

APEX HIGH SCHOOL BAND

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HANDBOOK AND SYLLABUS 2019-2020

Purpose of the Apex Band

The purpose of the Apex High School Band program is to educate young people through the medium of music performance. By individual and collective involvement in this program, students will grow and mature as musicians, learners, and people. Both students and parents should read the handbook thoroughly then sign and return the band handbook consent form and the instrument rental form, if applicable, by the Tuesday after Labor Day. The objectives of the Apex High School band program will be:

- to continually develop all student musicians both individually and collectively
- to operate and perform as a group of disciplined young adults
- to consistently demonstrate group excellence in musical performance
- to create a musical product that inspires the performer and the listener
- to seek to understand music academically and aesthetically, especially as it relates to music theory, history, and performance
- to continually develop a learning community of music education in and around the Apex Band that is welcoming to all students in all situations, and ensures a safe, friendly learning environment in which we make great music

Grading Policy

Performance/Project Grades (35%)- Students are required to come to all band performances throughout the year. There is a list of those dates on the following pages. They are mandatory. Students may also be asked to complete projects outside of class time that are supplemental to the classroom curriculum.

Playing Tests/Written Tests (30%)- Students will be assigned playing tests that will sometimes be recorded at home and submitted via Google Classroom and others will be performed during class time. Playing Test are important because they allow us to measure student growth on their instrument. See “Playing Test Grading Rubric” on following pages.

Rehearsal Grades (30%)- Students are expected to participate in class every day. Musically participating and contributing to the education process will help to ensure student success. An active, positive, and productive rehearsal is expected every day.

Homework Grades (5%)- Students are expected to fill out practice sheets and get forms signed as needed/assigned by the band director.

Student Expectations

Students are expected to give their best effort every day. Students should come prepared to class with their music learned for that day. Students are to be in the room, preparing to play their instruments by the time the tardy bell rings. Students late to class will be locked out and will have to get a tardy slip to gain access to class per school rules. Students given a tardy slip will have lunch detention for each time they are tardy to a class. Students will be given time at the end of class to put their instruments away before the ending bell rings.

Students are expected to practice at home regularly and improve as a player on their instrument. Musical growth is the expectation. Students are also required to attend two concerts a semester outside of our band program. One of these concerts should be in support of either the Apex Strings program or the Apex Choir program. The other concert should be by a professional ensemble of musical merit or collegiate wind band. The student should keep the program/playbill, print their name on it, and turn it in on the assigned date given in class.

Finally, students are asked to maintain a culture of respect for people, property, and the educational environment. Students are asked to treat each other well and to take great care of all our equipment. Only when students are bound together by common goals can they rise to the peak of success as an ensemble.

School-Owned Instrument Rental Information

Every student that plays a school owned instrument will be asked to pay a service fee to help keep instruments clean and in proper working order. This includes percussion, low reeds, horns, low brass and double reeds. The fee is different than marching band fees and marching instrument fees.

Extra-Curricular Ensembles

We have many extra-curricular ensembles including marching band, jazz band(s), musical pit, and various others. It is expected that those students interested in playing in those ensembles are committed to coming to their respective rehearsals. Commitment is the ticket to performing with those ensembles. Mr. Jarvis reserves the right to keep students who miss rehearsals from performing with those ensembles.

Band Travel

As any of our ensembles prepare to travel, Mr. Jarvis will send out information pertinent for each. Details will be shared as they are known. If there is a travel fee, payment dates will be publicized in advance. Band travel is not a right but a privilege and should be treated as such. Mr. Jarvis will not allow students to travel with the band if they are not musically prepared or are not behaviorally trustworthy.

Concert Dresses and Tuxedos

Students are asked to buy concert dresses and tuxedos. We have specific companies we order from so all of us look the same. Students with financial difficulty should come talk to Mr. Jarvis. Specific information about prices and fittings will come in a separate document.

The Role of Parents of Apex Band Students

Band parents are a vital group of people. They help us do so many things throughout the year to allow our students the very best music education we can give. Band parents are strongly encouraged to be an active part of our band boosters. We cannot operate without the financial and logistical support of the band boosters. The band boosters give support to all our band ensembles across the program and play a vital role in the overall success of each ensemble. The band director's job is to envision, plan, and lead. The band parents' role as a booster organization is to support. Wonderful things are happening in our band program because we almost always achieve this balance.

Communication

Parents are asked to provide their email address so we can send out weekly reminders of upcoming events. Our website and emails primary communication tools. Keep an eye on the website weekly. You can find our calendar there and stay current with upcoming concerts and band booster events. You can also find answers to frequent questions, pictures, and much more. You will receive communication through our "Charms" account. Charms is a software program that allows us to keep track of various things throughout our band program.

From Mr. Jarvis

I am absolutely dedicated to helping every student reach their full potential. I am very excited for the music education that will take place this year at Apex High School. Please know that my door is always open to students and parents and I am here to help however I can. We are going to have a great year together!

Playing Test Grading Rubric

Letter Grade: A 90%-100%	Letter Grade: B 80%-89%	Letter Grade: C 70%-79%	Letter Grade: D 60%-69%	Letter Grade: F 59% and below
All notes and rhythms are accurate.	Most notes and rhythms are accurate.	Many of the notes and rhythms are correct.	Few notes and rhythms are correct.	Student did not play the assignment or played the assignment so poorly that it was unrecognizable as the assignment.
The tone production is the characteristic sound of the instrument on every note and played with absolute control.	Tone production is mostly characteristic of the instrument on every note and played mostly under control.	Tone production is sometimes immature and not always under control.	Tone production is almost always immature and not under control.	
Tempo is consistent and correct for the style.	Tempo is mostly consistent and correct for the style.	Tempo is not consistent or incorrect for the style.	Tempo is not consistent.	
The articulations are correct stylistically.	Articulations are mostly correct stylistically.	Articulations are not correct.	Articulations are missed frequently.	
There is dynamic contrast that is easily interpreted.	There is dynamic contrast.	There is little dynamic contrast.	There is no dynamic contrast.	