



RIVERSIDE HIGH SCHOOL BANDS

PERCUSSION CLASS

2019-2020 Syllabus

Mr. Kris Bence, conductor

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Office Hours: *By Appointment*

PURPOSE

This course is designed to prepare wind and percussion student musicians to perform advanced music concepts in mixed instrumental group settings. Transfer of learning, objectives, evaluation, motivation, and performance are stressed.

OBJECTIVES

The students will:

- demonstrate ensemble performance skills
- demonstrate technical facility through music performance
- demonstrate expressive facility through music performance and analysis
- demonstrate life skills in a group dynamic:
 - self-discipline through preparation*
 - flexibility in a group dynamic*
 - ownership of group outcomes*
 - corporate investment in aesthetic experience*

REQUIREMENTS

- I. **Attendance** – Required for ALL rehearsals, sectionals, and performances.
- II. **Preparation** – Members are expected to **prepare** their parts individually prior to ensemble rehearsals. Rehearsal plans will be passed out at each concert cycle and followed closely.
- III. **Equipment & Materials** – Members are expected to have all necessary equipment and materials present for each rehearsal. This includes your instrument, folder, **PENCIL**, and an open mind.
- IV. **Commitment** – Members are expected to commit themselves to excellence in performance and experience.

ATTENDANCE

THE ONLY EXCUSABLE ABSENCES ARE PRE-ARRANGED* SCHOOL CONFLICTS AND ILLNESS WITH A DOCTOR'S OR PARENT NOTE, DEATH IN THE FAMILY, RELIGIOUS HOLIDAY, OR COLLEGE VISITATION.

*Example: a school conflict may be a varsity sport. This system is subject to modification and interpretation by the director.

MISSED PERFORMANCE - Students who have unexcused absences from a performance will have their grade lowered accordingly.

All non-graduating senior Percussion students are expected to perform at graduation. This is a required performance.

“NO SHOWS” TO REHEARSAL – A “no show” is defined as an absent student that cannot be accounted for due to lack of a phone call or simply cutting rehearsal. In such case, the student may lose the opportunity to participate in the next performance by the band. This decision will be made by the director based on what is best for the entire group.

For ALL absences, the following procedure must be followed by all students and parents:

- **Director must be notified in advance.**
- **An absentee request form must be filled out and on file. On Charms!**
- **For illness, a parent note or doctor's excuse must be submitted.**
- **Although cleared by the school office, absences from a band activity the same day must be cleared with the director as well – please call or email directors.**
- **In extreme cases, a phone message may be left on the answering machine, WITH a follow-up personal call.**
- **Follow-up is the sole responsibility of the student.**

Make-Up Policy

Missing a performance is the same as missing an exam or summary project in another class, and therefore requires a make-up performance. While students attending the concert receive an automatic 100 grade, make-ups will be graded based on the quality of the performance. Students should prepare to play all concert selections in their entirety.

It is up to the student to schedule a time before or after school with the director. If the student misses the make-up time, they will receive a zero. If a student cannot come before or after school, they may submit a DVD or Youtube recording of their individual performance.

Tardies

See Riverside High School *Tardy Policy*.

PREPARATION

To assist you in your individual practices and preparations, recordings of our selections will be available for download from CUT TIME (or reference links will be provided).

EQUIPMENT & MATERIALS

Each member of the *Percussion Class* is expected to have all necessary equipment present for each rehearsal, to include:

Stick Bag with snare sticks and mallets (per class needs)

1" Black Three Ring Binder

Filler Paper

At least 10 plastic sheet protectors

Pencils

Additionally, it is recommended that students purchase a metronome and tuner. There is an online metronome at www.metronomeonline.com. There are also several SMARTPhone apps available. ***Tonal Energy*** is a great app that many musicians use!

Sheet music will be issued to students throughout the school year. If a student is absent, he or she is responsible for obtaining a copy of the music from Mr. Bence, the section leader, or student-librarian before the next rehearsal. Sheet music should be placed in a plastic sheet protector before being placed in the student's binder.

Replacement materials and supplies may be purchased at the following shops:

Pecknel Music Company

1312 N Pleasantburg Drive

Greenville, SC 29607

864-244-7881

www.pecknelmusic.com

Music & Arts Center

1450 WO Ezell Blvd Ste 400

Spartanburg, SC 29301

864-595-1116

www.musicarts.com

Musical Innovations

150 Tanner Road

Greenville, SC 29607

(864) 286-8742

www.musicalinnovations.biz/

Concert Attire

The *Wind Ensemble/Concert Band* performs in **Formal Black or All (Artist) Black**. Attire per concert is listed on the concert calendar. Descriptions of the attire include:

Formal Black

Ladies

1. Black chorale dress (purchased through Southeastern Performance Apparel)
2. Black shoes (low or no heel) and hosiery
3. Modest jewelry and makeup

Gentlemen

3. Black tuxedo (purchased through Southeastern Performance Apparel)
4. White shirt
5. Black bow-tie
6. Black socks and shoes

All (Artist) Black

Ladies

1. Black blouse with modest accent, no low-cut or scooping necklines
2. Black skirt, **calf-length or longer**, or pants
3. Black shoes

Gentlemen

4. Black shirt, long sleeve (black tie-optional)
5. Black pants
6. Black socks and shoes

COMMITMENT

Members of the *Percussion Ensemble* are in elite company, and are expected to present themselves accordingly. Your success in this ensemble, and in life, depends upon your attendance, preparation, equipment, and commitment. Schedule your life maturely and professionally. Members demonstrate their commitment to the *Riverside Band Program* and to each other through:

1. consistency in attendance.
2. consistency and excellence in preparation.
3. expressive performance of their instrument, rather than simply reproducing *ink*.

