

ALPHA SECONDARY SCHOOL
VISUAL AND PERFORMING ARTS DEPARTMENT - MUSIC
Concert Band Course Outline (All Levels)
Instructor - K. White

GOALS:

All courses in Concert band are intended as an introduction to the skills and concepts needed to experiment and learn about music. Separated into five levels, they are designed to provide students with a graduated training in instrumental music, each level leading to the next. Students will be trained not only on the technical aspects of instrumental performance, but will as well receive requisite training in basic musical theory and history as related to the repertoire.

LEARNING OUTCOMES:

- Students will be able to demonstrate an understanding of various musical forms and styles, both from an historical perspective and in contemporary adaptation.
- Students will be able to demonstrate a basic understanding of the development of each style, and how it has been influenced cross-culturally and historically.
- Students will be able to demonstrate an understanding of music theory, harmony, and all basic musical rudiments necessary for authentic musical performance.
- Students will be able to demonstrate an ability to articulate the various styles and musical forms within the concert band medium, and an ability to perform them with integrity.
- Students will be able to demonstrate sufficient mastery of the necessary performance techniques on their chosen instrument at each level.
- Students will be able to demonstrate an understanding of the responsibilities that come as being an essential member of a group.
- Students will be able to demonstrate an understanding of team, and ensemble awareness

PRE-REQUISITES:

- ✓ **Beginner** Band 8-12 - No experience required.
 - ✓ **Band 8** - Enrolling student must have had a **minimum** of one year of instrumental experience in an Elementary Band program.
 - ✓ **Band 9** - must have completed Gr. 7 Band/Beginner Band 8/Band 8
 - ✓ **Senior 10/11/12** - must have completed Intermediate Band 9/10/11 respectively
- Students will graduate to each higher level of the instrumental program **only** with the approval of the Music Director.

(Important Note: Grade levels assigned to each level of Band are guidelines only. Students are assigned to Band levels based on ability and experience. A grade 12 student who is a beginner will be placed in **Beginner** Band; an advanced grade 9 student may be assigned to **Senior** Band)

EVALUATION:

Student progress will be evaluated as follows:

Assignments:	25%
✓ All written materials such as theory, listening assignments, etc.	
Term examinations, playing examinations:	40%
✓ Both playing or singing [Note: All department concert performances throughout the year are treated as performance based examinations and are considered the most important exams of each semester.]	
Engagement:	35%
✓ Participation including attendance/punctuality, major performances	
✓ Personal preparation and musical self discipline	
✓ Equipment care and maintenance	
✓ Sense of ensemble responsibility (“team awareness”)	
TOTAL:	100%

Important notes:

Performance Schedule: Students in the instrumental music program will be performing at a number of concerts and festivals during the course of the school year. All concert dates will be posted sufficiently ahead of time to allow students ample time to plan to attend. Participation in department sponsored events is mandatory and an un-excused absence may result in a lower letter grade or failure.

For any questions regarding specific Music Department expectations please refer to the Alpha Department Policy Handbook. Specific evaluation expectations are clearly outlined in the evaluation guidelines.

INSTRUMENTATION USED:

The Concert Band traditionally uses the following instrumentation:

Flute (piccolo)	French Horn
Oboe (English horn)	Trumpet (cornet)
Clarinet (Eb, Bb, Eb alto, Bass clarinet)	Trombone
Bassoon	Euphonium (baritone horn)
Saxophone (alto, tenor, baritone)	Tuba
Acoustic bass (electric bass only in Band 8, Band 9)	
Percussion (both tuned and un-tuned)	

This instrumentation can vary only with the Music Director’s permission. Students not playing one of the above instruments but who have previous instrumental experience can switch to another instrument with the approval of the Music Director.

Note: Not all of the instruments listed above are available to Band 8 beginner. Questions regarding suitability should be referred to the director.

COURSE DESCRIPTION: (ALL LEVELS)

The difference between the various Band levels is based mainly on the difficulty and complexity of the repertoire studied. Students at the Beginner and Junior levels are given an introduction to basic styles and concepts, and learn the requisite rudimentary skills for performance. Intermediate and Senior level students focus on higher level of music, as well as pursuing a more aggressive concert schedule. (For a more in-depth description of course goals and content, refer to Ministry of Education, Music 8 to 10 **IRP 018**). All students will be given instruction in the appropriate level of music theory.

