

Forsyth Music Department  
2022-2023 Course Syllabus  
(with Mod Band Revision)

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Office Hours: typically 7am to about 4pm at Forsyth High School

### Introduction

Welcome to the 2022-2023 school year! We have many exciting musical experiences planned for this year, and I am anxious to begin working toward them. This handbook is the key to keeping ourselves organized and always on the same page. Please make sure to refer back to the handbook often throughout the year to make sure you fully understand all that is going on and what is expected of you. **Please find a convenient place to file this handbook as it has information in it which will become more important as the year progresses.**

I look forward to getting to know each and every one of you as the year goes on. All members are encouraged to come chat with me if you have any comments, complaints, jokes, requests, questions, or problems. I am always excited to talk about music that we are not covering in band/choir this term, and I am always willing to listen to music you recommend or find interesting.

Let's have a fun year making great music!

## *Courses and Descriptions:*

### *Junior High and High School Band:*

Students will be participating daily, and 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. Textbooks used may include *Tuned Up*, *Essential Musicianship*, *3D Band Book*, *Sound Innovations*, *36 Chorales for Band*, and other selections throughout the year.

### *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, and 4 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. Textbooks used include *Essential Musicianship*, and other selections throughout the year.

### *Modern Band:*

Students involved in Modern Band and Choir will have the opportunity to work together in daily rehearsals on the fundamentals of small ensemble music performance. We will start with basic instrument skills, and branch into specific skills and conventions of various genres of music, including, but not limited to Rock, Jazz, Blues, Latin, Pop, Reggae, and more.

### *Dogie Pep Band:*

**Description:** The Dogie pep band is made up of all interested 7<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade students who are currently members of one of our school ensembles (Band or Choir). Pep-band is required of all HS Band Students. Other students who are not involved in an ensemble may participate in the pep band with prior approval by the director. Members must be present for at least 80% of the games to be Eligible to travel with the Pep Band. I will be taking attendance.

Many of you have busy lives; I will do my best to be accommodating. If you are in football, I cannot reasonably expect you to play pep band for football, the same goes for volleyball, girls basketball, and boys basketball involvement.

Pep-band will have some rehearsals outside of school; these rehearsals are expected and will range from sporadic to weekly.

You are always welcome to form your own ensemble! Talk to Mr. Radue for ideas and chamber music examples.

### *Goals and Objectives:*

1. To develop a greater appreciation, love and understanding of music within the student and the community.
2. To develop the ensemble performance and awareness of such musical ideas as balance, blend, intonation, melody, harmony and rhythm.
3. To explore the various eras 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 meaningful musical experiences.

### *Materials Needed:*

#### *Concert Band:*

- *Your Instrument*
  - *Woodwind players need 3 working reeds in a rotation and one spare, as well as a mouthpiece cap*
  - *Brass players need either valve oil, or slide cream/mix if they play trombone.*
  - *Percussionists need a pair of drumsticks labeled with their name or initials.*
- *A Pencil*
- *Your Music*
- *1.5" Three Ring Binder- JH=White, HS=Black*
- *A Good Attitude*

#### *Concert Choir:*

- *Your Music*
- *A Pencil*
- *Water*
- *A Good Attitude*

#### *Modern Band:*

- *Your Instrument and appropriate accessories.*
- *A Pencil*
- *A Notebook*
- *A 1.5" Black 3 Ring Binder.*
- *An **Approved** set of In Ear Headphones (Shure SE215, or KZ ZS10 Pro without Mic, etc. )*
- *A Good Attitude*

### *Expectations and Procedures:*

Appropriate student 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.

## *Expectations*

**1. Be Prepared:** Students need their instrument, a pencil, their music, and all instrument accessories every day!

**2. Be Respectful:** Use kind, respectful and encouraging language at all times. Respect the conductor, fellow musicians, the substitute (if there is one), and the equipment.

It is disrespectful to mess with anyone else's property (this includes instruments).

**If you are not a percussionist, please keep from touching and or playing the percussion instruments until you are given permission, or directed to do so.**

It is disrespectful to interrupt rehearsal. Cell phone use is generally not tolerated during class. (See Student Handbook pg. 20) There will be circumstances when cell phone use is permitted, during these circumstances, a student must ask before they use it.

**Follow directions the first time they are given.**

**3. Be Responsible:** When rehearsal is over, music will be neatly put back into each student's respective cubby by the door. Instruments will be cleaned and put in their proper place. Failure to clean the instruments results in mold and other gross things growing inside the instruments. Chairs and stands will be taken out for band; stands need to be put away at the end of band. The last period of the day will put away chairs.

**4. Contribute positively to the ensemble:** When everyone is on the same page, and has the same goals, conflicts are minimized. When everyone works hard, the ensemble will flourish.

**5. Practice good technique at all times:** Students need to develop technique into muscle-memory. This means that technique and posture need to be right every time so that eventually they become something that can be performed without thought.

**6. Maintain a positive Attitude:** Students are expected to: use appropriate language, attempt to become better, encourage and respect other student's efforts.

