units of credit, including ten credits, which must be from the disciplines of English, mathematics, science, history, or physical education.
4. Five (5) verified credits (i.e., English (2), mathematics (1), science (1), and history (1) are graduation requirements for the Advanced Diploma and Standard Diploma). Minimally, students are expected to earn verified credits as follows:
 - i. 9th grade earns at least one verified credit
 - ii. 10th grade earns at least two verified credits
 - iii. 11th grade earns at least two verified credits in English

Please be aware that you can keep track of your student's grades, assignments, and attendance by using your Parent Portal account. Homework is posted each week on our school webpage under the teacher's name. Please contact your student's school counselor or grade level administrator if you need help navigating our school website, a Parent Portal activation code, or assistance accessing the Parent Portal.

Course Requirements:

- **Students need to either own their own instrument or rent from GWHS.**
 - **Instrument usage fee is \$20 - for the SY 26-27**
- **Students must practice at home.**
- All homework should be completed as assigned.
- All students should be ready to participate in all class activities.
- All students will be expected to use appropriate classroom etiquette.
- All students are expected to be respectful, responsible, and ready to learn on a daily basis
- **This Ensemble will have a strict all black dress code:**
 - ***All Black Dress Shoes, Long Black Socks, Black Dress pants (No Jeans), Black dress Shirts (Can Purchase from Mr. K \$10) Black sweaters, and black ties are permitted.***
 - ***Hair should be combed/brushed and pulled back out of the face.***
 - ***Boys will need a black Bowtie, Ladies will need plain pearl studs and pearl necklace (Can purchase from Mr. K \$5)***

Makeup Work Procedure:

- For excused absences, it is the responsibility of the student to secure and complete the missed assignments in consultation with the teacher. Students have 7 days, including weekends, from the due date to complete any missing work.
 - **Unexcused Absence from a Performance (See Major Assignments) can be made up with a comparable project/research paper/exam as agreed upon by Mr. Kesling and the student.**

Late Work Procedure:

- Late work will be accepted up to 3 calendar days after the due date. If that date falls on the weekend/breaks/student absence, students **should** communicate with the teacher on submission requirements.
- No assignment will be accepted beyond three days of the original due date and the student may receive a grade of Zero. After the three days the student may utilize the Grade Recovery Procedure to recover missing assignments.
- Late work will be accepted at a penalty of 25% off of the earned grade.
 - **Late work formula calculation**→ **Student Score x 0.75 = Final Assignment Score**
 - ie. if a student submits an assignment late and earns a 90, the late penalty would be 22.5 points deducted for a total of 67.5% grade

Parent and Student Resources

- All parents are encouraged to check the Parent Portal to monitor student academic progress and attendance. PowerSchool Mobile can be downloaded from Google Play and the App Store.
- Be sure to follow the George Washington High School on Facebook and on the DPS App.



Parents and Students: Please sign up for the BAND APP - and register for Symphonic Band here:



Please fill out the following information and sign as a receipt of this Syllabus.

*This will be the students first Silver Grade Due August 7, 2026.

Student Name:

Parent Name:

Parent Phone Number:

Parent Email:

By signing you are acknowledging the information included in the Symphonic Band Syllabus and understand that there are extra curricular requirements for this course.

Parent Signature: _____

Student Signature: _____

Do you have any questions or things you would like me to know:

Thank you for your support this year!

-Mr. Kesling