

## **GRADE 8 AND SYMPHONIC BAND COURSE OVERVIEWS**

A full year, graded course, the Grade 8 and Symphonic Bands are open to students in grades seven (SB) and eight (both) with prior instrumental experience. Students are placed in these ensembles based upon three assessment models utilized during the previous year; notes from the director's journal, grades and lesson attendance/preparation, and the score earned on a standardized band assessment rubric. The classes provide for the refinement of musical skills through the continued use of the "Big 6" elements of performance: (Time Signature, Key Signature, Tempo, Dynamics, Articulation, and Form). The primary text for the course is traditional wind and percussion literature commiserate with each group's performance level. Attendance is required at all ensemble functions, usually a minimum of five major concerts/parades per year. Based on each ensemble's progress throughout the year, a trip to an area music festival may be scheduled for the spring.

### Multiple Forms of Assessment:

#### In Rehearsal:

- Student based assessment of daily/weekly performance
- Group, game activities - friendly competition within ensemble
- Written quizzes and tests
- Utilization of both "formative" and "summative" assessment models

#### In Lessons:

- Lesson attendance
- Individual/group performance of scales, rudiments, etc..
- Performance of literature
- Written assignments
- Individual, student-based portfolio checklist rubric
- Utilization of both "formative" and "summative" assessment models

### Standards for Assessment: (Grading Criteria)

- Attendance at all performances
- Lesson Attendance
- Sectional preparation, of literature, in rehearsal
- Individual progress in lesson groups - i.e., scales, etc.
- Behavior and responsibility to the ensemble
- Individual, student-based portfolio checklist
- Practice Card use and verification
- Quizzes/Test (written)

- An individual Band Assessment based on National Standards - given to each student (gr. 6-8) once a year

Learning Activities:

- Intersectional games and competitions
- Analysis and critique sessions based on ensemble performance and use of other recordings
- Writing exercises
- Guest artists/speakers/performers

Resources:

- Instrumental literature of various styles, composers and difficulty levels
- Rhythm Sheets
- Transposition Sheets
- Proper Care of Instrument Sheets
- Practice Cards
- Scale & Rudiment Sheets
- Lesson Book: (SB) - "Band Plus Method"
- Several other handouts based on various units of study
- Standard Literature

Within the district wide curriculum, these courses act as a catalyst for eventual participation in the ensembles of Lewis S. Mills High School. **Instructor's approval is required to participate.**

**Recent and current Symphonic Band repertoire:**

The Great Locomotive Chase, Robert W. Smith

Annabel Lee, Douglas Wagner

The Lord of the Rings – Fellowship of the Ring, Shore/Wagner

The Lord of the Rings – The Two Towers, Shore /Wagner

Semper Fidelis, Sousa/Custer

The Light Eternal, James Swearingen

Gently Flows the Amber Grain, Brian Scott

Battle Hymn of the Republic, arr. Higgins

When the Stars Began to Fall, Fred J. Allen

Rites of Tamburo, Robert W. Smith

Washington Post March, Sousa/Balent

Fairest of the Fair March, Sousa/Clark

Gettysburg, Edeman/Moss

On a Hymnsong of Philip Bliss, Holsinger

Aventura, James Swearingen

Chesford Portrait, James Swearingen

Down a Country Lane, Copland/Patterson, arr.  
African Road, Paul Jennings  
Dream Catcher, Francis Mcbeth  
Canticles, James Curnow  
Chorale and Shaker Dance II, John Zdechlik  
Russian Christmas Music, Alfred Reed/Curnow, arr.  
In Praise of Gentle Pioneers, David Holsinger  
Danny Boy, Warren Barker, arr.