

SYLLABUS

Priest River Junior High Advanced Band

5th Period, M-F 12:50-1:40

Jordan Ballenger

District Band Director

INSTRUCTIONAL GOALS

Course Description: Concert Band will focus on the performance of skill-appropriate wind band repertoire that challenges students to understand the basics of performance etiquette, musicianship, technique, music history, music theory, and listening skills. Students will learn to work together as a group to create, perform, and respond, as well as improve as individual musicians.

Learning Targets: At the end of this course, you will have a basic understanding of the tenants of a well-rounded music education: Music Theory, Aural Skills, and Music History.

- Students will learn to recognize basic musical forms, scales, and tonal centers.
- Students will learn to listen for pitch, intonation, and intervals.
- Students will learn the basic history of the music they will be performing.
- Students will learn more about their instruments, basic care, new fingerings, etc.
- Students will learn proper performance etiquette and musicianship.

NEEDS AND RESOURCES

Required Background: To successfully complete this course, you must:

- Have a basic understanding of how to read music, including clef, time signatures, key signatures, rhythms, pitches, accidentals, etc.
- Have a basic understanding of how to play their instrument of choice, including embouchure, fingerings, how to tune, basic care, etc.
- Play an instrument that falls within the typical wind band families (woodwinds, brass, percussion). Other instruments will be allowed or disallowed on a case-by-case basis, depending on the availability of parts or the ability to fill in on other parts.

Required Materials: To successfully complete this course, you will need:

- Your instrument, EVERY DAY!
- Your music and folder, EVERY DAY!
- A #2 pencil, EVERY DAY!
- Instrument specific supplies (mutes, reeds, valve oil, slide cream, mallets, etc.).
- Performance attire, specific to the event. See below.

COURSE SCHEDULE

Performance Schedule will be:

Call Time for all Concert Band Performances will be 60 minutes before the Start Time.

<u>DATE</u>	<u>EVENT</u>	<u>START TIME</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>
12-13-18	Christmas Concert	TBA	TBA

All other events TBA (Gathering, spring concerts, Large Group, S&E, etc.)

*Call Time means being in your seat with your instrument and music, ready to go.

POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

General Expectations: All students will demonstrate:

- Give your very best.
- Contribute positively to class and fellow musicians.
- Show respect to fellow musicians, instruments, equipment, and music.
- Work to improve yourself and the band.
- Treat others as you would like them to treat you.

Classroom Procedure: All students will adhere to these procedures during class:

1. Be in your seat with your music, stand, and instrument ASAP (< 3 minutes of the bell).
 2. Individual warm up, percussion - organize yourselves.
 3. Tuning starts five minutes after tardy bell.
 4. Ensemble-building exercises.
 5. Announcements.
 6. Rehearsal work.
 7. Three minutes before the bell, put away your own stands, chairs, and instruments. Percussion instruments are put back neat and organized.
- When I step in front of the conductor's stand, all talking and playing stops.
 - When the baton goes up, instruments go up, too.
 - During rehearsal, talking is kept minimal, and only regarding the work at hand.

Dress Standards: All students will wear proper performance attire during performances.

Concert Band: Concert Black. Ladies, this means full-length black dress or black blouse and skirt. Gentlemen, this means black, long-sleeve dress shirt, preferably collared and button-up with buttoned cuffs, with black slacks and black socks. Ladies and gentlemen are both required to wear black shoes, preferably dress shoes. Please talk to me well in advance of performances if you do not have reasonable access to these items.

Grading Policies: Grades for this ensemble will be broken up into three categories:

40% Performance	(Midterm/Final)
30% Rehearsal	(Participation)
30% HW/Practice	(Preparation)

Performance: We will have various performances throughout the school year. Your performance grade is based on proper performance etiquette and mastery of repertoire and technique. I give 100 points per performance.

