

Band

Course Syllabus

Mr. Marsh (amarsh@staff.gtchs.org)

2024-2025

Description: Band class at GTCHS is a special place! We were the first charter school in South Carolina to have a band program, and we are still one of the few. Since we don't have a football season, we are able to build our skills and showcase our talents in different ways, including concert music, chamber music, solo music, and playing rock, jazz, and hip hop for our Warrior Basketball teams. We have two major concerts in the winter and spring, and we perform at home basketball games. In addition, we perform at Veteran's day, Graduation, and other special events. Band students have opportunities outside the school as well - you are encouraged to participate in All Region, Solo and Ensemble festivals, and college clinics. Additional clubs include Jazz Band and Pit Band.

Organization: Students will play as a class and in smaller groups. Rehearsing will prepare the class for our performances. There will also be a broader education component to the class focusing on music history, theory, and composition. Winter and Spring concerts will double as semester exams. During Basketball season, the band class plays as a pep band for most home basketball games. These performances are required.

Band Honors: Band students taking Band 2-4 have the option to enroll in Band 2, 3, or 4 Honors. This doesn't change what period you are taking Band. This designation rewards your GPA for going above and beyond what is required of Band students in class. An "A" grade in Band Honors is a 5.5 on your GPA scale. Honors students must complete the following requirements:

- Participate in All Region Band Auditions
- Participate in Solo and Ensemble Festival
- Participate in an after school club or performance opportunity
- Write reflections on Winter and Spring Concerts, Region auditions, and S&E Festival.

These are optional activities for students not seeking Honors credit, but they will be **graded assignments** for students in Band 2-4 Honors.

Parents and Students: Let me know by the end of the week if you want to be in the Honors "class" or not. Your current designation as seen on your schedule will stay the same unless you ask me to change you into or out of Band 2-4 Honors.

Required Supplies: Students need to bring their instrument, music, pencil, and all needed supplies (reeds, oil, cleaning swabs, sticks, mallets, etc.) to class every day. If a student does not have an instrument, they need to let Mr. Marsh know and we will work to find one. Students that leave their instruments at school need to lock them up in a room or locker every day. Student chromebooks are expected to be available and charged every day.

Course Objectives:

To have students grow musically with their instrument.

To add music to the GTCHS community.

To cover the National Standards for Music Education:

1. *Singing, alone and with others, a varied repertoire of music.*
2. *Performing on instruments, alone and with others, a varied repertoire of music.*
3. *Improvising melodies, variations, and accompaniments.*
4. *Composing and arranging music within specified guidelines.*
5. *Reading and notating music.*
6. *Listening to, analyzing, and describing music.*
7. *Evaluating music and music performances.*
8. *Understanding relationships between music, the other arts, and disciplines outside the arts.*
9. *Understanding music in relation to history and culture.*

Grading: Grading will include daily participation, frequent playing tests, performance projects, and semester exams.

Daily participation/classwork includes being ready for class on time, having all equipment needed, and showing a good work ethic both during group rehearsals and individual practice time.

Playing quizzes are assigned individual grades. Playing tests sometimes may be played privately or in front of the class. These tests show whether or not a student is mastering the parts they are assigned.

Projects are larger in scope than playing tests. They may include solos or research projects.

Tests include important prepared performances and written tests.

Semester exams will be your Winter or Spring Concert and/or paper based if needed.

Participation and Classwork - 20%

Smaller Playing Tests/Quizzes - 30%

Projects - 30%

Tests (written and playing) - 20%

Semester Exam - 10% per semester

Communication: I use Google Classroom for most of our class-related communication. Please check it daily for announcements and assignments. Use this code to join now: oexpcr4

I use the Remind text app to communicate with you for more urgent matters: concerts, deadlines, weather issues, etc. Please join our Band Remind text line:

Text "hakgb8d" to the number 81010

Performances: As a music student you will be expected to perform outside of regular school hours. Our winter concert will be your midterm and our spring showcase is our final. These count for 20% of your overall grade. We also have basketball season events that count as part of your participation in the class. Please put these bolded dates on your calendar and make

sure your parents are aware of this as well:

Please make a note in your calendar for the following dates.

Home Volleyball Game	October 1st	6:30 pm (6pm call)
Veteran's Day Assembly	November 7th	8:30am (during school)
Warrior Madness	November 15th	6pm (5:30 call)
Home Basketball Game	December 4th	6pm (5:30 call)
Winter Concert/Art Show	December 10th	7pm (6pm call)
Home Basketball Game	December 13th	6pm (5:30 call)
Region Band Auditions	January 11th	(TBA)
Home Basketball Game	January 17th	6pm (5:30 call)
Home Basketball Game	January 28th	6pm (5:30 call)
Region Band Auditions	January 11th	(TBA)
Home Basketball Game	February 4th	6pm (5:30 call)
Home Basketball Game	February 11th	6pm (5:30 call)
All Region Band	February 21st-22nd	(TBA)
All State Band	March 14-16th	(TBA)
Spring Musical	April 18th & 19th	7pm, 2pm & 7pm
Guitar/Chorus/Art Show	May 6th	7pm
Band/Orch/Art Show	May 13th	7pm (6pm call)
Graduation	May 20th	4:30 pm (3pm call)

Winter and Spring concerts double as semester exams. **Performances in bold are mandatory!** Homework, study, or working a job are not adequate excuses to miss or be late for a concert. The dress code is all black, top and bottom and dress shoes. Stretch and yoga pants and T-shirts with logos on them are not considered appropriate formal wear. If in doubt about the appropriateness of your outfit take a picture or bring it to class. **Basketball band** performances only require the band t-shirt.

Grading for performances is as follows:

- Punctuality and staying entire show 20%
- Dress Code 20%
- Music 20%
- Stage Conduct 20%
- Off stage conduct 20%

Mastery: GTCHS is a mastery school. This means that if your grade falls below an 80, it is **your responsibility** to attend office hours with me to bring your grade up. My office hours are Wednesday after school, but you will find that I am very flexible and I am happy to work with you to find time on another day or virtually if needed. **You have to make the effort to talk to me about your grade concerns.**

Need extra help or time, regardless of grade?

I am at school almost every day until 3:45 or later. You are always welcome to arrange a time with me to practice, either by yourself or with my assistance. Please let me know ahead of time you would like to come practice.

Band Room Rules

1. Have your instrument and music every day.
2. No talking while someone is leading the class.
3. Uplift others and treat them with respect.
4. No gum, food, or drink in the band room ever. (except water)
5. Cell phones and headphones should not be out or used during class (unless requested by the director).
6. Take care of your instrument and be respectful of other instruments in the room.
7. Treat all music spaces with respect.

Parent involvement: I firmly believe that any issues that arise in class can be resolved between you and I. I will not involve your parents as long as our discussions result in a positive change.

Band Lettering: Lettering in band is an honor bestowed upon students who have dedicated their time to building our program and improving their musical abilities. A student who "letters" has shown commitment, a willingness to contribute to our school, and a passion for music. The student will be recognized and given a letter and band pin at the next concert. A Band Letter requires 10 points.

Ways to earn a letter, per year:

Enrollment in band class	3 points
Pit Orchestra (musical)	2 points
Jazz Band	1 point
All Region Auditions	1 point
Making All Region or State	1 point
Solo and Ensemble	1 point
Class officer	1 point
Performing with Orch. or Chorus	1 point

Mr. Marsh has final discretion over whether a student earns a point for an activity in the case of negligence of responsibilities.

I have read the syllabus and understand the band rules, the schedule for the year, and the importance of keeping these dates free.

Student: _____ date: _____

Parent: _____ date: _____

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