



Symphonic Band Syllabus 2024-2025



Mr. Steger

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Room M122

Welcome

Welcome OR Welcome Back to the wonderful world of High School Band. I am so excited about the things that we have planned this year! If you ever have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me. Let's have a great year!

Symphonic Band

The purpose for symphonic band is to grow on your instrument and to explore the various opportunities that high school band offers. This course is offered to 9-12 students and is for people who love playing their instruments but may be busy, may have started late or are underclassmen. Absolute necessities of this course include: practicing, performing in our performances, showing up with a good attitude and expect to be pushed to your full ability. Symphonic Band is your audition into Wind Ensemble, although some sections have very limited spots - I will take into account your work ethic, your resilience, and your motivation when recommending you to a symphonic band or wind ensemble. All outside of school activities during the academic school year are required including marching commitments, pep bands, parades, etc.

Attendance

Your attendance is crucial to the tradition of musical excellence in Fort Atkinson. I have attached every single calendar that you will need for the whole year. Request off of work now. Plan your vacations around these events. Everyone in this group is counting on you to be at all of the events that you choose to take part in.

If you have to miss any rehearsal, have your parents email me **as soon as you know**.

If you have to miss any performance, **I ABSOLUTELY need a parent email a month ahead of time - this is a must.**

Grading

25% Performances: Performances are by far the most important summative assessment we have in a band. It shows me the comprehensive learning that you have done this past concert cycle. If you have to miss a concert, I need to know FAR ahead of time - and we can find a way for you to make it up.

25% Scales and Fundamental: You will be given warm-up packets that have items such as scales and arpeggios. Some of which will be assessed.

25% Sight Reading and Summative Assessments: These are where I figure out what you know. It could be from recording assignments, scales tests, or on very rare occasions - standard assessments. You will know about these assessments far ahead of time - and for the most part, will get ample time in class to do them.

25% In Class Discussions/Work: Do you participate in our in-class discussions? This category is to encompass our in-class discussions, projects, and assignments.

The Ball Is In Your Court

I am so excited to get the ball rolling. In the end, the band is what YOU choose to make it be. My job is to never obstruct creativity or involvement. Your involvement is crucial and your dedication is valued and appreciated. Each and every one of you is important to the group and as an individual. My office is always open, let me know if you ever need to talk about anything.



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Course Materials Needed

Woodwind Reeds

- Clarinet:** Vandoren Blue Box/V21/V12 Sizes - 3, 3.5, 3.5+, 4 Rico Grand Concert Selects Sizes - 3, 3.5
Bass Clarinet: Vandoren Blue Box Sizes - 3, 3.5
Saxophones: Vandoren Blue Box Reeds Sizes - 3, 3.5 Rico Grand Concert Selects Sizes - 3, 3.5
Oboe and Bassoon: Fox Medium Soft, or Medium will get you started. When you get very good, please talk to me for recommendations to hone your sound.

Woodwind Mouthpieces

- Clarinet:** Vandoren B13, with a M/O or optimum ligature
Saxophone*: Vandoren AL3, TL3 (or T20), BL3 Selmer C* Eugene Rousseau Intermediate Mouthpiece

Talk to me if these may be out of your budget, I have a few other suggestions.

**Separate mouthpieces for jazz.*

Brass Mouthpieces

- Trumpets:** Bach or Blessing 3C or 1 1/2 C
Trombone: Bach or Blessing 4 or 5G Schilke 51 or 51D
Horn: Holton Farkas MC
Tuba: Bach 18 or Helleberg 120S

Percussionists

Percussionists should have the following in a stick bag. These will not be provided after the first month into the school year.

- Snare Sticks (Vic Firth or Pro Mark)
- Yarn Mallets (Mike Balter)
- Hard Mallets (Mike Balter)
- Drum Key

Optional if you plan on doing a lot of work with the following sticks.

- Drum Set Sticks (Vic Firth or Pro Mark)
- Drum Set Brushes (Pro Mark)

Concert Attire

Students will dress for concerts as follows unless otherwise notified:

- Black bottoms (socks, shoes, pants, and/or long skirt)
- Black top (polo, button-down, etc.)

All clothing must be in accordance with school dress code policy. Please ask if you have questions or need assistance in acquiring this clothing.

Classroom Expectations

- "To be early is to be on time." Attendance will be taken at the bell
- NO food, drink, or gum -- bottled water is fine. No food or drink in the Music Pod.
- Breaks - Only one person is to leave the room at a time.
- Cell Phones - 1 warning, 2nd time; email home, put phone on my desk for the rest of the hour, minor write-up, 3rd time; put phone on my desk, office referral. 4th time -- Office referral with larger consequence
- Sometimes you come to school with drinks. Absolutely no drinks are allowed in the carpeted area.
- Please reset the room when you are done, this room is shared between 6 groups and everyone deserves a properly set-up room.
- Mostly every piece of music you get in this class is going to be an original. Which means if you lose it, you must buy it. It is generally no more than 10 dollars for a piece of music, some as low as 2.50 - but you are responsible for all that I hand to you.
- All performances are required. No work excuses, no sports excuses. If you have a family emergency please contact me.
- Be Empathetic in class discussions

Fort Atkinson Band Boosters

All Band Families are automatically part of the Fort Atkinson Band Boosters. We encourage you to attend our meetings to see how you can help support Fort Atkinson Band students and provide us with your ideas. Meets are held weekly in the High School Music Pod.

Acknowledgement – Symphonic Band

I have read the syllabus and classroom procedures including all behavioral expectations and the attendance policy.

Student Name: _____

Student Signature: _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____