

# Santa Monica High School

## Wind Symphony/Wind Ensemble Syllabus

Kevin McKeown, Director of Bands

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## Course Overview

### **WIND SYMPHONY/WIND ENSEMBLE CLASS EXPECTATIONS:**

Both ensembles are a two-semester commitment. The curricula of all of the ensembles are music literacy based, performance based and competitive. All ensembles rely upon each member to rehearse and perform to the best of their ability. The action of one member directly affects all the other members of the group. **Negative behaviors exhibited continuously in the rehearsal or performance may be grounds for dismissal from participation in the band program.** The conductor reserves the right to suspend performance privileges based upon inappropriate behavior, especially during the week leading up to the concert, and at the dress rehearsal. An alternative assignment may be offered for partial credit. Performance privileges may also be suspended if attendance has been problematic.

Members of the Samohi Band Program are ambassadors that represent their music department, their school, their community, city, and state at various musical events throughout the concert year. Appropriate professional decorum must be exhibited at all times. When performing with the ensembles on or off campus, it is important that students conduct themselves in a manner that reflects favorably upon the individual, group, and school. **Inappropriate behavior at performances as well as unbecoming behaviors on campus such as fighting, truancy, or other issues which result in disciplinary action, may be cause for removal from the program or placement in another ensemble.**

- BE RESPECTFUL.
- BE ON TIME.
- BE PREPARED.
- BE RESPONSIBLE.
- MAKE LEARNING YOUR TOP PRIORITY.

### **REHEARSAL PROCEDURES AND EXPECTATIONS:**

1. An effective rehearsal requires complete mental and physical involvement.
2. Students are expected to use good playing posture when playing during the rehearsal.
3. No gum, no food, no drinks (Water bottles only)
4. Blatant defiance, interference with the rehearsal, hurtful comments about others in the group, racist remarks, homophobic comments, and sexist or sexual remarks will not be tolerated and will be referred for disciplinary action which could include **removal from the band program.**
5. See the teacher after class, before school, after school, or at lunch to discuss your personal needs, disagreements, conflicts, etc. or send an email.
6. No one is to use the phone (school phone or personal mobile) during class time, unless permitted to do so for instructional purposes i.e. an online quiz.
7. No cell phone calling or messaging is to be done during class time. **All electronics will be confiscated per district policy.**
8. All electronic devices should be put away out of sight before class begins, including earphones. Items are subject to confiscation once class has begun.

9. If you **are unable to play** for a day for whatever reason, you are expected to participate fully in the class. This means following along with the music, and marking the score. **You may not read a book, listen to music, or do homework.** At the end of rehearsal you will submit the required form documenting what you heard in the rehearsal and what instructions were given in order to receive credit for that day.
10. Food is only allowed in the band room for those students who are rehearsing during lunch and on special occasions as determined by the director.
11. **Do not leave anything in the band room, it will be thrown away. Mr. McKeown cannot be personally responsible for your stuff.**
12. Bring only your music folder, music, pencil, to your seat.
13. Music is the property of the school and must be treated with respect. Use only pencil to mark pertinent information. Do not draw on, tear, fold, roll or otherwise mutilate your music. You will be responsible for the replacement cost of the music.
14. You may not write on the white board at your leisure. It is for instructional use only.
15. The classroom piano is for rehearsal use only and not for personal recitals. Please ask before presuming you may sit down and start playing. Practice room pianos are available for students with legitimate practicing needs.
16. Restrooms are only available for emergency use during class time. Use your passing period wisely to avoid disturbing the rehearsal. You may not use the restroom without permission if class is in session.

#### **CLASS GOALS:**

- **musical** (rhythmic precision, pitch accuracy, performing in variety of musical styles, expressive playing, etc.)
- **technical** (instrumentalist posture, breath control, correct fingerings, negotiating ranges, appropriate tone qualities and styles, articulation, intonation, etc.)
- **performance** (attention to immediate and long-term ensemble goals, increased confidence, respect for the ensemble/conductor/room, calendaring and organization, multiple performance opportunities etc.)

