

Symphonic Band 2022-2023

Burlington High School

5th Period, Band Room

Mr. Sean Buchsbaum

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I. Course Overview

The Burlington High School Symphonic Band curriculum establishes and develops both individual practice skills and ensemble rehearsal techniques through the performance of modern band repertoire. Symphonic Band typically performs wind band, classical, chamber, and popular music literature at several concerts throughout the year. Individual practice is required, private lessons are recommended, and auditioning for the MMEA Northeastern District Bands are 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

Symphonic Band 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. ***Ensemble Skills grades will be recorded every two weeks.***

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 Symphonic Band will receive honors credit when they complete their additional responsibilities each quarter. Students taking Honors will choose each quarter whether to do the performance or research track.

1. Performance Jury - a solo excerpt/piece and either scales/technical exercises or sight-reading performed live for Mr. Buchsbaum.
2. 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.
 - a. Select Topic
 - b. Outline
 - c. Completion of Paper
 - d. 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 lockers, set up their own chair and stand in their assigned playing area, and complete an individual warm up to be ready to play a Concert F exactly three minutes after the bell has rung.

Small instruments should be brought in their cases to seats, while large instruments (bari sax, tuba) should be transported directly from the locker to the seat. All cases should be placed DIRECTLY underneath chairs. Backpacks should be placed in lockers - for those students with smaller lockers, a specific area will be designated for backpacks.

Cell Phone Policy (New for 2022-23)

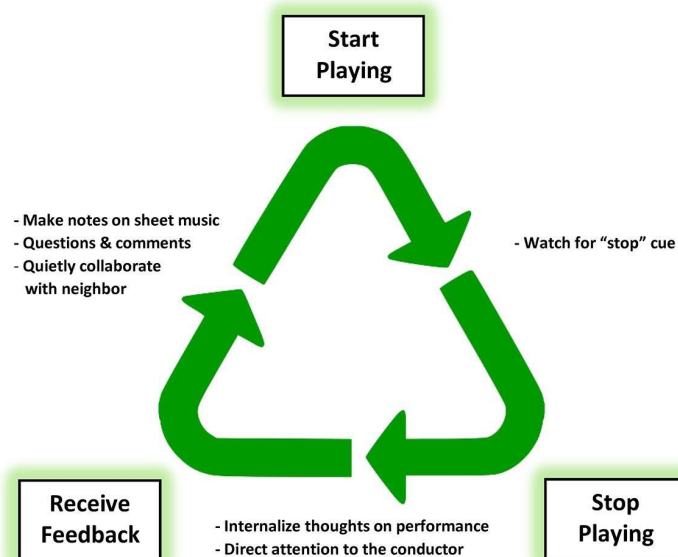
At the beginning of class, students should place their cell phones in their lockers where they should remain for the duration of class. Any exceptions to this policy should be addressed with Mr. Buchsbaum directly at the start of EACH class period.

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

1. If you would like to talk, raise your hand and get permission first.
2. Stay in your seat, unless you have permission to get up.
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 case at your seat. Make sure that you wipe your instrument down or swab (maintenance/care).
2. Return to your locker as fast as possible.
3. Remove your backpack and place your instrument case 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 students need the following materials for band class each day:

- *Habits of a Successful Musician* by Scott Rush and Rich Moon (available for purchase)
- Hard, black, three-ring binder with sheet protectors for music
- School-issued iPad with Google Drive and Classroom
- Tonal Energy Tuner App
- Pencil
- Band Notepad for note-taking and reflection
- Instrument and accessories
- All music and handouts used in class

Woodwind Students: All woodwind players (except flute) should have at least three extra reeds in their cases at all times. This will prevent a student from running out of reeds during class. A student without working reeds cannot play their instrument, and will not be able to fully participate in class.

Brass Students: All brass players should have valve oil and/or slide grease in their cases at all times (rotor oil for French horns). Keeping valves oiled and clean will prevent many common problems. This will also save money on repairs and maintenance.

MOUTHPIECES AND INSTRUMENTS: Please consult the list of BPS Recommended Mouthpieces by Level and BPS Recommended Instruments by Level to determine which equipment is appropriate for your grade and ability level.

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 lockers.
- Lockers should be kept clean at all times.
- Students may not write in or on lockers.

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.

School Instruments

All school-owned instruments must be checked out through Mr. Buchsbaum. Once issued, the instrument becomes the responsibility of the student for proper care, maintenance, and protection from damage or theft. The student will be responsible for and charged for any damages or loss incurred to the instrument during the rental period.

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 Band) 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.

Current Recommended Online Lesson Teachers:

Flute - Allison Lacasse (allisonlacasse@gmail.com), Javier Castro (jmb.castro97@gmail.com), Alison Hoffman (ali@alisonhoffmanflute.com)

Oboe - Danielle Marine (danielle.marine8@gmail.com)

Clarinet - Nancy Radnofsky (nancyradnofsky@icloud.com)

Saxophone - Kyle Mechmet (Kylemechmet@gmail.com), Wilson Poffenberger (wilson.poffenberger@gmail.com)

Trumpet - Jason Prover (jrprover@gmail.com), Chad Miller (millerchad78@gmail.com)

French Horn - Megan Riccio (riccio.megan@gmail.com)

Trombone - Philip Hyman (phillyh2000@yahoo.com), Sean Breland (Seanbreland@aol.com)

Euphonium/Tuba - Jobey Wilson (jobeywilsonii@aol.com), Bill Muter (bill@tubavisionary.com)

- 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 on 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.

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!