

Rockdale County High School
Symphonic Band (6thPeriod)
Course Syllabus
1st Semester 2009-10

RCHS Mission – The mission of Rockdale County High School is to provide an environment that cultivates individual success.

Beliefs:

- Ensure rigorous academic preparation
- Emphasize an inclusive, innovative school culture
- Enhance positive relationships
- Commit to lifelong learning
- Produce active, responsible citizens

Instructors - Mr. Scott Stanton - sstanton@rockdale.k12.ga.us and Mr. Mark Belfast – Belfast@rockdale.k12.ga.us - 770 483-8754 ext. 231

I-Parent Information – Contact Dawn Tincher if you need to set up an account

Prerequisite - Successful completion of Middle School Band and class placement audition.

Class Description - The Symphonic Band Class offers more advanced concepts than the Concert Band and prepares students with the necessary skills to continue to advance in their musical abilities. Fundamental concepts of music are reviewed and reinforced. Various genres of music and cultures are studied and basic skills of interpretation, expression, and musicality are taught. Individual and ensemble performance is a required component of this course.

Class Expectations - Students are expected to participate fully in a directed music rehearsal for each class meeting. This includes arriving on time and participating with instrument and music for every rehearsal. Students are to have a pencil on their music stand and have available the appropriate accessories for their instruments. In addition, all students are expected to practice their instrument daily at home in preparation for class.

Instructional Philosophy – Students will experience a variety of teaching methods and experiences. Warm-up exercises are performed during each class period and vary by day. These exercises reinforce basic musical concepts as well as provide an introduction to new concepts. Warm-up exercises may include long tones, lip slurs, scales, technical and lyrical exercises, and rhythm studies. The class will continue with full group, small group, or individual music rehearsal as appropriate. Students will also experience a number of ear training and sight reading exercises on a regular basis.

Required Performances/Events – Performances listed below give you a broad overview of our most important events. Please check the band calendar for all performances and events.

1. October 24th – Greater Atlanta Area Marching Band Festival – This festival is our primary fundraiser for the school year. *All students in the band program, including non-marching band members, are required to participate in assisting with this band festival.*
2. November 17th – Dinner Concert – 6:00 dinner; 7:00 concert
3. December 3-4 – Prism Concert Rehearsals – TBD
4. December 7-8 – Prism Concerts – 7:00pm
5. March 2nd – Pre-Festival Concert – 7:00pm
6. March 11th-13th – Large Group Performance Evaluation – exact date and time TBA
7. May 11th – Spring Concert 7:00pm in theater
8. May 14th – Band Banquet 6:30pm at RCA
9. May 28th – Graduation 6:30pm location TBD

Class Grading – Grades are determined as follows:

30% of the semester grade is based on active and on-task daily participation. Deductions for daily participation are made for not participating, not having the appropriate materials for each rehearsal, having unexcused absences, and having constant behavior problems that interrupt the learning environment. Students begin each semester with a 100 grade. Each day is worth 5 points.

45% of the semester grade is based on the performance of musical excerpts and etudes as assigned in class. These performance tests can be either live or recorded evaluations. After-school rehearsal participation is included in this portion of the grade. In addition, written tests, assignments, pass-offs, and other in or out of class assignments are included here.

25% of the grade is based on public performance evaluation. This can be either a group performance or individual performance. Public performance is a critical component of music instruction and after-school (evening) concert participation is required of this class. Students will be graded not only on their concert performance but also their professional behavior as a performer and audience member. Students who miss a performance will automatically have their grade lowered one letter grade.

A **final exam** will be given each semester and will be a performance based exam accounting for 20% of the final semester average.

Band Testing Schedule – A band testing schedule for each nine weeks will be distributed during the first week of classes. Changes to this schedule are made based on instructional or calendar needs only. You may find updates on our band website.

