

Wind Ensemble

Syllabus

This is a yearlong elective class open to students in grades 9-12.

Prerequisites: A background of solid musical fundamentals (sight-reading, scales, tone quality, technique, and understanding of rhythm/beat patterns) is required. Admission is through audition or permission of the instructor.

Description: This class is a performance-based class for mature, responsible and advanced instrumental music students. Members of the Wind Ensemble will be asked to perform standard wind band literature, orchestral transcriptions, as well as unique modern wind compositions. Some selections may call for a limited number of performers. Members will participate in the Fall, Winter, Pre-Festival, Spring Concerts, MSBOA Band & Orchestra Festivals, Commencement, Honors Convocation, and Basketball Pep Band. Wind Ensemble members will also participate in all Spartan Marching Band events including Summer Band Camps; Blueberry Festival, Homecoming, Christmas, and Memorial Day Parades.

Assessments: Grading is based on daily participation, rehearsal behavior, attendance at all functions, as well as class assignments and projects. Attendance at all concerts, events (including home varsity football games and home varsity boys' basketball games), and evening marching band rehearsals are mandatory. Students are also expected to progress through the IC Music Proficiency Program.

Auditions: All band members will complete a placement audition at the end of the school year for next year's band placement. Chair auditions will take place at the beginning of the school year. Grade level does not affect placement results.

Instrumentation: The Wind Ensemble will resemble the following instrumentation: 5 flutes, 2 oboes, 1 bassoon, 8 clarinets, 1 bass clarinet, 1 contra-bass clarinet, 2 alto saxophones, 1 tenor saxophone, 1 baritone saxophone, 6 trumpets, 4 French horns, 4 trombones, 1 euphonium, 1 tuba, 6 percussion. Numbers may fluctuate slightly from year to year but will be based on this set-up.

Rehearsal Supplies: To be properly prepared for each rehearsal students should have their instrument(s), music, a pencil, and other necessary supplies (i.e. valve oil, reeds, mutes, etc.).

Individual Practice: In order to maintain and improve the quality of our bands, each student must be responsible for practicing his/her parts outside of class time. Practice time should include warm-ups (scales, long-tones, etc.) and work on band music. Many students may choose to spend additional time on etudes and various solo literature. Please see Mr. Pries if you need help attaining appropriate solo materials. Practice Cards will be due at posted dates throughout the school year.

