

# ADVANCED BAND SYLLABUS



Course: Advanced Band  
Instructor: Mr. Kerry J. Gilliard  
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## COURSE DESCRIPTION, REQUIREMENTS AND EXPECTATIONS

Students in this course perform selected wind band music designed to develop advanced concepts of blend, balance, rhythmic independence, aesthetic expressions, as well as advanced technical skills on their instrument. Students may perform individually, in duets, trios, chamber groups (i.e. brass choir, clarinet choir, etc...) as well as a full ensemble. The Advanced Band class performs as the DuVal High Symphonic Band group in public. **This group is usually the first group called upon to perform for school functions in a formal setting.** These students meet together during the school day as a class with some required after school rehearsals and performances. Admission to the class is by audition only. Students scheduled incorrectly will be sent to guidance for a schedule change to the appropriate class. There are no beginning students in this class; this class assumes all incoming students have the following minimum musical understanding:

- Ability to sight-read grade 2 music with <85% accuracy
- Experience playing grade 3 or above music individually or with an ensemble
- Ability to play in concert Bb, Eb, F, Ab, C, Db and G major key signatures and their relative minor keys
- Familiarity with both duple and triple meter time signatures
- Appropriate tone quality and technique reflective of a high school student

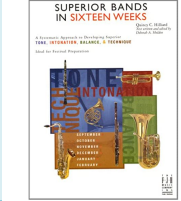
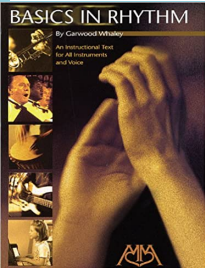
This group performs for all concerts, special performances and PGCPs Band Assessment in the spring. All students are required to perform for PGCPs Solo and Ensemble Festival. Additional opportunities for performance and enrichment on the local, regional and state level will be offered to students in this group. Performances and rehearsals both during and after/outside of school hours are a requirement of the course.

**Performance is a responsibility, not a right.** Students must pass a playing test to qualify to play on all concerts. Students failing to qualify for performance may be given an alternative assignment worth a maximum of 70% of the regular grade (if all sections are completed with a 100%). Concerts are usually a combined grade of 1000 points. **The expectation is that all students will prepare properly for performance.**

**PRACTICE** is what you do individually to learn *your* part. **REHEARSAL** is what *we* do collectively to learn *each other's* parts. In order to achieve the necessary proficiency required to perform at a superior level, students should practice a minimum of 30 minutes per day, every day outside of class time. If you are unable to block off 30 minutes or more for personal practice, 15-20 minutes focused on problem areas of music is better than no time at all. **Every day practice is essential. Do not skip a day.** Individual practice is your preparation for this class. Failure to practice prepares you to fail the course. **You learn to play the instrument better by putting time into doing it daily until it becomes 'burned into your brain' as a habit. If you do not put the time in, you will not progress and you will fail the class.**

Make it a habit to bring your instrument on class days and take it home on those same days. Do not 'store' your instrument at school, expecting to only take it home on weekends. Students on larger instruments are encouraged to use sectional rehearsal/tutoring days after school for study time. Do not bring excuses about "lots of work for other classes" – this class is also your responsibility. If you are unwilling to do the work, transfer out of the class at the beginning of the year.

### **REQUIRED TEXTS AND SUPPLIES**

| Item/Equipment/Text                                                                                                           |                                                                                                                            | When you need it/Where to Get It                                       |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                                              | Superior Bands in Sixteen Weeks<br>by Quincy Hilliard                                                                      | NOW. Buy it from Music & Arts in Greenbelt.                            |
|                                              | Basics in Rhythm<br>by Garwood Whaley                                                                                      | NOW. Yes, it's back. Buy it from Music & Arts in Greenbelt.            |
| <br>Tuner                                   | <br>Tuner                                | Buy ONE OF THESE <b>NOW</b> from Music and Arts OR order it on Amazon. |
| <br>Korg TM-50<br>Metronome/Tuner Combo    | <br>Korg TM-60<br>Metronome/Tuner Combo |                                                                        |
| <br>Korg CM200 or CM300 Clip on Microphone |                                                                                                                            | Buy this NOW from Music and Arts in Greenbelt OR order it on Amazon.   |

**You may NOT use a tuner app on your phone as your primary tuner.**

1" looseleaf binder and sheet protectors (for music) – **you needed this yesterday (hint: Dollar Tree!).**  
Any Metronome app (if you do not have a metronome-tuner combo - **mandatory for all students**)  
– **download this now.**