Class Rules

1. Students are expected to be on time to class with their instrument in working condition and music, tuner, and sharpened pencil on their stand.
2. Students are not to bring food, drinks, gum, or candy into the band room. Water may be brought into the classroom at any time.
3. Students are expected to be quiet when a director is on the podium or teaching any portion of the class (small group, large group, individual, etc.).
4. Students are expected to respect the students in the class and respect all equipment in the room.
5. Students are expected to learn as much as possible during the class time and may not interfere with the learning of another student. Likewise, a student may not interfere with the teaching process in any way.

Required Materials for Class

1. Band instrument (large instruments such as tubas, bass clarinets, and euphoniums are available through the school – see below)
2. Sharpened Pencil
3. Band Folder (provided)
4. Necessary performance and cleaning equipment specific for your instrument (i.e. – reeds, valve oil, polishing cloth, swab, sticks, mallets, etc.)
5. Tuner

Uniform Cost - All non-marching band members are assessed a \$20.00 uniform expense that covers dry cleaning, uniform repair, and uniform replacement. This expense is due August 31st.

School Instruments – Certain instruments are made available to the students due to their extreme size and/or cost. In some cases, students will be able to use smaller school instruments, if available, due to financial need. A repair fee is charged to students using a school owned instrument. Students using school owned instruments will have a \$25.00 repair fee per person (not instrument) that is due by August 31st. Parents and students accept the responsibility for repairs and maintenance of these instruments beyond the above listed repair fee if the instrument is damaged during the school year.

Percussionists – Percussionists are required to have a variety of sticks and mallets in a mallet bag. These items are to be brought to class at each class meeting. This list is given to the percussionists with this syllabus. The total of these items can total between \$150 and \$200. Specialty mallets will be made accessible to all percussionists as needed. Mallets can be purchased at any band instrument music store. In addition, percussionists will have access to all percussion equipment owned by Rockdale County High School. Students that damage any equipment, drum heads, or school-provided mallets are responsible for the cost and/or replacement of said items.

Band Website/E-mail Communication - www.rockdaleband.com is our band website. This website has our calendar of events, important messages, our band handbook, miscellaneous forms, and a wealth of information regarding our band program. Please check this website on a weekly basis. Also, frequent updates are sent via e-mail to all band parents. Please make sure Mr. Stanton and Mr. Belfast has your parent's e-mail address so you may receive these updates. You are also welcome to add your e-mail address to this listing so you can also receive these messages.

Handbook and Required Forms to Submit – There are two forms that must be submitted for your child to participate in band activities. Both are located on our website, www.rockdaleband.com. These forms are the Medical Form and the Handbook/Field Trip form. All marching band members have completed these items. Non-marchers are expected to download the forms and submit them to Mr. Stanton or Mr. Belfast no later than Friday, August 7th. The handbook is posted on our website. If you do not have internet access and require a copy of these forms and the handbook, please contact Mr. Stanton prior to the above deadline.

SYMPHONIC BAND 2009-10

Please sign and return only this page to Mr. Stanton or Mr. Belfast no later than Thursday, August 6th, 2009 for a test grade

Please print all information requested except where a signature is required.

Student Name _____

Instrument _____

Parent Name _____

Best contact method

_____ E-mail (please print neatly) _____

_____ Phone - _____ (home, cell, work) – Best time to call _____
Person who will answer at this number _____

Would you like to be placed on the concert band e-mail list to receive periodic updates on band events?

(circle one) YES NO

E-mail address (if not listed above) _____

Students:

I have read the syllabus for Symphonic Band and understand what is required of me. I know that I am expected to practice my instrument on a frequent basis, to have high expectations of myself in regards to achievement, and to behave in a manner that will not interfere with the learning of those around me.

My e-mail address is _____

Student Signature _____

Parents:

I have read the syllabus for Symphonic Band and understand what is required of my child. I know that my child is expected to practice his/her instrument on a frequent basis, to behave in a manner that promotes a positive learning environment, and to hold his/her self to a high standard of achievement.

Parent Signature _____

