

Band II Course Syllabus 23-24

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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 COURSE SYLLABUS

Course #7010 is an upper level course in the band program. 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 high school wind 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.

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: Rehearsal Etiquette (classroom rules), memory tests, quizzes, rhythm/theory worksheets, sectionals and small ensembles.
- **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. These will be assigned and due in Google Classroom. They must be turned in by the end of the calendar month.

CODE OF CONDUCT

As Foothill musicians, we need to care for our instruments, equipment and rooms. We demonstrate this by staying out of other's lockers, keeping non-band members out of the Kennel and abiding by all other classroom rules as related to food, drinks, gum, etc...In addition, there is zero tolerance in regards to PDA, theft, cheating, bullying, inappropriate language/conversation and illegal paraphernalia.

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. Aside from water, 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).
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. Students are expected to maintain a general attitude of gratitude; being eager to lend a hand and be helpful (loading/unloading the trailer, moving of equipment, general organization/cleanliness of our rooms).
6. For everything else not covered, school rules and code of conduct apply at all activities, practices, rehearsals and performances.

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 performance 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. It is so much easier to work with families who *communicate ahead of time*. Examples include: a family wedding, a sibling's college graduation, SAT test, etc...The following do not justify your absence from a performance: Work, driving arrangements, athletic practice 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 (or neutral pants) for these events. On cold football game nights, students may wear school colored (red, black or grey) jackets/sweatshirts.
2. **Concert:** Students can wear "all black" with appropriate length of dress/shirts/pants. Please have black shoes and socks (or nude nylons and appropriate black shoe).
3. **Marching Uniform:** These items of still very new uniforms will be provided: hat, plume, jacket and pants. 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 (and these are not cheap...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 **calf-length black socks**.
- **Marching Misc:** When students are in full uniform they are not allowed to wear jewelry (small earrings and rings are fine), and please work to get all hair 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.
- **Care:** It is of vital importance that we demonstrate genuine care of the uniforms. We will take pride in them from the moment we unzip them from the garment bag to the careful and deliberate attention we give to putting them away. We need to learn to do this with care and order. Protocol will be reviewed in detail during class

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.* All other rules regarding FHS Instruments are explained in detail in the SUHSD/FHS Instrument Rental Contract.

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. And, regarding purchases, please consult a local professional or your director...the cheapest deal (particularly online) is often not the best deal.

BAND COUNCIL

The Band Council exists to: Run our FHS Music Club, Provide fun, team-building activities for the band, to provide a positive atmosphere in the band room and to assist the directors. 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 upon graduating. Furthermore, monies cannot be used to cover outside FHS fees: Parking tickets, library fees, course/club trips/fees. Any money that remains in a student's account after that student has graduated high school will be passed onto an incoming 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 (including eligibility and due date) will be available in the FHS Counseling Office in April following Spring Break. Scholarships will be due May 6th,

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 director(s). 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 Music Blue Card in the back of the department syllabus streamlines communication so that Attendance and Administration know what we are up to as the school year rolls along. Students will not be able to perform off-campus, or on campus outside of school hours if the "Blue Card" form is not turned in. This is a similar conceptually to the SUHSD Athletic Blue Cards (for those who have participated in a sport).

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

Thanks again,

Mr. Bahr

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

Parent Name: _____

Parent Signature: _____

Student Name: _____

Student Signature: _____

Any questions?? Let me know. Thanks! _____
