

TCHS Cougar Percussion Syllabus

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Please refer to the 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. Drill Book
5. Uniform

3. UIL Region Band Tryouts

This event is designed to bolster each music student's skills by presenting difficult passages focusing on fundamental development as well as technique. This music is an extremely important part of each Texas music student's career and will help him or her develop the skills needed to excel on their instrument. It also helps develop a work ethic and sense of commitment as the students prepare the music for several months before performing for a judging panel. There will be tests over the UIL material as mandated by the state. Any student failing these tests will be asked to sit out of drumline until the material is passed. Tests are each Tuesday and material is determined in the week previous.

4. Solo and Ensemble Contest

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. Advanced band students are required to participate in Solo and Ensemble to maintain their status in advanced band. The entry fee for advanced band members is included in the advanced band fee. Entry fees for all others (approx. \$5.00 for each student, per event) must be paid 35 days prior to the contest. Entry fees cannot be reimbursed for students who become ineligible or do not attend the contest for any reason.

5. 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. Advanced band students are recommended to take private lessons, as this is the best guarantee that they will remain at the highest level on their particular instrument. The directors have a list of teachers and contacts readily available. ***Private lessons are in integral part of band participation and therefore are graded as such.*** Students not in private lessons will have an alternate participation grade each week.

6. Section Rehearsals

Once marching season is over (mid-November), regular section rehearsals begin. Section rehearsals and a thorough private lesson program are at the heart of every successful band program. Section rehearsals provide students the individual and small group specialized instruction that they cannot receive during full rehearsal. These will strengthen individual fundamentals and work on a variety of instrument-specific music. ***Sectionals and rehearsals are mandatory and are graded per grading policy.*** Any student with a conflict should inform Mr. Wallace at least 48 hours in advance so the section can schedule alternate arrangements. Failure to meet this requirement will result in an unexcused absence.

7. 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 calendar 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 CALENDAR AS A PRACTICE GUIDE!

8. Grading Policy

A. Participation 25%

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.). Private lessons are considered an extension of the class and therefore are graded as well.

B. Tests 25%

Playing tests over pre-assigned material, written tests. Tests occur during class, after school, or video.

C. Performances 25%

Concerts, contests, community performances, individual contests. Grades are assessed from preparedness, promptness, and effort.

D. Attendance 25%

Rehearsals, sectionals, functions. Again including promptness (on time *with instrument*), preparedness.