**I don't expect anyone to play like the musicians of the New York Philharmonic, but I do expect you to put time and effort into making our performances the best they can be. If you sound like you just saw your music for the first time an hour before the concert and/or you act like a hooligan during the concert, your grade will be negatively affected. However, if you do your best to play the music and act respectfully towards your peers, your audience, and your conductor, then you will get a good grade.

Performance Absences: Think of each performance as a midterm or final. If you miss your midterm/final in any other class, your grade is adversely affected. Please do not miss performances.

Legitimate, Unavoidable Scheduling Conflicts and *Legitimate, Unpredictable Emergencies* are the only situations in which your absence will be excused. All other reasons for missing a performance will result in an unexcused absence. Only excused absences will be able to be made up. Make up will consist of a two page, typed, double-spaced, standard format, informative essay on a composer, piece, or musical genre. This essay will be due one week after your missed performance and will be your responsibility to get in on time to make up points.

Legitimate, Unavoidable Scheduling Conflicts: If you have a legitimate scheduling conflict, please notify me ASAP so that we may resolve the conflict. I give you the exact dates and times for performances. Make sure all scheduling conflicts are addressed well in advance. If the scheduling conflict is still unavoidable after all avenues have been pursued to resolve the conflict, I will excuse the absence if you deem the event in conflict holds a higher priority than a performance.

Unpredictable, Legitimate Emergencies: If you have an Unpredictable, Legitimate Emergency that will prevent you from showing up to a performance, it is your (or your parent's) responsibility to call me and let me know ASAP. My cell phone number is at the bottom of the syllabus. If you cannot get ahold of me, leave a message. **It is tremendously disrespectful to your peers and to me to spend eight or more weeks preparing for a performance only to no call, no show.** Every single member of the ensemble and every single part is integral to the performance. This communication, even if it is 60 minutes before the performance on your way to the emergency room, is necessary so that I may find alternatives to have your part covered. If you do not communicate with me by Call Time and do not show up, it will be an **unexcused absence** and points will not be allowed to be made up.

*If you will be late, please call me and let me know your ETA.

PARENTS: "I don't feel like taking my kid to their concert," or, "I can't pay for the gas to get my kid to their concert," or, "You're grounded, so you are not playing in your concert," are NOT acceptable reasons for your child to miss a performance. If your child misses a concert because of you, their grade will be adversely affected. Please communicate with me ahead of time so that we may work together and make every effort to get your child to their performance.

Rehearsal: This is your participation grade. If you follow all General Expectations and Classroom Procedures and bring all Required Materials to class every day, you will have a good grade. I give 10 points per day for participation. Unexcused absences from class result in a loss of points. Please get your absences excused through the office or bring me a signed note from your parent/guardian to excuse your absence in class. Not following the General Rules and Classroom Procedures and/or not bringing all Required Materials will forfeit your participation grade for the day.

If you unintentionally forget your instrument, we may have a school instrument you can play on for the day. If you unintentionally forget your music, you may look off your neighbor for the day. If you communicate with me and make an effort to participate without the item you forgot, you will keep your participation grade for the day. If you deliberately do not participate, you will lose points for the day. Injuries that render you unable to play are excused. Depending on the situation, alternate activities may be assigned.

HW/Practice: This is your preparation or homework grade. I will be requiring 100 minutes per week of practice to be logged on Practice Sheets and signed by your parent. These will be due every Friday and each Practice Sheet will be worth 10 points. Every 30 minutes over the required time will gain you 1 extra credit point (10%). Theory worksheets will be given out every Monday and are due by Thursday of the same week for 10 points each.

Grading Scale:

- A=90-100%
- B= 80-89%
- C=70-79%
- D=60-69%
- F= 59% and below

I, (Parent/Guardian) _____, agree to allow my band student an allotted amount of time (suggested 15-30 minutes) every day to practice their instrument in a distraction-free environment to fulfill their homework requirements for band class.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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208-819-8410

Student Signature: _____ Date: _____

Parent Signature: _____ Date: _____