**Sand Music Department**

**Course Outline and Music Teacher’s Expectations**

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*“The true beauty of music is that it connects people. It carries a message, and we, the musicians, are the messengers.”*

*-Roy Ayers*

The coursework in the Concert Band is designed to develop each student’s individual musical skills, learn the responsibilities of being a member of a musical ensemble, and foster a life-long love of music.

The Concert Band course focuses on furthering the student’s musical skills (performance and theoretical) and introduction to score study. The students will be learning technical and warm-up exercises as well as a variety of concert band literature for concerts and festivals.

This outline of my expectations of student musicians and how they will be evaluated. It is meant to help creating an atmosphere where we can experience the joy of learning and performing music together.

**Assessment and Evaluation**

Students will be assessed and evaluated on three components of musicianship: Performance Skills (50%), Written Skills (30%), and Personal Responsibility (20%). Students will earn a letter grade for each term. In music the goal is progressive mastery of skills. For this reason, only a small percentage of a student's Individual Performance Test and Written Test grades are averaged over the three terms to create a final mark for the course.

**Performance Skills**

Students will be given Individual Performance Tests and Group Performance Tests.

Individual Performance Tests are done in class in front of their fellow band students. The students are informed in advance what specific musical passages/exercises and elements (notes, rhythms, tempo, etc) will be tested. As mastery of the material is the goal, students may re-play a test at any time before the test material is performed, or the end of the term for scale or other technical tests.

If a student is unable to play a test because of illness/injury or because a student’s instrument is broken, the student must have a note from their parents **before** the test. If a student is absent on a test day, parents are to **call** and leave a message before the test. Students who forget their instrument at home on test days will be allowed to do a re-test **once**. After that, a forgotten instrument on a test day will result in the student earning a 0 for that test. Students who miss tests must make an appointment with me to make up their tests on their own time (most often during the lunch hour).

Group Performance Tests are concerts. Students must attend and are required to stay for the entire concert not just their ensemble’s performance. Learning to be a respectful audience member and supporting one's fellow musicians is part of our curriculum. A list of confirmed concert dates for 2019/2020 are as follows. The dates of other performances will be posted on the website as soon as they are confirmed.

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| November 6 | Delta Night of Music | 7:00 p.m. | South Delta Secondary |
| November 20 (tentative) | Premiere Concert | 7:00 p.m. | Sands Canteen |
| February 12 | Delta Night of Music | 7:00 p.m. | Seaquam Performing Arts Centre |
| March 4-6 | Music Tour | TBA | Penticton |
| March 12 (tentative) | Spring Concert | 7:00 p.m. | Sands Canteen |
| May 4 | Delta Night of Music | 7:00 p.m. | Delta Secondary School |
| June 12 | Year End Concert | 7:00 p.m. | Sands Canteen |

On extremely rare occasions students have an irreconcilable conflict with a concert. Unlike other tests, it is impossible for students to "make up" a Group Performance Tests. However, students will be able to make up a missing a Group Performance Test by completing a written assignment if they have met the following conditions.

1. The student must demonstrate that he/she has made every possible effort to resolve the conflict.
2. The student informs Ms. Tseng in writing with enough notice so the student’s part can be covered in order that the student’s absence will not damage the performance of the ensemble.

If a student is so ill, they cannot perform on the day of the concert, they must **phone** Ms. Tseng directly first thing in the morning at 604-594-3474.

**Written Skills**

Throughout the year students will be given various written assignments and tests (counting quizzes and tests, theory exercises, self-evaluation forms, practice logs) to enhance the students’ knowledge of general music theory and history and specific knowledge of the music they are performing.

**Personal Responsibility**

*“For the strength of the pack is the wolf and the strength of the wolf is the pack”*

*-Kipling*

Music is participatory. Students must be in classes, rehearsals, and concerts on time, prepared, and with all equipment.

