## Course Description

The primary objective of ensemble instruction at the high school level is the preparation of life-long appreciation for and engagement in the culture of one’s community. Graduating students will be prepared to continue performing in collegiate or community ensembles throughout adulthood.

Concert Band is designed for students in grades 10-12 who choose to continue their musical pursuits through shared ensemble music performance. The class is an important transitional experience between middle school ensembles and the High School Wind Ensemble. Experiences in class will emphasize individual performance skills but will prioritize the interdependent nature of ensemble musicianship. Individual accountability is a fundamental step toward synergistic ensemble experiences. While not officially required within the curriculum, private lesson instruction is strongly encouraged. Public performances are an important part of the ensemble experience, and students must be prepared to participate in out-of-school events as well as regular, sustained, and independent individual practice.

## Course Materials

Most students will bring their instruments from home (which they own or rent). At least one locker will be made available for each student. Students who require more than one locker will be assigned lockers based on need and an effort to be as fair as possible. Students are recommended to bring a lock to secure their locker. Any locks brought by a student will be recorded by the director so the lockers can be opened in an emergency.

Students who use school owned instruments are responsible for purchasing their own mouthpiece. Once the instrument is assigned to the student, that student assumes responsibility for any care and maintenance necessary for that instrument. If multiple students share the instrument, then any damage or malfunction of the instrument must be reported to the director before it is used again so that responsibility for the repair may be properly assigned.

**Percussionists** will be allowed to use the school instruments and mallets for specialized equipment. Percussionists will also need to purchase a stick bag and basic ensemble sticks/mallets. A practice pad is also essential. A locker will be assigned for percussionists as well. Sticks and pads may be kept in the lockers, and a lock is recommended.

All students will be provided with copies of the ensemble music. Any music not returned will be held as an obligation with the school, and student privileges may be revoked accordingly.

Musicians also work with important training tools in addition to their instrument. All students should have access to a **metronome and tuner**, especially considering the nature of the practice expectations for the year. Like many things, technology has made this rather easy. There are numerous metronome and tuner apps for smart phones, and there are free metronomes and tuners online.

## Concert Attire

Students will wear formal concert black and white. Students who need to purchase uniform concert attire will receive additional information regarding the concert attire ordering process. To simplify the matter for parents, we will work with a school concert attire company who can provide the needs of our uniform at a reasonable cost and minimal effort on the part of the parents. If any of the options below are a concern, please contact Mr. Morehouse directly via email. Payment the concert attire will be collected by the CB “MyPaymentsPlus” system.

**Option A:** A full tuxedo, including a jacket, white dress shirt, a uniform black Windsor tie and vest, and a pair of black tuxedo pants. Black socks and black dress shoes are not provided but are expected as part of the uniform. Sneakers are *not* acceptable. It is *not* necessary to wear cuff links or studs with the tuxedo shirt.

**Option B:** A uniform black dress. Dresses will arrive in time to allow for alterations that may need to be made. Closed-toe dress shoes should be worn; flip-flops and sandals are not acceptable.

**Notes for all students:** Hair must be worn back to allow the face to be clearly seen. This is a performance issue as well as an aesthetic issue. Jewelry should be minimal in size and not detract from the uniformity of the ensemble.

## Concert band Grading Procedures

There will be 100 points awarded each marking period. The numeric value of each assignment will be assigned as follows:

**Summative Portfolio Submissions:** Evaluations are focused on the ability of each student to perform the instructional content. Portfolio content will emphasize the individual skills necessary for compelling ensemble performance. Summative portfolio submissions will be assigned three times per marking period and will constitute the majority of an individual’s “grade” in the ensemble curriculum.

**Concert Performance and Rehearsal Attendance:** Concert performances, adjudications, dress rehearsals, and standard after school rehearsals are a critical part of the learning process, and it is impossible to replicate such experiential learning. Failure to attend an event without receiving prior approval is unacceptable, and unexcused absences will receive no credit and no opportunity for “make-up” credit. There is no virtual option replacing in-person attendance. Sickness must be verified by a doctor’s note. Family emergencies are understandable, but final approval is determined by the director and, when necessary, the administration. Employment is never an excuse. Athletic conflicts are always worked out *in advance* between the director, coach and/or athletic director. Communication *prior* to an absence is essential to the successful maintenance of a fair and necessarily subjective policy.

**Formative Portfolio Submissions:** *Effective musical performance requires physical and mental training over time. It is impossible to cram for success in music.* Although the formative submissions may not represent a significant amount of the “grade” in the ensemble curriculum, they can certainly make the difference in a final letter grade. Formative submissions are *intended to help* every student develop quality summative portfolio submissions. Failure to complete these formative submissions will not only result in a slight reduction in the overall score for the marking period, but they also indicate an unsuccessful path toward compelling performance on the summative portfolio.

