

Concert Band

2011 - 2012

Mr. Marshall

Introduction Packet



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Overview

Concert Band meets three times in a cycle and is an elected/selected course of study open to all students in grades 9 – 12. All students will be auditioned for placement within the ensemble. Participation in Concert Band encourages the intellectual, musical and social development of the individual through performance of music of excellent quality. In addition, all members are strongly encouraged to take private instrumental lessons outside of the school day to further enhance the quality of their musical experience with the ensemble. Loyalty to the school through cooperation with other departments in presenting musical programs is stressed; participation in music festivals, exchange concerts, local civic events and All-State festivals provide opportunity for both recreation and development of intellectual and aesthetic interest. Special invitations from throughout the United States have been offered to the Concert Band and several of these opportunities have been accepted.

Instructional Activities

1. SmartMusic Practice Sessions and Performance Assessments
2. Class Rehearsals
3. Individual Testing
4. Performances (Class, School, Festival and Community)
5. Music Vocabulary Study
6. Teacher Demonstration
7. Rhythmic Counting, oral and written
8. Rhythmic Performing
9. Singing of Pitch Names and Rhythms
10. Worksheets for terminology, notation and rhythm
11. Sight-singing from Selected Literature

Instructional Materials and Resources

1. SmartMusic Practice and Assessment Software and Microphone
2. Individual Instruments, Music Stands & Suitable Chairs
3. Various Hand-outs, Warm-up Exercises & Method Books provided by teacher performed in all 12 Major or Minor Keys.
4. Audio recordings of literature discussed in class.
5. Use of the internet
6. Various music history reference materials
7. Various biographies in video interviews or magazine articles
8. Selected Concert Literature formatted for Wind Ensemble Instrumentation with a difficulty of 3 - 4 on a scale of 1-6, that range in stylistic periods from Medieval, Renaissance, Baroque, Classical, Romantic, Modern, Broadway, Contemporary, Seasonal and Popular Music in both sacred and secular settings.

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Grading Requirements

Grading is scored as follows:

Concert Band members will be graded on musical progress, cooperation, attitude and attendance. Grading is scored quarterly as follows:

- **30% Tests/Practice Assignments:** Students will have to perform scales, exercises and their individual parts for the Director at the end of each quarter to track progress as well as perform periodic smaller practice assignments during the semester. These performances are to be recorded onto SmartMusic computer software and emailed to the director. Students must either purchase SmartMusic Software from MakeMusic, Inc. by going to <https://www.smartmusic.com> and purchasing a yearly subscription for \$36 or use the designated in the practice rooms and chorus room. PLEASE NOTE: That these rooms are only available during certain times, not always quiet and for many of those “last-minute” testers, this may not be the most suitable way to record; however it is available. Please read the SmartMusic Information page at the end of this packet for more information and ordering options!



- **70% Attendance and Participation:**

All students must be present at all rehearsals and performances for the full duration. As well, all students are responsible for having their instrument and music with them for every rehearsal and performance. You must also put your best effort in everything you do. Anything less is not acceptable. You must practice and have our parts prepared for rehearsal. PRACTICE AT HOME - REHEARSE AT SCHOOL! Also be prepared for rehearsals, set-up in a timely fashion, be quiet and attentive during rehearsals, clean-up your area (chair and stand) following each rehearsal/performance, support your fellow classmates and DO NOT LEAVE YOUR INSTRUMENT IN SCHOOL OVERNIGHT!!!

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Instructional Objectives

During 4 years of participation, the successful student will have learned to:

I. Basic Musicianship

- Demonstrate an understanding of music vocabulary used in band literature
- Follow conducting patterns and cueing techniques
- Demonstrate proper rehearsal conduct
- Identify music in different periods
- Identify and follow various music forms
- Demonstrate more sophisticated listening skills in performance

II. Performance Skills

- Demonstrate rhythmic skills using selected band literature and specific testing exercises
- Demonstrate melodic skills using selected band literature and specific testing exercises
- Perform from memory, all major scales and selected minor scales in designated rhythms and patterns
- Use harmonic skills in ensemble performance; including blend, balance and structure
- Use ensemble performance skills; including blend, balance and intonation
- Demonstrate enhanced use of technical skills on their instrument
- Successfully sight-read music one level below rehearsed literature

III. Musical Expressiveness

- Demonstrate knowledge of concepts for skilled, tasteful performances
- Recognize the music from different periods, mediums or styles
- Identify various career opportunities in the music profession
- Demonstrate an understanding of the importance of team effort
- Demonstrate an understanding of the personal strive for excellence
- Respond to and critique performances by themselves and others using correct musical terminology

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Course Materials

1. Pencil

Pencil usage over a pen is crucial in working with printed music. Cues, markings and changes in the written music will be made every day. Do not use a pen in class. The teacher will not supply you with one and neighboring students may not have an extra pencil on them. Students who forget to bring pencils to class will lose Participation Credit towards their grade!

2. Three Ring Binder (1 ½ or 2 inches)

All written music will be copied and handed out to you. Music will be kept in your three-ring binder and taken home with you every day to practice. You must have your music with you every day! Students who forget to bring their music to class will lose Participation Credit towards their grade!

3. Sheet Protectors (50 or more)

To avoid having to three-hole punch your music, please purchase 50 or more sheet protectors to insert your music into. The usage of sheet protectors will make turning pages much easier during practice and performances as the music will not get ripped, torn or damaged.

