Symphonic Band

2019-2020

**Instructor**

Mr. Mitchell

Band and Chorus Director

(502) 869-6295

jake.mitchell@bullitt.kyschools.us

**Course Description**

Symphonic Band is an advanced level course for students with four or more years of previous band experience. Emphasis is on the advancement of instrument technique, the further development of ensemble performance skills, and rehearsal and performance of intermediate to advanced level band music.

**Course Objectives**

Students will develop instrumental competency through the learning of major, minor, and chromatic scales. All students will learn and be able to demonstrate and/or correct characteristic tone quality, inherent intonation problems specific to each student’s personal instrument, and proper care and maintenance.

Through daily rhythm reading and sight reading practice, students will become proficient in reading music. In addition, musical terminology will be incorporated and defined on a daily basis. Students will perform a variety of musical literature composed for the wind band and other musical mediums.

**Pre Requirements**

Students enrolled in the Symphonic Band should have a minimum of four years of instrumental music experience. All students interested in participating in the Symphonic Band who do not meet this prerequisite should speak with Mr. Mitchell prior to enrolling.

**Materials Needed**

All students enrolled in a band class will be required to have an instrument, either owned personally or rented from the school. Students are also responsible for bringing a pencil each class period. Other materials, such as: valve oil, slide grease, reeds, swabs and maintenance-related items should be in the student’s possession as well. A band folder with all necessary music will be provided. Students interested in auditioning for honor bands will also be provided audition materials free of charge.

The annual band fee for both marching and concert ensembles is $100 per student. The table below highlights specifically what this fee will cover (i.e. $100 total, no additional costs for the items listed below):

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Item** | **Cost** | **Individuals Affected** | **Purpose** |
| Band Camp Fee | $20 | All | General fee used to pay for instruction, lunch/dinner everyday and repertoire for each student |
| Band Shirt | $15 | All | Shirt to be worn specifically for band functions and home football and basketball game performances |
| Flip Folder/Lyre | $15 | All | Utilized for pep band performances at both home football and basketball games |
| Concert Attire (includes dresses for ladies and attire for gentlemen as needed) | $30-60 | All | To be worn for formal performances |
| Instrument Rental Fee | $50 per year | Those students who rent a school-owned instrument | Fee is assessed for the maintenance and repair costs of school-owned instruments. This is not included in the regular $100 band fee |

All fees are to be sealed in an envelope with the student’s name on it. Students will need to sign the multiple receipt form located on the table at the front of the band room. The amount paid should be logged underneath the “cash” or “check” column on the form. Checks should be made out to North Bullitt High School.The envelope should then be given to Mr. Mitchell to be received by our bookkeeper the same day.

Any other money (specifically for fundraising purposes) is handled by our booster club. The process is the same for turn in, except students should place the money in the black, steel box on the wall. Please direct any questions regarding fundraising or money raised to [nbhsmusicboosters@gmail.com](mailto:nbhsmusicboosters@gmail.com)

**Performance/Rehearsal Dates**

Students are responsible for attending all rehearsals and performances during and outside of the school day. Band is a co-curricular activity. This means that while students are receiving regular instruction during the school day, additional time is often required outside of school hours to ensure the highest levels of performance from our ensembles. Students who frequently miss rehearsals and performances will see this reflected in their grades and will become ineligible to participate in other activities with the band (i.e. any field trips, performance assessment, and fundraising activities). Any questions or conflicts regarding attendance at rehearsals and performances should be addressed directly with Mr. Mitchell. All currently scheduled dates for the Fall and Spring semester can be found at the end of this syllabus and on our website.

Occasionally, due to scheduling conflicts or required pre-approval, some rehearsals and/or performances may need to be added or re-scheduled. Students will be given a minimum of three weeks advance notice if any scheduling changes are deemed necessary.

**Assignments and Playing Assessments**

Students enrolled in the Symphonic band are expected to perform all twelve major scales and four natural minor scales with corresponding arpeggios and the chromatic scale in the appropriate number of octaves (as mandated by Mr. Mitchell). Major and minor scales should be performed using a “quarter-eighth” rhythmic pattern.