## Attendance at Important Out-of-Class Events

Planning around these events can be challenging. For those students who participate in the marching band, the marching band spring trip, the jazz ensemble, and/or the pit orchestra, there may be as many as three or four rehearsals every week for much of the school year. Although this list relates only to this class, a full calendar of all band related events will be maintained at the CB East band website, **www.cbsd.org/eastband.** A failure to plan for the scheduled events is not an excuse for missing the events.

**After reading these expectations, please complete the commitment form on the last page of this packet. The signed commitment page is due by the second Friday of the school year.**

**Important parent information:** The CB East band program is strongly supported by an active parent organization, the CB East Band Parents Association. Due to the financial responsibilities of the marching band, many of the activities initially appear dedicated to the marching band. However, we believe that the band parents association is there to support the entire band program, and the association is actively involved in the preparations for the PMEA sponsored events, our concert productions, and other events throughout the year. If you are a parent of a concert band, wind ensemble, or jazz ensemble student, and are interested in helping with the association as it assists with your son’s or daughter’sactivities, please contact Mr. Morehouse.

**If you have questions or concerns, please e-mail Mr. Morehouse at jmorehouse@cbsd.org.**

## 2022-2023 Concert band Activities and Events

* **October 19 – Curricular Bands Rehearsal:** 2:45 – 4:30PM This rehearsal will involve all of concert and symphonic bands and will conclude no later than 4:30 PM. It is not necessary to wear concert attire at the rehearsal. (Jazz ensemble will not participate in the rehearsal.)
* **October 26 – “Informance Performance”** Mr. Morehouse will provide more information regarding this unique family-oriented performance. The event will take place in the evening at CB East.
* **January 4 – After School Rehearsal** From 2:30-4:30 the concert band and wind ensemble will work collaboratively to prepare for the January 11 concert.
* **January 10 – Dress Rehearsal** From2:30 – 4:30pm the concert band and wind ensemble will collaborate to prepare for the January 11 concert. This rehearsal will involve all of concert and symphonic bands and will conclude no later than 4:30 PM. It is not necessary to wear concert attire at the dress rehearsal. (Jazz ensemble will not participate in the dress rehearsal.)
* **January 11 – Concert** This event will begin at 7:30 PM. Call time for performers will be 6:00, and we will take our ensemble photographs for the yearbook prior to the concert. Performers should arrive at school in full concert attire.
* **March 2 –Band Festival Performance at North Penn High School in Lansdale, PA** This event is comparable to the Pennsylvania Keystone Exams for band. Our ensemble will perform for a panel of adjudicators who will provide feedback and a rating of our ensemble. The times for the event are dependent upon the groups participating and the host. Nonetheless, the event will involve time after school and/or in the evening.
* **April 26 – After School Rehearsal** From 2:30-4:30 the concert band and wind ensemble will work collaboratively to prepare for the May 10 concert.
* **May 9 – Concert Dress Rehearsal** 2:30PM – 4:30PM This rehearsal will involve all of concert and symphonic bands and will conclude no later than 4:30 PM. It is not necessary to wear concert attire at the dress rehearsal. (Jazz ensemble will not participate in the dress rehearsal.)
* **May 10 – Concert** (see January 11 for description. Report time will likely be 6:45 PM)
* **May 29– Memorial Day Parade** All members of the concert and wind ensemble are expected to perform in the parade. Those who are not members of the marching band will be fit for uniforms, and there will be no additional cost for non-marching band students. The call time for the band is usually around 7:30 AM at CB East, and the students will return around 12:30 PM.
* **June TBD – Commencement Ceremony** – this date may change if school days are added to accommodate inclement weather. Students who have siblings graduating are welcome to perform with the band, but not required to do so. The final day of school usually involves a 10:45 AM dismissal. Juniors and sophomores in the concert and symphonic band are required to return around 12:45 PM. Students are typically finished around 4:00.

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# Concert band Family Commitment Form

Please review the information provided in the Symphonic Band Information packet. Parents and students are required to sign and return this form by the end of the second week of school. The purpose of this form is to certify that your family is fully aware of the out-of-class expectations and classroom procedures, and to allow families an opportunity to inform the director as soon as possible of any anticipated conflicts. Students who are involved in more than one ensemble should return a form for each ensemble – the calendar posted for each class varies slightly.

**We have reviewed the class policies, attendance expectations and calendar. We will adhere to the expectations, and we understand the consequences for students failing to participate.**

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Student Signature and Date

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Parent Signature and Date