

Gulf Shores High School
Marching Band/Percussion/Color Guard Syllabus
2017-2018
Mr. William Mixon
Band Director
wmixon@bcbe.org

Course Description:

This course is designed to provide an enriching and diverse instrumental and visual music education. This class will include a number of public performances in a variety of settings. The daily objective of the course is to foster and promote musical growth through instrumental playing and visual choreography. As a member of the band program, individual effort in addition to group cooperation is necessary for a successful program and performance. Instrumental playing is both a mental and physical skill where each student is expected to show technical and musical growth throughout this course.

Required Materials:

- Instrument
- Music Folder
- Pencil
- Concert dress uniform
 - Black Tuxedo (sized during class)
 - or
 - Concert Dress (sized during class)
- Appropriate Clothing for Outdoor Rehearsals

Classroom Rules:

- Arrive to class, rehearsals, and performances on time. GSHS tardy policy will be followed.
- No gum, candy, food, or beverages in the band room. Only water bottles are allowed.
- Be prepared with your instrument, music folder, and pencil *everyday*.
- Respect the people and equipment in the band room. If it's not yours, please leave it alone!
- Observe all rules in the GSHS student handbook.

Attendance:

Your attendance is essential to the success of the band. Like a sports team, every member is critical. **Attendance is mandatory to all rehearsals and performances unless otherwise noted.** Attached is an events calendar for the year. Additional rehearsals and performances may be added as necessary and will be communicated to you as soon as those dates are known. If an afterschool marching band practice is missed **for any reason** during the week, the student will not be allowed to march at the Friday night game. **This is not a punishment, but rather a safety policy.** Students must be at practice to be as prepared as possible for the halftime show. If they are not there, there is a greater possibility for mistakes that can lead to serious injury.

Grading Policy:

Daily Work (30%): Students will receive a daily grade. If students are in class, they are expected to fully participate. A student will only be excused from playing in class with a written doctor's note. If a student is absent from class (for any reason), they will receive a zero for their daily grade. If the absence is **excused**, the zero will be dropped and their grade will not be negatively affected. It is not possible to make up a zero for an unexcused absence.

After School Rehearsals (30%): The band program has after school practice until 5:30 every Tuesday and Thursday in the fall. Additionally, there are various after school practices scheduled in advance through the spring. All after school practices are required and graded. If a student is absent from practice (for any reason), they will receive a zero for their daily grade. If the absence is **excused**, the zero will be dropped and their grade will not be negatively affected. It is not possible to make up a zero for an unexcused absence.

Performances (30%): All performances are mandatory. A performance schedule has been provided for the year. Please make plans now for all performances. Performances receive an “all-or-nothing” grade of either a 100 or 0. If a student misses a performance for any reason, they will receive a zero. If the absence is **excused**, the zero will be dropped and their grade will not be negatively affected. It is not possible to make up a zero for an unexcused absence.

Final Exam (10%): A mid-term and final exam will be administered in December and May respectively. This will include a Scale Test for 1st period (winds), 6th period (percussion), and a fundamentals survey for 7th period (color guard). For the scales, students will be required to perform the C, F, Bb, Eb, Ab, and Db scales (with related arpeggios) from memory for the Mid Term Exam. Ranges are dictated by the all state range requirements. Students will perform all 12 Major Scales and the related arpeggios for the Final Exam. Ranges are dictated by the all state range requirements. Color guard students will perform all basic fundamentals with flag individually (not publically).

Music/Routine Pass-Offs:

In order to hold all members of the Concert Band and Marching Band accountable for our performance success, we implement a pass-off system where students are required to perform segments of their music for the director or assistant director (Mrs. Petersen)—During marching band, students can also pass off to their section leader.

Pass-Offs can occur: Before school (the band room is usually open by 7:00AM)
 After school on Tuesdays and Thursdays
 Any other time arranged with Mr. Mixon
 Electronically***

***If you are unable to pass off in person, you may submit an audio file of you playing the specific pass-off section to Mr. Mixon’s email.

If passing off in person, you will be told at that time whether or not you passed off the section and, if you did not, what parts you need to work on. You can attempt pass-offs continuously until passed off. Students may be prohibited from performing with the band if they routine/music is not passed off with Mr. Mixon or Mrs. Petersen.

Instrument Storage:

You have been assigned an instrument storage locker in the high school band room. This storage space is ONLY for use during the school day. Student owned instruments are not to be left at school over night. The band room is generally open by 7:00AM. You can use this time to bring your instrument to the band room.

Student and Parent Acknowledgement Form

I have read the course syllabus for the Marching Band Course at Gulf Shores High School for the 2017-2018 school year. I understand the expectations and policies for the class.

I am also aware of the scheduled performance dates throughout the school year.

Student Name: _____

Student Signature: _____

Student email address: _____

Parent Name: _____

Parent Signature: _____

Parent email address: _____