

Percussion Ensemble 2018-2019

Burlington High School

4th Period, Band Room and Percussion Room

Mr. Sean Buchsbaum

sbuchsbaum@bpsk12.org, Office: (781) 273-7669

I. Course Overview

The Burlington High School Percussion Ensemble includes both marching band (fall) and concert band (spring) seasons. While all BHS band members participate in afterschool rehearsals and performances for Marching Band in the Fall, Percussion Ensemble students meet as a separate group during the school day, where the class curriculum develops both intermediate and advanced percussion techniques. In addition to performing literature written specifically for Percussion Ensemble, students will be assigned to perform with either the Symphonic Band and/or the Wind Ensemble at several concerts each year. Individual practice is required, private lessons are recommended, and auditioning for the MMEA Northeastern District Bands is encouraged.

II. Successful Learning

Through the experience of performance through music, band members will cultivate skills and philosophies, such as leadership, goal-setting, teamwork, dedication, and organization, that will prepare them to maximize their potential in life. Therefore, successful learning in Band is dictated by the student's growth and development through the process, just as much (if not more) than the musical product that is achieved.

III. Student Learning Expectations and Expected Outcomes

The band curriculum is intended to be a comprehensive and progressive program of study in individual and ensemble technique and musicianship. While the success of specific outcomes depend on the student's age and ability level, all students will be able to make significant growth on their instrument in all of the topics listed in Section IV.

IV. Topics/Content

The musical concepts that will be covered throughout the curriculum include (but are certainly not limited to):

Tone, Timing, Tuning, Dynamics, Phrasing, Musicianship, Articulation (staccato, marcato, legato, slurred, accents), Rhythm, Balance, Blend, Attacks, Releases, Duration, Range, Endurance, Technique, and Tone Color.

V. Assessing Progress

Percussion Ensemble will be graded using the following weighted system:

Music Performance (25%)

- Students will perform with *technical accuracy* a large and varied repertoire of literature.
- Students will perform with *expression* a large and varied repertoire of literature.

Music Reading (25%)

- Students will read and notate rhythms and melodies.
- Students will identify and define standard notation symbols for pitch, rhythm, dynamics, tempo, articulation, and expression.

Music Analysis (25%)

- Students will listen to, analyze, and evaluate music.

Ensemble and Musicianship Skills (25%)

Students will participate in the ensemble exhibiting appropriate:

- Group Participation
- Personal Accountability
- Personal Demeanor

Together, we will develop an Ensemble Skills Contract that will serve as our guide for our classroom expectations.

Specific rubrics and criteria for assessment activities will be introduced prior to each lesson. At times, rubrics can be co-created by the teacher and students.

Honors Level Credit and Work

Students who have signed up for Honors Percussion Ensemble will receive honors credit when they complete their additional responsibilities each quarter. The honors projects are two-fold:

1. 50% Performance Jury - a solo excerpt/piece and either scales/technical exercises or sight-reading performed live for Mr. Buchsbaum.
2. 50% Research paper - Students may work individually or in groups up to three. Mr. Buchsbaum will have topic suggestions which pertain to our class. Students may be asked to share their work with the class. Students are expected to complete one paper per year with benchmark assignments for each quarter.
 - a. Quarter 1 - Select Topic
 - b. Quarter 2 - Outline
 - c. Quarter 3 - Completion of Paper
 - d. Quarter 4 - Class Presentation

VI. Classroom Expectations

Class and Rehearsal Rules/Guidelines

Entrance Procedure: When students enter the band room for class, they should immediately check the whiteboard/TV screen for instructions. Typically, they should take out their instruments from storage rooms, set up their own stand in their assigned playing area, and complete an individual warmup to be ready to play exactly three minutes after the bell has rung.

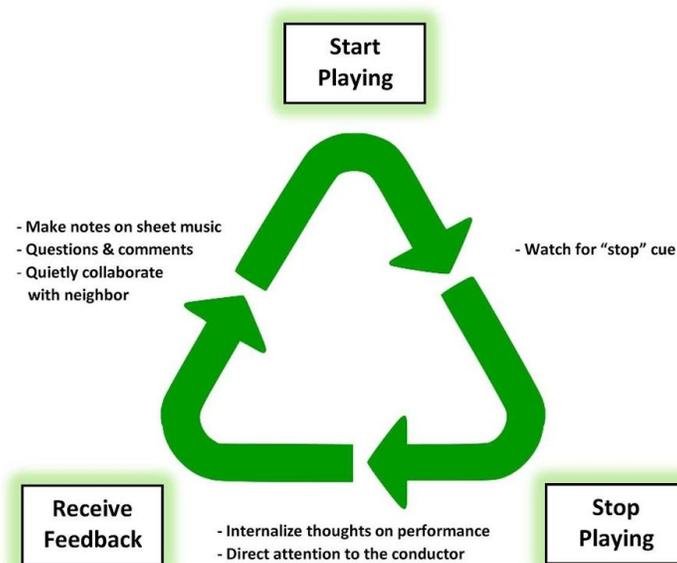
Specific protocols for mallet covers, auxiliary instruments, and stick/mallet storage will be implemented. Backpacks should be placed in lockers - for those students with smaller lockers, a specific area will be designated for backpacks.

