

**Belleville High School
Symphony Band
Policies and Grading Rationale**
Mr. Nicholas G. Taylor, Director of Bands
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Belleville High School
Symphony Band
Mr. Taylor/Mr. Campbell
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Course Description:

The Symphony Band is a large performing ensemble which is designed to meet the needs of the more experienced instrumentalist. Rehearsal time and outside preparation are directed toward advanced work with tone production, intonation studies, rhythm, style, technique and sight-reading. Marching Band is an extension of this course.

Course Content/Standards

Content Standard 1: All students will apply skills and knowledge to perform in the arts.

Content Standard 2: All students will apply skills and knowledge to create in the arts.

Content Standard 3: All students will analyze, describe and evaluate works of art.

Content Standard 4: All students will understand, analyze, and describe the arts in their historical, social, and cultural contexts.

Content Standard 5: All students will recognize, analyze, and describe connections among the arts; between the arts and other disciplines; between the arts and everyday life.

Classroom Expectations – TRUST, RESPECT, RESPONSIBILITY

- 1) All students are responsible for their uniforms, instruments (including school owned), music, and folders assigned to them. If any become lost or damaged, the student is responsible for replacing them.
- 2) All students are expected to have their instruments EVERY day, and that they are kept in good working order.
- 3) Students are expected to respect all other musician's property, including instruments, reeds, mutes, and music. The policy is you don't move, touch or use anyone else's property.
- 4) School owned property such as stands, instruments, computers and practice rooms are to be treated appropriately by all students.
- 5) Percussion instruments are to be played only by percussionists.
- 6) All students are expected to be in class every day! Because the expectation is that students are in class every day, and because the class is based primarily on participation, it is not the teacher's responsibility to contact parents due to absences or work not being completed as a result of said absences.
- 7) Instrument storage room is to store **instruments and music only**. Students will not assemble their personal instrument(s) in the storage room. Please retrieve instrument cases upon arrival to class and assemble in your assigned seats.

Grading Policy

Grades reflect student learning. Students will be graded on class participation, homework, quizzes and tests. Semester grades are calculated on 40% each marking period and 20% final exam.

Grading Scale

98-100	A+	77-79	C+
94-97	A	74-76	C
90-93	A-	70-73	C-
87-89	B+	67-69	D+
84-86	B	64-66	D
80-83	B-	60-63	D-
		59 and below	E

Students Will Be Graded in The Following Areas:

1. Performances, Playing Tests, Written Tests – 80%

- Student is growing technically and musically on their instrument.
Student will be tested frequently on playing ability: Knowledge of Individual Part, Appropriate Technique, Tone Quality, Rhythm, Interpretation, Music Reading, and Performance.
- Performances will be graded heavily as concerts and larger playing performances are the summative assessment of the student's musical abilities.
- Students will be given periodic written tests and assignments based on a larger scale
- Student is prepared for each rehearsal, both during and scheduled after school - *home practice*
- Student is gaining more musical knowledge each day
- Student keeps instrument in top working order

2. Individual Growth, Effort, and Daily Instrumental Assessment - 20%

- Earning points for individual growth, effort and daily assessments may include, but are not limited to, having your instrument, being on time, respecting the classroom rules and expectations, and being responsible for staying on task all hour to achieve expected goals each day. Other daily assessment may include short playing tests or quizzes by the teacher, as well as written assignments.
- Points will be earned daily for each in-school rehearsal in which full participation is achieved. Students earn 3 points per week for full participation credit. One point is removed for every day of non-participation. (three days of non-participation means a student has missed more than 50% of the class for that week, resulting in an "E" for participation that week) Loss of points due to absences/participation can be made up through arrangements with the director before or after the absence in a reasonable time frame.

Minimum Requirements for Credit in Class:

- Student must participate in all performances in which their group is involved. Performances will be weighed heavier than playing test. Students will be given an "E" (incomplete) who miss a mandatory performance(s).
- Chamber Projects and the minimum number of Private Lessons are mandatory to receive full credit for the Marking Period/Semester

Tardy Policy

Students are required to be in their class on time. Tardiness will result in actions as specified in the Belleville High School handbook.

Homework

The purpose of homework (PRACTICING) is to provide the students the opportunities to practice those skills and concepts that have been taught in class and in private lessons. As in other classes, where homework is expected to be completed for the next day, practicing is vital to the success of each ensemble.

