

**NORTHGATE HIGH SCHOOL
INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC DEPARTMENT**

Greg Brown, Director

Northgate High School
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**Orchestra, Concert Band, Symphonic Band, and Wind Ensemble
Course Information**

The success of a musical group depends upon its members giving 100% of themselves every day. I expect this of you, and I expect this group to perform with excellence. Excellence comes from hard work and dedication. It is important that we all work together as a group to make this a reality. This group depends upon you to help reach for excellence every day. Below is a phrase that I refer to whenever I think about the positive attitude and dedication required when striving for excellence:

“Success is assured when everyone pitches in with a will.”

I'd like to thank you in advance for your positive efforts whenever they reflect the spirit of the motto above.

Course Objectives

1. All students will develop the basic fundamentals of playing a musical instrument.
2. All students will develop an understanding of the musical elements.
3. All students will develop musicianship and musical interpretation skills through the rehearsal and performance of high quality music literature.
4. All students will expand their knowledge of musical form and texture, as well as develop a sense of historical perspective through selected musical literature.
5. All students will attend and participate fully in all rehearsals and performances.

Course Content – course content will focus on the following musical knowledge and skills:

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. Posture and Breath Support/Bowing | 6. Sight Reading Skills |
| 2. Tone Production and Timbre | 7. Articulation |

3. Dynamic Balance
4. Intonation
5. Rhythm and Subdivision

8. Musical Elements
9. Musical Expression
10. History

Rehearsal Technique (Traits Demonstrated by Successful Students)

1. They arrive early enough to begin rehearsals and performances on time.
2. They prepare for rehearsal as soon as they arrive.
3. They have a pencil on their stand during every rehearsal and mark their parts whenever appropriate.
4. They store their music and instrument in/on the assigned slot, locker, or shelf.
5. They consistently model exemplary posture and constantly work to develop their breathing skills.
6. They have plenty of extra reeds, oil, grease, strings, sticks, mallets, rosin, etc.
7. They have their own copy of their part on the stand, even if they are sharing a stand with a partner, so they may mark the part for aid in home practice.
8. They practice at home regularly.
9. They come to class with a cooperative attitude and a willingness to work.
10. They listen for instructions immediately following each cutoff.
11. They listen for instructions given, even if their section is not being addressed directly.
12. They strive to utilize the five item “listening checklist” at all times.
13. They constantly strive to subdivide while playing.
14. Once they know how their part is to be played, they strive to always perform it in that manner.
15. They talk only when it is appropriate to do so.
16. They strive to have fun while they strive to do their best.
17. They assist others in set up and clean up whenever possible.
18. They never leave a mess where they have been rehearsing or performing.
19. They respect other musicians, audience members, facilities, equipment and sheet music.
20. They play only those instruments that they own, that they have checked out to them or that they need to perform with the ensemble.

Assessment of Performance and Written Skills

1. **Playing Tests**: Students will be tested on scales and music covered in class. These tests will be announced in advance.
2. **Written Tests and Assignments**: Students will be given written tests and assignments on occasion.
Tests will be announced in advance.
3. **Preparation**: Evidence of practice through performance, written tests, and playing tests are worth a combined 20%. See **Preparation**: under **Grading Criteria and Values** below.)
4. **Concert Attendance**: Performances are one of the most important assessment tools that can be utilized in a performance class. You are expected to attend all performances. You are expected to check the performance/rehearsal schedule against your personal schedule as soon as it has been passed out to you. You must give written notice of unavoidable conflicts as soon as you have compared schedules (by September 15, 2015). You will be given an alternative assignment if a requested absence is considered excused. An unexcused absence from performance or failure to complete an alternative assignment for an excused absence, will subtract 20% from your overall quarter grade.
3. **Concert Reports**: One concert report is due each semester. The due dates for this school year are:

1st Semester

Tuesday, December 15, 2015

2nd Semester

Tuesday, May 17, 2015

Grading Criteria and Values

1. **Rehearsal Technique**: This is an evaluation of the twenty items listed under Rehearsal Technique: (Traits Demonstrated by Successful Students: on the previous page. (20%)
2. **Preparation**: This is an evaluation of the amount and quality of your home practice as evidenced by your improvement in all aspects of musicianship. (20%)
3. **Course Work**: This is an evaluation of accomplishment in learning your parts, successfully complete written and playing tests. This evaluation includes your improvement on your instrument and in your musicianship in general. (20%)
4. **Class Participation**: This is an evaluation of your dedication to perform to the best of your ability in class every day and whether you execute new instructions to the best of your ability. (20%)

5. Concert Reports: Attend one concert per semester. Submit a typed (double spaced) one and a half to four page concert report each semester. Report criteria guidelines are always available in the music room. (20%)

Grade Percentages

90% – 100%	A
80% - 89%	B
70% - 79%	C
60% - 69%	D
Below 60%	F

Take this course information home with you and read it with your parents. After reading the course information, sign below and return it by Friday, August 28, 2015. By signing below, you acknowledge reading the information and agree to abide by the information and guidelines described herein. Retain this information for future reference.

Best Regards,

Greg Brown
Performing Arts Department Chairman
Instrumental Music Director

Tear here (Due by Friday, August 28, 2015)
COURSE INFORMATION for Orchestra, Concert Band, Symphonic Band, Wind Ensemble

Print Student's Name:

Student Signature and Date:

Parent Signature and Date:
