

Band I Course Syllabus 23-24

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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 forms in the Department Syllabus to sign in the back that need to be returned by Friday (Saturday, if you are coming to the parent meeting). Also included is the Performance Calendar and several pages from the Boosters. Thank you for taking the time to go through the course and the department syllabus.

ABOUT THE SYLLABUS AND COURSE

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 10%. If a student misses a major performance (CMEA Festival, Winter/Spring Concert), their semester grade will be lowered 20%.
- **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! Tough month? Come talk to me, let's work on a solution. I'm willing to help...so, communicate. 😊

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, athletic practices or forgetfulness. We dive right into football season here in the fall semester. Please make you familiarize yourself with the Football Protocol pages in our Department Syllabus. Thanks!

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:** Students wear "all black" with appropriate length of dress/shirts/pants. Please have black shoes and socks (or nude nylons and appropriate black shoe). We will wear our Concert Attire at: Winter Concert, Spring Concert, CMEA Region II Festival and CMEA Solo/Ensemble Festival.

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

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.

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.

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 program, students and 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 structure, operations or musical selections of the band program. That is the full 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 and to receive any updates or changes to the Performance Calendar.

CLUB COUGAR (CC)

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. As we head through the first quarter information about Club Cougar, including information about auditions, will be distributed.

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 come on out Saturday to our Booster BBQ and attend our Booster Meetings (included in the Performance Calendar)...we'd love to see you there!

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. Please refer to our website often to stay "in the know!"

I have read through and understand the info in the 23-24 Band I Course Syllabus

Parent Name: _____

Parent Signature: _____

Student Name: _____

Student Signature: _____

Any questions?? Let me know. Thanks! _____