In addition to all school rules, there are three guidelines to behavior in Percussion class:

1. If you would like to talk, raise your hand and get permission first.
2. Stay in your seat/assigned playing area, unless you have permission to move.
3. Only play your instrument when we play together.

The Rehearsal Cycle

The most productive rehearsals are built around a simple, repeating cycle:



In order to maintain this cycle, the following rules of rehearsal etiquette must be upheld:

1. Be ready
2. Focus
3. Follow directions
4. Maintain silence

Exit Procedures:

1. At the conclusion of rehearsal, return instrument to its proper location.
2. Return to your locker as fast as possible.
3. Remove your backpack and place your materials inside the locker.
4. Close and lock your locker. (Music Department is not responsible for items stolen out of unlocked lockers.)
5. Exit room quietly and calmly.

Once this is done and the bell has rung, students will be released. Mr. Buchsbaum, not the bell, dismisses the class!

Classroom Materials:

All band students need the following materials for class each day:

- Hard, black, three-ring binder with sheet protectors for music
- School-issued iPad or ChromeBook with Google Drive and Classroom
- Tonal Energy Tuner App
- Pencil
- Instrument and accessories
- All music and handouts used in class

FOR PERCUSSION CLASS: All students in Percussion Ensemble will be required to purchase the Vic Firth EP2 Intermediate Education Pack, which includes a stick bag, drum sticks, and both keyboard and timpani mallets.

<http://vicfirth.com/products/accessories/education-packs/ep2/>

This kit can be purchased through online or through one of our local music stores.

Additionally, it is highly recommended that all students acquire a Practice Pad (12" is standard) and stand, as well as access to some form of keyboard instrument (piano, digital keyboard, mallet instrument) to practice at home.

All percussion students will be responsible for the care and maintenance of all school-owned equipment. A list of expectations for the transportation and storage of all equipment will be available through the Google Drive.

Instrument Storage/Lockers:

Each student will be assigned a locker. Students are expected to adhere to the following rules/guidelines concerning the use of lockers and the storage of instruments:

- Instruments should be put away at the end of each class, and stored correctly in their case in the assigned locker.
- Only instruments and class materials should be kept in the lockers.
- Food and/or drink are not allowed in the locker room.
- Lockers should be kept clean at all times.
- Students may not write in or on lockers.
- The locker number should never be removed or defaced.

Students who do not follow the above rules/guidelines will lose locker privileges for the rest of the school year. Proper use of the lockers and instrument storage system will help keep instruments safe and in good condition, and will also allow for new updated lockers to be purchased in the future.

VII. Homework/Makeup Policy

Aside from specific assignments, the expectation for class homework is:

Students will be responsible for all assigned music; the amount of time required to practice is the amount of time that it takes to be prepared to perform all music accurately during rehearsal.

Participation, performance, and musicianship grades will all be determined based on the student's ability to demonstrate adequate preparation of the musical material. For attendance at rehearsals and performances, any unavoidable conflicts should be directed to Mr. Buchsbaum (and Faydeen Sateriale for Marching Season) ASAP.

VIII. Additional Information

Private Lessons and Honor Bands

- **Private Lessons** are strongly encouraged. The value of one-on-one instruction with a professional on a student's instrument cannot be overstated. Private instruction is key to the advancement of individual skills and integral in achieving students' highest potential. There is an excellent Private Lessons Program offered through the Lexington Community Education Program:
<http://www.lexingtoncommunityed.org/music.php>
- **MMEA All-State Ensembles** – Auditions are held in November each year. Students who qualify will travel to the Massachusetts Music Educators Association Conference in Boston in March. They will rehearse with top students from across the state and present a concert the last day of the conference.
- **MMEA Northeastern District Ensembles** – Students will have the opportunity to represent Burlington in our district's ensembles each year. Ensembles include a Concert Band, Jazz Band, Orchestra, and Chorus. Junior District includes students in Grades 7-9, while Senior District includes Grades 9-12.
- **Honor Bands** – Auditions for both local and national Honor Bands will be offered to students throughout the year. Students should check the bulletin board in the band room for updates on Honor Band opportunities.

Band Points and Awards

Band Letters are a visible sign that a student has reached a high level of achievement in band. It is not possible for a student to earn a letter merely by participating throughout their four years at BHS. Students must do something extra. A band letter will be awarded at the Awards Banquet to students who have earned 12 or more band points. Exceptional students will also have the opportunity to earn an honor pin for each 6 points earned beyond the letter.

Please see the Band Point Tally Sheet for a list of ways to earn points. At times, Mr. Buchsbaum may award additional points if a student's participation has gone above and beyond the regular expectations of the class. In addition to Band Points and their associated honors, students may receive various merit and musicianship awards at our annual Music Department Banquet.

Coffee House Performances

We are pleased to offer a series of “Coffee House” performances that will give students an opportunity to perform as soloists and small ensemble members. These evening performances will be free and open to the public. We will plan to hold them in the cafeteria in order to offer food and beverages to our audience. These performances will be completely student-planned and student-run, although Mr. Buchsbaum and Mrs. Weller will require an audition and “check-in” in order to be selected to perform.

Additional supplemental documents, materials, calendars, resource links, etc. will be available through our band handbook, which is on our website: burlingtonband.weebly.com. In addition, you can follow along with up-to-the-minute updates regarding rehearsals and performances on our Twitter account (@BurlingtonBand). I am looking forward to a great year!