

# Foothill Concert Band (Band I)

## 2019-2020 Syllabus

### **Mr. Mitchell Bahr, M.A.**

Director of Instrumental Music  
Foothill High School  
(530) 547-1700 ext.13530  
[mbahr@suhsd.net](mailto:mbahr@suhsd.net)

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

Our syllabus serves as a welcome into our Instrumental Music Program at Foothill. Speaking on behalf of myself and our Band Booster Board, we are excited to have you join our program! Please note there are a few forms to sign in the back that need to be returned by Friday, August 16. Also included is our Performance Calendar and a couple important forms to sign. Thank you in advance for taking the time to go through this syllabus (don't forget to reference it online from time at <http://www.foothillcougars.com> throughout the year).

Course #7000 (Band I/Concert Band/Freshman Band) is an entry level course in the band program. While we function as a high school band, the performance demands in this course are relatively light in comparison to the other courses in the department. The class is open to wind players and percussionists only. Rehearsals are designed to develop: Tone production, music reading listening and technical skills as well as growth in music vocabulary. Students study a varied repertoire of literature and technical studies. There are a few periodic written quizzes/tests. A number of public performances at football games, formal concerts and band festivals serve as culmination of classroom instruction and musical goals. Private lessons are encouraged, but are not required. Practicing at home is a necessity.

- Parents - Please provide your student with all necessary supplies to operate and maintain their instrument. Students must have a designated time and place to practice.
- Students - For many of you, leaving behind junior high behavior will be your biggest challenge this year; learning to approach music as less of a hobby and more of a discipline. FHS Band members desire to develop musicianship. This happens through consistent practice time and focus in rehearsals.

### **GRADING POLICY**

Students' grades will be a point-based-system, and will be posted in the following categories:

- **Performance (50%)** - This includes observance to call times, proper attire and outstanding conduct at all performances. If a student misses a mandatory performance, their semester grade will be lowered 20%. If a student misses a major performance (CMEA Festival, Winter/Spring Concert), their semester grade will be lowered 25%.
- **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.
- **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! Practice sheets are available for download online [www.fhscougarband.com](http://www.fhscougarband.com) under the “Forms” Tab.

**1<sup>st</sup> Semester Final – Solo/Ensemble Performance:** Much of our Fall Semester (including the design of the Practice Sheets are geared towards our semester final. Students will perform a solo/ensemble that is at an appropriate difficulty grade level for the student(s). Throughout the semester, students research and will choose with the assistance of upperclassmen and/or director) an appropriate piece.

**2<sup>nd</sup> Semester Final – 12 Major Scales:** All 12 Major Scales (memorized). *Students in Band I do not have to memorize the scales.* However, they are encouraged to do so. Each note error counts five seconds against the time (Under 2 minutes for 1<sup>st</sup> year students). If there are more than 6 errors, the test is a zero. Note accuracy is vital. In addition, students must perform with an acceptable level of tonality/musicianship.

**Finals (a quick note):** We spend a considerable amount of class time towards *learning* these skills. The finals should not be viewed as stressors; and too often in our society we get apprehensive about having to do something we don't know how to do. But, it is supposed to be exciting to learn, right?!? It is supposed to be exciting and rewarding when your skills improve, and in conjunction so does your confidence/self-esteem/etc... I hope you will view learning in this light as you work through not only this course, but through high school.

**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 a 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, 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...or, one of our band jackets!
2. **Concert:** Concert attire is formal black and white dress. We will wear our Concert Attire at: Winter Concert, Spring Concert, CMEA Region II Festival and CMEA Solo/Ensemble Festival.
  - a. Gentlemen: Black pants, white shirt, black tie/bow tie, black shoes and black socks (calf-length).
  - b. Ladies: Black dress (knee length while seated with a modest neckline), black nylons and black shoes. Jewelry and make up should be worn in moderation.

## **CODE OF CONDUCT**

As Foothill musicians, we all look out for one another; including our property. 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...

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 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. Instruments and Equipment: All instruments should be well-maintained, with students taking the time to care for their instrument. Percussionists must clean up all music, mallets and sticks every day.
  - 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.

Classroom rules are great...conceptually. However, at times, rules seem to be made to be broken! When they are, we start down this road: 1. Verbal warning and chair/stand duty for the day 2. Parent contact, chair/stand duty for 3 days, after-school Kennel cleaning 3. Parent conference with administration, room duty after school for an hour and loss of rehearsal points 4. In-House suspension, loss of all rehearsal points for the quarter 5. Removal from class

### **PRACTICE CARDS**

Homework is just as important in this course as others. If we don't believe that, we cheapen the discipline of the arts. The number one excuse I receive is, “I practice, I just don't write it down.” No more excuses...start writing it down! Simply put, turn in your homework, or your grade will go down.

- Minimum 6 hours a month (when totaling monthly hours, please round to the nearest half hour).
- Practice can include: The visual study of music, completion of assignments and the study of music theory.
- Practice does not include individual private lesson time with an instructor.
- Consistency means much 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!
- Practice card requirements begin in September for Band I musicians (August is waived).
- Cards are due over the first three school days of each new month. Late practice cards are not accepted.

### **SUPPLIES, INSTRUMENTS AND EQUIPMENT**

**Supplies:** Every musician needs equipment to play their instrument effectively. The following items are *bare minimum essentials* that every musician is *required* to have in their possession.

- Flutes: Cleaning rod, cleaning cloth
- Clarinets: Mouthpiece brush, silk swab, cork grease, cleaning cloth, pad cleaning paper and *several* good reeds that are being rotated
- Saxophones: Mouthpiece brush, neck cleaning brush, saxophone swab, cork grease, cleaning cloth, pad cleaning paper and *several* good reeds that are being rotated
- French Horn: Cleaning cloth, rotary valve oil, bore brush, slide grease and mouthpiece brush
- Trumpet/Baritone/Tuba: Cleaning cloth, snake, valve oil, slide grease and mouthpiece brush
- Trombone: Cleaning cloth, snake, slide cream or oil, small spray bottle (for water) and mouthpiece brush
- Percussion: Stick bag, pair of sticks (SD1/5A), practice pad (or snare drum).

In addition, every wind player needs lyres/flip folders for the football games. Students may purchase these items through local music suppliers: Music Connection, Brass Reed or Mike's Music and Sound. Lyres and flip folders must be purchased before our first football game. Plan ahead. Music stores do not carry a huge stock of these; they need to be ordered *ahead of time*. Lastly, it is strongly recommended that each musician owns a metronome and tuner for individual practice.

**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. Much more information is 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. We have specific rules that are shared with the students about our equipment in order to protect our inventory. If rules are broken, equipment will get damaged, and needs repair. These costs will be passed on to individuals/families where negligence and neglect are evident.

### **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. Please look for information about how to get involved, and please make it a point to attend our Booster meetings (all meetings are on our calendar).

### **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, student store 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.

### **CLOSING NOTES**

If you've made it to the end...thank you! I hope you have some clarity about how the program runs. It does take a small army to pull off everything. To that end, if you want to "enlist," please attend our Booster Meetings...we'd love to see you there! Your director and Band Booster Board are so excited about the upcoming school year! Tons of great memories and lifetime friendships are in store...for students and parents alike.

Thanks again,

*Mr. Bahr*

P.S. 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!"

# FHS Concert Band (Band I) Expenses

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

<b>FHS Instrument Rental Fee *</b>	\$25	_____
Flute, Clarinet, Trumpet, Trombone		
<b>FHS Instrument Rental Fee *</b>	\$50	_____
Oboe, Bassoon, Bass Clarinet, French Horn, Saxophone, Euphonium, Tuba		
<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.

	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	_____
<b><u>General</u></b>				
Hogwarts Baseball Tee (if desired)	_____	_____	\$20	_____

**TOTAL AMOUNT PAID:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Paid with:**

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

-----  
 (For Office Use Only)

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



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.

-----  
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: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

-----  
**\* 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.

**MUSICAL INSTRUMENT CONTRACT AGREEMENT**

Student Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Instrument \_\_\_\_\_ Make \_\_\_\_\_ Serial # \_\_\_\_\_

- I agree that I will assume *full responsibility* for the above instrument from: **8/14/2019 - 6/4/2020**
- I understand that this instrument is the property of the Shasta Union High School District, and that the instrument must be returned to Foothill High School by the end of the rental contract agreement.
- I agree that the estimated value of this instrument is \$\_\_\_\_\_. It will be my responsibility to pay for this instrument if it is lost, stolen, or damaged severely.
- I am aware that I am being charged a rental fee of \$\_\_\_\_\_ for the current school year. I recognize that it is my responsibility to purchase all necessary materials in order to maintain and care for this instrument.
- I understand that I will not be billed for repairs that are necessary due to normal wear and tear on an instrument. I agree that I will be billed for the entire cost of repairs that are necessary because of student negligence.
- I understand that I will not be allowed to play the instrument until this paper is on file with the FHS Music Department. (*Payment can be made later if necessary, but the rental contract must be turned in ASAP.*)

*\*\*\* It is expected that students put forth the effort that it takes to perform well on this instrument. If, over a period of time, the student is careless with the handling of the instrument, significantly lacks in practice time, or develops a disparaging attitude, the Foothill High School Instrumental Music Department reserves the right to reclaim the instrument without return of any rental fee.*

Student Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone # \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_

**THIS CONTRACT IS APPROVED BY SHASTA UNION HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT AND THE FOOTHILL HIGH SCHOOL INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC DEPARTMENT AND IS VALIDATED WITH THE INCLUSION OF THE SIGNATURES ABOVE AND THE SIGNATURE BELOW:**

Director Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

\*\*\* Please feel free to make a copy of this document for your personal records \*\*\*

-----  
(For Office Use Only)

Rental Fee Paid:   Y   /   N        Method of Payment: \_\_\_\_\_      Date: \_\_\_\_\_