

A graphic featuring a black silhouette of a mountain range against a yellow and orange sky. Below the mountains is a white piano keyboard. The text "WIND ENSEMBLE FALL 2009 SYLLABUS" is written in white, bold, sans-serif capital letters across the middle of the graphic.

WIND ENSEMBLE FALL 2009 SYLLABUS

Welcome to the 2009- 2010 school year. This will be an exciting year for the NCWHS Wind Ensemble. Our goals include creating great music and finding ways to share that music with as many people as possible.

We aspire to touch others through our music, and within that process, enrich our own lives as well.

There are two very special performances planned this year for Wind Ensemble. The first is at the All-State Conference for an audience of music educators from around the state of Illinois. The second is our performance at the Disney Hall in Los Angeles in June.

The following information will help prepare for our upcoming concert season.

FOLDERS

You will be assigned a folder for the year. It will be labeled with your name and instrument. PLEASE do not leave your folder lying on the floor or in the band room. Folders should be kept IN your locker. Because of the large growth of the program over the past two years, we are REALLY limited in the number of folders we have, so care is of the utmost importance. If you loose your folder, you will be responsible for the cost of the folder, music, and books. (Approx. \$25.00)

MUSIC

Every student will be issued their own set of parts for the concert. Please write only in pencil on these parts, as they are original copies. Also included in your folder are scale sheets, fingering charts, etc. These are yours to keep.

LOCKERS

Each student will be issued a locker for their instrument. You must supply your own lock. Again, because of growth within the program we are very tight on space. PLEASE only use your assigned locker. We also ask that you keep your locker LOCKED at all times. Your personal insurance on your instrument will NOT cover theft if your locker was unlocked. If theft of a school-owned instrument occurs because of your negligence, you will be asked to cover the cost of the instrument. (Some of the larger instruments costs run between \$2500 - \$5000).

**YOUR INSTRUMENT AND MUSIC ARE YOUR KEY TO THIS EXCITING WORLD!
TAKE CARE OF THEM!**

UNIFORMS

Male members of the ensemble will be fitted for a tuxedo (Pants and a Jacket). You will need to purchase a TUXEDO shirt and a BLACK bow tie. You will also need black shoes and socks. (No gym shoes) If you lose or damage your tuxedo you will be expected to pay the replacement price (\$150.00 each). Female members will be issued a long black dress. You will need to purchase black dress shoes and hose. Your uniform is part of the "professional" image of the school when we travel. Please do not take your appearance lightly!

GRADING

Band is a skill based class. You will be graded on those skills on a regular basis. Playing tests are the most common form of skill assessment. These tests or quizzes usually occur during a regular class period. A daily participation grade is also given based on your attentiveness, willingness to answer questions, and general daily performance in the ensemble. PERFORMANCES are considered a "test," and a missed performance will result in lowering of a quarter grade one letter grade. Excused absences include illness the day of the performance (not in school), death in the family, immediate family wedding, school sports conflict. (NOTE: Club and outside sporting events are not considered an excused absence.) Extra Credit is given for participation in "extra" ensembles such as marching band, jazz band, orchestra winds, musical pit orchestra, flute choir, and clarinet choir. Extra credit can also be received by auditioning for IMEA District organizations. Participation in Solo/Ensemble is a requirement of this class. At the end of the semester you will play an audition on prepared materials (including scales). This audition counts as your semester "playing final exam" grade and will appear on your report card as your semester exam grade.

PLEASE NOTE: ON NIGHTS OF CONCERTS, STUDENTS MUST STAY FOR THE ENTIRE CONCERT IN ORDER TO RECEIVE CREDIT. PART OF YOUR MUSIC EDUCATION INVOLVES LISTENING SKILLS AS WELL AS APPRECIATION THROUGH BEING AN AUDIENCE MEMBER. THESE SKILLS ARE LEARNED IN A CONCERT SETTING.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

The NCWHS Band web site: www.normalwestbands.org has all of the latest dates including performances, rehearsals, sectionals and meetings. Each student is responsible for checking the calendar monthly. (If you are in need of a hard copy, see Ms. Preston or Mr. Budzinski). Itineraries with specific information will be available in the band room and on the web site prior to major events.

Take "note" of the events that apply to you.

FALL PERFORMANCES



Monday, October 12

IMEA District Auditions

Bloomington HS – All Day

(There is no school this day – See Ms. Preston to sign up!)

Thursday, October 29

Wind Ensemble Concert

7:30 PM – Guest Conductor TBA

Saturday, November 7

IMEA District Jazz Festival

Illinois Wesleyan University (Participants selected from October 12 auditions)

Saturday, November 21

NCWHS Band Parents' Craft Show

Small groups perform throughout the day

Saturday, November 21

IMEA DISTRICT FESTIVAL

Illinois State University (Participants selected from October 12 auditions)

December (Date TBA)

Holiday Jubilee

Normal West Bands Community Concert at the Bloomington Center for the Performing Arts

Tuesday, December 1

Auditions for second semester band placements begin

Saturday, December 5

Twin City Honor Band Auditions at ISU

AUDITIONS

Each semester, students will audition for a grade and to determine placement in the next semester's ensembles. The audition will consist of "excerpts" of music they have prepared during class. Scales and Arpeggios will also be part of the audition. These auditions help us to monitor a student's progress throughout the year. We have found many of the seniors that have gone on to take college auditions were "thankful" that they had this experience. (Although they may not have known it at the time!)

PRIVATE LESSONS

We encourage all instrumentalists to study privately on their instruments. It is proven that a student will progress at a quicker pace with the help of a private instructor. In a large group setting, you may not always receive the "individual" attention needed to work on "technical" and "musical" problems. Private instruction is a way to work on YOUR individual needs. If you would like to study privately, consult your band director, section leader, or the band website for a list of teachers.

If you have any questions regarding any of the above information or need to contact Ms. Preston or Mr. Budzinski– the best way is by email at prestols@unit5.org or budzinsr@unit5.org. You may also call the band office at 452-4983 and leave a message. Please be patient our daily schedules include conducting at both NCWHS and PJHS. We will answer messages as quickly as possible given the situation.

WE ENCOURAGE YOU TO CHECK OUT THE BAND WEBSITE

IT CONTAINS INFORMATION ON FUNDRAISING, TRIPS, ITINERARIES, PICTURES, VIDEOS, CALENDARS, AND MUCH, MUCH MORE....

www.normalwestbands.org