## INSTRUMENT-SPECIFIC SUPPLIES

| Instrument                      | Mandatory Supplies                                                                                                          | Optional Supplies                                                  |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Flutes                          | Cleaning rod, silk or other soft cloth for polishing instrument (swabs are NOT recommended)                                 |                                                                    |
| Oboe                            | Jones Medium-Soft Reeds (2), weighted cloth (to clean moisture out of instrument), turkey feather (synthetic is ok)         |                                                                    |
| Bassoon                         | Jones Medium-Soft Reeds (2), weighted cloth to clean moisture out of instrument                                             |                                                                    |
| Clarinets (all)                 | Vandoren or Mitchell Lurie Reeds, strength 2.5 or 3                                                                         | Selmer Goldentone, C* (C star), Vandoren B-45 mouthpiece preferred |
| Saxophones (all)                | Vandoren or Hemke Reeds, strength 2.5 or 3                                                                                  | Optimum AL-3, AL -5, Yamaha 4CM or C Star mouthpiece preferred     |
| Trumpets                        | 3C mouthpiece (any brand)<br>Valve oil, slide cream                                                                         | 1C mouthpiece preferred                                            |
| Horn in F                       | Holton Farkas DC or Schilke 29 mouthpiece<br>Rotor oil, slide cream                                                         |                                                                    |
| Trombone/Euphonium and Baritone | 6.5 AL mouthpiece (any brand, FAXX and Bach preferred),<br>Valve oil, slide cream                                           |                                                                    |
| Tuba                            | Helleberg mouthpiece (usually 7B or 120S), Valve oil, slide cream                                                           |                                                                    |
| Percussion                      | Vic Firth EP2A Intermediate Education Pack (Sticks, mallets, stick bag) or Liberty One Basic Stick Pack (Steve Weiss Music) |                                                                    |

**No plastic mouthpieces for brass instruments.** If you have one, it's only for emergency purposes.

## GRADING POLICY

- 60%** - **Classwork** (includes participation daily in class, following all policies and procedures in class, preparedness for class – all supplies, rehearsals and performances)
- 30%** - **Assessments** (includes any written and all playing tests)
- 10%** - **Independent Practice** (includes music theory work, reaction papers, critiques and adjudication of performances)

## **HEALTH CONCERNS**

Musicians' masks and bell covers will be used indoors for all wind instruments, per PGCPs policy **as long as face coverings are required indoors**. This is a non-negotiable. Consider them part of your equipment. Presently, PGCPs provides **free** face masks and bell covers to wind players. No food, candy, sodas, chips or other edible material (water is okay) are allowed during regular class time in the classroom. **It will be confiscated and thrown away**. Water (clear, non-sweetened) is ok.

**Students will share books, instruments, materials or music stands. You must have your own equipment.** The exception is percussion equipment, but all percussionists are *required* to have your own sticks and mallets in class. All students must wipe down their stand and seat at the end of each class.

Procedures for instrument storage and retrieval will be discussed and frequently revisited during class. Traffic in the instrument room is now limited to one direction and a limited number of people are now allowed in the room at once. Instrument lockers are *only* for storing your instrument, music and related equipment. Lockers can be opened and searched at any time.

Bathroom use is limited to **one** student in each bathroom (M or F) at a time. If our bathroom facilities are not kept clean, they will be locked and you will have to use the main building bathrooms in the main building. Water fountains in this building are OFF.

**Brass Instruments:** spit valves/water condensation keys are to be emptied into the trash or outside the back door.

We are dealing with a pandemic at the moment. Please take all precautions seriously, whether they are mentioned here in print or not. If you do this, we can all remain safe and still learn. If you are purposely careless, I will have you removed from the class until you comply with all directives required of you.

**CONCERTS** will be in-person this year as well as a few live-streamed events.

## **BEHAVIORAL EXPECTATIONS**

**No one student may deny other students in class the right to an education.** If your behavior becomes a disruption to the class and a hindrance to the progress of the group as a whole, you will be removed from all class activities that place you in contact with other students. You will not participate in any concerts or playing in class (you will be required to sit and complete a class-long assignment that requires you to write about what the class is learning – worth 70% of the original class grade – due at the end of class EVERY CLASS). If the behaviors persist, additional behavioral interventions will be taken to correct your behavior and keep your disruption from interrupting the learning and growth of other students. *The needs of the many outweigh the wants of the few.*

## **TESTS, ASSESSMENTS AND ASSIGNMENTS AND ONLINE PORTALS**

**Your PGCPs E-mail is required for this class. I will not respond to e-mails from personal accounts.** All information and grade-related discussions will happen there or on **Canvas**. Your parents are encouraged (heavily) to use Canvas to keep up with additional grades and information. Music theory tests, reflections and *some* playing assignments will be posted through Canvas.