#### **TOPICS TO BE COVERED:**

##### **Performance Units**

- Fall Concert, Winter Concert, Bands at the Broad, Festival, Spring Concert, Pops Concert – Both Ensembles
- SFSU Clinic, Sonoma State Invitational Band Festival, Cuesta College Performance – Wind Symphony and members of Wind Ensemble
- Royce Hall (UCLA Wind Ensemble Invitational Festival), Stairway to the Stars – Wind Ensemble

#### **MATERIALS\*:**

It is suggested that students bring the following supplies with them to class EVERY DAY:

- 1/2" three ring binder (black) for their music.
- Instrument – Sometimes school instruments are available so please bring your mouthpiece if your instrument is being repaired.
- Pencil for marking the music.

#### **PERFORMANCE ATTIRE:**

Proper concert dress is formal attire (Black Tuxedo/Suit/Bowtie/Socks/Shoes or the formal school dress). The concert stage is not the place to make a personal fashion statement. It is the place where we come together as a group to perform. We should appear polished and professional. Nothing should be worn that distracts the audience from the enjoyment of the sounds we produce. For that reason the following standards have been established and will be strictly enforced. Not adhering to these standards will result in removal from the performance without the opportunity to make up the grade.

## **HOMEWORK:**

Most all of our work is done in the classroom rehearsal. However, in order to achieve mastery of the musical concepts, minimal homework (practice) will be assigned weekly for Wind Symphony and Wind Ensemble. The practice and assignments (homework) are typically completed on the computer using the Google Classroom program that all students will be expected to check regularly

. The average student can expect about 60 minutes per week which is **less than 10 minutes a day**.

## **ATTENDANCE:**

### **Daily Rehearsals**

It is crucial that you are in class everyday. *If you are absent, it is your responsibility to come and get any work you missed while you were absent.* You may see me during my office hours or at lunch to obtain any work you missed. Work not turned in while you were absent will not be counted as late as long as it is turned in the day you return to school. You have the number of days absent to make up missed worked without penalty.

### **Required Rehearsals and Performances**

Every Wind Symphony and Wind Ensemble member is expected to attend all of that group's activities. All performances, rehearsals, and occasional sectionals are REQUIRED, and are part of the grade. Extra rehearsals outside of class are infrequent (except for the scheduled dress rehearsals prior to a concert) but are occasionally necessary. All performances, and rehearsal dates will be given to you well in advance in order for you to make necessary arrangements in your schedules (i.e. work or other personal activities). Students with a prolonged illness such as the flu, surgery, or other debilitating injury, must submit a physician's note for excuse.

If for some reason you must miss a rehearsal or a performance due to illness, arrange in advance to make up the missed activity. Absences due to illness should be phoned or emailed to the Director **before the activity**. Mr. McKeown's voice mail is at (310) 395-3204 ext. 71-406; email (preferred) [komckeown@smmusd.org](mailto:komckeown@smmusd.org). A 24-hour notice gives the director time to make needed adjustments. Students missing a performance due to any excused absence must make up the points missed. An unexcused absence will result in a performance "F" which will considerably impact your grade. There is no such thing as a surprise Bar Mitzvah, surprise wedding, or surprise family vacation to Aruba. Most events take months and months of planning. Make sure you put all dates on your family calendar immediately. In the event that you find a conflict, advanced notice makes life easier for all involved parties.

## **MAKE UP PROVISIONS:**

### **Homework, tests, quizzes**

All exams, tests, quizzes and homework that are missed due to an excused absence can be made up. In most cases, make up work should be completed upon return to school. In some severe cases, the student/parent can make special arrangements as necessary with the teacher, without penalty. If one week has passed since the student was absent, and the student has made no attempt to contact the teacher, or make up the work. The grade will result in an automatic "0".

