

Reno High School Band Syllabus

2020-2021

Band Students and Parents,

My name is Rachael Cowell, and I have the greatest opportunity to be your child's band instructor for the upcoming school year! First, I would like to provide some background information about myself. At the University of Nevada, Reno, I received my Bachelor's degree in Music Performance on trumpet and my Master's in Music Education. I have had the opportunity to perform with almost every ensemble offered at the university including the marching band, symphonic band, wind ensemble, jazz band and orchestra. I have professionally performed with the Reno Municipal Band, Reno Wind Symphony, Toccata, Reno Pops Orchestra, and a small ensemble, part of the Reno Philharmonic. I have previously conducted and taught the Truckee Meadows Community College Band, the Symphonic Band at the University of Nevada, Reno, and many various ensembles in Washoe County School District.

It is my goal to provide all students with an educationally challenging and fun experience in the classroom. They will be exposed to not only excellent repertoire for the ensembles, but fundamentals, music theory, and history of music as well. There will be a lot of hard work required in the year to come. A positive attitude, good behavior and a commitment to hard work will result in a successful, fun experience for all of us.

This syllabus is designed to answer any questions you might have concerning the program. Of course with a pandemic happening in the world right now, I will be focusing my efforts on mental health for the students and their families. Band will not look like it has ever been before, but I can promise that I will do my best to provide a worthy experience for every member of this program.

If you have any questions regarding the syllabus or the course, please contact me through my email. I am looking forward to an exciting year with your child and your support.

Rachael Cowell
Rachael.Cowell@washoeschools.net

Wind Ensemble

The wind ensemble is the top performing organization in the instrumental music department. Students must have achieved proficiency on their instrument, teacher recommendation, and auditioned prior to enrollment for this class. This course will provide advanced instruction in wind and percussion instruments and advanced music theory. Private lessons are highly recommended to be successful throughout the class.

Concert Band

Concert band is the primary performing organization in the music department. This course is designed to provide instrumentalists with an experience in all aspects of the band technique. Students will explore high levels of various performing styles, music theory, and techniques in wind and percussion instruments.

Jazz Band

Jazz band is a yearlong course that will provide advanced instruction in various jazz genres, advanced theory, and basic knowledge of improvisation. Students must have achieved proficiency on their instrument, teacher recommendation, and auditioned prior to enrollment for this class. **Except for extenuation circumstances, students must also be enrolled in either Concert band or Wind Ensemble.** Private lessons are highly recommended to be successful throughout the class.

ATTENDANCE POLICY

The only excusable absences are prearranged school conflicts and those that would be excused by the school for regular attendance records.

Individual needs will be addressed as they occur. If an absence is unexcused, the student will receive a **0** for the required day or event.

For *eligible* absences to be excused, the following procedure must be followed by the student **AND** parent:

- The director must be notified at least a day before the event.
 - A letter or email from a parent/guardian must be given to the director.
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GRADING POLICY

Grades are assigned for the band classes and performances.

Class participation = 40 percent. Every day, students must have their instruments, music, and pencils at every rehearsal, and show maximum effort to earn the best grade. If students are being disruptive, not participating, or do not have their instrument/music/pencil for class, they will lose their points for the day. ****If we switch to Digital Learning, all assigned work excluding tests will fall into this category****

Tests, Playing Tests, and Performances= 40 percent. It is the student's responsibility to attend all mandatory events and take all tests.

Final = 20 percent

PRACTICING

You will be asked to practice throughout the year as homework. How much practice is done each day varies with the amount of time available, the individual needs of the students, and the amount of commitment a student is willing to make. There will also be times when specific assignments in the music or handouts will be given.

MATERIALS NEEDED FOR CLASS

Each student is required to provide their own materials unless renting from the school. Music will be provided.

- Pencil
- Music Folder
- Instrument
 - ****percussion: 1 pair of drum sticks and mallets of your choosing****
- Instrument Cleaning Supplies