**Attendance**

Other than music learning, I believe that one of the most important things students learn in a music class is how to work within a goal- oriented group on a long-term basis. Music is a group project everyday. When you are absent the group is impacted in two ways. One, you miss the learning for the day which means you are behind, and two, the group is less able to rehearse fully as you part and your part are missing. Therefore, when professional musicians, must miss a rehearsal or concert, they are expected to arrange, and pay for, a substitute to take their place — yes, even for rehearsal!

Students are required to demonstrate responsibility to the group by keeping absences to the bare minimum. Students will not be penalized for being absent, however, in order to earn full personal responsibility marks, by absences must be dealt with in the following way:

1. Having your parent/guardian having your parent/guardian report your absence to the main office (this is the best way as all a student's teacher will be notified) or bringing a note from your parent/guardian on the first class you are back. If you need to leave the school during the day, you must follow school procedure and sign out.
2. Immediately upon return, speaking with Ms. Tseng and your section mates about the material you missed (technique, written, and rehearsal) and making an appointment to complete any missed tests and/or attending a afternoon sectional if necessary to learn missed material.

At the end of each year, students who have never been AWOL (Absent Without Leave) will be recognized with an award for Personal Responsibility.

**Punctuality**

Students must be in the music room getting equipment set up when the bell rings. Students who arrive in the music room after the bell without a legitimate reason in writing from parent, doctor, dentist, or previous teacher, will lose personal responsibility marks; the amount determined by the student’s demeanor — rushing in apologetically (minimum) or sauntering in with fries from the caf, (maximum, and disposal of fries).

**Preparation and Practice**

Students are expected to have their music marked **in pencil** (bars numbered, rhythms counted, dynamics marked, etc.) as requested by the conductor.

*"All I want from tomorrow, is to get it better than today."*

*Huey Lewis and the News*

Students are required to practice at home. Concert Band students are not given practice charts with a prescribed amount of practice time. However, students must be prepared for rehearsal. The purpose of the rehearsal portion of class not to learn each note and rhythm for each student or section, but rather to put all the parts together and work on ensemble problems, style, balance and the musical expression. Students who are not prepared for rehearsal will be required to attend sectional or individual practice sessions under the supervision of the director or student tutor. For each student to become the best musician possible, merely learning their “parts” for their music will not suffice. Students must practice technical exercises regularly in order to increase range and speed and develop beautiful tone.

**Concert Uniform**

How an ensemble dresses for concerts is extremely important. A group who comes onto the stage well- dressed shows respect for their audience, reflects personal pride, and gives off an aura of “something special is going to happen”. For all performances, Seaquam Music students wear the “uniform” on professional musicians: **Concert Dress Black** . The overall look is classy and formal, casual attire of any kind is not appropriate. Students are free to choose the components of their dress blacks within the following guidelines.

* no jeans, sweatpants, t-shirts, runners, or sports sandals
* shirts must have long sleeves and collars for boys and sleeves modest necklines for girls
* if girls choose to wear skirts, they must be just above knee length or longer
* fabrics must be muted, nothing shiny or sparkly
* all students must wear black socks or stockings (going sans-socks is not     appropriate)
* the only skin we want to see are your hands and your face!

If you are not sure something meets the requirements, ask before you buy or make sure you can take it back. Remember, your music, not your uniform is the show.

**The Music Book**

Students will need a duo-tang for their “Music Book” that will be kept in the student’s band folder. In educational jargon, the Music Book is a process -portfolio, which is a record of the student’s learning. The Music Book will contain a progress sheet (to record all assignments and tests), counting quizzes and tests, test evaluations, and written assignments. The band book is a means of communication between student, parent and teacher. I encourage all parents to ask to see their child’s book on a regular basis, and if you have and questions or concerns regarding you son/daughter’s progress, please contact me at Sands 604-594-3474 or Jtseng@deltasd.bc.ca

**What can students expect?**

What students can expect from me is a mirror of my expectations for them. Student musicians can expect that the teacher musician will:

* be in class or rehearsal on time and prepared
* be concerned with the musical achievements of the ensemble and everyone within it
* give help outside of class time —please arrange a time in advance so I will be sure to be there!
* be concerned for the holistic welfare of each student
* share with them my love of music and learning

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