

## **Bartlesville Senior High School Band Syllabus**

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**This syllabus is intended to offer additional information and re-emphasize the material found in the *Bartlesville High School Band Guidelines*. Please refer to that document and our calendar of events for any other information you may not find here. \*Both documents may be found online at [www.bruinbrigade.org](http://www.bruinbrigade.org).**

### **Course Outline**

Wind Symphony is an instrumental ensemble comprised primarily of 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grade students at the senior high school. This ensemble gives approximately four concerts during the year; also, they participate in the OSSAA State Concert Band and Sight-reading contest. In addition to OSSAA, this ensemble may participate in additional performance opportunities. All members will be expected to participate in those events and **all** rehearsals scheduled. Members of the symphonic band also perform with the Bruin Brigade, Bartlesville High School's competitive marching band.

### **Rehearsals**

Wind Symphony typically rehearses during the school day from 8:15 to 9:10 a.m. at the conclusion of marching band season. Every student is expected to attend rehearsal daily unless absent from school for that day. If a Wind Symphony member must miss school, he/she is expected to contact Mr. Claussen in advance of rehearsal if at all possible. With the level of literature we perform, it is common for the success of our music to be dependent on 1-2 students and if one or more students are absent from a rehearsal it can slow the entire group's progress significantly (especially when the instructors do not have advance notice). In order to prepare our music to the highest possible level, it will be necessary to schedule sectional rehearsals before the start of the school day during contest season. Typically, sectionals will begin at 7:15 and occur once a week for all wind students. We will also hold additional rehearsals designed to focus on sight-reading and will occasionally have the students come in earlier than normal to address performance areas of need. These rehearsals are **required of all students**; they will be graded on attendance. Students will receive detailed monthly calendars throughout the Spring semester, so dates and times for these additional rehearsals will be provided well in advance. It is not uncommon for percussionists participating in the percussion ensemble to meet at least once a week at the Mid-High during 1<sup>st</sup> hour in addition to Monday evenings in order to facilitate combined rehearsals with our Mid-High percussionists.

### **Orchestra Participation**

In order for the orchestra to be eligible for a Sweepstakes Award, they must perform one piece that is scored for full orchestra (strings, winds & percussion). Additionally, our students traditionally perform with the orchestra during their winter concert in December. These students will typically rehearse before school with the strings once a week beginning in early to mid-November through mid-February. Because both groups rehearse 1<sup>st</sup> hour, we also try to allow those students to rehearse approximately once a week during 1<sup>st</sup> hour together to alleviate the amount of outside time required.

### **Grading**

Each student will be assessed through specific playing requirements, preparedness, and attendance. During concert season, students will be expected to turn in weekly playing assignments **recorded at home** and emailed to **bruintapes@gmail.com**. Students may also submit their playing tests on a cassette, CD, or mp3 player. A detailed schedule of assignments and due dates will be given to all students well in advance.

### **Eligibility**

Students' eligibility status will be monitored weekly. The band instructors will normally receive our weekly report late in the morning each Friday. Every effort will be made to make contact with any band students whose names appear on the list by the following Monday. Additionally, we will make contact with students whose grades are in the "D" range to help ensure they not become ineligible in the near future. Please constantly monitor your child's grades on Power School. If you have any trouble accessing Power School, contact your child's school counselor. If you do not understand the eligibility process, feel free to contact any member of the band staff.

### **Materials**

At the beginning of our concert season in November, your child will receive a band folder with our method book and various pieces of music. In addition to this, your child will need to following each day for rehearsal:

1. A pencil (traditional or mechanical). Ink pens are **not** to be used in band.
2. Valve or Slide Oil (brass players only).
3. At least 3 working reeds at all times (woodwind players only). Please only purchase Vandoren reeds. These are typically available at Smitty's Music. Double reed players need to communicate with the band staff before purchasing reeds so that we are aware of what our students are using with these delicate instruments.

### **Private Lessons**

While private lessons are not required, we *strongly* encourage all students to study with a private teacher. At this level, we really expect the majority if not all of our students to study privately. Not only is it beneficial to those students who are struggling, it is also a great way for more advanced players to continue to hone their skills. For students who are interested in auditioning for the All-District or All-State band, private study is very highly recommended. We are currently building a list of approved private lesson teachers. Please contact the band office for more information.

### **All-District and All-State Auditions**

Each year students have the opportunity to audition for the NBDA All-District Honor Band & OMEA All-State Band. Participation in these ensembles is by audition only. While we *strongly recommend* that students audition for these organizations, it is not required. However, once a student signs up to audition, the commitment becomes required and will be treated as mandatory with attendance policies in effect.

### **Solo & Ensemble Competition**

Our students also have the opportunity to participate in District Solo & Ensemble contest. Students who choose to participate in this event will be expected to rehearse outside of the school day. Students playing a solo will also be responsible for securing an accompanist for this event. All music will either be chosen or approved by the instructor (s). Participation in this event is *expected* at the Senior High level except in the rare case when the band staff cannot form an ensemble suitable for certain instrumentation or due to numbers of participants.

### **Uniforms**

The marching band uniforms will be checked out and checked back in for each performance. The students will be expected to provide a minimal number of items to accompany the uniform. The concert uniform this year will again be “concert black” and must be provided by the student. Please refer to the *Bartlesville High School Band Guidelines* for specific details.

## **Communication**

As with any organization, communication is vital to the success of everyone involved. We have a variety of extensions to help keep parents and students informed of upcoming events. Please check our website at [www.bruinbrigade.org](http://www.bruinbrigade.org), become a friend of “BBOB Parents” on Facebook and look for e-mails from either Peggy Schmidt (parent volunteer) or Mr. Claussen. As always, if you should have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me at any time. Together we can make this year a successful one for your child.