Concert Band Syllabus 2015-2016

Instructor Information:

Teacher: Mr. Mark Surovchak
Room: Belle Vernon Area High School Music Room (Room 207)
Contact: Phone: 724-808-2500; ext. 2172
Email: Mark.Surovchak@bellevernonarea.net
Website: http://www.bellevernonarea.net/bvahs
http://www.bvaband.com (for Marching Band)

Required Text: Music will be selected each year and distributed to all students.

Additional Resources: Resource recordings of music being performed will be available on teachers’ SchoolWires webpage. Student or school-owned musical instrument, mouthpieces/reeds, valve oil / cork grease / slide oil/grease to ensure instrument is in top-working condition. Additionally, students will receive a folder with sheet music, scale/technical exercises, vocabulary, and fingering charts. This material is to be brought to class at all times.

Course Description:

The Concert Band consists of students in grade 9 who wish to continue their instrumental music performing experience from Middle School and for those who are new to instrumental music study (grades 9 – 12). Concert Band students will perform music at the easy to medium level and will include both new and old compositions from the wind band repertoire, in addition to continue developing fundamental music elements to help strengthen students’ musical abilities in a performance setting. Focal points for this ensemble will include the following: proper instrument techniques, proper fingerings / slide positions for each instrument, development of quality tone production and performance range, basic music theory, playing in major and minor scales, and possibly performing in modes, all the while gaining a strong understanding of performing as an ensemble. Playing exams will be conducted during each grading period to include excerpts from the music being performed in class and scales, in addition to listening exams and written assignments. Student lessons will be available
during the school day. Students are expected and encouraged to practice their instrument at home and must be available for evening concerts and performances, as this is part of the student’s grade. Additionally, dress rehearsals will be held the afternoon / evening before each concert, which are also part of the student’s grade.

*Pre-Requisite: Prior instrumental music study in elementary and middle school is encouraged in addition to a positive attitude and genuine desire to contribute to a musical performing ensemble.

**Course Objectives:**

By the end of this course, the successful student will be able to:

1. Understand fundamental and advanced musical concepts through instrumental performance.
2. Perform Major and Relative Minor Scales up to five flats.
3. Have an understanding of the important role that one person plays in an ensemble – individual responsibility leading to the success of the ensemble.
4. Gain an appreciation for music of various periods and styles through performance
5. Continue to raise an individual performance level on each respective instrument which contributes to the overall performance level of the ensemble.
6. Produce a good, quality tone on respective instrument.
7. Perform with a good, balanced intonation.
8. Perform all music with precise rhythmic accuracy and articulation / clarity.
9. Focus on being / becoming a well-rounded musician.

**Academic Honesty:**

Any work submitted by the student shall be his/her own. Work taken from others shall be deemed as unacceptable. Any doubts will initiate the completion of an alternative assignment or a zero on the required effort, depending on the severity of the infraction.

**Class Policies and Expectations:**

1. Within five minutes of the ringing of the bell, all students should be seated with instruments and music, ready to begin class.
2. Students should check classroom board each day for rehearsal pieces and objectives.
3. Students should arrive to class fully prepared for rehearsal – from having a pencil to a performance focus level.
4. Students should dispose of any gum / candy prior to rehearsal as this prohibits proper performance on their respective instruments. Additionally, no food or drink is permitted in the Music Room at any time.
5. Active participation is expected in all ensembles, in addition to individual student practice. Your participation and preparedness is part of the determining factor in how you earn your grade.
6. Attendance is mandatory at all performances and is part of your quarterly grade. We work towards these performances as a goal and your attendance is expected. In the event that you must miss a performance (illness or death in the immediate family), a doctor’s excuse must be handed in on the day of your return. Failure to hand in a valid excuse will result in the loss of points for that performance. Make-up exams will consist of performing all music from the given performance in front of instructor.

7. Proper care of all equipment and classroom furniture in the Music Room must be exercised at all times. Any misuse of instrumental equipment, hardware, keyboards, and classroom furniture will be handled as vandalism. All equipment and music folders must be put away, neatly, at the conclusion of every rehearsal. Any equipment or music folders left out will result in loss of points for the day.

8. Respect is a two-way street. Please give respect to everyone in the classroom at all times.

9. Cell phones are to be used only for instructional purposes. Any cell phone being used during class for any other reason will be taken and returned at the conclusion of the school day.

10. Our goal is to achieve an outstanding musical experience, together. We work as a team and perform as one group. Everyone is 100% important to the ensembles’ success.

11. All rules and regulations outlined in the student handbook are to be followed at all times.

“The difference between good and great is that little bit extra…let’s be GREAT!”