**7. Water is allowed:** Water is the only consumable substance allowed in the room. The water needs to be in a clear water bottle with a lid. Special circumstances will allow other food and drink, but day-to-day just water.

## ***Rules:***

**1. Follow Directions the First Time.**

**2. Show Respect for Classmates, Teacher, and Guests.**

**3. Keep Hands, Feet, Objects, and Remarks to Yourself.**

**4. Participate in All Class Activities.**

**5. Raise Hand and Wait to be called upon before speaking.**

## *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.
2. All of the above PLUS a detention to be served with Mr. Radue.
3. All of the above PLUS a phone call home.
4. All of the above PLUS a disciplinary write up and meeting with an administrator.

Students get one “freebie” forgetting his or her instrument /music per quarter.

The next time they forget it, they lose their daily points, and a phone call is made home.

Subsequent infractions lose ½ letter grade.

Students get one “freebie” of being told to spit out their gum per Quarter.

The next time they are told, they lose daily points.

## *Tardy Policy*

Tardies are unacceptable! Each student 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 tardiness will be sent to the office. Excused tardies must be accompanied by a pass.

- Band Students- in your seat ready for warm-ups 4 minutes after the tardy bell.
- HS Choir Students- in your spot ready for warmups 3 minutes after the tardy bell.
- Modern Band Students- in your spot, set up, tuned, and ready to go 4 minutes after the tardy bell.

## *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.

## *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.

## *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. Exempt absences will be given an exempt grade for that day’s participation points. 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.

## *Traveling Policy:*

Forsyth music students are expected to hold themselves to the following expectations when traveling.

- **Be Early.** Any Students who are late arriving for the bus leaving Forsyth will be left in Forsyth. Any students late to be back on the bus when we are away will have to sit next to Mr. Radue and listen to him talk about something boring... If lateness becomes a habit, traveling privileges may be suspended or revoked.
- **Be Respectful.** You represent your family, your classmates, your school, your community, and your teacher. Rudeness and crude language will not be tolerated. Students are expected to dress appropriately when traveling. Hats will not be worn indoors at restaurants.
- **Be Prepared.** It is YOUR responsibility to make sure that your instrument, concert attire, music, and equipment is on the bus.
- **EVERYONE** loads and unloads the bus. It is neither the bus driver's nor Mr. Radue's responsibility to make sure that the drumset, stands, amplifiers, power cords, audio cords, etc. get on or off the bus.
- **Be where you are expected to be.** No one is allowed to leave the performance venue without Mr. Radue's permission.
- **If you ride the bus there, you ride the bus back.** Unless I have written documentation releasing you to someone else, or a parent / guardian signs you out.
- **No drugs, alcohol, or tobacco will be tolerated.**
- **The number one rule is: do not embarrass your school, your fellow classmates, your community, or your teacher.**

Students who choose to violate the above expectations will lose their traveling privileges for the rest of the year. Depending on the severity of the violation, parents may be called and asked to retrieve their child from the performance venue.

## Assessment and Grading Policies and Procedures:

Students will be given 3 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. To keep these, students must: **pay attention, participate in a positive manner** that promotes growth of the ensemble, **follow the rules** (which are designed so that students can get the most out of participating), **and be on time**.

**Detention:** If a student receives a detention in any music class, they **will receive a 0** for their participation points for that class for the **entirety of the week, if they had an exemption due to absence during that week, that exempt grade will be converted to a 0 as well**.

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 if the situation warrants, 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 placements playing tests once a month and these are graded. Student’s chairs in the ensemble will be based upon his/her grade. Choir will also have small ensemble vocal tests throughout the year.

Grades will be calculated as follows:

Participation and Daily Work ( <i>this includes pep band participation for HS Band members</i> ).....	40%
Assessments (playing tests, concert evaluations, tests, etc.) .....	60%

## Concert Attire:

- **JH Band**- White shirts (button up if possible, please no t-shirts), black pants (jeans are ok), black 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.
- **HS Band**- Black pants, socks and shoes. I prefer close-toed shoes for girls. Black slacks are preferred for boys, but nice black 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.
- **Choir**- Robes will be used this year for most performances, members 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.
- **Modern Band**- We will discuss this during class, but It will probably be either black polos with black jeans, or some other kind of group shirt with nice black jeans.
- In the case that someone chooses to wear inappropriate clothing to perform in a concert, I reserve the right to remove a student from the stage. (Also, if you don’t perform, you have to write a paper, and apologize to your fellow musicians for letting them down. In this instance, the maximum you percentage of the concert grade that can be made up is 80%)

### *Extra and Co-Curricular Music Activities:*

**Pep-Band**- Offered to students in grades 7-12. This is a sudo-volunteer group. Students in High School Band are required to participate in pep-band, and 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. **Students traveling in pep band during tournaments are part of the randomized drug testing pool.**

**Music Festivals**- MS Music festival is not required. Students will have the opportunity to volunteer and sign up for solos, duets, trios and other small ensembles. It is a non-graded activity, but students need 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 MHSAA sanctioned event. The solos, duets and other small ensembles are not required, but students have to be eligible to participate.

