

Fall 2016

BEGINNING BAND (Course Section 9231)

2nd Block 10:04 AM – 11:41 AM

Matthew M. Shrewsbury, Director of Bands

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COURSE DESCRIPTION:

The Beginning Band is one of the large performing ensembles that represent the concert program portion of the Pulaski County High School Golden Cougar Bands. This ensemble will learn basic fundamental playing techniques and skills required to perform grades I and II wind band literature. Students will work in small and large groups to prepare various musical excerpts and selections. Particular emphasis will be placed on the study of wind band literature and its relevance to current education and events.

COURSE INSTRUCTIONAL OBJECTIVES:

Students will:

1. Develop an appreciation for music through performance & study.
2. Develop a sense of cooperation, appropriate conduct, & the feeling of responsibility as an individual & part of a group.
3. Develop self-confidence.
4. Perform beginning wind band and orchestral literature
5. Demonstrate an understanding of beginning music fundamentals.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:

At the conclusion of this course, the student will be able to:

1. Read beginning & intermediate rhythms & melodies.
2. Play major scales, chromatics, arpeggios, intervals, and minor scales.
3. Apply knowledge of musical expression.
4. Use correct techniques of tone production.
5. Demonstrate an understanding of different styles & periods in music.
6. Perform at required concerts & performances during the semester.
7. Demonstrate proper handling of instrument.

GRADING POLICY & ATTENDANCE

Grades are based on attendance, exams (concerts), and the *Course Requirements* section below. The Director of Bands reserves the right to add

Grading Breakdown:

- Assessment – 30%
- Participation – 25%
- Assignments & Quizzes – 10%
- Music Pass-offs – 10%
- Materials – 5%
- Final Exam – 20%

Grading Scale:
A = 90-100
B = 80-89
C = 70-79
D = 60-69
F = 0-59
INC = Incomplete

Attendance: Attendance is required under the current laws of the Commonwealth of Virginia Section 22.1-254. When a student is absent, and a call-in has not been received, the school staff makes every effort to contact a parent on the day of the absence, using the automatic computer call-out system. All students should make attendance and punctuality a priority for the school year. All absences will be considered unverified unless appropriate documentation is provided.

Tardies: Students are considered tardy to class if they aren't inside the classroom when the tardy bell rings. Students arriving five (5) or more minutes late to class will be assigned discipline as skipping not tardy. Students who have unexcused tardies to class will be referred for the following disciplinary actions:

- First offense: Warning
- Second offense: One lunch detention and parent contact
- Third offense: Two lunch detentions and parent contact
- Fourth offense: Refer to Level II disciplinarian for one SRC assignment and parent contact
- Fifth offense: Referral to Level III Administrator for additional consequences

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

- **Fees:** Everyone must pay a **\$25** Instrument & equipment rental fee. In addition to that fee you must purchase the *"Measures of Success"* band method book, which is roughly **\$9**.
- **Assignments:** Every part in the folder is an assignment - to be prepared through outside personal practice - & brought to rehearsal ready to work detail on ensemble problems. This daily preparation, & your performance (which is evaluated by grading rehearsals, & the concert tapes as exams) constitute part of your grade for the class.
- **Materials:** Every student is required to have specified materials. Students who do not have these appropriate materials by the end of the first 9-weeks period will receive one final letter grade reduction.
 - Instrument: All wind players (brass & woodwind) are required to have an instrument in good working condition.
 - Method Book: All wind and percussion players are required to have the *"Measures of Success"* band method book.
- **Concert Dress:** Personnel are required to adhere to the following dress codes.
 - Formal Concert Dress:
 - Men: White tuxedo shirts only, black bow tie, no colored accessories. Black dress pants, black dress shoes & calf-length socks.
 - Women: Black dress or black pant suit or white blouse and black dress pants. Shoes must be black dress shoes. No colored accessories.

FOLDERS:

You will be assigned a music folio embossed with PCHS Bands. Should you lose or damage the folder you are responsible for a \$25 replacement fee.

