

SYLLABUS
SYMPHONIC BAND 2018-19

Class meets: Period 2 - Symphonic Band
Where: M06 – McGowan Band Room
Instructor: Byron Mikesell, Band Director
Email: mikesellb@carliseschools.org
Phone: 508-444-2221, cell
Remind (for students) Text @mrmikesell to 81010

Required Materials: Instrument; music; valve oil; reeds; sticks; mallets; stick bag; mutes; pencil; music stand and any other accessories that are needed for the playing and maintenance of your instrument; concert attire as described below

General Information: **Symphonic Band is a performance oriented class.** The major focus of this class will be on improving and developing each student's musicianship level through the areas of tone quality, intonation, technique, knowledge of basics, and musical terminology. Students will perform band literature of different levels, styles and periods including some of the more contemporary works by modern day band composers and arrangers.

Students are expected to be present in class each day - with their instrument/equipment/music. An instrument storage room is available for students to store their instruments. However, it is recommended that students take their instruments home and *practice*. (Note: The School District does not insure personally owned instruments. Check with your Homeowners insurance policy for coverage.)

Students have the option of being assigned to the band room, on a regular basis, from one or more of their study halls. During this time, students can receive individual assistance if they desire, and invest time in developing their musical skills on our band literature, district solo preparation, or other music. Some students, particularly freshman, have limited (if any) available study halls to use for this purpose.

Performances: **All students must prepare themselves to perform the repertoire for each concert.** Any student who is not able to perform the music with the ensemble may be asked not to play certain sections of the music. Students who experience health issues preventing them from playing their instrument for any period of time should plan to provide a note from their doctor that confirms the need for absence from playing their instrument and the anticipated return time to the activity. Any student who is not able to perform their part for any period of time should expect to make up the time they miss through additional practice at school and at home when they are well enough.

All students are required to perform in each and every concert and performance that is scheduled throughout the school year. The performances that are scheduled outside of school hours are viewed by the school district as an extension of the school day. These dates and times are published to students and families well in advance – and it is expected that if a student is committed to participate in the symphonic band, that they will perform with the symphonic band. Two performances may require students to miss other classes as they will be scheduled during the school day. There are academic competitions, early dismissals for sporting events and field trips of all varieties throughout each school year that require students to miss other classes – and missing class once or twice a year is a small trade-off for the benefit added to our students through the diligence required to meet the performance demand for these events in addition to our regularly scheduled concerts.

Parents/guardians/friends are welcome and expected to attend all concerts performed by the symphonic band throughout the year – and invite other guests to hear their children perform. None of our concerts are particularly lengthy – and they are all intended to showcase the work in which the students have been engaged. Please make sure the dates are on your calendar now.

Private Lessons: All students in the symphonic band are encouraged to practice their instrument daily outside of school. It is recommended that all students consider private study on their instrument. The investment in private lessons is often worth its weight in gold because of the commitment to achievement that

accompanies private study. Private study will greatly enhance student musical growth, result in a better musical ensemble for all students, and will even better prepare students for musical success with district band auditions, college auditions, and beyond. Please talk with Mr. Mikesell for a private teacher recommendation.

Grading:

Specific grade requirements are available in Powerschool for students and parents to view as assignments are made. Accommodations are routinely made for students relative to each assignment because each musician is at a different place in their development – and each of us exhibits a different speed of skill acquisition. Playing tests will be regularly assigned. These will be evaluated on **tone quality/intonation, rhythm/technique, and musicality**. Written tests and concert reflections will also be assigned. Other grading considerations will include preparedness for rehearsal (improvement from one rehearsal to the next), daily in-class performance, rehearsal etiquette/attire, and concert attendance. Students are responsible for checking Powerschool daily – especially if you were absent from a rehearsal so you can be apprised of any assignments that may have been made in your absence.

Grading is weighted on the following scale for each marking period

40% - Performances

30% - Rehearsals

30% - Practice reflections, concert reflections, playing tests, other assignments

Late Work Policy:

Most of us are busy but we must get organized enough to complete our work in a timely manner. Late work will receive 10-20% less credit than work that is completed on time (depending on the type of assignment). Playing assignments that are completed late impact the entire ensemble – and will therefore be more heavily weighted. Extensions for written work will be considered only if discussed via email with Mr. Mikesell three or more days in advance of an assignment due date. A student's request for an extension must be documented by an email **from the student** at least three days before the due date and should include as much pertinent information about the need for the extension as possible. If there is no response to your request OR if your request for an extension is denied, you must complete the assignment on time in order to receive full credit.

