

Syllabus

Teacher

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Course Objective

The objective of the Band and Orchestra is to continue to refine each student's musicianship and skills so they can perform both individually and within a group setting to the best of their ability. This course will engage students in an active relationship with instrumental music and encourage independent learning and exploration. It will also encourage the growth of creative, reflective and communication skills through practical work. This course is designed to aid students in developing self-confidence, self-esteem, poise and strength of character. Specific subject areas may include (but are not limited to): individual/small-group/large-ensemble performance, music composition, music improvisation, music theory, and music history.

Supplies & Class Materials

You must have the following at every rehearsal

- iPad fully charged for the class
- Instrument in working condition with good reads, etc.
- A good attitude

Uniform

- Concert Black

Student Expectations

Class Etiquette & Behavior — The instrumental music classroom is designed to be a safe place, where all opinions are valid and all students feel free to express themselves. Trust is central to all work in music, and is especially important in a classroom/ensemble setting. All students are expected to exhibit appropriate audience etiquette during class, rehearsals, performances, field trips, etc. Failure to do so will negatively impact the student's participation grade. Likewise, student comments on work being conducted in class should be constructive and positive in nature. Negative remarks, put-downs and comments directed at the person rather than the work will not be tolerated and will negatively impact the student's participation grade.

Performance & Rehearsal Obligations — Being a member of an instrumental music ensemble is a privilege which must be taken very seriously. Some rehearsals for Uintah Band and Orchestra Concerts & Performances will be scheduled for after school. Every effort will be made to accommodate individual and family needs. Rehearsal and performance schedules will be distributed in advance. Performances, Concerts, and after school rehearsals are graded activities are required for members. In other words, they are not optional.

Other considerations — The students should strive to come to class prepared to be involved in the whole rehearsal. Bathroom breaks should be taken on the way to class not during. The student should be in their seat ready to begin the warm-up no more than 2 minutes after the bells rings. No gum, candy, food, or drink is allowed in the band rooms. (Water in a bottle is the exception.) If you absolutely must leave during rehearsal you must get permission from Mr. Gibson prior to leaving, and take a hall pass.

One more thing — The students are expected to follow all rules and guidelines at all times. This includes any time we are together as a group. (ie. class, bus, trip, performance, competition, etc.)

Student Development

Individual / Solo Development

Using the materials available to the students an emphasis will be placed on individual growth. With the help of Mr. Gibson an individual goal will be set and worked towards. If the goal is not met progress towards the goal will be considered for the grade.

Ensemble Development

Students will learn how to be an essential part of the ensemble. Their roles and responsibilities will be emphasized, and they will be expected to learn their part in a timely manner. This usually mean notes and rhythms within the first week of the term. Then the ensemble can grow musically together, and strive for excellence.

Improvisation Development (Jazz)

Students will begin to explore improv and continue to grow in the art. Opportunities will be given to solo in concert and should be sought after by the members. There are several methods on the iPads to help learn this skill, but the best way is to listen and imitate great jazz artists. Use the materials supplied on the iPads to work towards this goal.

Fees

The program is very expensive to run and to help fund it nominal fees are required of the students:

- Class Fee \$40 (Everyone pays this for each class taken)
- Instrument Rental Fee \$30 (If you use a school instrument)

Practicing

Practicing is essential to the progress of the individual student and how the individual positively contributes to the whole band. Emphasis is placed on the quality of practice, rather than the quantity of practice time. In other words, Practice it until you know it! And don't get it wrong.

The practice sheet on the web site may be filled out to earn points lost in class, but is not required on a regular basis. The student should strive to practice every day something that pushes them to reach beyond their current level. A Rubank method book would be a great choice, but any music that is challenging is acceptable. A home subscription to Smart Music is another great choice to encourage pushing your abilities.

The chart below will be a help to you in know how to practice and what to practice:

<i>I am having trouble with...</i>	Tone	Rhythm	Notes/fingerings	Intervals (skips)	Intonation	Articulations	Dynamics
1. Play long tones (Lip slurs also for brass)	•				•		
2. Refer to fingering chart			•				
3. Recognize patterns		•	•	•		•	•
4. Sing pitches	•			•	•		
5. Buzz on Mouthpiece (brass)	•			•	•		
6. "Bop"			•				•
7. Say, finger, play		•	•			•	
8. Isolate one measure		•				•	•
9. Slow -----> Fast		•	•				
10. Say the rhythm (count out loud)		•					
11. Play down an Octave (if in upper register)		•	•		•		
12. Play without rhythm (one note at a time)							
13. Play the rhythm on one note		•					
14. Play without articulations			•			•	
15. Play all articulations, but on one note						•	
16. Play without dynamics							•
17. Play all dynamics using only one note							•

Tips For Successful Practice:

It is best to practice for *less time, more often* than in large chunks (for example, it is better to practice 20 minutes four days of the week instead of practicing one day for 90 minutes).

