

Swanson Band Syllabus 2020-21

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I. Quizzes and Tests: 25%

There will be several playing or written quizzes during the term, the average of which will be worth 25% of the total grade. These playing tests will provide evidence of expected daily (at home) practice time.

II. Demonstrating an understanding of proper rehearsal techniques: 25%

A weekly grade will be awarded for individual musical achievement demonstrated by consistent attentiveness to correct breathing technique, appropriate playing position, general tone production, instrument care/maintenance, and universally accepted rehearsal etiquette (as referenced in the attached “Swanson Bands Course and Ensemble Description” packet). During online instruction there will be instances where the teacher and student meet “virtually” on a one to one basis through the Canvas or Teams learning platforms. These meetings will be recorded but not shared publicly. Any online class instruction will be recorded, to be accessed only by the members of that class.

III. “Eventual” Performances and Concerts: 50%

Public performances are required, as they are a direct outgrowth of rehearsal time and classroom instruction. Absences will be considered excused for emergencies, religious observance, or other extenuating circumstances, but make-up work may be required. Parents should contact Mr. Norris as soon as possible **PRIOR** to the performance to notify him of any conflict. (Until we can perform publicly again, this portion of the grade will be satisfied by students submitting formal recordings of themselves performing our concert selections in their entirety, through Canvas, or smartmusic.)

The average of the performances for the marking period will count for 50% of the grade. Giving no contribution to a performance will count as an “E.” Giving one’s individual best (whatever that may be) will count as an “A.”

In addition to official school performances, **Wind-Ensemble students** are expected to audition for and/or participate in one of the following per year: Arlington All-County Honors Band (as a performer), All-District Band (with a score of at least 80%) or Solo/Ensemble Festival. This will count as a test score for the 4th quarter grade.

IV. The First Test Grade!

Go to the official Swanson Web Site, Departments> Music> Band> Course Descriptions. There you will find a listing of all of the band classes, and ensembles open to brass, wood-wind, and percussionists. At the end of,

the document is a list of required supplies, and student/parent agreement form. Please sign this form and return it for the first test grade. Hard copies will be available for students that don't have the ability to print at home.

V. Swanson Band Grading Scale

GRADING SCALE			
Letter Grade	Percentages	Quality Points	AP & IB Quality Points
A	90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100	4.0	5.0
B+	87, 88, 89	3.5	4.5
B	80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86	3.0	4.0
C+	77, 78, 79	2.5	3.5
C	70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76	2.0	3.0
D+	67, 68, 69	1.5	2.5
D	60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66	1.0	2.0
E	0 - 59	0.0	0.0

-Quarterly grades will round up when the percentage is .5 or higher.

-The final grade will be calculated using the quality points and not percentages, letter grades, number, or point systems.

-In addition to achievement, work habits as noted in the report card comments will be evaluated for each course using the following symbols: X= Surpasses Expectations, Y= Meets Expectations, Z= Approaching Expectations, and N= Needs Improvement.

-Student Grades will reflect individual achievement and growth based on the initial assessment referenced in the attached "Swanson Band Course and Ensemble

Descriptions” packet. While Grades are not based on “behavior,” a portion of the grade will reflect an understanding and adherence to universally accepted rehearsal etiquette as referenced in the attached “Swanson Band Course and Ensemble Descriptions” packet.

VI. A note to Parents and Students

Grading benchmarks and criteria for each band/course are referenced in the “Swanson Band Course Descriptions” packet. It can be found on the SMS website under Departments>Music>Band. Please review this information together, print/sign the last page (both Student and Parent signatures) and turn in to Mr. Norris by “Back to School Night.” This will constitute the first **TEST GRADE** of the year.

VII. Additional Considerations for “Virtual” on-line Band Classes

It should be noted that during this time of distance learning, instruction in band will be delivered through a blend of both synchronous and asynchronous platforms.

“· Synchronous learning is interactive, two-way, online instruction that happens in real time with a teacher in the virtual classroom. · Asynchronous learning occurs in many forms. Materials, tasks, and assignments are made accessible to students and may include video recorded lessons. Interactions with other students and the teacher may occur through various formats (e.g. discussion boards, assignments), but will not be live. · In asynchronous learning, students may engage in assignments that are completed on their device or independent of their device. · In asynchronous learning, teachers are supporting instruction, remediation, and extension activities. This support may consist of giving feedback, providing clarifications, and emailing with students. · Asynchronous learning is meant to be flexible and self-paced to fit within student schedules while still maintaining expectations for completion.”

Please be aware that video recordings of instruction are only for educational use by students of this course and may not be shared with others. Teachers may engage students 1:1 in a virtual environment under the following conditions:

1. APS faculty is using an APS issued device
 2. APS faculty is using an approved platform a. Canvas b. Microsoft Teams
 3. Interaction must be recorded*
- Student will be informed that the interaction will be recorded *Note: This does not apply to counseling sessions with students that would occur in an individual or small group meeting on Mondays. Guidance for Engagements: 1. 1:1 engagement will occur for the purpose of supporting learning and social development. Families should know their children will be invited to participate

in 1:1 conversations by school staff and that they will not necessarily be notified prior to each conversation.

Throughout the distance learning period, weekly Band (and all other electives) “Office Hours” will be held for individual student questions and concerns on Mondays from 12:00PM to 1:00PM.