

South High Community School Band, Room 267
170 Apricot Street Worcester, MA 01603
508-799-3325
Mr. Creamer, Principal Ms. Moulin, Arts Assistant Principal



Honors Band I - IV

Music Department - Band – Orchestra 6352, 6362, 6372, 6382
Meets Monday – Friday, 7:22 a.m. – 8:09 a.m.
Year-long Course

Contact Information

Band Director: Mrs. Johnetta Smith, smithjd@worcesterschools.net or Remind App (before 7 pm)
Assistant Band Director: Mr. Brian McCulloch, mccullochbr@worcesterschools.net or Remind App
(before 7 pm)

Extra Help Day is Wednesdays. Other days are available by appointment.

Course Description and Course Goals

The goal of the honors band class is to help you:

- Become an Independent musician who is able to read, comprehend, create, change, and perform any music that you wish to produce throughout your life.
 - Be musically literate to be informed, well-rounded listeners of many genres.
 - Be a critical thinker.
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- To reach the course goals, you will:
 - Expand your ability to read increasingly difficult music, in a wide variety of styles and eras, in standard notation and also to play by ear.
 - Develop skills and vocabulary to thoughtfully evaluate performances of your own and of others, and to be able to rehearse and prepare music independently.
 - Improve your technical ability on your instrument to produce a characteristic tone (the tone that your instrument should sound like) on all notes, and to make it sound easy to play notes of all duration (lengths) and speed, in any style (smooth or disconnected), at any dynamic level (volume).
 - Practice proper performance etiquette (behavior) in performances including full band concerts, school events, community performances, and parades, as well as solo or small group situations, indoors and outdoors.
 - Develop musicianship (bring emotion out of the music) and musical creativity (write your own music, interpret written music or change existing music).
 - Learn music theory and some music history, and improve aural skills (identifying the melodies, rhythms, chords, etc., that make up the music you hear).
 - Develop ensemble skills to blend, to play in time, in tune and in balance when playing with others and to be able to understand and follow the director's verbal and non-verbal communication.
 - Develop appropriate maintenance techniques and habits for your instrument.
 - As you mature, you will fulfill leadership jobs within the band and mentor others.

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Texts, Materials, and Supplies

- The band website: www.shcsband.org Documents and photos are posted here.
- SHCS Band Handbook – in progress
- The South High Community School Band Association exists to support your music education through chaperoning, organizing and raising funds for the band. Please ask your guardian to help, even if they cannot attend the meetings. More on this in a separate document.
- Standard of Excellence Band Method, 14 Weeks to a Better Band, other books that may be distributed to you.
- Music, of various styles, that will be distributed to you.
- Chromatic, major and harmonic minor scales. <http://massmea.org/newsevents/all-state-festival-concert/auditions>
- Specific exercises that are distributed to you.
- Rubank Advanced Method Book for your instrument that you provide (\$7) Highly recommended, not required.
- Free tickets, for you and your family, to most Music Worcester concerts. Order them on the band website.
- Access to the internet to use Google Classroom and to complete certain assignments. If you need to use a school-owned Chromebook, schedule before or after class time.
- A way to receive Google Classroom notifications and Remind messages in a timely fashion. You and your guardian should join Google Classroom and Remind and enable notifications. See Ms. Smith if you need help with this. You are able to contact both directors, using Remind, before 7 pm on most days.
- A recording device that can upload to Google Classroom, for recording your playing checks and exams.
- Google Classroom, Remind, www.sightreadingfactory.com (subscription provided), www.musictheory.net , Youtube.
- Instrument (including drum sticks, reeds, valve oil, cork grease, etc.). If you are borrowing from South High, you are responsible for the instruments safety. Inform a director if there is a problem with your instrument.
- A music folder will be given to you. Keep a folder for written work inside your music folder.
- You will be given a uniform which you must maintain and keep safe. You will need to pay for lost or damaged parts.
- Concert attire that you acquire on your own. Feel free to get free clothing from Andy's Attic, on the first floor of our school. The attire is: White top (Button up shirt with any color of long tie, or white dressy top. No bare shoulders or low neckline). Black slacks/skirts (floor-length skirts/no leggings or tight athletic pants), black dress shoes (marching shoes look like dress shoes, black socks)
- As a continuation of practices at Sullivan GSA band, we ask a contribution of \$40/year to help us pay for band expenses. This can be contributed annually, quarterly, monthly, weekly or however will work for you. Please see Ms. Smith to work out a solution, in cases of financial hardship. Every student will have all materials and access, regardless of ability to pay.
- This year the band is taking a performance tour to Washington D.C. We are asking each student to contribute \$100 (over the course of the year - \$50 before December) to help with costs. Please see Ms.

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Smith to work out a solution, in cases of financial hardship. Every student will be able to take the trip, regardless of the ability to pay.

- If at any time, you have difficulty acquiring what you need for band, including a practice space, see Ms. Smith.

