

WARREN HIGH SCHOOL WIND ENSEMBLE SYLLABUS

2019-2020 School Year

Class: Advanced Band period 2 (Wind Ensemble)

Enrollment: All grade levels by audition

Purpose: The purpose of this class is to give students the opportunity to play in an ensemble where all students are striving for the highest possible level of performance. This ensemble will focus on playing grade 3.5-5 literature. Students will be challenged musically and will be expected to take their daily practice routine seriously so that performance of demanding repertoire is possible. The Wind Ensemble is one of the premier instrumental ensembles at Warren High School. Because this is a premier ensemble, students will be expected to uphold that standard.

Instructor: Mr. Niemeyer

Phone: 562-869-7306 x5616 (office)

Email: dniemeyer@dusd.net

Office Hours: Best time to talk is 12:30-2:30pm

Grading Criterion:

- Participation – 40%
- Assessments – 40%
- Final Exam – 20%

PARTICIPATION 40% of grade

- Out of School Day Rehearsals = 10 points (late 5 points; absent 0 points)
- Festivals and Performances = 20 points (late 10 points; absent 0 points)

to be excused from a rehearsal or performance, it requires a 2 week prior notification **along with Mr. Niemeyer's approval. Just because you request to be excused does not mean you will be excused.*

- Daily Attendance: no points

Students are expected to be in class every day. Attendance is taken every day as students go through their warm up process. If a student is continually late, absent or unprepared a meeting will be set up with said student's parents and school policy will be in effect.

- Out of School Day Rehearsals: 10 points per rehearsal/sectional

In 2019-2020 there is no planned out of school day rehearsals. They will only happen if deemed necessary. Students who are tardy will earn half of the points available. If a student has an unexcused absence, they will receive 0 points. If a student is granted an excused absence, they will earn 8 points.

- Festivals and Performances/ Attire: 20 points for every performance

Students and families must make the effort to make sure students can participate in these activities. Most of these events will be on school days. Please visit the online calendar to see dates, times and locations. To receive full credit, students must be wearing their "dress/tux" with all the appropriate accessories. Students who miss these performances for any reason, ARE LATE or are not properly dressed and groomed will earn half of the points available. If a student has an unexcused absence, they will receive 0 points. If a student is granted an excused absence, they will earn 18 points.

ASSESSMENTS: 40% of grade

Mr. Niemeyer will frequently announce assessments on all aspects related to being in band. These assessments are in place to hold students accountable as individual musicians and ensemble members. Tests will include: tuning charts, reed checks, instrument maintenance checks, pencil checks, music checks, memorization tests, playing tests, written tests, etc. An example of a playing test is Mr. Niemeyer will ask students to play certain passages of the literature that is being rehearsed in front of the class. Sometimes these may be done alone or sometimes with others.

FINAL EXAM: 20% of grade

At the conclusion of both the Fall and Spring semester each student will perform in a small ensemble and a solo during class in front of their peers. **Fall – small ensemble; Spring – solo.** Check points are the following:

Fall: September 16th – solo selected; October 14th – check point; November 18th – check point; December 12-19 performances.

Spring: February 3rd – solo selected; March 2nd – check point; April 6th – check point; May 4 – 29 performances.

CITIZENSHIP: ATTITUDE + CHARACTER

This will be reflected in the students citizenship mark.

CHALLENGES:

Challenges are opportunities for students to advance to the front of their section to play 1st chair music or take on solos. Challenges must be announced on a Monday and will take place that Friday. Only 2 challenges per ensemble will be allowed per week. If there is no school Monday or if there is a scheduled performance that week, no challenges will be allowed that week. It is up to the student to announce the challenge. Challenges will take place in Mr. Niemeyer's office and will be judged by Mr. Niemeyer and or other adult teachers in the music department. Students can only challenge 1 person at a time. If a student does not wish to be challenged, they can forfeit their chair.

BAND ROOM REHEARSAL EXPECTATIONS:

- The NO List: gum, candy, food, drinks, iPods, Cell Phones, Tablets, Laptops, sweater hoodies, baseball hats, homework from other classes, books to read, talking, fixing instrument during class, cases or pack backs in rehearsal space.
- The YES List: help set up and tear put away chairs and stands, be prepared, sit actively through rehearsal, keep your instrument well maintained, keep a pencil ready to write at any moment, ask for help, practice before and after school, be responsible and trustworthy, sit tall, invest your energy into the rehearsal.

WHAT DOES IT LOOK LIKE TO BE ON TIME AND PREPARED?

1. In chair with instrument, music and pencil ready to go when Mr. Niemeyer, a staff member or student leader begins warm ups
2. All music is lightly numbered with pencil and has been practiced at home.
3. Alert and ready to rehearse. This includes having a positive attitude.

WHAT IS A REHEARSAL?

A rehearsal is a time when a group of musicians get together to work on musical issues that relate to balance, intonation, phrasing, dynamics, tempo and transitions, rhythmic alignment, etc. In rehearsal your job is to learn everyone else's part.

WHAT IS PRACTICING?

Practicing is when you learn your part on your own. Practicing is a routine that is developed by an individual musician to help themselves master concepts, techniques, literature, etc.

INSTRUMENT SHARING/MOUTHPIECES

Some students share instruments because we do not own enough of them for everyone to have their own. Every student is to provide own their own mouthpiece. Sharing of mouthpieces is unacceptable.

WHAT DO I NEED TO OWN TO BE PART OF BAND?

*****See Instrument Needs List*****

(If you are not in marching band you do not need to own a flip folder or lyre)

Performances/Events for 2019-2020 as of 8/14/2019

- Holiday Caroling December 6,7,13,14 4:45-7:30pm each day
- Winter Concert Wed. December 11th @ Downey Theatre 7pm – student call time 4pm
- Spingo Fri. January 24th @ TBD 6-9pm
- Cal State Long Beach Band Festival Sat. February 29th ALL DAY
- Kennedy HS Band Festival Wed. March 4th in afternoon/evening
- 2nd Annual Paint Night Fundraiser Fri. March 20th 6-8pmish
- San Francisco Tour April 3-5
- Flapjacks and Jazz Sat. April 25th 7am-11am
- Spring Concert Tue. April 28th @ Downey Theatre 7pm – student call time 4pm
- Golden Bears Ceremony Wed. April 29th @ Downey Theatre 7pm – student call time is 5:30pm
- Graduation Fri. May 29th @ Long Beach City College 6pm – student call time is 3pm