

City Honors School 9th-12th Grade Band Syllabus
2009-2010

Donna Kerr, Director of Bands

(716) 816-3130 CHS @ #8

dkerr@buffaloschools.org

<http://www.buffaloschools.org/webpages/dkerr>

I. Course Description:

This course is for band members who have had at least one year (or equivalent) of training on a band instrument. It emphasizes the fundamentals of music as well as listening skills and the study of various styles of music along with sound production. This course introduces marching techniques as to prepare students for the CHS marching band.

II. Prerequisite:

At least one year (or equivalent) of training on a band instrument.

III. Objectives:

1. Recognize and define an eighth note, quarter note, half note, whole note and their corresponding rests.
2. Gain an understanding of sound production & technique for said instrument.
3. Develop an understanding of various styles, articulations and rhythms.
4. Recognize and correct intonation problems.
5. Develop an understanding of dynamic markings and the techniques used to perform such dynamic changes.
6. Provide students with a pleasant, positive experience that increases and adds to their appreciation and enjoyment of music.
7. Increase the student's enthusiasm for the school experience, thus improving attendance and motivation students toward increased academic achievement.
8. Develop in students an enhanced aesthetic sensitivity for music as an art form by disciplined study and application of its various elements, both separately and as they are combined into a coherent musical whole.
9. Prepare students for careers in music.
10. Provide students with a healthy hobby or avocation that can be useful throughout life.

IV. Topics Covered:

1. Music Notation
2. Various Musical Styles and Composers
3. Attending Concerts
4. Sound Production
5. Musical Terms
6. Articulation
7. Marching Band Techniques
8. Concert Band Techniques

9. Jazz Band Techniques
10. Solo & Ensemble Performance
11. 12 Major Scales
12. Chromatic Scale
13. Intonation
14. Instrument Care

V. Equipment:

1. Instrument to include cleaning kit and all necessary items for playing that instrument.
2. Music
3. Pencil
4. Flip Folder & Lyre
5. Band Uniform (Black Pants, Band Shirt, Overlay, Accessories & Black Shoes)

VI. Method of Evaluation:

Daily Grades in Band are determined by: passing of music, scales, or audition material and attending all rehearsals and performances of the Band. Unexcused absences from rehearsals & performances will result in ten (10) points (1 full letter grade) being deducted from the quarterly grade.

Daily Grades

Students start each grading period with 100 daily grade points and will keep points as long as the following expectations are met.

Daily Grades are determined by the following:

1. Be on time to every rehearsal or performance with instrument, music, equipment, etc.
2. Wear the uniform in the manner it was intended to be worn – clean and neat with clean shoes.
3. Store instrument, music, and equipment in the proper place.
4. Do not chew gum, eat, or drink in the band room or in the stands at games or parades.
5. Follow all rules and regulations as instructed by Band Directors and found on the band rules information sheet signed by parent/s. (To include all school rules.)
6. Complete all written assignments when required.

Absentee Policy for Band

Excused Absences:

1. Illness verified by a doctor's note.
2. Death in the family
3. Unusual circumstances verified by a note from a parent, such as:
 - a. An illness that does not require a doctor's care yet is serious enough to cause an absence.
 - b. A family emergency.
 - c. A once-in-a-lifetime opportunity.

Each unexcused absence will result in 10 points (I full letter grade) being deducted from the quarterly grade.

Each City Honors High School Band student is expected to fulfill the following requirements:

1. Students will perform in all concerts, parades and pep band performances assigned to the band. Failure to attend a required performance will result in the loss of one full letter grade. Emergencies or other approved reasons to miss required dates will be addressed on an individual basis.
2. Students will attend all rehearsals unless ill and excused. Students unable to attend must contact Mrs. Kerr prior to their absence and *may* be required to complete alternative assignments. Conflicts are addressed on an individual basis.
3. Students will take *at least* five (5) lessons during each quarter. **This requirement is subject to change within reason at the discretion of the director.**
4. Students will have individual playing tests once per quarter during their lesson time. The ability to perform at your highest level is a must. Placement in the band is dependent on individuals' ability to perform on these playing tests.
5. By fourth quarter playing tests, students will correctly play all requested major scales in two octaves by memory on their melody-producing instrument. Percussionists will play mallets.
6. Students will perform at least one solo or ensemble at an appropriate level for their ability. Most students will perform this piece at district competition. Literature choice is subject to the director's approval.
7. Students' neat appearance while a member of the City Honors High School Band is a must. Concert attire for the men is black dress trousers, white shirts, black dress shoes (not tennis shoes) and black socks. Concert attire for the women is black pants, white blouses (not sleeveless), dark socks or hosiery and black shoes. Marching band attire is CHS Band overlay, black jacket, pants and shoes. While representing the CHS Band,

appropriate behavior and dress is essential. Much of our reputation comes from the way we carry and present ourselves in public.

8. Students will use their best possible musicianship at all times – from warm-ups to concerts. *Never settle for less than your best.*

Your placement in the band is based on many factors including ability (most important), class standing, behavior and willingness to learn. A calendar including required dates is available at <http://www.buffaloschools.org/webpages/dkerr>.

Grades

Quarterly grades are based on the following criteria:

1. Daily Attendance, Participation, Effort and Assignments (35%)
2. Concerts and Required Performances (25%)
3. Lesson Attendance and Performance (20%)
4. Required Scales and Performance Tests (10%)
5. Classroom and Field Trip Behavior (10%)

Please note that these percentages are approximate. Actual values may vary slightly.