Grading

- The directors do their best to grade fairly. We do not really know how much effort you contribute. We can observe the quality of your participation, playing and other work. Some students are highly successful at written work and participation, but are less developed in reading the music, producing a great tone, or playing a challenging passage. We try to address these disparities by assigning parts that are appropriate for your playing level and by using a variety of assessment tools.

Assessment:

- Playing exams through live or recorded performance. The rubric for the exam is the Massachusetts Music Educators Association (MMEA) Central District adjudicators form. Each student will be provided with his/her individual copy. Students will need to practice outside of class to prepare for these exams.
- Preparation for rehearsal. Is the student improving? Did the student have the materials needed for rehearsal? Practice time is evaluated by how you play during rehearsals. Section leaders or other students may provide peer evaluations to check preparation.
- Written and online exercises for music theory.
- Manageable online Sightingfactory assignments/assessments. Most devices, including cell phones will work with Sightingfactory. Notify the conductor if you need to use a school device outside of class.
- Writing assignments such as performance critiques or pieces regarding musical facts, composers, etc., in compliance with our school focus on "Strategic Writing".

Final Grade Breakdown:

PARTICIPATION 50%

In Performances, Rehearsals and Class Time

Missed performance = automatic drop of 1 letter grade and a 0% for the event grade

WRITTEN WORK 20%

Tests (2x) Quizzes and Worksheets/Online written work (1x)

ATTENDANCE 10%

During Class Time

Grading Scale:	
90-100	A
80-89	B
70-79	C
60-69	D
59-Below	F

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PERFORMANCE LEVEL 20%

Accuracy of Pitch, Rhythm,

Intonation, Style, Expression,

Tone, Balance and Blend

Students will take a final exam that is worth 10% of your final grade.

- As a part of this class you are expected to participate in every required performance. The performance schedule is distributed at the beginning of the year. Each student is to check their schedule with their family. At the time of receiving the schedule, the student must submit a written note from a guardian, if there is a conflict. Only with a written note from a guardian, will an absence from a performance will be excused. Some written, service, or musical work may be required in place of the performance, on a case-by-case basis. If you have a job or babysit a sibling, arrange to be available during performances and scheduled rehearsals. If you need a ride, let us know in advance and we will help you.
- When you are working in small groups, such as a recital ensemble, your grade will reflect your contribution.

Assignments & Homework

- Assignments are posted on Google Classroom. You are responsible for checking it each day. The assignment will almost always be mentioned in class. When you have completed your assignment, be sure to submit it. Your grade will be posted there as well.
- Written work and permission slips are almost always submitted on a clipboard as you enter class.
- Remind is used sparingly to help coordinate special events, to highlight certain important events or assignments.

Late Work

You will lose 5 points off of late work, for each day it is late. It is always worth it to turn it in.

Typical frequency of required work:

Individual Practice

- Consistently – At least 5 times per week – Take home your instrument or arrange to practice at school.

As Needed

- Performances as they occur
- Full participation every day. Be ready to play on time during class.
- Writing assignment (reflections, etc., almost always short)

Weekly:

- Music theory/history worksheet or online activity

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Bi-weekly (every other week):

- One manageable www.sightreadingfactory.com assignment
- Peer or director playing checks

Monthly:

- At least one playing test-usually, in person with your section, or a video recording.
- At least one scale, alternating sharps & flats
- Music theory test

Attendance, Participation, and Classroom Climate

- We assume that you will have 100% or near-100% attendance in class. If you are tardy three times, detention will be assigned. If you will be absent for a field trip or another reason, please write it in the attendance notebook.
- The band is a class that is rich with opportunity. The nature of the ensemble depends on each member participating in fundraisers. Your grade will not be affected if you do not help. If you wish to contribute more funds, in lieu of fundraisers, you are welcome to do so.
- Bring your music and a pencil (keep it on your stand) to every rehearsal.
- Maintain your instrument (clean, oil, grease, etc.) outside of class time. Swab, wipe off and cover drum heads/mallet instruments, empty water from your horn at the end of each rehearsal.
- In rehearsal, we only talk during group discussions or when you have something to add to the work being done.
- Electronic devices, including phones must be locked and put out of sight, unless they are being used for class. This could be for: using the tuning app, an assignment, or checking your calendar. Do not keep your phone on your stand during rehearsal. You may check it after rehearsal while waiting for the bell.
- Assemble your instrument, check the agenda on the board, organize your music and begin warming up properly, immediately after entering the band room.
- When getting your instrument out for rehearsal, do not leave cases in the walk way or under your feet. Close/lock it and return it to your cubby or next to your chair.
- After rehearsal, tidy up around you. Pick up water bottles and stray items on the floor. Do not leave things on your stand. Store instruments, music and belongings properly. Music does not go into the instrument case.
- Everyone borrows ideas, so just give credit. Do not take the credit for yourself – that is plagiarism.
- We want everyone to be happy and to thrive in the South High Band. If you feel uncomfortable in this class, please speak with one of the directors so we can address the problem.