MUSIC:

Following are replacement costs for lost music:

- ✓ ORIGINAL piece of music \$5
- ✓ COPY of an original 1st time is free, then \$1 per page
- ✓ WARM UP / TECHNIQUE BOOKS \$15

INSTRUMENTS:

If you need to borrow an instrument, you will be assigned a school owned one, but you will be responsible for returning it in playing condition. If you have a large instrument and need to store it in the instrument storage room, you will be responsible for getting it out and putting it away before and after rehearsals.

YOU MUST HAVE YOUR MUSIC & INSTRUMENT AT EVERY REHEARSAL – NO EXCEPTIONS!!!!

OFF CAMPUS PERFORMANCES:

It should be anticipated that off-campus performances might occur throughout the academic year. Such performances are selected at the discretion of the director of bands. Students are expected to make appropriate arrangements for missing classes and the make-up of assignments.

INSTRUCTION PROCEDURE:

The fundamental instructional procedure for Beginning Band is the in-class rehearsal/lab/performance experience. It is through each class session that the director of bands assists students' progress in their understanding of the mechanics of performance technique, and the application of those developing skills through each rehearsal session. From each class session, students progress logically through a study and development of specific performance skills, analysis and preparation, and rehearsal/teaching techniques. Because of the critical nature of student development and evaluation within each class session, ATTENDANCE at class sessions is a key consideration in evaluation of students' progress in the course.

CALENDAR:

CONCERT	DATE	LOCATION	DRESS REHEARSAL
Winter Concert	Monday, December 12 th @ 7 pm	PCHS Little Theatre	Friday, December 9 th @ 4 pm

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Texting or use of other electronic communication devices during rehearsals will not be tolerated under any circumstances!



WHAT TO EXPECT FROM ME:

I will always be available to you when you have a question or need additional help outside of class. Not everyone will be able to learn and perform at the same rate so I am happy to help assist you in whatever way necessary but you **MUST** ask for help in order to receive it. In a larger class / ensemble it is important that no one gets left behind. Never be afraid to ask for help when needed.

RULES & PROCEDURES:

1. Come prepared! You must bring your folder, pencil, and method books & music to class every day, no exceptions.
2. Care of your instrument. You are expected to treat it with respect. You will put all equipment away correctly and make sure things are covered and stored properly before the end of every class.
3. Starting Class: You will enter the room, get a chair and music stand and then begin your individual warm-up process.
4. GRADING: You will be given specific assignments, deadlines, and procedures for receiving grades in this course.
5. RESPECT! This class is based on respect. You can always expect the utmost respect from me and I will always expect the same in return. Your opinions and ideas are valuable to me and I will always consider them. In a large class / ensemble, you will be expected to respect the teacher, guests, and your peers when they are speaking. If you have concerns with any aspects of the course, feel free to meet with me before or after class.

TIPS FOR SURVIVAL:

1. Ask Questions! In a large class / ensemble as ours is it is easy to get a little behind. Always ask for help and be honest about your progress.
2. Be Assertive! The key to moving ahead is self-motivation and determination. Take charge of your own progress and assert yourself inside and out of the classroom.
3. Organize your time: Map out how much time you will need on various assignments and do not waste time being confused. Ask for help right away!
4. Help One Another. Many of you may have prior knowledge with music theory. Help one another and make connections. You may need some help in return one day!
5. Practice. Before or After School, at home? It couldn't hurt!
6. LISTEN! I will never expect you to do anything you have not been prepared for. The key to learning is listening. Open communication between students and teachers is vital.
7. Try something new! If you have not tried it before, now is your chance. Do not make judgments too quickly. Keep an open mind!
8. HAVE FUN! How fortunate we are to have the opportunity to take a music class in school. Many countries do not offer music classes or do not have the funds. Take full advantage of the opportunities provided for you and let this class build your character and talents. Most of all... ENJOY what you are doing!

Please complete the following information and return this bottom slip to Mr. Shrewsbury by Monday, August 15th.

STUDENT NAME: _____

My student and I agree to the rules and expectations of participating in the Beginning Band course offered at Pulaski County High School.

Student Signature: _____

Date: _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____

Date: _____

Contact Phone: (____) ____ - _____ Contact E-mail: _____