Communication

Communication among the student, parents and the teacher is vital for success. To that end, parents are encouraged to check the Parent Connect feature on MiStar. A link is located on the school's webpage. Students may access their assignments and grades through Student Connect.

Summary - TRUST, RESPECT, RESPONSIBILITY

All instrumental music classes at Belleville High School are performance oriented. Participation, attitude and work ethic are very important in determining the grade you will receive. To participate you need to be present. Students who wish to receive "A's" should not have unexcused or unverified absences. A positive attitude is reflected in proper posture, concentration, participation, and working all hour!

Attendance and participation in all instrumental music concerts and festivals in which your group is participating is a *requirement* for all music students. Any student that attended band camp is also a member of the Marching Tigers, and therefore must fulfill all marching band obligations.

Concert Participation Policy

All instrumental music classes at Belleville High School are performance oriented. Within the performing arts, performances are group efforts where each and every individual plays an integral part in the success of the performance. In order for any performance to be successful, everyone must be present. The following policies thus apply to all performances:

- 1) Attendance and participation in all instrumental music concerts and festivals in which your group is participating is a *requirement* for all music students.
- 2) Any student that attended band camp is also a member of the Marching Tigers and therefore must fulfill all marching band obligations.
- 3) Any unexcused after school rehearsal can result in not being allowed to participate in the next performance.
- 4) Specific procedure for an excused absence from a performance/rehearsal is as follows:

In the event that a conflict arises, every attempt must be made to fulfill the band obligation. In the event of a serious family illness or extremely important family event (e.g., sibling's wedding), you may request an excused absence. This request must be submitted in writing; a minimum of **two weeks** prior to the conflict, signed by both you and a parent, and must explain the conflict in detail. (Please note: Fulfilling this requirement does not automatically mean the absence is excused – All students are expected to be at all performances.) The Director will then inform you as to whether the absence is excused or not. That decision will be final. If excused, you will be allowed to make up the obligation in some way suggested by you, yet acceptable to the Director. **WARNING:** As the calendar is given out well in advance, there are very few items that would fall under the category of excused. "I had to work" or "I didn't have a ride" or "family vacation" are NEVER excused!

If you fail to show up for an obligation/performance and it has not been excused, it is classified as unexcused. There is no make up, and the grade will be adjusted accordingly (see grading rationale). In the event of a serious personal illness the day of the concert you will need to telephone the school as soon as possible to let me know of the absence. The next day you are in school you must then bring a note from a parent explaining the absence. *It is then solely at the discretion of the Director as to whether it will become an excused absence or not.*

In cases where a conflict in schedule with a school-sponsored event exists with a performance, you are to inform the Director of the conflict, in writing, as soon as possible but no later than two weeks prior to the conflict. You must then be prepared to assist the Director and the other coach or sponsor in finding a solution to the conflict. Since the concert performance is a curricular component of band class, concerts take precedence over extracurricular activities.

The success of an ensemble is directly related to everyone being at all rehearsals and performances. In order to create the kind of ensembles we all want to be associated with, it is imperative that the above policy be followed and enforced.

Concert Dress

The concert attire for each ensemble will be as follows:

- Symphony Band: School uniform, black socks, black dress shoes, white collar button shirt
- Concert and Varsity Bands: White collar button shirt or blouse, black pants or skirt (no jeans), black socks, black dress shoes (no tennis shoes)
- Jazz Band: Long sleeve black, collared dress shirt (tie optional), black dress pants, black dress shoes. Ladies may wear a black dress.
- Marching Band: Full uniform, black socks, black shoes (provided marching shoe). No jewelry or accessories are allowed.

Please note: If staff feels your dress is not appropriate you will be asked to leave the performance!

Instrumental Music Policy Regarding Make-Up Points

- 1) Points may only be made up in the case of absences, or the retaking of tests.
- 2) In order to make up points for missed days of class, each absence must be excused.
- 3) The day after an excused absence the student must notify the teacher of their intent to make up the points. Playing tests/quizzes may be made up after all tests have been completed by the class. (Note: Playing test make ups do not affect chair placement within the section. This is accomplished by challenges.)
- 4) The student then has one full school day to decide on an appropriate project and have it approved by the teacher – failure to follow this step means you may not make up the missing points.
- 5) *The project is up to the student to decide.* Some *possible* ideas of projects include:
 1. A paper on a composer which we are currently studying
 2. Perform a solo or small ensemble for the class
 3. Music theory project
- 6) The timeline for the project will then be jointly decided by the student and the teacher

School Related Activities (Absences)

All school related absences and field trips must be approved by the teacher prior to absence. All make up must be approved and turned in prior to the requested absence (This is school policy). It is not the teacher's responsibility to keep track of the student's involvement in student activities. Students who miss without notifying the teacher two weeks before will result in points lost for that day, and will not be allowed to make up.

Private Lesson Program

Private lessons are one of the most effective ways of continuing to create the outstanding ensembles we have here at Belleville High School. They also strongly develop each individual's musicianship. Private lessons allow a student to focus individually with a teacher on playing problems that are peculiar to them and their instruments. This individual attention is of paramount importance for students to be truly successful and reach their full potential. While lessons are not required, they are highly recommended. Extra credit will be granted for those students who take consistent private lessons.

The private lesson program at Belleville High School works as follows: One or more days each week after school, a specialist for each instrument comes to the high school and offers thirty-minute lessons to interested students. The cost is \$20.00 per lesson, each week. For those students wishing to be involved in lessons but unable to participate due to financial hardship, there is some financial help available through the Belleville Band Boosters. Sign ups have already begun and will continue through the next two weeks.

Symphony Band Requirements

- 1) The Symphony Band is completely reliant on quality rehearsals EVERY day. Because of the level of the ensemble as well as the difficulty of the literature being played, the ensemble cannot be successful without everyone being at every rehearsal. It is therefore not only expected, but also required that you be at every rehearsal, every day.
- 2) School activities that remove you from class need to be chosen wisely as your absence will affect everyone. Numerous absences from class will not be tolerated.
- 3) You are required to study privately with an approved lesson teacher. The lessons need to be **weekly** and are to be verified on the enclosed form. You must have a minimum of seven lessons each marking period in order to receive credit in the class.
- 4) Once each semester, you are required to perform a solo chamber project. The solo must be a piece you have chosen in collaboration with your lesson teacher. In order to receive credit in the class, you must satisfactorily perform your solo for Mr. Taylor.
- 5) As a growth component to your “betterment” as a performer, your lesson teacher will be given an evaluation from me to give me their honest feedback as to your progress from their point of view. Your preparation for lessons, your diligence in trying to understand advanced concepts and implementing them into your music will be a few of the things looked at by your lesson teachers. So, in short, show up and be prepared for your lessons!
- 6) Some night rehearsals will be scheduled later in the year. It is expected that you attend all night rehearsals in preparation for our March and Festival Performances.
- 7) There may be mandatory playing tests held after school or via flip grid for all symphony band members. Signup sheets will be posted no later than one week before scheduled tests. The prepared pieces will be assigned by the director, and it is expected that all members are present and highly prepared.

Chamber Project Verification

Revised January 2007

Student/Piece Information:

Student Name: _____

Piece of Music: _____

Composer: _____

Mr. Taylor Verification (APPROVAL OF SOLO):

Taylor Sign Off: _____

Date: _____

Lesson Teacher Sign off Dates: You must turn in TWO dates from your lesson teacher!

Sign off #1: – Student is to know at least half of the piece chosen. Sign off by Friday, November 3rd!

Lesson Teacher Sign Off: _____

Date: _____

Sign off #2: Sign off before Chamber Project date chosen. THEY CAN PLAY IT WITH THE COMPUTER/PIANIST.

Lesson Teacher Sign Off: _____

Date: _____

**Lesson Teacher signs off on a piece only if it is executed correctly with the Smart Music Piano Accompaniment, with all aspects of technique, intonation, and musicianship.

Symphony Band Private Lesson Verification Sheet

Name:

Marking Period: 1st 2nd 3rd 4th

Private Lesson Teacher's Name:

Private Teacher's Telephone Number:

Date of Lesson

Teacher's Signature

1)

2)

3)

4)

5)

6)

7)

8)

9)

10)

- A minimum of seven (7) lessons, (*6 first marking period*) spread evenly over the marking period, is **required** each marking period
- Hour lessons *do not* constitute two lessons
- If not using BHS lesson teachers, your teacher **must** be approved by Mr. Taylor

Belleville High School Bands
Student Contract
2023-2024

It was explained to me in great detail by Mr. Taylor, the policies of the Belleville High School **Symphony** Band regarding grades, expectations, and scheduled performances. I understand and accept the responsibility of fulfilling the grading rationale, classroom and performance obligations and I have a copy of the calendar to take home to share with my family to avoid any and all conflicts.

Student Name (Please Print) _____

Student Signature _____

Date _____