

# Foothill Symphonic Band (Band II)

## 2019-2020 Syllabus

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### **ABOUT THE SYLLABUS AND COURSE**

This handbook contains *plenty* of information...more than many of you want, I'm sure! ☺ Please note there are forms to sign in the back that need to be returned by Friday. Also included is the Performance Calendar and several pages from the Boosters. Thank you in advance for taking the time to go through this syllabus.

Course #7010 is an upper level course in the band program. The performance demands in this course are significant. Members in this band serve FHS and our community through football games (halftime shows), parades, patriotic events and other important performances. This ensemble is open to sophomore, junior and senior wind players and percussionists only. The Symphonic Band is the backbone of everything we do in our Instrumental Music Program. Rehearsals are designed to develop elements of musicianship and integration of discipline (as it relates to the ensemble).

The band works with appropriate concert band literature and technical studies. There are periodic classroom assessments to monitor student progress. A number of public performances at formal concerts and/or band contests serve as culmination of daily classroom instruction and musical goals. Band II members operate as the Football Pep Band *and* the Marching Band. They are required to attend each scheduled rehearsal and performance. The band performs at all home football games (including any home playoff games), home halftime field shows, several local parades and other community events as called upon. These activities are an integral element that support learning in the classroom. Private lessons are encouraged. Practicing at home is expected.

### **A FEW MORE THINGS**

**Ownership:** Individually commit to owning your personal musical progress. Be active in: Individual practice, sectionals, rehearsals and performances. Homework is not optional. Turn in those practice cards!

**Leadership:** While every musician is expected to lead through their musicianship, several will be placed in leadership positions. These are intended to be service-based roles; not jobs assumed through entitlement issues or superiority complexes. All student leadership roles are determined by the director and are subject to change at the discretion of the director. This includes distribution of parts within a section.

**Respect:** Please bring an attitude of respect when you enter the band room. The band does not exist thanks to one student's individual talents or because one member chooses to grace the ensemble with their presence!

**Music:** Ultimately, everything starts and ends with the music. But music itself is not magic! You do not get better at music by simply wanting to...it takes hard work. As with any discipline that delays gratification, you must enjoy the journey and the process. It is my hope that a large majority of our musicians take this journey and that our program reflects this pursuit of musicianship in everything we do this year.

## FOOTHILL HIGH SCHOOL BAND BOOSTERS

Every band parent/guardian is a member of FHS Band Boosters. We are an organization of parents and volunteers with a two-fold purpose:

- To support and promote the FHS band program, its students and the director within the school and throughout the community.
- To conduct fund-raising activities which help supplement the band program's operating budget.

FHS Band Boosters does **not** govern or make decisions regarding the operations or musical selections of the band program. That is the responsibility of the band director.

Membership is open to anyone with an interest in the welfare and success of our band. All Band Booster meetings are included in the Performance Calendar. Attending Booster meetings is the best way to keep informed regarding the band program, ask questions, offer input in booster activities and to receive any updates or changes to the Performance Calendar.

## GRADING POLICY

Students' grades will be posted in the following categories:

- **Performance (50%)** - This includes adherence to call times, proper attire and professional conduct at all performances. If a student misses a mandatory performance, their semester grade will be lowered 10%. If a student misses a **major** performance: (CMEA Festival, Winter Concert, Spring Concert), their semester grade will be lowered 20%. In the event of an emergency, a grade may be allowed to be partially recovered. But, ultimately *nothing* can fully replace not attending a performance.
- **Rehearsal (25%)** - Towards the end of a grading period, attendance/rehearsal points will be placed in the Aeries grade book. Loss of points happens when students do not follow the classroom rules or attendance/tardy policies. Included in this category are: Memory tests, quizzes, rhythm/theory worksheets, sectionals and semester finals (explained below).
- **Practice Sheets (25%)** - Students are to practice a minimum of 6 hours per month. This equals three 30 minute sessions of practice a week – an attainable goal; even for the busiest of student.
- **INCOMPLETE** - An incomplete grade is given if one of the following are not rectified by the end of a grading period: FHS Rental Fees Paid, Uniforms (or Supplies) not Returned, Fundraising Tickets/Money are Unresolved

**1<sup>st</sup> Semester Final - Solo/Ensemble Performance:** Students will perform a solo/ensemble that is at an appropriate difficulty grade level for the student(s). Throughout the year, students research and choose an appropriate piece. Once a selection is found, it is brought to the director for approval. Students are graded on CMEA Festival rubric: A - Superior, B - Excellent, C - Good, D - Fair, F - Poor (a C lowers a semester grade by 5%, a D or F 10% drop).

**2<sup>nd</sup> Semester Final - Major Scales:** All 12 Major Scales (one octave ascending/descending, memorized) in the following time: 2:00 for 1<sup>st</sup> year, 1:45 for 2<sup>nd</sup> year, 1:30 for 3<sup>rd</sup> year, and 1:15 for 4<sup>th</sup> year. **Each** note error counts **five seconds** against the time. If there are more than 6 errors, the test is a zero. Clearly, note accuracy is vital. In addition, students must perform with an acceptable level of tonality and overall musicianship. Grades: A - Achieves goal, C - Short within 15 seconds, F - Short by more than 15 seconds.

**Aeries** (Electronic Grade Program): Aside from assignments, Aeries is a communication tool. If a letter hasn't been turned in (one that's needed to be read, signed and turned in), I enter it as a missing assignment for a very small, inconsequential amount of points - not designed to affect a student grade...but, rather, to communicate!

Several parents immediately E-Mail and/or call, inquiring about the missing assignment. Please (with total respect)...what I would prefer that you do is simply read, sign and help your student turn in the letter.

## **PERFORMANCES**

Simply put, band members are required to attend performances. There are three things every band member must bring to every performance: All necessary materials/supplies/clothing, a clear focus on the task at hand, and a positive attitude. Students must be **on time** to all performances. A 5:00pm call time means that students are expected to be seated, ready for a downbeat at 4:55pm. This is a realistic expectation. We all find a way to get our kids to appointments and athletic events on time...why should music concert be any less important?!?

Excused absences (in cases of severe personal illness/family emergency) are granted by the director. If you are absent on the day of a performance, please call/e-mail and notify the director that you are extremely ill or have a severe family emergency. A written note signed by parent/guardian is required when you return to school. Unavoidable conflicts *will* at some point come up. I have a long track record of working with families who *communicate ahead of time*: A family wedding, an older sibling's college graduation, SAT test, etc...The following do not justify your absence from a performance: Work, driving arrangements, or forgetfulness.

## **PERFORMANCE ATTIRE**

- 1. Casual:** Football games, rallies, events on campus or feeder school concerts are examples of casual dress. We wear our FHS Band polos and jeans (most of the time) for these events. On cold football game nights, students may wear school colored (red, black or grey) jackets/sweatshirts.
- 2. Marching Uniform:** These items of the uniform will be provided: Marching shako (hat), plume, jacket and pants. Upon check out until the day we turn them in, students are fully expected to hang, store and wear their uniform with the utmost pride! Students are responsible for any damage to the uniform beyond normal wear and tear. For example, if you get a stain on your uniform, you must get it dry-cleaned before our next marching performance. However, if damage is caused to the band uniform through negligence, students will be liable for repair/replacement costs (so take good care of your property!).
  - **Marching Shoes:** All Band II students must purchase marching band shoes. These shoes are supportive, well-made all-black shoes that many guys wear for concerts. We will be sizing shoes once the year begins. If students have black marching shoes that fit from previous years, they do not have to buy shoes.
  - **Marching Socks:** All students are required to wear **black socks**. These socks must be calf-length.
  - **Marching Misc:** When students are in full uniform they are not allowed to wear jewelry (small earrings are fine), and all hair must be put up in the hat (yes, guys too!). The fees associated with marching band season are included on the FHS Cougar Band Expenses form in the back of the syllabus.
- 3. Concert:** Gentlemen: Black tux pants, black suit jacket, white tux shirt, red bow tie (provided by boosters) black shoes and black socks (calf-length). Ladies: Red concert dress (provided by FHS), nude nylons – no nylons are okay!) and black shoes. Jewelry and make up should look professional and not showy.

## **CODE OF CONDUCT**

As Foothill musicians, we must protect Hogwarts AND Hagrid's Hut (Room 205 ☺)...with intentionality. We demonstrate this by keeping an eye on and taking care of **all** equipment (whether it is individual or school property), staying out of other's lockers at all times, keeping non-band members out of the Kennel and abiding by all other classroom rules as related to food, drinks, gum, etc...In addition, we need zero tolerance (out of respect for yourselves and the band) when it comes to PDA, theft, cheating, inappropriate language or conversation and illegal paraphernalia. A few years ago, former NBA head coach Mark Jackson restricted profanity in his practices or the locker room of the Golden State Warriors. If NBA players can do it, *you can too!*

1. Students are responsible to be in class on time ready to rehearse with their instrument (a luggage tag on their case handle is *very* helpful), folder, music, *pencil*, and **ALL** necessary equipment.
2. There is no food, candy, soda, energy drinks, coffee or **GUM** allowed in the band room (this includes: Brunch, lunch, before school and after school). During rehearsals, water is the only exception.
3. Students are not allowed to talk or play instruments when the director is speaking. Students *must* display respect for and have pride in:
  - a. Band Room: Clean up equipment, pick up trash, keep the room clean, and clean lockers out regularly.
  - b. Instrument/FHS Instruments and Equipment: All instruments should be well-maintained, with students taking the time to care for their instrument. Students should be doing their part in keeping the room organized and clean. Percussionists must clean up all music, mallets, sticks and equipment *every day* before leaving the rehearsal room.
  - c. Classmates: Our band is not just about you...it is about all musicians, not just the ones you like.
  - d. Director: The practical application of “respecting the director” is demonstrated by doing what the director says: In practice, in rehearsal and in performance.
  - e. Yourself: Take pride in your musicianship at all times; aspire to be great at what you do!
4. No electronic equipment is allowed in the band room during rehearsals (a metronome/tuner is the only exception). Students should leave all phones, video games, whatever...in the Kennel.
5. For everything else not covered, school rules and code of conduct apply at all activities, practices, rehearsals and performances.

## **PRACTICE CARDS**

There are many programs that do not do practice cards...welcome to a program that makes them 25% of the semester grade! Homework/Practice is just as important in this course as others. If we don't believe that, we cheapen the discipline of the arts. Simply put, turn in your homework, or the grade goes down.

- Minimum 6 hours a month (when totaling monthly hours, please round to the nearest half hour) for students enrolled in one high school music course.
  - 6+ hours – 60 points (5.5 hours is NOT 6)
  - 4-5.5 hours – 40 points
  - 2-3.5 hours – 20 points
  - 0-1.5 hours – 1 point (I place 1 point in the gradebook, so you can tell that it was turned in)
- Practice can include: The visual study of music, completion of assignments and the study of music theory.
- Practice may include work on a secondary instrument. But, only with authorization from the director.
- Practice does not include individual private lesson time with an instructor.
- Practice does not include sectionals. However, once the minimum sectional time is reached, I am willing to make exceptions.
- Practice does not include simply listening to music.
- I am much more interested in consistency more than the length of practice. If a month or two comes up a little short, I will be accommodating. Life gets busy sometimes.
- If a student lives a great distance away from school, and therefore does not have the time at home to log the time, or has hardship in transporting their instrument to and from school, I will be accommodating. Foothill has a unique issue when it comes to geography!
- Exemptions:
  - Practice card requirements begin in September (August is waived).
  - All members of the Club Cougar cast are exempt from turning in a practice card in February.
  - Band II Drumline is exempt from turning in a practice card in May.
  - An injury (i.e. broken arm) completely justifies an alternate assignment. In extreme cases of illness or hospitalization, the assignment may be waived.
- Practice cards are due over the first three school days of each new month. After that, late practice cards will not be accepted.

## **SUPPLIES, INSTRUMENTS AND EQUIPMENT**

**Supplies:** Students need supplies. A trumpet player MUST have valve oil. A clarinetist MUST have reeds. These are essential items. Every musician needs equipment to play their instrument effectively. In addition, every student needs lyres/flip folders for the football games. Students may purchase these items through local music suppliers or online. Music stores do not carry a huge stock of these, so plan ahead. Lastly, every musician should own a metronome and a tuner for individual practice (many good affordable apps if you want to go that route).

**FHS/SUHSD Instruments:** These instruments will be distributed to students according to the needs of the band department, under the discretion of the director. *Students are not allowed to play a school instrument unless the director has a current Instrument Rental Contract on file.* Members are solely responsible for these instruments at all times. They are not allowed to let anyone else play their school instrument. If a student does not practice or shows negligence to their instrument, the instrument *will* be reclaimed by the director. In the event of excessive or malicious damage to an instrument, repair costs will be assigned to the student. These are explained in detail in the SUHSD/FHS Instrument Rental Contract.

**FHS/SUHSD Equipment:** The FHS Instrumental Music Department has a substantial amount of quality music equipment. Extreme measures are taken to ensure that this equipment will stay in top working order for as long as possible. I have specific rules I share with the students about our equipment in order to protect our inventory. If rules are broken, equipment will get damaged. These costs will be passed on to individuals that violate the rules.

**Personal Equipment:** Often, equipment holds students back: A chipped reed, and old mouthpiece, an instrument with a faulty spit valve or pad leaks. Please make sure your musician's equipment is in good working order, and can help them be productive high school musicians. We would never send a soccer player out on the field with one shoe! Failure to have these basic supplies/equipment will result in lowering of grade and/or removal from performance.

## **CLUB COUGAR**

Foothill High School's Performing Arts Production, "**An Evening at Club Cougar**" is an event to raise money to support FHS music and drama departments, while educating music students in the art of performance skills. It is a step back in time, as we recreate a 1930's Chicago-style jazz club; featuring authentic dress, music and decor. This evening of dining, drama and dancing to big band music is made possible by the extraordinary talents and commitment of our music and drama students, as well as their parent volunteers.

Aside from our Jazz A (the CC Orchestra), band students may audition for a vocal or dancing role, or fill out an application to serve in the busser/server crew. The 8-night, two-week long February show is held at Redding First Church of the Nazarene, 2225 Bechelli Lane. Students will need transportation to and from the church each night.

Because we could not do this show without the support of countless volunteers, parents are required to help with a minimum of 2 volunteer shifts during the performance. Club Cougar is the main income generator for the arts at FHS. So, even if your student is not part of the cast, you can still be involved in the show as a volunteer. Much more information about Club Cougar (including an entire CC calendar) will be coming soon. I hope many band students will join the cast this year!

## **BAND COUNCIL**

The Band Council exists to: Provide fun, team-building activities for the band, to provide a positive atmosphere in the band room and to assist the director. We will (as a class) decide on the number of officers. We will then nominate and vote on the officers for the school year.

## **STUDENT ACCOUNTS**

The FHS Band Boosters provide a student account for your band student. Student accounts may be used to pay for anything band-related: Registration fees, trips, lessons, instruments, accessories, instrument repairs and attire. Funds are added to student accounts through booster fundraising activities. Our Band Booster Treasurers work very hard to keep student records current.

Money earned by a student is not to be treated as a personal savings account. By law, money cannot be “withdrawn” to a student/parent when a student decides to leave the band program; whether this is prior to their senior year or after graduating. Furthermore, monies cannot be used to cover outside FHS fees: Parking tickets, library fees, other course/club trips/fees. Any money that remains in a student’s account after that student has graduated high school may be passed onto an upcoming sibling or be transferred into the Band Booster Scholarship Fund.

## **SCHOLARSHIP FUND**

Each year, the Foothill High School Band Boosters sets aside \$3,000 to be given to deserving graduating seniors (maximum scholarship per senior is \$500). Scholarship Applications will be available from the FHS Counseling Office in April...seniors, don’t forget to remind me! ☺ Applications are due to the FHS Counseling Office in May (exact date and time will be included on the application). Late applications will not be accepted.

## **TRAVEL**

When we do not travel locally, students must travel to and from the event on a bus. If a parent chooses to take their **own child** home from a performance, the parent must sign the student out through the director. Then and only then is the student released from the band activity. Chaperones are selected jointly by the Band Booster Board and the director. If you would like to be considered as a chaperone for an event, you may inform the Board at a Band Booster meeting.

If you are a parent who chooses to drive to an event on your own, you are welcome to join us, and cheer us on in all band-related events and performances...*we genuinely appreciate your support!* But, keep in mind, your child is not on a family vacation. They are a part of a SUHSD-sanctioned field trip, under the supervision of the band director. At all times, students are expected to remain together, following the rules and itinerary of the trip. Students are not allowed, outside of a medical emergency, to leave with a parent in the middle of a field trip.

The Emergency Information and Field Trip Permission Form in the back of this syllabus is important to get signed. It serves as our Athletic Blue Card; and it is just as important. Students will not be allowed to participate in any out of class event (including band camp this weekend) without this “card” on file. This form also streamlines communication more efficiently so that the Attendance Office and Administration know what we are up to as the school year rolls along.