4. Instrument

During school hours your instrument will be stored in your assigned instrument cubby located in the band room. All woodwind and brass instruments must be taken home to practice. Only school-owned equipment too large for transport will be allowed to remain in the building after hours. Students that forget to bring their instruments home at the end of the day or to class will lose Participation Credit towards their grade!

5. Metronome

This piece of equipment is vital for practice. A metronome gives you a consistent beat at any tempo, allowing you to raise or lower the tempo in increments as needed while developing a piece of music. You are required to bring your metronome to class every day in case sectional or solo practice time is assigned during class. Students that forget to bring their metronome to class will lose Participation Credit towards their grade! Metronomes can be purchased for a nominal price at Symphony Music Shop (Dartmouth), Ray Mullin Music (Swansea), Rick's Music World (Raynham), Doug's Music (Seekonk) and Friends Music (Westport).

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Standard 2 – Reading and Notation:

Students will read music written in standard notation.

Standard 3 – Playing Instruments:

Students will play instruments, alone and with others, to perform a varied repertoire of music.

Standard 5 – Critical Response:

Students will describe and analyze their own music and the music of others using appropriate music vocabulary. When appropriate, students will connect their analysis to interpretation and evaluation.

Standard 6 – Purposes and Meaning in the Arts:

Students will describe the purposes for which works of music were and are created, and, when appropriate, interpret their meanings.

Standard 7 – Roles of Artists in Communities:

Students will describe the roles of artists, patrons, cultural organizations, and arts institutions in societies of the past and present.

Standard 9 – Inventions, Technologies, and the Arts:

Students will describe and analyze how performing and visual artists use and have used materials, inventions, and technologies in their work.

Standard 10 – Interdisciplinary Connections:

Students will apply their knowledge of the arts to the study of English language arts, foreign languages, health, history and social science, mathematics, and science and technology/engineering.

Dear Parents,

Our school band program will continue using SmartMusic® this year to help students learn their concert music and develop essential instrumental performance skills. We highly recommend students purchase a SmartMusic home subscription as it will greatly assist their development.

SmartMusic is learning software for band, orchestra and choir students. SmartMusic includes assessment tools that help to measure the individual progress of every student. With SmartMusic, teachers can give an assignment as well as record, assess and archive the performance of every student who completes the assignment. As a result of using SmartMusic, music teachers collect powerful data that demonstrates student progress.

SmartMusic changes how music is learned, practiced and enjoyed. Rather than practicing alone, students practice with professional accompaniments. The software provides immediate feedback on their performance through the built-in assessment tools. Teachers using SmartMusic report that students have more fun practicing. As a result, students practice longer, more effectively and get better faster.

SmartMusic Impact is an effective, web-based grade book that makes it easy for teachers to manage, grade, and document assignments for all their students. Students can complete assignments at home or on school computers and the assignment data is automatically transferred to the teacher's Impact Gradebook™. Students and parents are able to view grade information via the web by logging in with an e-mail address and password. Note that while an Internet connection is required to receive and submit assignments, SmartMusic handles the rest—neither a web browser nor an e-mail application is used.

Students begin using SmartMusic and Impact by enrolling in their teacher's class using an e-mail address and a password. During this process, students provide contact information for the teacher's use. Student contact information as well as all class grading data is secured using HTTPS encryption and double password protection. All information is stored on MakeMusic's servers and privacy is ensured by our stated privacy policy. For more information, please go to: www.makemusic.com/privacy_statement.aspx.

SmartMusic is a subscription-based service available to band, orchestra, and choir students and assignments can be completed at home or school. Since teachers will be requiring students to complete SmartMusic assignments, a SmartMusic home subscription is a great tool for your student's musical development.

Please visit www.smartmusic.com where you can view a four-minute video that explains SmartMusic and how it motivates and engages students, builds student confidence and enriches the student's total music experience.

What is needed to use SmartMusic?

SmartMusic works on your PC or Macintosh and requires an Internet connection to activate your subscription and receive and send assignments securely online. System requirements and support contacts are listed at www.smartmusic.com/support.

What does SmartMusic cost?

You can purchase a full-year subscription directly from SmartMusic for only \$36 per year. Microphones cost \$19.95 (Windows), \$29.95 (Mac), and are required for assignments, tuning, recordings, and assessments. You can order your SmartMusic subscription, microphone, and mic adaptor (as necessary) by going to www.smartmusic.com and clicking the *Order Now* button. **However, if you have a microphone on your computer, any will work fine!**

How do I get started?

Here are the easy steps to purchase and activate your SmartMusic subscription. While you must be online to activate, receive, or post assignments and to download music, no web browser is required, and you can practice off-line at any time. If you run into any questions, SmartMusic tech support is free!

1. Visit www.smartmusic.com and follow the on-screen instructions to order your subscription, mic and free installation disc.
2. When you receive SmartMusic at home, install SmartMusic with the installation disc and launch the program.
3. You will be prompted to activate your subscription using the e-mail address and password that you created while ordering.

If I have more than one music student at home, do I have to purchase more subscriptions?

No. After purchasing a subscription, you activate that subscription on a single computer. Additional subscriptions would be necessary only if your family would like to practice on more than one computer at home.

We're confident that both you and your child will quickly appreciate how SmartMusic transforms practicing, motivates students and helps prepare great concerts!

Thank you for your support of your child's personal musical growth and involvement in the Somerset High School Concert Band and or Symphonic Wind Ensemble!



Sincerely,
David M. Marshall – Director of Bands, SHS