

Edina High School Bands Course Overview and Syllabus

Mission

The mission of the Edina Band program is to provide a high quality comprehensive study of music through performance in band involving performing, creating, reading, listening and responding to music in an effort to instill a life-long love of music in each individual student.

EHS Band Offerings

All three co-curricular bands at EHS are two-semester courses that seek to develop outstanding musical skills through rehearsal and performance experiences. Members are required to perform in evening concerts, marching band and pep band.

Concert Band: Concert Band is offered to junior and senior instrumentalists who demonstrate the technical **proficiency**, **dedication** and most importantly, the *desire* to attain the highest level of artistry possible for both the individual and ensemble. The focus of this ensemble is to study and create music that is mature, sophisticated, and challenging to both the players and listeners, and of the highest quality. The demands of time, maturity and instrumental excellence for this group are substantial and regular practice is an absolute necessity. Individual private lessons are *vital* and expected.

Varsity Band: The Varsity Band is an auditioned ensemble comprised of all grade levels. The focus of this ensemble is to benefit all members' artistic growth by playing the finest standard wind band repertoire while developing the skills needed to achieve high levels of musicality. Regular practice is expected and required. Individual lessons are **strongly** encouraged. Although much of class time is dedicated to concert preparation, the broader goal is to help prepare students for success in other musical and non-musical endeavors.

Symphonic Band: The Symphonic Band is open to all band students who wish to play for personal fulfillment as well as continue to grow as musicians. Symphonic Band focuses on solidifying the fundamental skills of music making through the study of high quality band repertoire. Regular practice is necessary for continued growth and expected for students wishing to advance in the Edina Band program. Individual lessons are encouraged. In Symphonic Band the fundamentals of musicianship are emphasized with the goal of enabling and encouraging students to remain involved in a music experience throughout their high school experience and beyond.

Attendance

Band members are expected to attend each event scheduled for their organization. The director will provide as much advanced notice as possible for these events. If you must miss a scheduled event, notice must be provided well in advance. Students should make every effort to avoid scheduling appointments with counselors or other teachers during band class and students are discouraged from using band class to make up tests or missed work in other classes.

Evaluation and Assessment

Grading – 75% - Musical Proficiency 25% - Summative display of student achievement

Concert Expectations - Concerts are considered the final exam for each quarter and attendance is mandatory.

Pep Band Expectations – Each band student must participate in three pep band events during the pep band season.

Solo and Ensemble Expectations –Varsity and Concert Band students are expected to participate in the annual solo and ensemble contest as either a soloist or as an ensemble member. Symphonic Band members are strongly encouraged to participate as either a soloist or as an ensemble member.

Student Expectations

Throughout this course, the student will be expected to:

1. Expand and improve proficiency on her/his instrument (prepare and complete all Smartmusic assignments, learn and practice all band music, etc.)
2. Offer significant contribution to each rehearsal
3. Develop a greater understanding of the musical, historical and theoretical aspects of music and how it relates to a work
4. Develop the ability to objectively critique a composition based on musical, theoretical and artistic merits, as well as offer a well-informed 'opinion' of a work

Materials Needed

Classroom Books-

Symphonic Band

Exercises for Ensemble Drill- Fussell & Scale Etudes- McLeod/Staska

Varsity Band

Exercises for Ensemble Drill- Fussell & Foundations for Superior Performance- Williams/King

Concert Band

Exercises for Ensemble Drill- Fussell & Symphonic Techniques for Band- Claude T. Smith

Woodwinds – name tag on your case, pencil, reeds (at least 3), ligature, mouthpiece cap, cleaning swab, cork grease, neckstrap, etc.

Brass - name tag on your case, pencil, straight mute and cup mute (trumpets and trombones), valve or slide oil, mouthpiece brush

Percussion- All percussionists will need to provide their own sticks for daily use in the classroom. A detailed percussion supplies list can be found on the band website www.edinabands.com

Concert Attire (In a word- *Elegant and conservative!*)

Symphonic Band Members

Ladies wear ALL BLACK, including black shoes and pantyhose, black dress pants or skirt (must be below knee), black top or black dress. Please no bare midriffs or bare shoulders.

Men wear ALL BLACK: black shirt, black pants, dress shoes, socks. You may wear a black suit with white shirt and dark tie. Shirts must be tucked in with black belt.

Varsity Band Members

Ladies wear ALL BLACK, including black shoes and pantyhose, black dress pants or skirt (must be below knee), black top or black dress. Please no bare midriffs or bare shoulders.

Men wear black pants, black jacket, black dress shoes, black socks, white collared shirt. We will provide black bow ties.

Concert Band Members

All students wear black tuxes supplied by the bands.

This syllabus and any other up-to-date band information, including, schedules, forms, and calendars, can be found on our band website at www.edinabands.com.

“I would teach the children music, physics and philosophy, but the most important is music, for in the patterns of the arts are the keys to all learning. Musical training is a more potent instrument than any other for education...” -Plato