

## **Northwest Guilford High School Percussion Ensemble Syllabus**

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### **Curriculum/Objectives:**

Welcome to the NWGHS Beginning Percussion Class! As a percussionist you have signed up to learn about and to perform on hundreds of musical instruments from triangle to timpani to snare drum, drum set, and all mallet instruments. All students in percussion class are expected to have a basic understanding and skill level on **all percussion instruments**, including a study of rudiments, scales, timpani tuning, and technique for all groupings.

### **Materials:**

- **BLACK** 3 ring binder with sheet protectors
- Pencil & Paper
- Manuscript Paper
- 1 pair of concert snare sticks
- 2 pairs of medium yarn marimba mallets
- 1 pair of rubber xylophone mallets
- 1 pair of timpani mallets
- Pitch Pipe
- Practice Pad
- Stick/Mallet Bag

### **General Course Requirements**

- Students will bring **ALL** required materials to class **EVERYDAY**.
- Students will complete several assignments, both written and performance.
- Students will perform with the percussion ensemble as well as concert band
- Students will complete various written and performance tests, including a mid-term and final exam.

### **Class Rules:**

- Be on time and prepared for class
- Podium = **SILENCE**
- **DO NOT PLAY UNLESS INSTRUCTED**
- No food, gum, hats, or cell phones
- Keep an open mind and be willing to learn.

### **Grading:**

Grading will be comprised of Class Materials, Performances, Homework & Assignments, and Tests, including the mid-term and final exam.

### **Class Materials: 20%**

Students are required to have all assigned materials by the 2nd week of school and maintain them throughout the school year. There will be periodic checks to make sure that all students have the necessary materials for class.

### **Performances: 20%**

Students are required to attend **ALL** band concerts throughout the year. All beginning percussion students will perform a percussion ensemble piece as well as the concert band repertoire.

**Homework & Assignments: 20%**

Throughout the year, students will be given written assignments that will comprise of composing music, music theory, and music terminology. Students will also have performance assignments on various percussion instruments.

**Tests: 40%**

Exams will measure student achievement of previously covered course content. Tests include various types of questions as well as a performance assessment. The final exam will determine class placement for the following year.

**Advanced Placement:**

At the end of the school year, students will be given a final exam that will determine their placement in the NWGHS band program for the following school year. Students will either remain in beginning percussion/concert band, or advance into symphonic band or wind ensemble depending on final exam scores and the instrumentation needs for the advanced ensembles.

**Requirements for Advanced Placement****Symphonic Band**

Students will need to meet and demonstrate the following standards to be **CONSIDERED** for advanced placement into the NGWHS Symphonic Band:

- Consistently demonstrate proper rehearsal etiquette and preparation
- Play all 12 major scales with arpeggios at a minimum tempo of 100 bpm
- Recognize and play all 40 essential rudiments
- Sight read grade 4 percussion repertoire on snare and mallets
- Be able to match pitch and properly tune timpani
- Audition for All-County Band
- Pass final exam with a grade of 80 or higher

**Wind Ensemble**

Students will need to meet and demonstrate the following standards to be **CONSIDERED** for advanced placement in the NWGHS Wind Ensemble:

- Consistently demonstrate proper rehearsal etiquette and preparation
- Play all 12 major and natural minor scales with arpeggios at a minimum tempo of 120 bpm
- Recognize and play all 40 essential rudiments
- Demonstrate and play with proper 4 mallet technique (Steven's grip)
- Sight read grade 5 percussion repertoire on snare and mallets
- Be able to match pitch and properly tune timpani
- Audition for All-County Band and All-District Band
- Pass final exam with a grade of 90 or higher

\*Final selection into an advanced ensemble is left up to the discretion of Mr. McMath and Mr. Greene, and is not limited to the requirements listed above. We look forward to teaching you this year!

**“Success at anything will always come down to this: FOCUS and EFFORT, and we control both.” - Dwayne Johnson**

# The Band App



This year, the band and orchestra will be using the “Band App” as our primary means of communication between staff, parents, and students. The app is available on iOS, Android, and also has a desktop version which can be downloaded if your child does not have a smart phone. Students will need to have an account and check the app daily for assignments and all class related news.

The app offers several useful features including a calendar, news feed, chat room, and photo album, all of which will allow us to create a safe, fun, and educational social media environment for all band students, give out class assignments, answer questions, and keep you up to date and informed with all things band!

## **HERE'S HOW TO SIGN UP:**

- 1) Download the free app on iOS or Android or go to [www.band.us](http://www.band.us)
- 2) Create an account using an email or facebook login.
- 3) Find your class:
  - NWG Beginning Percussion Ensemble 2019
- 4) Click “Join” and you’re done!