

GUNN HIGH SCHOOL INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC DEPARTMENT

Freshman Concert Band

Mr. Todd Summers, Director tsummers@pausd.org

Ms. Sandra Lewis, Director slewis@pausd.org

(650) 354-8264

The Concert Band is an advanced freshman ensemble open to students with a strong instrumental background. There will be a strong emphasis on instrumental basics, performance techniques and developing a repertoire of the finest literature written for wind band. The students will be able to express themselves creatively and have a knowledge and appreciation of basic music theory and music history.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

At the conclusion of the course, the student will be able to:

1. Demonstrate intermediate/advanced skills on their instrument.
2. Demonstrate comprehension of basic music fundamentals, terms and musical theory.
3. Perform in a wide variety of settings from soloist to small ensembles to large ensembles.

PREREQUISITES

Student should have the ability to play an instrument at an intermediate/advanced level. This is not a beginner class.

EVALUATION AND GRADES

60% Daily participation includes: preparedness, attitude, improvement, attendance and actively being involved in daily rehearsals.

30% Playing tests and performances

10% Written assignments and tests. The final written exam (if one is given) is worth no more than fifteen percent of the final semester grade.

Class Expectations

- No food, gum, or drinks other than water are allowed during class.
- Once the rehearsal has begun students are expected to remain quiet when the class is engaged in rehearsing.
- When not actively involved in playing students are expected to be attentive to the rehearsal process.
- Students who disturb class and/or other students with excessive talking will lose participation points.
- Parents will be notified of any reoccurring negative behaviors in class.
- Regular attendance and positive, active participation in rehearsals, and performances.
- Regular individual practice OUTSIDE of rehearsals.
- Work to develop individual tone, technique, posture, breathing and interpretation.
- Respect for other band members, guests and teachers.

EQUIPMENT AND MATERIALS

You will need the following items for Concert Band

1. Folder with music. (provided)
2. Pencil for marking music
3. Instrument with appropriate mouthpiece (no jazz mouthpieces) and all necessary accessories: i.e. reeds, mutes, neck straps. (Any school music or equipment that is lost or damaged will be the responsibility of the student). Full payment of lost or damaged items will be expected.
4. Woodwind/Reeds – must have a Reed Holder (4 or more) and rotate reeds regularly – reeds below a size 3 are not acceptable. Reeds must be broken in – no old or brand new reeds in rehearsal.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

All students will be expected to participate in all performances. A calendar listing of all performances is included in this handout. In addition, a full department calendar will be available by Back to School Night. Additional performance dates/ times or changes in the schedule will be announced in a timely matter.

Any unexcused absence from any mandatory performance will result in grade being lowered by 2 full grades. Exceptions may be made with prior written notification and only then on a case-by-case basis. Students will be required to do a solo performance of music from the missed performance for the directors or the class. Students are expected to remain in good academic standing in their other non-music courses.

Students are expected to remain in good academic standing at Gunn.

Seating: Auditions will be held during the first 9 weeks of school. Where you sit after auditions does not affect your grade. During the year there will be challenges when time permits. We expect all musicians to be supportive of other students when they challenge/accept a challenge.

Tardies: Gunn High School policy states that students arriving after the bell rings are late to class and shall be marked tardy, except with written permission (pass) from a staff member. A verbal warning to the student is given at the 3rd tardy. At the 5th tardy the student is assigned to Saturday School. Students may be dropped from the class on the 8th tardy.

For students interested in being considered for Wind Ensemble at the end of the year:

The Wind Ensemble selection process is difficult as there are many very talented and qualified individuals interested. The overall balance of the ensemble is always the top priority. There are many factors that are considered in the balance of the group. The size of any one section directly affects the size of another.

Keep in mind that the “audition” process is a year long process- an over all view of the student as a musician in the program. Serious consideration is given to: over all concept of sound, musicality, intonation (and ability to adjust), sight reading ability, attendance/tardy, daily participation, posture, attitude, preparation, behavior, playing tests/seating auditions, daily playing and performance in class.

There will be an application process for students interested in being considered for Wind Ensemble. Applications will be available in May. Some students may be asked to do an additional live audition at the director’s discretion. Otherwise, the “audition” is the full year the student has been in an ensemble. This includes daily participation and any playing tests/seating auditions.

Gunn Concert Band -This page may serve as a calendar reference for all performances

REQUIRED PERFORMANCES

Tuesday, September 27	Freshman Concert Band Informance	7:00pm-8:00pm
Monday, November 21	Gunn Autumn Band Concert <i>Freshman Concert Band, Symphonic Band, and Big Band Jazz Ensemble</i>	7:30pm
Friday, February 3	St. Olaf College Band Concert - Spangenberg	7:30pm
Fri./Sat. April 13 & 14	CMEA Band Festival <i>Performance Saturday, April 14 Be at Gunn at 9:30am Perform at 10:20am Done by 11:30am</i>	All day @ Gunn
Saturday, May 5	May Fete Parade	Morning – Downtown PA
Thursday, May 24	Band Concert Honoring Seniors	7:00pm <i>(Special Start Time)</i>

OPTIONAL PERFORMANCE OPPORTUNITIES

Monday, November 21	State Honor Band Cd's due to Mr. Summers	cbda.org
Thursday, December 1	County Honor Band Soloist Auditions	Location TBA 7pm
Friday, December 9	SCCHB Auditions	sccbda.org SJSU – Evening
Saturday, December 10	SCCHB Rehearsal	SJSU 9am-5pm
Friday, January 13	SCCHB Rehearsal	Gunn HS 5pm-9:30pm
Saturday, January 14	SCCHB Rehearsal	Gunn HS 9am-5:00pm
Sunday, January 15	SCCHB CONCERT	Gunn HS 2:00 p.m.
February 16-19	CBDA All State Band in Fresno	
CMEA Bay Section	CMEA Solo/Ensemble Festival @ SJSU	go to cmeabaysection.org for dates
	– Please notify Mr. Summers of your date choice ASAP	

SCCHB=Santa Clara County Honor Band sccbda.org

CBDA All State=California Band Directors Association cbda.org

PRINT this page and return the bottom portion (page 4)


Be sure these dates are on your calendar!

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Detach and return: Keep the above copy of the performance schedule as a reference
Please return by Friday, August 26

Print Student Name: _____

Acknowledgement of Calendar Events

I have read all the information in the syllabus and agree to follow all class rules and to participate in the listed performances. I have put the performance dates on my personal calendar and my family's calendar.

Signature of Band Student

Date

Signature of Parent/Guardian

Date