Commitment will be observed and quantified, and assigned as daily grades to include:

- Appropriate participation in rehearsals
- Attention in rehearsals
- Having the necessary equipment (mutes, etc.),
- Having your music present at rehearsals (or instrument)
- Being prepared to play your part in rehearsals.

Duties of the Band Member

- Be on time to all rehearsals and performances. **EARLY IS ON TIME – ON TIME IS LATE.**
- Upon entering the rehearsal setting, acquire your instrument and go directly to your seat.
- When the director or staff member steps on the podium or asks for your attention, all talking will cease.
- Come to rehearsal with a **GOOD ATTITUDE.**

- There is no excess playing (i.e. horsing around on the instrument); only appropriate warm-up material.
- Make a real effort to improve on a daily basis and establish a good practice routine.
- At the end of rehearsal, put all materials in their proper place.
- Maintain a strong academic standing in all course work.
- Become responsible for and assume responsibility for your own actions. Admit when you are wrong.
- Have a proper respect for yourself and those in authority.
- Read and play music with insight – have musical expectations.

Rules and Procedures - *Miscellaneous*

- **Shoes and socks must be worn at all times.**
- **Chewing gum is not permitted during a rehearsal or in the band room.**
- A band member must respect his/her uniform, and wear it properly at all times.
- **Food and drink are not permitted in the band room.**
- **No hats or sunglasses inside the building.**
- Respect authority and others, including their personal property.
- A band member will wear no jewelry while in uniform; civilian clothes must be tasteful. Only watches will be permitted with the summer uniform.
- Drinking, smoking, and drugs are STRICTLY PROHIBITED. *All GCS policies regarding such are in force during any band activity.*
- Students are required to remain with the band after games and will dismiss as a group.
- Young adults shall not damage property or equipment. A value system must be in place. Any vandalism to instruments or the room will be paid for by the perpetrator.
- Original music will be housed in the music library. It is the student's responsibility to make sure that music gets to class and originals are not taken from the band room.
- Perpetual problems with not having music will result in an appropriate consequence.
- Students may practice in the band room before school and after school, only if directors are present. Students must ask to use the practice room. It is first come, first served. Students may lose this privilege at the discretion of the director.
- Students are not allowed in the music library.

*Please know that the use of **cell phones, PDAs, etc.** during rehearsals is strictly prohibited. Persons engaging in said use will be subject to the Riverside High School cell phone/electronics policy as well as a reduction in daily grade.*

GRADing policy

The grade that a student receives in band will be determined by the homework grade, individual performance assessments, written theory assignments, rehearsals and concerts, and teacher assignments that he or she completes, as well as the score of that completed work. On playing assignments, the student may have the opportunity to re-submit the work to improve the grade received. Students who have unexcused absences from a performance will have their grade lowered accordingly. More than one unexcused absence from a performance may result in the student's removal from the band program.

Note: An unexcused absence from a performance or rehearsal will significantly affect the student's final grade and possibly their continuation in the program.

Extra credit may be earned by taking private lessons. A list of private instructors may be obtained from Mr. Bence.

Grading System

Major Performances and Playing Tests: 60%
Participation, Materials, and Minor Quizzes: 40%

Class Participation

Each student is required to have ALL class materials for class each day (see EQUIPMENT). Each day a student is missing materials, 20 points are deducted from their weekly participation grade (100 points per week). Students with instruments in the repair shop should bring a signed note. **ALWAYS ASK FOR A LOANER WHILE YOUR INSTRUMENT IS BEING REPAIRED.** Generally, rental programs provide this service.

Individual Performance Assessments

Playing Quizzes are a method of evaluating students' progress while allowing them to progress individually in their musical development. Test material will be from the *Habits of a Successful Musician* method book, concert music, and scales and technique studies. As well, individual performance assessments from the same materials, among others, will be assigned by the director.

Concert performances will count as performance assessments.

Homework

Students are expected to maintain regular practice schedules at home. This is best accomplished by practicing at least 30 minutes per day. Students should record practice time on practice charts each time they practice, so that they may monitor their practice habits, materials, and progress. This, along with written music theory/history assignments, constitutes the homework grade.

HONORS CREDIT (BAND 3H/BAND 4H/PERCUSSION 3H/PERCUSSION 4H)

Students enrolled in band/percussion classes for honors-level credit are required to audition for Greenville County Schools All-County Honor Band and SCBDA Region/All-State Honor Band. If students earn a seat in the honor bands, they are expected to participate in the honor band rehearsals and performances. They must also participate in the SCBDA Solo & Ensemble Assessment. Sign-up dates will be announced (in class and via e-mail) as they are available.