## **CLOSING NOTES**

If you’ve stuck it out through the syllabus, thank you!!! I hope you have some clarity about how the program runs...It does take a small army to pull off everything. If you want to get to know a little bit more about me (background, education, whatever) you can find my information on [www.fhscougarband.com/director](http://www.fhscougarband.com/director). Please refer to our website often to stay “in the know!”

Thanks again,

*Mr. Bahr*



**Shasta Union High School District  
Foothill Instrumental Music  
Emergency Information and Field Trip Permission**

Student I.D.#: \_\_\_\_\_

Parental Permission

I hereby give my permission for \_\_\_\_\_ (print student name) to attend an FHS Band Performance off campus during school hours.

Parent Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Please print neatly and legibly!

Our Boosters would like to create an FHS Band Booster E-Mail list this year. Please check the box if you **do not** want to be included in periodic group E-Mails.

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In the event of illness or injury, I do hereby consent to whatever x-ray, examination, anesthetic, medical, surgical or dental diagnosis or treatment and hospital care are considered necessary in the best judgment of the attending physician, surgeon, or dentist and performed by or under the supervision of a member of the medical staff of the hospital or facility furnishing medical or dental services. I understand that I am responsible for any expense incurred as a result of obtaining the necessary medical care. Transportation is arranged in most cases. Students shall ride both to and from the event in District-approved transportation.

As stated in California Education Code Section 35330, I understand that I waive all claims against the Shasta Union High School District, its officers, agents and employees for any injury, accident, illness, or death occurring during or by reason of this field trip or excursion, including acts of negligence by the Shasta Union High School District, its officers, agents or employees.

I fully understand that participants are to abide by all rules and regulations governing conduct during the trip. Any violation of these rules and regulations may result in that individual being sent home at the expense of his/her parent /guardian.

Parent Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: (Home) \_\_\_\_\_  
(Emergency) \_\_\_\_\_

Insurance Policy: \_\_\_\_\_

Policy/Group # \_\_\_\_\_

Family Doctor: \_\_\_\_\_

Family Doctor Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

Indicate Specific Medical Problems or Allergies: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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**\* A Special note to Parent:/Guardian:**

1. If any medication or drugs are to be taken by student, list them here: (Name reason): \_\_\_\_\_
2. If your son/daughter has a special medical problem, kindly attach a description of that problem to this sheet.

# FHS Cougar Band Expenses

The following are FHS Band Expenses. Not all are required. Please select carefully.

**Student Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Band:** \_\_\_\_\_

<b>FHS Instrument Rental Fee *</b> Flute, Clarinet, Trumpet, Trombone	\$25	_____
<b>FHS Instrument Rental Fee *</b> Oboe, Bassoon, Bass Clarinet, French Horn, Saxophone, Euphonium, Tuba	\$50	_____
<b>Percussion Supply Fee (all drummers) **</b>	\$25	_____

\* FHS Instrument will not be distributed to student until rental fee is paid in full & Instrument Rental Contract is turned in.  
 \*\* Fee helps cover costs of drumheads, mallets and supplies for FHS Drum Equipment. Students must pay fee in order to be in Percussion Section.

	Quantity	Size(s)	Price	
<b><u>Concert Bands</u></b>				
Men's Band Polo Shirt	_____	_____	\$25	_____
Women's Band Polo Shirt	_____	_____	\$25	_____
Band Track Jacket (if desired)	_____	_____	\$30	_____
Black Marching Shoes (Band II, if needed) *	_____	n/a	\$25	_____
Marching Uniform Cleaning Fee (Band II)	_____	_____	\$25	_____
<b><u>Orchestra Gear</u></b>				
Orchestra Polo Shirt (if desired)	_____	_____	\$25	_____
<b><u>General</u></b>				
Hogwarts Baseball Tee (if desired)	_____	_____	\$20	_____
<b>TOTAL AMOUNT PAID:</b>				_____

**Paid with:**

- Check # \_\_\_\_\_ (please make check payable to: FHS Band)
- Cash
- Student Account

\* We will size marching shoes during class.

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 (For Office Use Only)

Date Paid: \_\_\_\_\_ Rec'd By: \_\_\_\_\_