Course Grading Criteria:

All quizzes, tests, and projects will be graded according to the Belle Vernon Area School District grading policy. Total points will be accumulated for all evaluated efforts in this class rather than having letter grades per each effort. The grading scale is as follows:

A  -  90 - 100
B  -  80 - 89
C  -  70 - 79
D  -  60 - 69
F  -  0 - 59

Emphasis will be on formal assessments. Therefore, grades will be weighted.

Formal assessments will account for 90% of a student’s grade (quizzes, tests, projects, performance-based rubrics, essays, graded homework, etc.)

Informal assessments will account for 10% of a student’s grade (homework for completion, class participation, exit tickets, etc.)
### Assignments per Quarter:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assessment</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Point Value</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Playing Exams</td>
<td>Based on excerpts of music</td>
<td>Scales – 10 points each&lt;br&gt;Excerpts – 70 points each&lt;br&gt;*See scoring guide</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lessons</td>
<td>Bonus points</td>
<td>10 points / lesson</td>
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<tr>
<td>Listening Reviews</td>
<td>In class – 1 per nine weeks</td>
<td>25 points each</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dress Rehearsals</td>
<td>Attendance &amp; Performance</td>
<td>100 points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Concert Performances</td>
<td>Attendance &amp; Performance</td>
<td>100 points (3 total concerts)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Commencement</td>
<td>Attendance &amp; Performance</td>
<td>100 points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Concert Reviews</td>
<td>One per concert – completed the day after each concert</td>
<td>25 points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Room Upkeep</td>
<td>You are required to put all equipment away, every day. No equipment should stay out in the room.</td>
<td>1 point / day = 45 points</td>
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<tr>
<td>Active Participation – Pre</td>
<td>Preparedness and Participation – The highest level of ensemble performance will occur when everyone gives 100% together. Therefore, practicing your music individually will only enhance your performance level as a group.</td>
<td>5 points / day = 225 points. Rather than seeing 225 points entered at the conclusion of the grading period, you will see points earned per week at the end of each week.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Behavior / Attitude</td>
<td>Talking, Classroom Disruptions, Non-focus, Lack of Participation</td>
<td>You will lose 1 point for each incident, up to the max of 5 points total for each day.</td>
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**TOTAL POINTS = 600 Points (approximate)**

*Assignments or assessments may vary due to pace of class and individualized instruction.*

**Scoring guidelines for scales / playing exams in addition to Dress Rehearsal / Performance Dates will be available on Mr. Surovchak’s SchoolWires website.**
**Academic Standards:**

Students will be reacquainted with the Pennsylvania Academic Standards that have been adopted by the Department of Education, along with the Common Core Standards that are in the process of being implemented nationwide. Students will be made aware of the importance of the standards and the efforts to meet them.

**Home Access Center (HAC):**

Grades will be updated every Friday on Home Access Center (HAC). If you lost or cannot remember log in information, please contact our Child Accounting Department at 724-808-2500 ext. 1108.

**Schoolwires (Website):**

My website will be updated every Friday. Course Topics, Assignments, and Quizzes and Tests are also posted weekly.

*The following signatures state that all parties are aware of the preceding syllabus.*

Student Signature____________________Date_______________

Parent Signature____________________Date_______________

Teacher Signature____________________Date_______________
## Course Outline:

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<th>4th Quarter</th>
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<tr>
<td>Pre-test on music vocabulary, symbols and rhythms.</td>
<td>Christmas Concert Rehearsals and Performance</td>
<td>Music vocabulary, symbols and rhythms benchmark assessment.</td>
<td>Spring Concert Rehearsals and Performance</td>
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<td>Post-Christmas Concert Written Critique</td>
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<td>Post-Spring Concert Written Critique</td>
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<td>Fall Concert Rehearsals and Performance</td>
<td>Listening Day Activity and Student Written Response</td>
<td>Spring Concert Rehearsals</td>
<td>Listening Day Activity and Student Written Response</td>
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<td>Post-Fall Concert Written Critique</td>
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<td>III.</td>
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<td>Listening Day Activity and Student Written Response</td>
<td>Playing Exams on Christmas Concert Music</td>
<td>Listening Day Activity and Student Written Response</td>
<td>Playing Exams on Spring Concert Music</td>
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<td>IV.</td>
<td>IV. Playing Exams on Fall Concert Music</td>
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<td>IV. Playing Exams on Christmas Concert Music</td>
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<td>IV. Playing Exams on Major and Relative Minor Scales up to 5 flats</td>
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<td>IV.</td>
<td>Commencement Music vocabulary, symbols and rhythms post-test.</td>
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