High School Marching/Concert Band Syllabus

2018-2019 School Year

Mr. Alex R. Torres Instrumental Music Director

(956) 698-1079

**Course Description**:

This course is designed to give the student an enriching and diverse instrumental music education. This class provides a number of performance opportunities for the student in a variety of settings. The daily objective of the course is to foster and promote musical growth through the playing of an instrument by the student. As a member of the band program, group effort and cooperation is necessary to a successful program. Band is a skilled effort in which each student is expected to show technical and musical growth throughout this course.

**Required Materials:**

* Instrument
* Supplies (extra reeds, valve oil, cork grease, slide oil, etc.)
* Music Folder and/or flip folder and lyre
* Pencil
* Appropriate footwear (marching season)

**Classroom Rules: (posted in classroom)**

* Arrive to class on time. After the tardy bell you have 3 minutes to be seated with your instrument.
* No gum, candy, or beverages in the classroom – Water bottles are permitted.
* Be prepared with your instrument, music, and pencil every day.
* Respect the people, equipment, and furnishings of the band room.
* Observe all rules in the student handbook.

**Attendance:**

Your attendance during class and at performances has a direct effect on your grade. Band is a participation/performance based course. **Attendance is mandatory to all rehearsals and performances unless otherwise noted.** Attached is the list of scheduled concert dates throughout the school year. Please be aware of these concert dates, and plan accordingly.

Excused Absences Include:

* Extreme personal illness *with* Doctor’s Note (or absence from school)
* Family Health emergencies verified by family
* Approved Academic conflicts
* Required Religious observances (with notice)
* Extra-Curricular School conflicts approved by director *in advance*.

Again, communication with the director is crucial when an absence is known. The director should know about any conflicts at least TWO weeks prior to the event in question. The best method of communication would be via e-mail or through phone contact, preferably by the parent or guardian of the student. Absences that are excused will be subject to a make-up assignment. *Note*: Even if the director is informed about the conflict with ample time, it does not guarantee that the absence will be approved.

**Grading Policy:**

The student’s grade will be based on Daily Participation Points, Performances, Tests, and Quizzes.

Daily Participation Points: Student will receive 5 points per day for classroom rehearsals. If student is prepared for class, on time, participates, and follows classroom rules and school policy, the student will receive all 5 points. Failure to be prepared, tardiness, and inappropriate behavior will result in loss of Daily Participation Points.

Performances: **All performances are mandatory.** The director will provide the students with performance dates with ample time to make adjustments in schedule. Performance attendance will be a heavily graded aspect of the class. Unlike a written test, performances cannot be made up or reproduced. Additionally, the band is a group activity where students must rehearse and perform in a collaborative fashion: One band, one sound.

Tests and Quizzes: These will be either performance-based or written and will take place during the class period. Students will be given prior notice to prepare before any test or quiz.

**Performance Guidelines:**

* Be early for report times.
* Come prepared physically and mentally
* Have equipment and/or materials ready to go before report time.
* No jewelry will be worn with marching band uniform.
* Hair must not touch the neck of the uniform (long hair must be tucked under the hat during marching band performances)
* Before performances, there will be a brief uniform inspection. Failure to follow performance guidelines will result in a lower performance grade.