Try to *establish a routine*. Designate the same times from week to week instead of practicing whenever and wherever.

Warm-up! Before jumping right in be sure you play a warm up, either something we use in class or something on your own. Remember, Low, slow and focus on playing with **GREAT TONE**.

Try to find a spot that is comfortable for you to practice and use that spot as often as possible.

Keep others in mind, sometimes your family members appreciate quiet time. Shut the door, or find another time that works better for

Don't practice mistakes. Be sure you are practicing the right notes and rhythms. Slow down the tempo when you are first starting a piece to ensure that you are correct.

Instrument Security

The Uintah HS music faculty and administration make every effort to provide safety and security for each student's musical instrument. This is chiefly done by providing instrument lockers to each student. Students should take use the lockers and the locks. It has taken a lot of work to provide these and prior to their installation many items went missing or were damaged. However, the school is not responsible for lost or stolen instruments. Parents should record the make, model, and serial number of their child's instrument and consider covering the instrument under your homeowner's insurance policy.

All school instruments should be taken care of just as if they were the property of the student. Damage or loss of a school instrument is the responsibility of the student using the instrument. This includes all percussion equipment owned by the school.

Class On-line Management

Canvas - uintah.instructure.com

All required materials will be made available on Canvas. If you don't know how to access Canvas talk to Mr. Gibson. You will be able to track your personal progress there as well as find resources for help.

Class Norms

- Be Respectful
 - Come to class, rehearsals, and performances on time.
 - Respect the teacher and students by following the school code of conduct.
 - Respect the band materials and instruments by showing proper care and handling.
 - Contribute to class in a positive and polite manner.
- Be Responsible
 - Bring your instrument, pencil, and class materials to class every day.
 - Keep the room clean and orderly by putting materials away at the end of class.
 - Keep your instrument in good working condition.
 - Come to class prepared by practicing your music at home.
- Be Safe
 - Walk around the room, and remember that it is not the gym.
 - Do not allow other people to play your instrument or the school instruments.
 - Only play school instruments with permission from the director.

Traveling Norms

- On the bus
 - Members of the opposite gender can not share seats
 - The bus will be kept clean at all times
 - Obey all transportation guidelines
 - No public displays of affection are allowed
- At events and/or stops
 - Never be alone.
 - Have a buddy of the same gender to stay with.
 - If mixed gender is a necessity then there should be at least 3 in the group
 - No public displays of affection are allowed
 - Be where you are suppose to be when you are supposed to be there.
 - Remember that we represent the school, community, and your own family as we travel.
 - Please think of the image you are leaving as you travel to different places.
 - Be Respectful!
 - Avoid at all costs Band Romances. If you must have a relationship with another band student do it on your own time and not in class or on trips.

Performance Norms

- No Gum / Candy during performances (or class for that matter)
- No cell phones on person during performance
- Be your best
- Professionalism, respect and being one's best is expected and required at all times.
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Grading

70% of the grade by policy must be based on assessment. This is broken down into two categories in Band: 20% Assessments in class 50% Performance

20% of the grade will be based on participation. (Missed days can be made up with the practice sheet available at <http://uintahband.net>)

You earn 5pts a day if present and participating. You lose points by being absent or not participating in the following manner: (Absences and Not participating in class are =)

1-2 absences no points lost

1 tardy no points lost

3-4 absences: 5 points lost

2-3 tardies 2 points lost

5 or more absences 10 points lost

4 or more tardies 3 points lost

4 days prior to a performance, day of a performance, or day after: double the points lost

10% of the grade will be based on other assignments given in class. (Points lost here may be made up according to district policy.)

Keep Informed

Several modern technologies are being used to make sure that all band students and parents are kept up-to-date on what is happening and what is expected. The first and foremost place anyone should go to for questions is the band web site: <http://uintahband.net> All of the other items mentioned below can be found from the band web site.

SIGN, DATE AND RETURN THIS PAGE TO MR. GIBSON BY FRIDAY. OR FILL OUT THE FORM AT

<http://uintahband.net>

I acknowledge that I have received and read the syllabus provided for Band at Uintah High School / Vernal JH. I also understand that all class supplies must be purchased by the first Friday of the new term. Band students also agree to have a working band instrument at school no later than the second day of class.

Student Name: _____ Grade: _____

Parent/Guardian Name: _____

Address: _____

Home Phone: _____ Work Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____

Parent/Guardian eMail: _____

Student eMail: _____

Student Signature _____ Date _____

Parent/Guardian Signature _____ Date _____

Please do this on line:

Go to <http://uintahband.net>

Click on Students

Click the Acknowledgement Form Link

Fill out the form and hit submit

Thanks.

If you don't have access to the web bring this paper back tomorrow.