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PORTER HIGH SCHOOL BANDS

MUSIC PERFORMANCE COURSE SYLLABUS

SPARTAN WIND ENSEMBLE, SYMPHONIC BAND, JAZZ BAND
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At any time, refer to the Band Handbook for more information pertaining to the band program. This syllabus is written specifically for the classroom.

The band ensembles at PHS are devoted to the preparation and performance of the finest traditional and contemporary literature for winds. The goal of each ensemble, in rehearsal and performance, is to achieve a high degree of learning and performing excellence. It is the responsibility of the conductor and performers to be prepared for each rehearsal. It is only through careful preparation that the goals of the organization can be achieved. Porter High School is in a unique position to begin a rich tradition of musical excellence. Our musical efforts will enhance the cultural and artistic life of our student body and community as we develop skills for lifelong participation in music. Your enrollment and active participation in this program carries with it the responsibility for continued growth and success.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Daily classes involve rehearsal of music including study of technique, performance skills and music reading. Learning culminates in formal public performances in which students demonstrate mastery of skills obtained during class.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

- Provide students with individual listening and playing skills within an ensemble setting.
- Increase understanding of musical notation and music-reading abilities.
- Acquire skills for confident public performance.
- Perceive, analyze and evaluate musical styles and types.

SUPPLIES

- Pencil, eraser
- Music folder w/ all music
- Instrument in working condition
- (Any other items required by the directors)

EXPECTATIONS

- On-time arrival to class before the bells sounds.
- In assigned seat when the director begins class.
- Supplies in hand; other belongings under chair or away from the seating area.
- Active participation – posture, following directions, supportive behaviors.
- Respect for the facilities and supplies in the Instrumental Music Room.

WE HAVE THREE RULES, and if you can follow them, you will be successful (in life):

- 1. Be respectful to people, property, and time.**
- 2. Be willing to follow simple instructions.**
- 3. Have a great attitude!**

REPERTOIRE

The music studied and performed by PHS bands is chosen for its educational value. In this sense, a piece may be selected because it a) is historically significant, b) represents a noteworthy musical style or type, 3) teaches a specific technique or music-reading skill, or 4) exposes students to a notable composer.

ATTIRE

Men: Black slacks, black belt, black button-down shirt, black dress shoes, black dress socks, a RED tie of any color, black jacket (if you have one). Women: Concert dress, black dressy close-toed shoes.

ATTENDANCE AND TARDY POLICY

The attendance and tardy policies of Porter High School are in effect. In addition, the professional habit of arriving early for rehearsals (to warm-up and prepare physically and mentally) is the correct behavior. Students who arrive after the bell at the beginning of class will be marked tardy.

ABSENCE FROM A CONCERT/PERFORMANCE

Unexcused absences from dress rehearsals, concerts and other performances are not permitted and *will result in the lowering of your grade and/or dismissal from the ensemble*. These activities are a culmination of weeks of preparation. It is essentially your major test for the nine-weeks or semester. These experiences cannot be made up or substituted. Please manage your calendars to avoid unnecessary conflicts. In case of personal illness, get a release from your doctor. (If you are sick enough to miss a performance, you should have gone to the doctor.) In case of family emergency, notify the director at 832.398.5601. **SEE THE BAND HANDBOOK CONCERNING ABSENCES FROM CONCERTS AND GRADING.**

CONFLICTS

Potential conflicts with dress rehearsals or concert dates must be reported to the director!! (*If you don't, I'll forget it... You HAVE to write it down for me in an excused request form. There are a lot of members to keep up with, and you can help me out with this*). All performances are required except in very rare circumstances. Every effort will be made to accommodate student needs. The nature and frequency of conflicts will be evaluated to determine continued participation in the ensemble.

GRADING

Daily Participation/ Assignments 40% Performances/Playing Tests/Written Tests/ ...60%
Activity Assignments/Special Projects

Completion of assigned course activities will ensure the student a grade of "A." **Extra credit** (5 percentage points per quarter) will be given for the following: **private lessons, participation in off-campus performing organizations, individual recitals, or other musical activities approved by the director.** You may submit an Extra Credit form each quarter.

ADDITIONAL HELP is available to any student. Contact the director with any concerns. Individual sessions are available to assist you with your music preparation.