

## **Birmingham Seaholm High School Bands 2018-2019**

### **Manifest and Syllabus**

Congratulations on your decision to participate in the Seaholm Band Program for the 2017-2018 school year. You are now part of a tradition that has been maintained in Birmingham for over 80 years. Our band program has established a reputation of excellence throughout the state of Michigan and beyond. In recent years the bands have represented our school and community in Rome, London, Honolulu, Salzburg, Los Angeles, New York City, Orlando, Chicago, San Francisco, San Diego, Toronto, Washington D.C., Nashville, and Memphis. This winter the band will tour Orlando once again

The purpose of this document is to provide a reference guide for band students and parents to help them better understand our program.

#### **Course Objective:**

To rehearse, perform and experience music with the intention to inculcate proper ethics and musical performance standards. We will also strive to establish a vigorous work ethic, a commitment to excellence, and a commitment to each other.

#### **General Rules and Expectations:**

1. The Seaholm Bands are divided into three classes during the school year: 9<sup>th</sup> Grade Band, Concert Band, and Symphony Band. During the first trimester, these ensembles will combine to create the Marching Band. The Marching Band will have periodic evening rehearsals from 6:30-8:30 pm on Wednesdays. These rehearsals are outlined in the performance calendar. After the marching season is finished, Symphony Band will periodically rehearse 7-8:30 pm on Wednesday evenings.
2. All students should arrive on time for each rehearsal with their music prepared. The time requirement for music preparation will be different for each student.
3. Each student (as well as the directors) is expected to behave in a kind and respectful manner during rehearsals.
4. Students are responsible for maintaining their instruments in proper working order. **This will be factored into each trimester grade.**
5. Cell phones are to be out of sight during rehearsal and/or instructional time. The directors may periodically allow cell phone use in class. The directors may also periodically collect all cell phones for the duration of class.
6. Students will help maintain a clean rehearsal room. Please store instruments properly and dispose of all garbage in the trashcans.

7. Chair placement exams will be held at the conclusion of the marching season and may be held again during the second and/or third trimester. If a student is not satisfied with his/her chair placement, he/she may re-audition for a new grade. Challenges will be available to anyone wishing to advance in their section at a time other than chair placements. The specifics of challenges will be made clear by the directors after the chair placement exams have concluded. Chairs may be rotated during the concert season.
8. No food, drink, or gum in the band room at any time. (There will be special exceptions under extreme circumstances.)
9. Students must bring their instruments to all rehearsals and performances unless it is being repaired. (A note is required to verify this situation.) Any student who forgets their instrument three times in one marking period will fail that marking period.
10. All performances are required. A missed performance could warrant a failing grade for that marking period. (Exceptions include: death in the family or a student sickness where he/she is confined to bed.) Other exceptions such as weddings, religious observance, family reunions, etc. must be given to the directors in writing at least three weeks in advance. The directors will determine the consequence for a missed performance based on circumstance.
11. Students who miss a scheduled performance due to a suspension or other school related activity will have a project (chosen by the directors) to make up the grade. Any student who misses more than one performance during the school year for unexcused reasons will fail the current semester and be dismissed from the band program at the end of the semester.
12. Students will abide by all rules and regulations in the student handbook. Any student who is caught in a substance abuse situation or violation on a band related function can be dismissed from the band program and fail the course.
13. Percussion instruments are provided by the school as are some low brass, low woodwinds and French horns. All students who use school instruments are expected to treat them carefully and respectfully. PLEASE NOTE: Birmingham Schools are not responsible for missing stolen or damaged instruments that are not owned by the school. We are not liable if a student's instrument comes up missing. Be responsible!
14. Students who refuse to follow proper rehearsal etiquette will receive a writing assignment or detention. Students who receive two assignments/detentions from a band related incident will lose all "privileges" (i.e., jazz band, solo & ensemble, trips, etc.)
15. The directors have the final decision on a student's trip participation.

### **Grading Procedure:**

#### *Performances (40%)*

1. All are required. See #10 above.

Daily Participation and Attitude (25%)

1. Classroom attendance-unexcused absences and tardies will be deducted from your grade
2. Preparation-this includes music and rehearsal preparation (**instrument care**, pencil, and music in class.)

Playing Tests (20%)

1. Tests will be announced in advance. Music will be chosen by the band director from rehearsed music or memorized scales

Individual Project (15%)

1. All students are expected to complete an individual project for each trimester. Please refer to below for specifics:

**Individual Project Guidelines**

Fifteen percent of your band grade is the individual project. Students are responsible for completing one (1) individual project per trimester. Projects may be handed in at any time during the trimester, but must be handed in by the dates listed below for each marking period. Please be aware that late work will not be accepted.

The due date for each individual project is:

- 1<sup>st</sup> trimester: November 20<sup>th</sup>, 2018  
2<sup>nd</sup> trimester: March 8<sup>th</sup>, 2019  
3<sup>rd</sup> trimester: June 14<sup>th</sup>, 2019

You have several options from which to choose for your individual project:

**Option 1: Participation in the Mentorship Program**

Students who participate in the Mentorship Program, either as a mentor or mentee, may use this as their individual project grade. The partnership involves one upper-class student who will help an under-class student improve his or her playing. The partnership may also be a SHS band member helping a middle-school or elementary school student with his or her playing. In order to receive class credit the mentorship pairs should meet a minimum of two times a month for 30 minutes. At the end of the marking period each SHS band student involved needs to turn in a **TYPED** 1-2 page summary of the dates and times met, topics covered, and improvements that were made.

**Option 2: Private Lessons**

Students who regularly take private lessons on an instrument may receive credit for their individual project grade. In order to receive credit, the student must write a 1-2 page summary of their progress made over the course of the marking period.

**Option 3: BPS Concert Review**

You may choose to attend a Birmingham Public Schools live-music concert and **TYPE** a 1-2 page summary for your individual project grade. In order to receive credit, you must be a member of the audience, not participating in the performance. The written review should include the “who, what, when, and where” of the performance, as well as your critique and evaluation. Why did like it? Why didn’t you like it?

**Option 4: Lunchtime Practice Session/9<sup>th</sup> Grade Band Mentorship**

If a student chooses to come down to the band room and practice during their lunchtime for ten sessions it may count for an individual project grade. Also, an upperclassman may attend a 9<sup>th</sup> grade band rehearsal and assist as needed. The student must have one of the director’s signatures for each session to ensure attendance.

**Option 5: Participation in Jazz Band**

Participation in either “A.M” or “P.M.” jazz band may count towards an individual project grade.

**Option 6: Participation in Solo & Ensemble Festival**

If you participate in this festival (which is held during the second trimester) you will receive full credit for your individual project grade.

**Option 7: Participation in Full Symphony Orchestra/ Musical/“Pit” Orchestra**

Band students involved in either of these ensembles may use this to fulfill their individual project grade if their attendance is deemed adequate by the directors.

**Option 8: Participation in any honors/extra-curricular ensembles.**

Students will receive credit for performing in extra ensembles outside of Seaholm.

*\*\*Seniors may count Wednesday night symphony band rehearsals for their 3<sup>rd</sup> trimester individual project grade.*

Thank you for reading this. Please contact us with any concerns or questions.

To your journey,

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