

Alpharetta High School Band Syllabus

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Band Website: www.alpharettaband.org

Hello and welcome to the 2023-2024 school year! We hope this document is an informative guide for all our students and parents. Please look it over carefully, and if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Course Description:

The Alpharetta High School band program is designed to train students to become more expressive musicians, more proficient sight-readers, and better ensemble performers. We will study an extensive repertoire of wind literature, and our band program will also provide appropriate, quality musical concerts for the school and community. There will be occasions when after-school or evening rehearsals and performances are necessary. These rehearsals and performances will be announced in advance (rehearsals at least two weeks & performances at least four weeks in advance of the event) and are *required*. You will receive a grade for your attendance and participation in these events. Failure to attend a scheduled rehearsal or performance will result in the student not earning points for that event. To qualify for this ensemble, each student must be judged proficient on their instrument by the directors. All students must meet or exceed the semester terminal objectives set forth by the director to continue in the band class.

Cell phone usage

The Fulton County School District does not allow cell phone usage during instructional time and will only be permitted when explicitly instructed to do so by the band directors. All phones (and other personal communications devices) are expected to be silenced and kept in the student's backpack at all times. Failure to follow these instructions may result in confiscating the phone and possibly a written referral per FCS policy.

Alpharetta High School Band Website

The Alpharetta High School Band has a website available for parents and students to have up-to-date information and dates regarding the many varied activities sponsored by the AHS Band program. Please check the website often for the most current information about our program. The website address is www.alpharettaband.org. Periodic emails will be sent to parents with reminders and important announcements – please make sure we have an updated parent email address on file in Membership Toolkit.

Grading Policy

Grades will be determined as follows:

Major - 55%:

This category will consist of band concert performances, after-school rehearsals, and the occasional summative assessment. All of these major grades will be performance-based assessments.

Performances:

Attendance at band concerts and rehearsals is required of our student musicians. If a student has an unexcused absence from a concert, he or she may be prohibited from participating in future performances outside of school, i.e., concert festivals. In addition, an unexcused absence from performances may result in the failure of the course for the semester.

100 points – concert attendance and participation

25 points deducted – late to performance or unacceptable behavior during performance

0 points – absent from the performance

Excuses must be approved in **advance** by the director. **NO EXCEPTIONS!** *Transportation problems and work are never excuses and will result in a 0 for the concert grade.*

Minor - 35%:

Performance-based assessments include smart-music assignments, scale pass-offs, concert music playing pass-offs, etc.

Practice - 10%:

The student's "homework" for band class will be to practice and master his/her music. In this category, students will be assessed over rehearsal competency, which will be observed and evaluated during our class.

Make-up Work

As with any performance-based class, it is impossible to "make up" classroom instruction time lost due to the nature of ensemble-oriented instruction inherent in our courses. Students perform a vital role in the success of their ensemble, and exemplary attendance is expected of all members. Should it be necessary for you to be absent from class, you should ask the director, who will decide if a makeup assignment is required. Absence from announced after-school rehearsals and/or concerts must be avoided if possible. If there should be an unavoidable conflict, notification of this absence to the directors through email in advance is critical (two weeks' notice for rehearsals and one month for performances). Except for extreme situations, no makeup assignments will be offered or accepted if the director is not notified well in advance of the conflict.

Recovery Policy

Opportunities designed to allow students to recover from a low or failing cumulative grade will be allowed when all work required to date has been completed and the student has demonstrated a legitimate effort to meet all course requirements, including attendance. Students should contact the director concerning recovery opportunities. All music progress evaluations are designed for student master – if a student has a lower grade than desired, they will always be allowed to demonstrate mastery at a later date.

Instruments and equipment

Personal Instruments:

Flutes, Clarinets, Alto Sax, Tenor Sax, Trumpets, & Trombones are the responsibility of the student and parents to rent or purchase from a music store. Please ensure that all personal instruments are in good working order and function properly.

School-owned Instruments:

Oboes, Bassoons, Tenor Sax, Bari Sax, French Horns, Euphoniums, & Tubas

Alpharetta High School has a LIMITED number of school-owned concert instruments to be loaned out. Students/Parents will not be charged a rental fee for these instruments. Any damage caused by student neglect to these instruments will be the responsibility of the student to pay.