Throughout the semester, students will also be expected to complete a minimum of three performance assessments. Playing tests will be based primarily on excerpts from music being rehearsed in class.

**Grading**

Throughout the semester, students are expected to complete rhythm charts and worksheets, various playing quizzes/tests, and a Spring and Fall audition/chair placement. Extra rehearsals and performances are required.

**Minor Assessments (70%)** - These assessments include: Rhythm Charts and Worksheets, Scale Quizzes, and Additional Rehearsals. The majority of assessments during the semester will be categorized as “Minor”.

**Major Assessments (30%)** - These assessments include Spring and Fall Auditions, Theory Tests and Performances.

Students should come to class each day, prepared with their instrument, other necessary materials for performance, and a pencil. Points may be deducted from students consistently unprepared for class.

**Grading Scale:**

A 100 – 90  
 B 89 – 80  
 C 79 – 70  
 D 69 – 60  
 F 59 – 0

**Assignment Break-down:**

**Minor Category**

**Rhythm Charts and Worksheets** -These assignments are provided during class and students are given time to complete them during class. Provided that all answers are discussed before submission, it is the expectation that each assignment be turned in with 100% accuracy. If assignments contain errors, they will be returned to the student and marked “Incomplete” in Infinite Campus until the assignment is re-submitted. As long as the assignment is turned in corrected within **two weeks** after the due date, the student will receive full credit. After two weeks, the assignment will be marked missing and a zero assigned.

**Scale Quizzes** - Students are expected to complete scale quizzes using any video recording software they prefer, but it should include both video and audio. This allows the student to be assessed on both their sound and technique. All files should be submitted through google classroom.

**After School Rehearsals** - In order to allow all of our students the opportunity to rehearse together in the same space before performances, some after school rehearsals are necessary. **These rehearsals are required.** While every effort will be made to schedule these rehearsals around extracurricular practices with other sports/clubs/activities, it is not always possible to find a time that avoids conflicts with every other group/organization at North Bullitt High School (there are many, and we are proud of that!). If a conflict does exist, this should be brought to the attention of the student’s coach and Mr. Mitchell so that a compromise may be established.

In addition, if the student has a regular job, they should make plans well in advance with their supervisor to block out time for rehearsal. No student (who provides at least 2 weeks notice) can be removed from their employment or position for attending a mandatory school event.

**Major Category**

**Spring/Fall Auditions** - All students will audition for chair placement each semester. This is a live audition that will happen after school. The audition will be graded and will also determine the student’s chair placement and part assignment for the semester. Following KMEA assessment, students will have the opportunity to challenge other students in their section for their particular chair, should they desire.

**Theory Tests** - Throughout the school year, students will be taught the elements of music theory as a means to improve musical performance. There will be no more than 3 tests per semester.

**Performances** - Performances are how students are assessed on both their personal practice and group rehearsal. In addition, performing for our friends, families, and the community is in large part “WHY” music is offered at our school.

Unexcused absences would include but are not limited to: Sports/Clubs/Activities *practices*, work scheduling and personal engagements. Any excused absence will need to be cleared with Mr. Mitchell via phone call or email a minimum of 3 days prior to the rehearsal or performance.

**Practice**

Students enrolled in any band class at NBHS are expected to practice a minimum of **two hours per week outside of class.** During class, students will learn appropriate practice methods and how to become more efficient in their own playing time. While the activity of practice is not monitored, it will be most evident whether or not students are practicing when performance assessments occur. Please do not hesitate to seek help from Mr. Mitchell at least two weeks prior to an assessment.

**Private Instruction**

Private lessons are often the best way for students to improve quickly on their instrument. Any student interested in studying privately should discuss this with Mr. Mitchell. There are many great teachers and mentors in the Louisville area. We want to make sure we find a teacher that is a good fit for the student. The directory linked here has current recommendations of accomplished teachers:

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1Q0sUOKkf3V1GevSZ4gpimXosdvp9gmnIjjA-Kx8uCzM/edit?usp=sharing>

We will continue to update this as needed.