Concert Attire:

Ladies will wear a long black skirt with a plain black over the shoulder blouse/top, dark knee-highs or pantyhose and black dress shoes. Alternatively, a long black dress is also acceptable. The definition of "long" is "floor length - or within a few inches of the floor."

Gentlemen will wear a black suit – to include black pants, black suit jacket, white dress shirt, long tie or bow tie (any color tie is fine), black socks and black dress shoes.

Additional Notes about attire:

Ladies long skirts must be comparable to <http://www.formalwear-outlet.com/i477.html>. If you do not own a floor-length black skirt, you are welcome to make one, have a friend make one for you, or order one from the website above. When ordered from the website, it takes 4-6 weeks to ship – so DON'T WAIT if you plan to order online. The white top/blouse must be plain white. No flowers, lettering, etc. If you have trouble finding something plain – you are welcome to find something you like on the website above.

Gentlemen do not need to have pants and jacket that are exactly the same material or made by the same company. They just need to be black – so shopping for the jacket at a thrift store or consignment shop may be a great way to save money. Plan ahead and allow time to shop. These kinds of stores don't always have exactly what you are looking for the first time you shop. If you have to buy something – it is advisable to purchase something a little large so you have room to grow without purchasing a new set of concert attire mid-year. Although it may feel "too big" to you, few people will notice on the stage if something doesn't fit the guy in the back row quite right. ☺ WEAR BLACK SOCKS. When you sit down, the audience can see your white socks. NO SNEAKERS (regardless of how "cool" they are, they just don't work on the stage for a concert.)

SYMPHONIC BAND 2018-19 CALENDAR

Performances: **Attendance is required at all concerts and performances below**

Tuesday November 13

Fall Music Department Concert 7:00PM Barr Auditorium
Call time for students is 5:45PM

December

A concert performance will likely be confirmed for December in the first couple weeks of school. This date and time will be made available as soon as it is confirmed.

Tuesday, March 19

CASD District Band Concert 7:00PM Barr Auditorium
Call time for students is 5:45PM

Thursday, March 21

CASD District Orchestra Concert 7:00PM Barr Auditorium
Call time for students is 6:00PM

Monday, April 29

Symphonic Band Adjudication Performance
Performance during school (most likely periods 1-4)

Thursday, May 2

Spring Band Concert 7:30PM Barr Auditorium
Call time for students is 6:15PM

Thursday, May 9

Spring Orchestra Concert 7:00 PM Swartz Auditorium
Call time for students is 6:30PM

Friday, May 24

Memorial Day Parade Practice 6-7PM

Monday, May 27

Memorial Day Parade and Service on the Carlisle square 9:00AM
Call time for students is 8:15AM

**Date not confirmed
most likely May 29**

Performance at Senior Renaissance Program
Call time for students is 6:30PM

Thursday, May 30

Graduation – Report to HS Band Room by 5:15PM

SYMPHONIC BAND STUDENT/PARENT CONTRACT

Due by August 24th – 9:00AM

For All Students

I, _____ (print student name) have read and agree to abide by the expectations set forth in the SYMPHONIC BAND syllabus. Specifically, I will attend all concerts and performances. I understand that if I fail to attend a concert or performance, my grade for the marking period will reflect my absence(s). I agree to obtain and wear the concert attire described in the syllabus for each and every performance with the Symphonic Band.

Signed _____ Date _____

For Parent/Guardian

I, _____ (print parent/guardian name) have read and agree that my son or daughter will abide by the expectations set forth in the SYMPHONIC BAND syllabus. Specifically, I accept responsibility for making sure that my son or daughter attends all concerts and performances. I understand that if my child fails to attend a concert or performance, his/her grade for the marking period will reflect the absence(s). I agree to facilitate my son or daughter's obtaining and wearing the concert attire described in the syllabus for each and every performance with the Symphonic Band.

I agree to have my email address added to Mr. Mikesell's Symphonic Band parent email list where I will receive concert reminders and updates and progress updates for my child.

Signed _____ Date _____

Phone number _____

Email address(es) _____