### **Performances**

Any performance is a moment that **cannot be recreated**. During a performance, each student's ability, knowledge, and training are at their sharpest and fullest state. We are judged by our performances. When you are absent, it affects the entire ensemble. It is therefore critical that each member of each ensemble attends every performance, and supports his/her fellow group members. This is called team spirit and shows dedication and responsibility.

The only acceptable excuses for missing a concert would include verified serious illness, bereavement, or the observation of a religious holiday. **Transportation difficulty, or work schedule cannot be considered for excused absences.** You must call or email Mr. McKeown and inform him if you must miss a performance. Make up work must be discussed with the director and completed no later than the week before finals.

**Concert Performance make up assignment:** in order to receive credit for any required concert performance the following assignment has been established.

- 10 page research paper on the life and works of a major composer **as selected by Mr. McKeown**
- double spaced
- Times New Roman, size 12 font
- 1” margins on all sides
- standard bibliography with at least four bound (non-internet) sources
- This assignment will only be accepted through [turnitin.com](http://turnitin.com)

**LATE WORK:**

Any written work turned in late will suffer an automatic full letter grade deduction. Late work will only be accepted until the end of the current grading period. After a progress report has been sent home, work for that previous grading period will no longer be accepted.

**EXTRA CREDIT:**

All students will have the opportunity to earn extra credit by attending concerts mentioned in class. Any outside concerts must be preapproved before the extra credit is given. Each opportunity will be worth 5 points. Students can complete up to 3 of these to earn a maximum of 15 points for each semester.

**GRADING:**

100%-93%=A	89%-83%=B	79%-73%=C	69%-63%=D
92%-90%=A-	82%-80%=B-	72%-70%=C-	62%-60%=D-
59% and below=F			

**ASSESSMENT/ GRADING PERCENTAGES:**

- Preparation (10%): *This includes bringing necessary materials to class every day: music, instrument, and a pencil, as well as remaining on task during the class period.*
- Playing Assignments (50%): *Students will be expected to perform on a regular basis by themselves, as well as in small groups for the rest of the class.*
- Written Assignments (10%): *Written Assignments will be given on a weekly basis. These will include theory worksheets, compositions, and concert reports.*
- Final Exam/Performances (20%): *Details will be explained closer to the end of the semester. Performance grades based on punctuality, concert etiquette (cell phone use, talking, lack of support for featured group on stage.)*

**REWARDS/CONSEQUENCES:**

- REWARDS:
  - Students who exhibit appropriate behavior and meet classroom expectations will be rewarded in a variety of ways. Such rewards include verbal praise, positive phone calls, and letters home.
- CONSEQUENCES:
  - Students who do not follow the appropriate guidelines for behavior and whom do not meet classroom expectations will incur the following consequences in sequential order:
    1. Warning (Verbal)
    2. Intervention
    3. School detention
    4. Severe Cases=referral and sent to office with security escort

**OFFICE HOURS/COMMUNICATION\*:**

Kevin McKeown, [komckeown@smmusd.org](mailto:komckeown@smmusd.org)/(310) 395-3204 ext. 71406  
 “Office Hours” are flexible given my schedule as the Director of Bands, Director of Marching Band, Varsity Girl’s Golf Coach, and faculty responsibilities with Santa Monica College and UC Irvine. Please send me an

email or message to arrange a time to meet. Lunch time and after school are options as long as the student checks with me during the class period.

The instructor reserves the right to make additions, changes, and deletions to the syllabus during the course of the year as appropriate for student learning.

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By signing this form, I acknowledge that I have read and understand everything in the Course Expectations. This form will be MARKED AS ASSIGNMENT and is due no later than **Friday, September 8<sup>th</sup>**.

STUDENT NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

STUDENT SIGNATURE: \_\_\_\_\_

PARENT/GUARDIAN NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

PARENT/GUARDIAN SIGNATURE: \_\_\_\_\_

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_