REQUIRED MATERIALS:

WOODWINDS:

Flutes -

- ✓ Cleaning swabs
- ✓ Pad cleaning papers (Zig-zag papers are effective for this)

Single Reeds -

- ✓ Two boxes of 10 reeds or one box of 25 reeds - more may be required depending on amount of use by the student.
- ✓ Reed Guard - for storage and extending life of reeds
- ✓ Cleaning swabs
- ✓ Cork Grease
- ✓ Pad cleaning paper (Zig-zag papers are effective for this)

Double Reeds -

- ✓ Reed use varies - a supply of 2 or 3 should be sufficient to start the year. It is best to purchase handmade reeds which are available through most music stores.
- ✓ Reed Guard - for storage and extending life of reeds
- ✓ Cleaning swabs
- ✓ Cork Grease
- ✓ Pad cleaning paper (Zig-zag papers are effective for this)

BRASS:

Trombones

- ✓ Slide cream (NO SLIDE OIL PLEASE)
- ✓ Spray Bottle
- ✓ Cleaning snake

Valved Brass Instruments

- ✓ Valve oil
- ✓ Cleaning snakes

LOCAL REPAIR SHOPS:

Should your instrument require repair here is a list of reputable repair shops (alphabetically listed). Please ask for a quote before commencing repair work, as some shops may be more expensive than others.

Local Repair Shops:

Backun Musical Services	Burnaby	604-205-5770
Long & McQuade	Surrey (multiple locations)	604-588-9421
Masullo Music	Hastings, Burnaby	604-294-1777
Matterhorn Music	Surrey	604-596-7616
Prussin Music	Broadway, Vancouver	604-736-3036
Tom Lee Music	Vancouver (multiple locations)	604-685-8471

MUSIC PROGRAM POLICIES AND EXPECTATIONS

The following is a list of the policies and expectations of the Alpha Music Program regarding various aspects of student participation in the music program. These guidelines have been compiled to ensure that all those involved in the music department benefit, to a maximum degree, from what the program has to offer.

Much of your time within the music department is spent working with the other students of the class, a small group, or large ensemble. A musical ensemble relies on the contributions of **all** of the individuals within it, and it is assumed that **all** members accept the responsibilities of being member of a team. An ensemble **cannot** function otherwise.

While some of these policies may seem strict, they are largely common sense. They are spelled out here only so everyone is aware of our expectations, and in the instance of a disciplinary problem arising, there will be no question as to the necessary consequences.

Read them carefully.

1.0 ATTENDANCE

Attendance is mandatory at all times.

1.1 Rehearsals...

Missed rehearsals will not be tolerated without a signed excuse from your parent or guardian. Any rehearsals missed without an excuse throughout the year will result in a considerable loss of marks. Continued unexcused absences will result in a request for a Parent/Teacher interview, followed by a probationary period. Chronic absence or tardiness will result in the removal of the student from the music program.

All of the other members of the ensemble rely on you to be there! Extra rehearsals will be called occasionally, with the maximum possible amount of advanced notice. Students are expected to make arrangements to attend.

1.2 Concerts, Tours, and Festivals...

The main reason that we are studying to be performers is so that we can share our talents. Practicing for hours in a classroom has little point unless we have the goal of a concert performance to work toward. Participation in all of these concerts either on tour, in a music festival, or at a term-end concert represents a large part of your evaluation (see section 6.0) and is mandatory. Music is a “team-sport”, and everyone else is counting on you.

Working at your job is not a legitimate excuse. Those students who have, or expect to have, after-school jobs, must plan well in advance to get the necessary time off. You will always be given sufficient warning of upcoming concert events in order to plan around them.

IMPORTANT NOTE TO PARENTS . . . Please take the above into consideration when you are planning any other time away from school for reasons such as dentist or doctor appointments, or vacations.

2.0 PUNCTUALITY

2.1 Class times and Warning bells

All rehearsals will start on time... tardiness will not be tolerated. There is more than sufficient time to move between classes in order that you arrive on time. Students will be given sufficient preparation time at the beginning of each music class to set up their equipment and warm-up. You are expected to be ready to perform once the rehearsal starts.

If you are late, you are wasting everyone's time! Tardiness is not only disruptive, but it also indicates a lack of consideration for others, a poor sense of team, and will result in a loss of marks. A careful record of attendance, including absences and lates, will be kept, and will make up the largest part of your "Engagement" mark. (For clarification, see the individual course outlines: evaluation)

2.2 Chronic Tardiness

Chronic tardiness will not be tolerated and will result in a request for a Parent/Teacher interview to discuss the student's future in the music program. This will be followed by a probationary period. If the problem is not resolved, it will result in the removal of the student from the music program.

3.0 ATTITUDE

Everybody works hard, and pulls their weight. If you think that working hard is a drag, and practicing is a waste of time, then you've signed up for the wrong course. There are **many** benefits to belonging to a strong and exciting music department. We are **all** responsible for its success.

4.0 PRACTICE TIME

In every course we take in school, we get homework. Like your other homework, it should be done on a regular, consistent basis so that you are prepared for next class. It also makes class easier and a lot more enjoyable. Practicing at home is music homework and everybody is expected to do it. Believe it, if you haven't practiced, everybody can tell!

