MS CONCERT BAND COURSE OUTLINE

**2016-2017 School Year**

**Mrs. Schleusner, Director of Bands, CHS**

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## COURSE OBJECTIVES

* Emphasis on curricular learning, not visible performances.
* Continued individual improvement of instrumental technique through comprehensive scale/rhythm building.
* Begin work on mature ensemble blend, balance, phrasing, style, and articulation through quality literature
* Continue study of intonation tendencies, moving toward more individual responsibility.
* Increase concert involvement, allowing for participation in alternate performance outlets such as pep, marching, and jazz bands
* Develop proper tone, embouchure, hand position, and posture through lessons on a weekly basis.

# EVALUATION

You will be evaluated on the following:

* Lesson Attendance (25%)
* Scale/Rudiment/Part Testing (25%)
* Daily Participation, Pep Band Appearances (8th grade only), and Concerts (50%)

**DAILY PARTICIPATION**

Students are given 2 points per day in this category. If anything below is not followed, the point is taken away for the day.

**POINT #1:**

\*Have all required materials with you. (Instrument, Folder, Pencil, mutes, reeds, book, etc.)

-If you forget something in your locker, you will lose a point here.

-Nothing but the above items should be in the band room. All homework is to be left out in the hallway against

the wall and not blocking doors for safety.

\*Follow start-of-class procedures

1.quickly, efficiently, and safely get instruments out immediately upon entering the room.

2.check the board as you assemble instrument to see the order of the day or check for announcements

3.percussionists set up as much music stations as possible for the first piece after warm-ups so the band isn’t

waiting for you.

4. When Mrs. Schleusner is on the podium, it is to become immediately quiet as class will then begin

\*Behave appropriately throughout the class period.

-This includes following student dress code, eating rules (no gum, candy, etc. in the band room), etc.

**POINT #2:**

\*Put all materials away appropriately and in the correct place when class is over.

-Only instruments belong in the wooden wall storage cabinets. Folders belong in the crates. Under no

circumstance should shirts, shoes, beverages, drill sheets, etc. be stored in these cabinets!

\*Make sure your chair and stand are put back in their proper place before leaving the classroom.

**CONCERTS**

Concerts are the culmination of weeks worth of hard work and time put into your instrument. Missing a concert without a viable excuse is detrimental not only to your grade, but to your ensemble and your curricular learning as a concert is your “final exam” in a performance-based class. Everything we do is a team effort, and missing a concert greatly lets down the team. If you are seriously ill, or there is a death in your immediate family, there is no need to make up points for missing a concert. You will simply be excused. If, however, I find out that you’ve missed a concert to attend a rock concert, because you have to work, have a family vacation that wasn’t cleared ahead of time, you will receive no credit for the concert and will not be allowed to make up the points. If a special opportunity for you arises and it conflicts with a concert, if your parents speak to me in advance (months/weeks in advance, not hours or days), we can usually work out some sort of arrangement to make up your points. Because this is such a rare occurance, I will evaluate the make-up of points on a case-by-case basis.

# LESSON ATTENDANCE/PARTICIPATION

The 7th and 8th grade years hold much of the heavy-duty learning in the band program. Students have the strong basic knowledge of note-reading, fingerings, posture, hand position, etc. set in their 5th and 6th grade years. Now it is time to apply that knowledge and begin learning about music as the art form. Heavy emphasis is placed on scale work with advanced rhythms and articulations. This year, we have packets of materials we’ll be working through as a section that will aid in intonation of the individual instruments and learn how to better blend and balance that within the ensemble. Without smaller lessons throughout the day, this progress would be nearly impossible.

MS students rotate through weekly lessons during their various studyhall times so that other class time is not missed. Band students who are not in choir will have lessons during 5th hour studyhall. They are already in the band room during studyhall time so this is the most convenient way to take care of lesson time. Band students who are also in choir will be rotated through a lesson during an alternate studyhall time during their school day. This will be scheduled for each individual student. The non-choir student schedule is listed below. It is critical that all students attend each lesson, thus the reason why a large chunk of their grade is devoted to their lessons. Students should write down their lessons in their planners like they do for other classes. Also “buddy-up” with others on your lesson day (usually the same instrument) to remind each other of your lessons. Students are responsible for remembering to attend lessons. Accountability and responsibility are key skills to master in life. Here’s a perfect opportunity to practice!

**WEEK ONE Mondays**: Flutes, Clarinets, Alto Saxophones **WEEK TWO Mondays:** Trombones

**WEEK ONE Tuesdays**: Tenor Sax, Bari Sax, Bass Clarinet **WEEK TWO Tuesdays:** Euphoniums

**WEEK ONE Wednesdays**: TBD **WEEK TWO Wednesdays:** TBD

**WEEK ONE Thursdays**: Trumpets **WEEK TWO Thursdays:** Tubas

**WEEK ONE Fridays**: Horns **WEEK TWO Fridays:** Percussion

### HOME PRACTICE

Practice at home is expected daily. Like many things in life, you have to work to improve your skill. Make it fun by practicing with your friends. Have practice parties complete with food, beverage, and a movie! Be creative…the world is open to you! Instruments and folders must regularly leave the band room (and of course, return!)…I keep a careful eye on this!

# WHAT TO WEAR TO CONCERTS

**Ladies:** **White** blouse/dress shirt, black pants or long black skirt, skin-toned nylons if you choose to wear nylons, black dress shoes

**Gentlemen: White** long-sleeved collared dress shirt, long black tie, black dress pants, black socks (no ankle length!),black dress shoes

(\*Please talk to me if this dress attire creates a financial difficulty for your family. We will find a way to get you fully and appropriately clothed.)

**MS BAND EXPENSES**

**PEP BAND T-SHIRTS** and **MARCHING BAND SHOES** for 8th graders have been purchased, ordered, and delivered for this school year. See me if you missed the summer sign-up and need either one. 8th graders are required to attend each pep band event along with the HSers. It’s the best way to increase your skills quickly by playing fun music next to the more experienced HS students! (If any 7th graders are interested in playing pep band this year, see me! I’ll be happy to provide a folder for you. You’d just need to order a pep band shirt from Threads, which you can do anytime on your own schedule.)

**INSTRUMENT USAGE FEE**

Students who are using an instrument from the school (Oboes, Bassoons, Bass Clarinets, French Horns, Euphoniums, Tubas, Percussionists) need to pay a usage fee of $40 to cover yearly maintenance fees. Please make $40 checks payable to Chatfield High School. Thank you!

# Performance Schedule

**Tuesday, November 10th, 2016** – 14th Annual Veterans Day Concert, 7:00pm – **CHS GYM**

**(Tuesday, March 14th, 2017 –** Winter Festival Concert – 7:00pm CHS GYM \*\*\*\*\*Tentative**)**

**Saturday, April 22nd, 2017** – 14th Annual Pops Concert, 7:00pm – **CHS GYM**

# IMPORTANT!!!!

All 7th/8th graders are required to participate in the 2017 marching band camp, as they will become part of the homecoming field show/parade for the 2017-2018 school year. The schedule runs the week of Western Days. Please keep this schedule open on your calendar and schedule vacations/events accordingly if at all possible. Thank you!