### *School Instrument Rental Policy:*

The school has limited instruments available for students to rent. The fee is \$90 for Concert Band Instruments 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 2022. 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 fairly as possible. Percussionists will be required to fill out a Percussion Use Contract, and **pay the use fee of \$25** before school percussion instruments can be used. (This helps to cover the cost of drumheads, drum hardware, etc.) If you do not wish to use a school-owned instrument, you are encouraged to look into an instrument rental program. (Buying is also an option, please see the instrument purchasing section below.) Forsyth High School has a close relationship with Eckroth Music in Billings, MT. They offer instrument rent-to-own programs as well as regular monthly rental programs. The monthly rental price depends upon the instrument you choose. Their contact information is as follows:

Eckroth Music  
[www.eckroth.com](http://www.eckroth.com)  
Phone: 1-406-252-2604  
922 Grand Avenue  
Billings, MT 59102

**If you wish to purchase your own instrument, discussing your decision with Mr. Radue is highly encouraged.** He has a variety of resources and contacts for you about the various instruments available for purchase. Please do not purchase an instrument from non-music retailers such as Costco, Walmart, Sears, Amazon, or JC Penney. If the store doesn't specialize in music instrument sales, the instrument is probably going to cost you a fortune in repairs down the line. **If an instrument comes in a cool color, it is probably going to not meet the needs of the student musician.** This means a student who is likely to get frustrated quickly, and potentially quit.



Most often these instruments are cast-offs of decent instruments and have major defects which not only will detract from their playing ability, but they will also be harder / more expensive to fix. Also, please do not purchase your instrument off of eBay.

### **Pre-owned instruments:**

If you have been given an instrument or have already purchased a pre-owned instrument, please have it checked by a professional. Mr. Radue will be glad to take a look, and Eckroth has professionally trained instrument repairmen who would gladly take a look at your pre-owned instrument.

## **Practicing**

The only way to improve your playing / singing is by practicing. As a member of any Forsyth ensemble, you are required to practice 20 minutes a day, this will probably start on Smartmusic, but may transition to on paper with specific goals as Mr. Radue deems appropriate.

### **Some tips for practicing...**

1. Schedule a time in your day planner for practice.
2. Follow a plan which remains relatively the same every time.
3. Practice things you need to work on, not things you already know.
4. Always put something fun into your practice time.
5. Practice with a metronome and a tuner.
6. Practice in a quiet area. (no TV or Stereo in the background).
7. If you make a mistake, stop... fix it. And try that section again.
8. Break hard spots down. Learn a piece of it, then another piece, then put those pieces together.
9. Pause in-between repetitions.

## **Google Classroom Codes.**

P1 High School Band: q7ntsxv

P3 Modern Band:4hbdc2z

P4 Junior High Band: 4ozz4sp

P5 Junior High Choir: ehpyvej

Radue Connections: egmru5o

P6 High School Choir: 7nmbxlw

P7 Modern Band: cclbge7

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.

## **CONCERTS**

Please mark the following dates in your calendar.

Fall Choir Concert: Tuesday October 4th at 7pm

Christmas Concert: Tuesday December 13th at 7pm

Pre-Festival Concert: Tuesday April 4th at 7pm

Festival: Friday April 14<sup>th</sup> (HS Band and Choir to Miles City), Saturday  
April 15<sup>th</sup> small ensembles and solos

Graduation: Sunday May 21st.

## **Gigs-Modern Band**

In addition to Concerts, we will be performing out ALOT this year. While I will try to accommodate your schedules to the best of my ability, please understand that we will be performing frequently, and the performances are mandatory.

Parade of Lights is 11/25. This is one of many, but I have the date, and now so do you.

## **Pep Band**

Football and Volleyball dates have been established, Basketball dates will be provided as they become available.

Tuesday September 13th- Volleyball (HC) Games at 4:30

Friday September 16th Parade during School

Friday September 16th Football (HC) Downbeat 6:30pm

Tuesday September 20th Volleyball Games at 4:30

Friday October 14th Football Downbeat 6:30

### **Pepband Tournaments**

Volleyball Districts October 27-28 in Baker

Volleyball Divisionals November 3-5 in Manhattan

Volleyball State November 10-12 in Bozeman

Football Playoffs Location TBD

Basketball TBD

# Parent/Student Form

Parents,

Thank you for encouraging your child/children to be in band/choir this year! We have an exciting year ahead and need as much of your help as possible. If you would be interested in volunteering as a chaperone or in other forms of parental help, please write your name, number, and how you would like to help at the bottom of this form. Thank you.

Cordially,

Mr. Matthew Radue  
Music Education Specialist  
Forsyth Public Schools

I have read the handbook, and agree to abide by its policies and procedures.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student Name (Printed)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

I am familiar with the expectations for my student.

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Comments, how you would like to help, etc. (optional)

Best method to reach you: \_\_\_\_\_