Being prepared for class each day is a large part of your mark.

5.0 INSTRUMENTS, EQUIPMENT AND MUSIC

5.1 Responsibility

You are the only person responsible for remembering your equipment. You must be prepared at all times. It stands to reason that you can't make a very valuable contribution to the band without your instrument, or to the band without your music. Showing up to a rehearsal, or even worse a concert, without your instrument or your music is the same as being absent and will be treated in the same way.

(See sections 1.2 and 6.0)

(The definition of "your instrument" includes **all** those things which you need for you to participate properly. This includes such essentials as your music, a pencil, a mouthpiece, reeds, valve oil, drum sticks, mouthpieces, mutes, cork grease, student planner, etc.)

5.2 Personal Equipment

Students must mark their instruments carefully with a label, clearly identifying it as theirs. All personal equipment belonging to, or assigned to, students is for the sole use of those students. *If it is not yours leave it alone!* For health and safety reasons, not instruments are to be shared or "borrowed" at any time without the music director's permission.

Note to Parents: Parents are requested to keep a record of ownership in a safe place (i.e. bill of sale) along with the serial number of the instrument. Should the instrument go missing for some reason, this information will be essential for insurance claims.

5.3 Care and Maintenance

The care and maintenance of your instrument and/or equipment, whether it is your own, or the school's and has been assigned to you, is your personal responsibility. As a performer, your instrument is your best friend and must be treated with a great deal of care. It is up to you to ensure that it is always working properly, and that it does not get damaged carelessly.

A damaged instrument will not function properly and will mean that you cannot possibly participate in a rehearsal or a performance.

If it does get damaged due to careless handling, or inadequate maintenance, it is up to you to make sure that it gets repaired **immediately**.

Burnaby School District assumes responsibility for the repair of school instruments following normal wear and tear, but does not assume responsibility for repairs necessary due to inadequate care, or careless handling by the students. All students borrowing instruments will be carefully trained in instrument care, and will be given instrument care instructions which must be followed closely throughout the year. Instruments requiring repair due to careless handling, or inadequate care, will be repaired and **the bill will be forwarded to the parent or guardian of the responsible student**. (See "Equipment Loan Policy")

5.4 School equipment and Music

Equipment and music belonging to the program has been purchased for the benefit of **all** music students. It is all very expensive and essential to the entire department. Each piece of equipment or music, whether it has been assigned to specific students (as with a bass amp), or is for general use (like a music stand) is to be treated with utmost respect and care. Any damage to department equipment and music will not be tolerated and will be repaired at the expense of those responsible

5.5 Concert Dress

Dress for all concerts will be:

- ✓ Sweater (Intermediate, Senior Only)
- ✓ White shirt & tie/blouse (Grade 8)
- ✓ Black pants/knee length or lower skirt
- ✓ Black shoes (**No running shoes please**)/Black socks

This will be the standard uniform for this year unless otherwise notified by the Music Director.

6.0 EVALUATION

All students receive a detailed evaluation guideline that outlines carefully the expected course outcomes for each course area. These are explained more clearly in the course outline which accompanies each course. The specific criteria for evaluation are arranged in the following broader categories:

- i. Personal Preparation
- ii. Musical Self Discipline
- iii. Sense of Ensemble (“Team Awareness”)
- iv. Equipment care and maintenance

Evaluation in each of these categories will be compiled through regular student observation, frequent testing of skill and content acquisition, written and performance examinations, and through documented self-evaluation and goal setting.

******* IMPORTANT NOTE:** All department concert performances throughout the year are treated as performance based examinations and are considered the most important exams of each semester. As with any High School Examination, attendance is mandatory. An unexcused absence from one of these performances is the same as missing a final exam; both are given a failing grade.

ALPHA MUSIC PROGRAM MEMBER CONTRACT:

Please review the above policies and expectations and then complete the following. Return to the Music teacher by OCTOBER 3, 2014. It will not be accepted unless signed by a parent/guardian. It will be kept in the student's file for the duration of the year.

I have read the above department policies and expectations. I understand them and agree to follow them as a member of the Alpha Music Department. All of the information below is to be filled in.

Parent/Guardian email is preferred as regular information about events, trips, and fundraisers will be sent out requiring feedback and/or information from parents. (If a parent email is unavailable then students should use their own email address.) Also, by signing below parents acknowledge that the Music Parents' Council can use these numbers and addresses to contact parents and/or guardians regarding events in the music department.

Student Name:	
Student Number:	
Student Signature:	
Parent Contact #:	(H)(604) (W)(604)
Parent Email:	
Parent Signature:	

PLEASE RETURN TO THE SCHOOL NO LATER THAN OCTOBER 3, 2014