All students are *required* to use the SmartMusic™ Practice and Assessment System. As of September

1, PGCPs will be paying for accounts for each student enrolled in the class. Most playing tests will be given on SmartMusic™ (Mr. Gilliard grades harder than SmartMusic™). Keep up with your password and login information. Students are allowed to retake a test any time before a deadline date for a higher score. ***The goal of this class is for you to be successful as a student musician.*** If you put forth the necessary effort to prepare yourself (practice daily), you should not need to retest often. Students who do not practice regularly and wait until the last minute to try and 'cram' (that only works in math or reading) usually end up failing, get discouraged and quitting band. **Don't be that student.**

## **INSTRUMENTS AND PURCHASING**

The school has a limited number of instruments for loan to students. Most students purchase or rent their instruments from a local music store. Smaller instruments (flute, clarinet, sax, trumpet, trombone) fall into this category. **If a student or parent is interested in purchasing an instrument, please do not purchase one from Amazon, eBay or similar sites.** CONTACT MR. GILLIARD FIRST – you don't want to spend a few hundred dollars on a "teacher recommended" wall decoration pretending to be an instrument.

You get what you pay for. Do not expect a low price "teacher recommended" instrument from eBay or Amazon to sound, play and be of the same quality (materials make a difference! So does engineering and design!) as an instrument from Gaile's Violin Shop, Music and Arts, Sam Ash, Woodwind Brasswind, Baltimore Brass, Potter's Violin Shop or Chuck Levins' Washington Music Center. Buying a lower quality instrument for the student **will hinder** their growth and progress as a musician and cause them to lose interest altogether.

**CONTACT ME FIRST BEFORE PURCHASING.** I will give you lower cost QUALITY recommendations you can choose from that will last you more than 6 months to 1-2 years.

**Absolutely NO plastic trumpets, flutes or trombones.**

## **CONCERT ATTIRE**

For the sake of uniformity (later in the year, we are *evaluated* in this area), the purchase of formal concert attire is *required*. The concert attire requirements have changed for this year. Details on concert attire are located on our department website at <https://dhsim.com/uniform>. Individual uniform parts are available at places like Burlington, Gallo and Ross. You *may* purchase an entire package through sites like <https://FormalFashionsInc.com>. Other than religious reasons, there are no exceptions to the uniform policy. Come dressed incorrectly, you may be sent home and not perform – AND possibly receive a ZERO for the performance (worth 1000 points) which will lower your overall grade by at least two letters.

## **EXTRACURRICULAR OPPORTUNITIES**

DuVal's Instrumental Music program also features a marching band/pep band which performs for the fall football season (and additional community events and some competitions) as well as a Jazz Band (all instruments welcome) which performs from November to the end of the school year. These groups provide additional exposure to different genres of music and enhance the musical experience of the student. Heavily consider joining one of these groups and expanding your musical experience here at DuVal. Students involved in more than one group are usually more successful in class and contribute to the social structure of the *whole school*.

## **YEAR AT A GLANCE (WHAT AN AVERAGE YEAR LOOKS LIKE)**

**Aug - Sep** – Marching band camp, assign instruments, return paperwork, pick up supplies, registration for SmartMusic, establish routines and habits , Work on technique, tone, tuning and pitch matching, first three pieces introduced at the end of Sept., Assessments (scales, examples from text, sight-reading)

**Oct** – Audition for PGCPs Honors Band and Orchestra, order concert attire, reinforce routines and habits for success, Refine and rehearse music, marching band winds down, **Fall Concert.**

**Nov** - Select solo and ensemble literature and groups, rehearse new music, continue building technique work, possible early performances, the Marching Band show, Marching Band Awards Banquet

**Dec** – **Winter Concert I**, Solo and Ensemble rehearsal, additional performances, new music introduced

**Jan** – final selections for assessment selected and refined, Solo and Ensemble Assessment , Jazz Band performances, **Winter Concert II**

**Feb** – miss half the month because of snow, Cluster Concert, NBA Band Symposium, Solo and Ensemble Assessment, Jazz Band performances, **Band and Orchestra Clinics**

**Mar** – **Pre-Assessment Concerts, Band and Orchestra Assessment**, additional performances, auditions for placement in group next year, Solo and Ensemble Assessment

**Apr** – MD State Band and Orchestra Assessment, additional performances, A Night of Jazz

**May** – **Spring ConcertS (yes, more than one), Additional Concerts**, Chamber Recitals, State Solo and Ensemble performances, end of year eventsbanquet and awards, commencement, possible elementary and middle school tour

**June** – Marching Band Pre-Camp, Prep for August.....

MORE INFORMATION WILL BE GIVEN AT THE  
**INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC DEPARTMENT INFORMATION NIGHT**  
**September 1, 2022, 6:30 PM.**

<https://pgcps-org.zoom.us/j/89677738500>