

# The Colony Beginner Percussion Syllabus

2009-2010

Chad S. Wallace

TC Director of Percussion Studies

wallacecs@lisd.net

-----  
Please refer to your band handbook for questions regarding uniform, eligibility, fees, medical policy, etc.

## 1. Commitment to the Band Schedule

PLEASE CHECK THE CALENDAR REGULARLY!!! Band activities are group events that require the participation of **all students**. **All group performances require mandatory attendance from each student** as all performances and rehearsals are graded events as they are part of the curriculum! We ask that you mark your calendars with these events so that you can avoid these dates when planning family activities and other non-school related events. Like the spokes on a wheel, each student is very important to the group. Trying to rehearse without all members is similar to playing the piano with missing keys. It is an expectation of all students to attend all rehearsals and performances. Occasionally, band events may conflict with another school event. In that case, the directors/sponsors of both groups will work with the parents or guardian and student so that the student's and groups' best interests are met (i.e.- alternate graded assignment).

## 2. Supplies

1. Instrument and proper equipment
2. Pencil – EVERY DAY
3. Binder with all music and lesson books
4. Uniform (band t-shirt) for contests and performances

NOTE ABOUT BAND SUPPLIES: BAND EQUIPMENT IS NEVER TO BE IN THE OTHER PARTS OF THE SCHOOL (outside the band hall). If a student takes his pad or sticks into another class or hallway, they will be taken and returned only to the parents. Simply put, DRUM STUFF STAYS in the band hall! Also, equipment is to be taken home EVERY EVENING. The school or band program cannot be held responsible for equipment left in the band hall overnight. Furthermore, each student is to practice each evening and cannot do so if they leave their instrument or materials at school.

## 3. Private Lessons

Students desiring to get the most benefit from their band experience are encouraged to take advantage of a private lesson program. Private lessons are designed to benefit all band students. Students having any difficulties with fundamentals can receive the extra attention and tutoring needed to become successful. Students already performing well will gain great strength from the advanced pace and more challenging material the lesson teacher can provide. The benefit of private lessons is invaluable to all students' musical progress. Students receive weekly one-on-one attention that is not possible in a large class. They learn more about their instrument, are challenged further, and tend to gain immense self-confidence from the private lesson experience. In fact, private lesson students learn solos on several instruments before the class even begins to work on solos! Here is the list of approved teachers:

- Bill Klymus [klymus@sbcglobal.net](mailto:klymus@sbcglobal.net)
- Ronnie Ivy [ronnieivy@gmail.com](mailto:ronnieivy@gmail.com)

Please contact these teachers directly to set up lesson times, schedules, etc. Hurry before all the times are filled!

#### 4. Home Practice

It is important to develop wholesome practice habits, which will guarantee a successful and gratifying process for the band student. Parent support and guidance will be the key factors in establishing a regular practice schedule insuring the attainment of musical goals. The most effective home rehearsal programs are based upon **daily practice**. It is suggested that parents and their young musician mutually agree on a practice time, and a special area of your home designated for music study. Positive reinforcement is the most effective communication a parent and other siblings can share in this quest.

Home practice is expected! The physical requirements of producing a quality sound, playing with technical accuracy, and the reading of music notation will strengthen over time only if regular, daily practice is performed. *If a student is absent, the practice record should be used to rehearse at home what was missed at school.* If a test is missed, they will be made up as soon as the student returns. PLEASE ALWAYS USE THE PRACTICE RECORD AS A PRACTICE GUIDE!

#### 5. Solo and Ensemble Contest – June 4, 2010

This event is also a very important part of the student's musical education. The experience of playing solos and ensembles is much different than playing in band. It gives the student an opportunity to do individual work on a solo and ensemble work with a small group of students (trio, quartet, etc.) Private lesson teachers often focus on this medium in part of the private lesson experience. Entry fees (approx. \$5.00 for each student, per event) must be paid 35 days prior to the contest. This contest is in May.

#### 6. Grading Policy

##### A. Participation 30%

Active participation in class and rehearsals with all necessary equipment - instrument, music, books, stick bag with all required mallets, pencil, etc. This also includes **making sure that all equipment is put away where it belongs and protected** (covered, in cabinet, etc.). Also includes attendance to rehearsals, sectionals, functions. Again including promptness (on time *with instrument*), preparedness.

##### B. Tests / Performances 30%

Playing tests over pre-assigned material, written tests. Tests occur during class, after school, or video. Most tests are chair tests and affect the classroom set-up until the next chair test. Tests occur every three weeks and cover material from the beginning of the year up to the current lesson. Performances include: **Percussion Concert (March 6)**, Spring Concerts (May), Recitals (Dec-Jan), and of course, **Sandy Lake Band Trip (May)** ALL PERFORMANCES AND REHEARSALS ARE GRADED (see section 1).

##### C. Quizzes 20%

Playing or written quizzes over pre-assigned material. Quizzes occur during class, and will **always** come from practice card material. These are random and may only include one or two students each day. Each student performs approximately 3-6 quizzes per 6-weeks period.

##### D. Daily Grades / Practice Records 20%

Each week the students receive a practice record outlining the week ahead in percussion class. This is the students' guide for home practice! **Each day the class follows the outline of the practice record.** Quizzes are only given from the practice record material so students should always prepare what is on their practice record BEFORE class. As each student practices his or her assignment, they should log the minutes of practice on the practice record. At the end of each week, the practice record is to be signed by a parent or guardian and the students receive the appropriate grade for the number of minutes practiced. THE PRACTICE RECORD IS THE MOST IMPORTANT ASPECT OF THIS CLASS! NOT ONLY DOES IT INCLUDE IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENTS, but **ALL** GRADES COME FROM THE PRACTICE RECORD!!!

..