SmartMusic Assessment Software (Optional, but HIGHLY recommended!!!)

SmartMusic assessment software (www.smartmusic.com) is simply the greatest technological advancement in several generations for the teaching of instrumental music. This amazing program allows students to receive instant feedback on their achievement level. It identifies their performance mistakes, allows them to record themselves (so they can listen to how they sound), assigns a grade for work completed and allows them to email the results to the director for grades. In addition, SmartMusic will now allow students to pass off their All-County, Region and All-State audition material, as well as their concert music.

This program also incorporates a tuner and a metronome, thus not requiring students to have to purchase them separately. I cannot emphasize enough how important this program is. The students who use SmartMusic advance at a much faster rate than students who do not use the program. The combination of using SmartMusic and private instruction is simply unbeatable!

WIND ENSEMBLE/CONCERT BAND

Fall 2019 PERFORMANCE CALENDAR

Please enter these dates into your planner and resolve conflicts ASAP.

(In extreme circumstances, calendar adjustments may be necessary. Prior notification will be given.)

- **Tuesday, September 17th, 2019 London Invitation Ceremony**
Riverside High School Auditorium
Call time: **6:00 PM**
Ceremony: **6:30 – 7:30 (Reception Afterwards)**
Attire: **Marching Uniform/Artist Black**

- **Wednesday, November 6th, 2019 Dress Rehearsal – FALL CONCERT**
Riverside High School Auditorium
Call time: **4:00 PM**
Rehearsal: **4:15 – 7:00 PM**

- **Thursday, November 7th, 2019 FALL CONCERT**
Riverside High School Auditorium
Call time: **6:00 PM**
Performance: **6:30 PM**
Attire: **ARTIST BLACK**

- **Monday, December 9th, 2019 Dress Rehearsal – WINTER CONCERT**
Riverside High School Auditorium
Call time: **4:00 PM**
Rehearsal: **4:15 – 7:00 PM**

- **Tuesday, December 10th, 2019 WINTER CONCERT**
Riverside High School Auditorium
Call time: **6:00 PM**
Performance: **6:30 PM**
Attire: **FORMAL BLACK & SANTA HAT**

Spring 2020 PERFORMANCE CALENDAR

Please enter these dates into your planner and resolve conflicts ASAP.

- **Thursday, January 16th, 2020** **All County Auditions**
Location: Mauldin Middle School
Audition Times: TBA
- **Saturday, January 11th, 2020** **SCBDA Region Auditions**
Location: Powdersville High School
Audition Times: TBA
- **Saturday, January 25th, 2018** **SCMEA All State Auditions**
Location: Lexington High School
Audition Times: TBA
- **Friday-Saturday, TBA** **Symphonic Band Camp**
Riverside High School
Call time: **Friday: 4:15-6:00 / Saturday: 8:00-5:00**
- **February 14th-15th, 2020** **USC Band Clinic (Wind Ensemble Only)**
Location: **Columbia, SC (USC Campus)**
Itinerary: TBA
- **Thursday, March 12, 2020** **CPA Dress Rehearsal**
Location: **Riverside High School**
Call time: **4:00**
- **March 17-19, 2020** **SCBDA Concert Performance Assessment**
Location: TBA
Call time: TBA
Performance: TBA
Attire: **FORMAL BLACK**
- **Monday, May 4th, 2020** **Dress Rehearsal - SPRING CONCERT**
Riverside High School Auditorium
Call time: **4:00 PM**
Rehearsal: **4:15 – 6:30 PM**
- **Tuesday, May 5th, 2020** **SPRING CONCERT**
Riverside High School Auditorium
Call time: **6:00 PM**
Performance: **6:30PM**
Attire: **FORMAL BLACK**
- **Thursday, May 28th, 2020** **Graduation Dress Rehearsal**

Riverside High School
Call time: **TBA**
Rehearsal: **TBA**

- **Tuesday, June 2nd,2020 RIVERSIDE HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION CEREMONY**

Location: **Bon Secours Wellness Arena**
Call time: **7:00 AM (At RHS)**
Performance: **9 AM**
Attire: **FORMAL BLACK**

Student Name: (PRINT LEGIBLY) _____

SIGNATURE PAGE

I have read, understand, and will comply with all rules and procedures in the syllabus. I believe that we are all responsible for making rehearsals run smoothly. I am willing to do my part!

Letter of Mutual Consent

I, the undersigned student, accept membership in the Riverside High School Band and understand that I am responsible for all the policies as set forth in the Band Syllabus. I fully agree to carry out my responsibilities to the very best of my ability

(Student Signature)

(Date)

I, the undersigned parent or guardian, have read and understand the policies as set forth in the syllabus. I also grant full permission for my child to be an active member of the Riverside High School Band. In addition, my child has full permission to attend all band functions. Furthermore, I understand that I must meet all financial obligations.

(Parent Signature)

(Date)

Notes to the director: