

Forsyth Music Department
2017-2018 Course Syllabus
Mrs. Beth Hall-Director
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Courses and Descriptions:

Junior High and High School Band:

Students will be participating daily rehearsing together as a large ensemble. We will work on individual growth as well as growth within the ensemble. We will work on notation, rhythm, tone development and balance and blend while learning theory and times in music history. Students are expected to participate cooperatively with each other because a band functions as a team. Students will have the opportunity to express themselves through music and have many meaningful and musical opportunities.

Junior High and High School Choir:

Students involved in choir will have the opportunity to work together in daily rehearsals on the fundamentals of understanding music. We will start with basic theory, ear training, music notation and reading and work our way from 2 part harmony into 3 part harmony throughout the year while learning both sacred and secular music from many different genres. Students will need to work cooperatively with each other to function as a team. Students who participate in music get the chance to express themselves through music and have meaningful music opportunities.

Goals and Objectives:

1. To develop a greater appreciation, love and understanding of music within the student and the community.
2. To develop the ensembles performance and awareness of such musical ideas as balance, blend, intonation, melody, harmony and rhythm.
3. To explore the various era's in music history, and learn the development of music and the various genres that exist.
4. To develop lifelong skills such as discipline, responsibility, organization and teamwork that cannot only be beneficial in the music classroom setting, but can be transferred to any field and/or situation.
5. To have fun building ensemble awareness and friendships, while having meaning musical experiences.

Expectations and Procedures:

Appropriate students behavior is expected at all times. Students must contribute in a positive way at all times in order to ensure a fun and productive rehearsal. I have three main concerns during rehearsal:

1. Is it SAFE?
 - a. Please refrain from doing anything that could endanger the safety of yourself or others.
 - b. Make sure if you have to leave the room that I know where you are going.
 - c. No one is allowed to leave in the first 10 minutes or the last 10 minutes of class unless the office calls.
2. Is it RESPONSIBLE?
 - a. Responsibility means having an obligation to do something. Please be responsible to get to class on time, participate in class, come prepared with the required materials, and complete assigned tasks by their due date.
3. Is it KIND?
 - a. Last but most certainly NOT least, please be kind at all times. You may make great friendships in the ensembles you participate in, and that is so important. It is likely that you will not be everyone's friend...be kind anyway. Respect yourself, your peers, Mrs. Hall and any other adult you come in contact with.

Behavior Policy

Failure to comply with the expectations listed above will result in one or more of the following:

1. Loss of daily participation/performance points, after class discussion with student.
2. All of the above PLUS a phone call home.
3. All of the above PLUS a disciplinary write up and meeting with an administrator.

Tardy Policy

Tardies are unacceptable! Each students needs to be in their seat ready to sing/play at the below listed times. Time before can be used for bathroom, drink, instrument assembly, etc. Being tardy will result in loss of participation points, which can greatly affect your daily and weekly grades. Habitual tardies will be sent to the office. Excused tardies must be accompanied by a pass.

- HS Band Students- in your seat ready for warm-ups at **12:55** *make sure you drink water*
- JH/HS Choir Students- in your seat ready for warm-ups at **1:45**
- JH band Students-in your seat ready for warm-ups at **2:43**

Cell Phone Policy:

All students will be required to put their cell phones in his/her assigned slot at the beginning of each class. If a student refuses to put his/her phone in the slot he/she will be sent to the office. If a lesson requires the use of an electronic device I will let you use them for the lesson. I will allow 5 minutes at the end of each class to clean-up, dis-assemble and check your phones as long as you cooperate during rehearsals.

Food and Drink Policy:

The only drink allowed in the room is **water** and it needs to be in the closed container, per handbook. Any other drinks or snacks will be confiscated, and you might not get them back. Who knows, I might be hungry too.

- **HS Band-** You are coming right after lunch- please make sure you finish your lunch during the time you are given. You will not be allowed to bring it into the room with you.

Absence Policy

Students with excused absences will be responsible for finding out what they will be missing in that rehearsal, getting music or information that was given during the missed rehearsal. Announcements are always on the board so please make sure you are reading them daily. Students with unexcused absences will result in loss of points that cannot be made up.

Assessment and Grading Policies and Procedures:

Students will be given 5 points daily for participation. They will start each day with a 100%, whether or not they choose to keep that grade is up to them. Performances are worth 100 points and are **mandatory**. If you know ahead of time that you cannot make a required concert please make prior arrangements with me and I will allow you to make up the points. If you miss the concert and no arrangements were made you will not be allowed to make up the points. I understand that life throws us curve balls and things “just happen”. If that’s the case, *parents/guardians* need to contact me as to why the student missed the required performance, and I will make the accommodations as I deem necessary. Band students will have chair placement playing tests once a month and these are graded. Student’s chairs in the ensemble will be based upon his/her grade. Please see the attached rubric I will be using for grading. Choir will also have small ensemble vocal tests throughout the year. Please see the attached rubric I will be using for grading.

Concert Attire:

- **JH Band**- White shirts (button up if possible, please no t-shirts), black pants (jeans are ok), shoes and socks. For Christmas they are allowed to wear Christmas colored outfits, but they must be dressy, appropriate and follow the dress code in the school handbook. Blue jeans are not allowed.
- **HS Band**- Black pants, socks and shoes. I prefer close toed shoes for girls. Black slacks are preferred for boys, but jeans are ok as well. The band will have shirts this year for their performances. For Christmas they are allowed to wear Christmas colored outfits, but they must be dressy, appropriate and follow the dress code in the school handbook. Blue jeans are not allowed.
- **Choir**- Robes will be used this year for all performances, you will need black pants, shoes and socks. For Christmas they are allowed to wear Christmas colored outfits, but they must be dressy, appropriate and follow the dress code in the school handbook. Blue jeans are not allowed.

Extra-Curricular Music Activities:

Pep-Band- Offered to students in grades 7-12. This is a volunteer group. Students are not required to participate in pep-band, but they do have to be eligible. Students need to make 80% of the games on the schedule (usually allowed to miss 2) to be eligible to travel for tournaments. Students are excused if they miss for another school activity.

Music Festivals- MS Music festival is not required. Students will have the opportunity to volunteer and sign up for solo's, duets, trio's and other small ensembles. It is a non-graded activity, but students need have to be eligible to participate.

- HS Music Festival- the large ensemble day **is required** and graded for all HS band and choir students. This is our adjudication day, and is an MSHA sanctioned event. The solo's, duets and other small ensembles are not required, but students have to be eligible to participate.

Band/Choir Trips- These trips are every other year. We combine with Colstrip and Broadus music departments to make large ensembles to play at different destinations. These trips are a wonderful opportunity for our young musicians. Currently anyone can join, but due to the huge increase in numbers we may make it an audition only band and choir. I will do my best to keep you informed. This, of course, does not go for the Orlando, Florida- Disney World Performance in June 2018

School Instrument Rental Policy:

The school has limited instruments available for students to rent. The fee is \$90 for the school year. This fee covers the instrument on a repair and maintenance contract through Eckroth Music. The fee can be paid in full, or in three \$30 payments before December 2017. There is a contract that goes along with the rental agreement. Because the supply is limited I can't promise any instruments. I do my best to distribute them as fair as possible.

Please mark the following Concert Dates on your Calendars. These dates are tentative based on other scheduled events that may cause conflict with students. If concert dates are changed students will be informed ahead of time. They will also be posted on the school website and the FHS Band Facebook Page.