**Parents/students:** Please read all information in this syllabus, sign and return by **Monday, August 12th**

I have read the attached syllabus and I understand all the procedures, rules, and expectations regarding the Symphonic Band.

Student Name (printed) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Student Signature \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Email Address \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Name (printed) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Signature \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**North Bullitt High School Music Department Schedule 2019-2020**

**July**

29 - August 1 - NBHS Band Camp, 8 AM - 5 PM. Activities from 5 - 7 PM

**August**

2 - NBHS Showcase/Orientation

7 - First Day of School for students

8 - 4-6 Rehearsal (Band)

12 - Informational Parent Meeting/Booster Meeting, 6 PM

15 - 4-6 Rehearsal (Band)

22 - 4-6 Rehearsal (Band)

23 - Home FB Game (North Oldham)

29 - 4-6 Rehearsal (Band)

**September**

2 - Labor Day (No School)

3 - Bullitt Day (No School)

5 - 4-6 Rehearsal (Band)

6 - Home FB Game (Bullitt East)

6-7 - Bluegrass Choral Music Festival at UK

9 - Booster Board Meeting, 6 PM

12 - 4-6 Rehearsal (Band)

19 - 4-6 Rehearsal (Band)

20 - Home FB Game (Shelby County)

20 - Middle School Band Night

24 - Kentucky All-State Choir Auditions (Choir)

26 - 4-6 Rehearsal (Band)

30 - October 4th - Fall Break (No Rehearsal or FB Game)

**October**

7 - Bullitt Day (No School)

10 - 4-6 Rehearsal (Band)

14 - Booster Meeting, 6 PM

17 - 4-6 Rehearsal (Band)

18 - Home FB Game (Jeffersontown)

22 - 2:30 - 4 Rehearsal (Band)

24 - 2:30 - 4 Rehearsal (Band)

28 - 2:30 - 4 Rehearsal (Band)

29 - NBHS Fall/Halloween Concert (Band/Choir)

**November**

4 - Bullitt Day (No School)

4 - WKU All-State Audition Clinic

5 - Prof. Dev. Day (No School)

8 - NBHS Veterans Day Assembly (Band/Choir)

11 - Booster Meeting, 6 PM

21 - 2:30 - 4 Rehearsal (Band, tentative)

21 - All-District Band Auditions, 6:30 PM, Oldham County High School

25 - North Area Concert, 7 PM (Band/Choir)

27 - 29 - Thanksgiving (No School)

**December**

3 - 2:30 - 4 Rehearsal (Band)

5 - 2:30 - 4 Rehearsal (Band)

9 - 2:30 - 4 Rehearsal (Band)

9 - Booster Meeting, 6 PM

10 - NBHS Winter Concert, 7 PM (Band/Choir)

13 - NBHS Winter Concert alternate date

14 - KY All-State Band Auditions, John Hardin High School

21 - Jan. 6 - Christmas Break (No School)

**January**

10-11 - District V Honor Band, Martha Layne Collins High School

25 - UK Men’s Chorus Day

**February**

5-7 - KMEA All-State Choir/All-State Band

27 - 2:30 - 4 Rehearsal (Band)

29 - Choral Solo & Ensemble Festival

**March**

3 - 2:30 - 4 Rehearsal (Band)

5 - KMEA Pre-Assessment Concert, 7 PM

7 - Solo & Ensemble Festival at North Oldham High School

18-20 - KMEA Large Ensemble Assessment at North Oldham HS (Band)

**April**

7-9 - KMEA Choral Assessment

16 - 2:30 - 4 Rehearsal (Band)

20 - 2:30 - 4 Rehearsal (Band)

21 - 2:30 - 4 Rehearsal (Band)

23 - NBHS Spring Concert, 7 PM (Band/Choir)

25 - Opening Night at Churchill Downs Fundraiser

30 - Thurby Fundraiser

**May**

1 - The Kentucky Oaks Fundraiser

2 - The Kentucky Derby Fundraiser

9 - Music Dept. Banquet @ Paroquet Springs, 6 PM (Band/Choir/Guard)

**June**

- Graduation TBD