

Birmingham Seaholm High School Bands 2011-2012 Manifest and Syllabus

Congratulations on your decision to participate in the Seaholm Band Program for the 2011-2012 school year. You are now part of a tradition that has been maintained at Seaholm for over 50 years. Our band program has established a reputation of excellence throughout the state of Michigan and beyond. In recent years the bands have represented our school and community in London, Salzburg, New York City, Orlando, Chicago, San Francisco, Toronto, Washington D.C., Nashville, Memphis, and Honolulu.

The purpose of this document is to provide a reference guide for band students and parents to help them better understand our program.

Course Objective:

To rehearse, perform, and experience music with the intention to inculcate proper ethics and musical performance standards. We will also strive to establish an outstanding work ethic, a commitment to excellence, and a commitment to each other.

General Rules and Expectations:

1. The Seaholm Bands are divided into three classes during the school year: 9th Grade Band, Concert Band, and Symphony Band. During the first trimester, these ensembles will combine to create the Marching Band. The Marching Band will have periodic evening rehearsals from 6:30-8:30 pm on Wednesdays. These rehearsals are outlined in the performance calendar. After the marching season is finished, Symphony Band will periodically rehearse 7-8:30 pm on Wednesday evenings. 9th Grade Band and Concert Band will not have evening rehearsals during the school year.
2. All students should arrive on time for each rehearsal with their music prepared. The time requirement for music preparation will be different for each student.
3. Each student (as well as the director) is expected to behave in a kind and respectful manner during rehearsals.
4. Students are responsible for maintaining their instruments in proper working order. **This will be factored into each trimester grade.**
5. Students will help maintain a clean rehearsal room. Please store instruments properly and dispose of all garbage in the trashcans.
6. Chair placement exams will be held at the conclusion of the marching season and may be held again during the second and/or third trimester. If a student is not satisfied with his/her chair placement, he/she may re-audition for a new grade. Challenges will be available to anyone wishing to advance in their section at a time other than chair

placements. The specifics of challenges will be made clear by the director after the chair placement exams have concluded. Chairs may be rotated during the concert season.

7. No food, drink, or gum in the band room at any time. (There will be special exceptions under extreme circumstances.)
8. Students must bring their instruments to all rehearsals and performances unless it is being repaired. (A note is required to verify this situation.) Any student who forgets their instrument three times in one marking period will fail that marking period.
9. All performances are required. A missed performance could warrant a failing grade for that marking period. (Exceptions include: death in the family or a student sickness where he/she is confined to bed.) Other exceptions such as weddings, religious observance, family reunions, etc. must be given to the director in writing at least three weeks in advance. The director will determine the consequence for a missed performance based on circumstance.
10. Students who miss a scheduled performance due to a suspension or other school related activity will have a project (chosen by the director) to make up the grade. Any student who misses more than one performance during the school year for unexcused reasons will fail the current semester and be dismissed from the band program at the end of the semester.
11. Students will abide by all rules and regulations in the student handbook. Any student who is caught in a substance abuse situation or violation on a band related function can be dismissed from the band program and fail the course.
12. Percussion instruments are provided by the school, as are some low brass, low woodwinds and French horns. All students who use school instruments are expected to treat them carefully and respectfully. PLEASE NOTE: Birmingham Schools are not responsible for missing stolen or damaged instruments that are not owned by the school. We are not liable if a student's instrument comes up missing. Be responsible!
13. Students who refuse to follow proper rehearsal etiquette will receive a writing assignment or detention. Students who receive two assignments/detentions from a band related incident will lose all "privileges" (i.e., jazz band, solo & ensemble, trips, etc.)
14. The director has the final decision on a student's trip participation.

Grading Procedure:

Performances (40%)

1. All are required. See #9 above.

Daily Participation and Attitude (25%)

1. Classroom attendance-unexcused absences and tardies will be deducted from your grade
2. Preparation-this includes music and rehearsal preparation (**instrument care**, pencil, and music in class.)

Playing Tests (20%)

1. Tests will be announced in advance. Music will be chosen by the band director from rehearsed music or memorized scales

Individual Project (15%)

1. All students are expected to complete an individual project for each trimester. Please refer to below for specifics:

Individual Project Guidelines

Fifteen percent of your band grade is the individual project. Students are responsible for completing one (1) individual project per trimester. Projects may be handed in at any time during the trimester, but must be handed in by the dates listed below for each marking period. Please be aware that late work will not be accepted.

The due date for each individual project is:

- 1st trimester: November 18th, 2011
- 2nd trimester: March 16th, 2012
- 3rd trimester: June 15th, 2012

You have several options from which to choose for your individual project:

Option 1: Participation in the Mentorship Program

Students who participate in the Mentorship Program, either as a mentor or mentee, may use this as their individual project grade. The partnership involves one upper-class student who will help an under-class student improve his or her playing. The partnership may also be a SHS band member helping a middle school or elementary school student with his or her playing. In order to receive class credit the mentorship pairs should meet a minimum of two times a month for 30 minutes. At the end of the marking period each SHS band student involved needs to turn in a **TYPED** 1-2 page summary of the dates and times met, topics covered, and improvements that were made.

Option 2: Private Lessons

Students who regularly take private lessons on an instrument may receive credit for their individual project grade. In order to receive credit, the student must write a 1-2 page summary of their progress made over the course of the marking period.

Option 3: Concert Review

You may choose to attend a live-music concert and **TYPE** a 1-2 page summary for your individual project grade. In order to receive credit, you must be a member of the audience, not participating in the performance. The written review should include the “who, what, when, and where” of the performance, as well as your critique and evaluation. Why did like it? Why didn't you like it? Concerts may include, but are not limited to, Seaholm performing ensembles as long as you are not a member of the ensemble(s) performing.

Option 4: Participation in Jazz Band

Participation in either “A.M” or “P.M.” jazz band may count towards an individual project grade.

Option 5: Participation in Solo & Ensemble Festival

If you participate in this festival (which is held during the second trimester) you will receive full credit for your individual project grade.

Option 6: Participation in Full Symphony Orchestra/ Musical/“Pit” Orchestra

Band students involved in either of these ensembles may use this to fulfill their individual project grade if their attendance is deemed adequate by Mr. Cibor.

Option 7: Participation in the Honors Recital.

Students will receive credit for either performing or attending the Seaholm Band's Honor Recital in May. Students not performing must **type** a 1-page summary about the performance to receive credit.

***Seniors may count Wednesday night symphony band rehearsals for their 3rd trimester individual project grade.*

This individual project assignment is designed to inspire personal, musical and artistic growth. Utilize this opportunity.

Thank you for reading this. Please contact me with any concerns or questions.

To your journey,

Mr. Cibor
Director of Bands
Seaholm High School
248.203.3794
tc04bps@birmingham.k12.mi.us