



Lake Mary High School Symphonic Band Syllabus 2011-2012

Mr. Mike Mitchell-Band Director

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Course Description

The Symphonic band is for instrumentalist from grades nine to twelve. The students perform a variety of wind band literature from classical to modern. Students will build on the musical skills they attained in previous years instruction. Symphonic Band students should expect to practice at least 5 hours per week outside of class, and are strongly encouraged to take private lessons. The literature is challenging, and the level of expected musicianship is great. For more information regarding upcoming events and more detailed information regarding events and updates, please visit our website at www.marchingrams.org.

Members of the Symphonic band also are encouraged to take part in music departments sponsored performance trips, auditioning for All State, All County, All District, and participate in Solo and Ensemble Festival. The Symphonic Band is an integral part of the Marching Ram Band in the fall. Symphonic students also perform several concerts per year as well as selected performances around the district.

Students in this group will be encouraged to participate in the annual Solo and Ensemble Festival held in February of each school year. There is a fee for this event that is the responsibility of the student. The exact schedule is pending and will be finalized in late August/September.

Course Goals and Objectives

Students will develop a broader appreciation for wind literature from the classic to the modern. Through the performance of this literature they will continue to strengthen their already acquired musical skills. By the end of this course the students will be more experienced and confident performer. Participation in this band will prepare all students for the possibility for audition into the Wind Ensemble.

Schedule of Assignments

1st 9 weeks...students should have their marching music memorized before the first game. Playing tests in class will determine whether the student is prepared for success. Students should also be preparing scales and exercises in preparation for pass offs in class. All students should have the appropriate equipment needed to be successful for Symphonic band class.

By the end of the first 9 weeks, all students should have performed 8 major scales (D, G, C, F, Bb, Eb, Ab, Db), by memory according to the FBA required method. By the end of the first semester, students should have performed ALL 12 MAJOR SCALES (Gb, B, E, A) by memory with at least 90% accuracy. The Chromatic scale is also required according to the FBA requirements.

Second Semester will focus on Music Performance Assessments (Concert MPA as well as Solo and Ensemble MPA) and preparation for honor band auditions and festival performance. Student grades will be assessed through preparation of material, attendance and participation. Remember that prior planning prevents poor performance-so Practice, Practice, Practice!

Grading:

- ♪ After school rehearsals are required by all students. Non-attendance at rehearsals will affect student's final grade unless excused by the director (absences whether excused or unexcused are at the discretion of the director). Students will be graded on after school rehearsal attendance, class participation and after school events.
- ♪ Performances
- ♪ Classroom performance tests
- ♪ Written work

Grades will be earned according to effort, preparedness, participation and progress. Each performance is worth 200 points and every after school rehearsal is worth 50 points; each classroom rehearsal is worth 25. Any assigned homework (aside from practicing) will have a value equal to the amount of work involved. Students will lose points for, among other things: not being prepared, excessive absences or tardiness, poor effort, attitude, etc. Students can earn extra credit by attending other concerts, performances approved by the director. Private lessons will be considered as extra credit as well. Other extra credit may be available on occasion. Lastly, if a student is going to miss, or misses a rehearsal or performance, please bring a note from your parents explaining the situation. If the absence is excused, make-up work will be assigned. Otherwise, it will count as an unexcused absence and the student will be given a zero for that assignment. Students who are sent home from any rehearsal or performance for discipline reasons are considered unexcused from that event and grades will reflect the absence.

Performance – 200 points
Rehearsal – 50 Points (100 points per week for Marching Season)
Class Participation – 25 Points per class (100 points per week)
Class pass-offs and tests – 100 points per each
9-weeks exam 20% of grade

Wind Instrument Materials

Students will provide the following daily:

Pencil
Extra “good” reeds
Valve oil (brass instruments)
Slide cream
Cork Grease
Flip Folder (marching season)
3 Ring binder (both marching season and concert season)
Specialized equipment-mutes, metronome, tuners, etc...

Percussion Materials

The same items as the wind instrumental materials list are required where applicable. As stated in the band handbook, all percussion students are responsible for the \$100 instrument rental fee to cover the cost of heads and repairs of the school owned percussion instruments.

GOALS

1. **Individual Musical Skills-** A primary goal of this course is to increase individual musical skills in:

- * Tone production: appropriate and characteristic with flexible colorations
- * Breathing: quality and control
- * Body framework awareness (most efficient playing positions)
- * Intonation: horizontal and vertical
- * Audition: developing the “inner” ear
- * Phrasing: shape and note grouping
- * Articulation: suitability, variety, and consistency
- * Rhythm: accuracy and clarity
- * Pulse: internal and external
- * Technique: in the service of music
- * Sight-reading: building and reinforcing effective habits

2. **Musical Concepts will be provided by:**

- * Recognizing what to listen for in music
- * Increasing music imagery and creativity
- * Developing sensitivity to non-verbal communication
- * Cultivating an understanding of verbal communication

- * Promoting confidence in performance
- * Achieving clarity in performance (allowing the music to speak in its full expression)

3. Ensemble Playing Skills will be fostered by:

- * Being prepared and dependable
- * Recognizing primary and secondary roles
- * Working as a team
- * Developing a sensitivity to the whole musical process
- * Silent communication through breath with fellow musicians and conductor
- * Physical communication through movement with fellow players and conductor
- * Visual communication through eye contact with fellow players and conductor
- * Encouraging flexibility
- * Knowing compositional elements
- * Exploring stylistic and interpretive elements

4. Musical Literacy will improve by:

- * Investigating appropriate performance practices
- * Increasing knowledge of repertoire
- * Developing comprehensive musicianship
- * Expanding perceptions of the music
- * Describing historical, cultural, creative contexts and perspectives
- * Refining rehearsal skills
- * Revealing formal and structural elements
- * Learning established and new notational concepts

MUSIC

Practice is to learn your individual parts. Rehearsal is to learn everyone else's parts. Students are required to have their individual parts prepared prior to rehearsals. Full rehearsals address issues of musical structure, energy, style, pacing, impact, balance, intonation, feeling, performance psychology and readiness—not "chasing notes." Each member will receive music and will be responsible for the folder and its contents. Fees will be assessed for lost folders, lost or damaged music, due to excessive marking or mishandling.

INVOLVEMENT

It is necessary to arrive early for rehearsals so you are ready (room set, music in order, instrument and playing muscles ready to perform on time). Attendance is taken at the beginning of each rehearsal. Students not ready to play at the beginning of the rehearsal will be marked tardy and demerits will be assessed. Students who arrive after rehearsal has begun must consult with the conductor immediately following the rehearsal. Tardies will be handled per school tardy policy. Potential conflicts with rehearsals or concerts must be submitted in writing to the conductor and approved in a timely manner before the event. The nature and frequency of conflicts will be evaluated to determine a student's participation in the ensemble. Reasons for excused or unexcused absences are listed in the band handbook found at www.marchingrams.org.

Understand that these policies are in place to ensure that each student is treated fairly and are not intended to complicate the grading policy. Students in band generally are the best students in the school and our Lake Mary High School Ram Band students are no exception. Grades are based on participation, attitude and ability.

GO RAMS!