Wind Instruments Additional Materials:

Brass- Valve Oil, Slide Grease, Cleaning supplies, pencil, black three-ring binder, and Proper Mouthpiece

Woodwinds- Cork Grease, Ongoing supply of at least four reeds, pencil, black three-ring binder, and Swab

Percussion Additional Materials :

*Drum Sticks -Vic Firth American Custom - ST1 Generals or ST2 Bolero's *Mallets - Yarn Mallet and Xylophone/Bell Mallets – Timpani Mallets - (Mike Balter, Promark, Innovative Percussion, Vic Firth)

*Stick bag with your name on it, pencil, and a black three-ring binder

Band Fees for Concert Band Members:

All students participating in the Alpharetta band classes should pay a **concert band fee of \$250** for the school year. **Marching Band Students have paid these dues with their marching band fees. Students not in Marching Band should pay this concert band fee through the school OSP account by September 1st..**

This fee will cover supplemental material such as:

1. Habits for a Successful Musician method books
2. Tuxedo and Dress Rental - This will be the uniform for all of our concerts. These uniforms are to be returned at the end of the school year.
3. Dry Cleaning for Uniforms at the end of the school year.
4. Tuners and Mic Clips for every wind musician to use during class
5. Supplemental music and workbooks used for classes
6. Section coaches throughout the school year.
7. Section coaches and guest conductors for the January Concert Band Camp.
8. Smart music subscriptions for all students
9. Locks for music lockers
10. LGPE entry fees, recordings, and score purchase
11. School-owned instrument rental fee (if necessary)

Tuxedo and Dress Policy

Our uniform for concerts and performances will be a standard black tuxedo and a formal black dress. Gentlemen - Tuxedo rental (jacket and pants) will be issued once the OSP fee is received. Ladies - Our concert dress is a standard dress that we use for all of our concerts. Dresses will be issued once the OSP fee is received.

Classroom procedures and expectations:

1. Begin the class by putting ALL school supplies in the wings of the classroom.
2. Unpack your instrument from your case, and again leave your case in the wings of the classroom.
3. Bring your instrument, music folder, tuner, and PENCIL...EVERY DAY.
4. Once you have had a seat, begin warming up on your instrument. Make sure to tune your instrument with your tuner before rehearsal begins.
5. When rehearsal is complete, put your instrument back in its locker.
6. Show respect for everyone and their personal belongings
7. Practice and master your parts
8. **No food, drink, candy, or gum is allowed in the band room**
9. School-owned instruments damaged by negligent student behavior can and will result in repair costs being paid by the student/parent
10. Students will have assigned lockers to use throughout the school year. Your locker is to be used for band materials. All items that are not band related will be put into the school lost and found.

Band Parent Organization:

All band parents are encouraged to participate in the AHS Band Parent Association (Band Booster club). As a band organization, we hold parent meetings in the band room (Check the band calendar for dates). This is the opportunity for parents to learn about the current happenings of our band program. If you would like to have input in decisions made for the band students, we invite you to attend. A successful band program will only thrive with parental support and enthusiasm for the students' well-being!!

We need your help! Our band program could use parental support operating these fundraisers

- Working concessions at the Ameris Bank Amphitheater – our most significant fundraiser
- Alpharetta's winter guard or drumline competitions
- Organizing and planning other fundraisers
- Volunteering to help during the school year at various band functions
- Football game parking

We will be participating in a few full band fundraisers for this year in order to help offset some of the growing costs that we accrue in our band program. We ask that all students participate in fundraisers to help our band program continue to grow and thrive.

Alpharetta High School Band

I/we hereby acknowledge that I/we have received and are responsible for reading the information contained in the

- 2023-24 Band Course Syllabus
- 2023-24 Band Handbook
- 2023-24 Band Calendar

All can be found on our website at: www.alpharettaband.org

Student Name (print) _____

Student Signature _____

Parent Name (print) _____

Parent Signature _____

Date _____

Travel Waiver

Parents: Due to the nature of the way the Band Program operates, travel on a school bus, commercial bus, or other vehicle is sometimes required (ex: LGPE, Elementary School or Middle School performances, etc.) In the event of a medical emergency involving your child, your signature is required in order for us to have your child treated in your absence. As the parent / guardian of

_____ (name of student)

I hereby grant permission for him/her to travel with the Alpharetta High School Band.

_____ (parent signature)

This form is to be signed and returned to band directors by August 11th, 2023

ALPHARETTA HIGH SCHOOL

COMMON SYLLABUS 2023-2024



The information provided below pertains to policies and procedures that remain consistent in every Alpharetta High School classroom. These policies are supplemental to the information in the Handbook for Students and Parents and the individual class syllabus.

PRACTICE

All practice including daily assignments, observations and/or engagement activities given in class or for homework will be designed to provide relevant, standards-based activities that align with the course scope and sequence. Homework assignments will be announced during class and must be accessible to students and parents no later than 4:00 pm on the day of assignment for digitally accessible work.

MISSING AND LATE WORK

Students should make every effort to complete any missing work in a timely manner. All makeup work must be completed within 10 days of the original due date of the assignment, assessment and/or task. Penalties may be applied to assignments based on professional learning community agreements, see individual course syllabus. Extenuating circumstances due to prolonged absences of more than five consecutive days will be reviewed by the content departments leadership team.

MID-TERMS, FINAL EXAMS, AND GRADABLE EXPERIENCES

All face-to-face AHS courses will meet during the scheduled final exam period, the last three days of each semester. During these three days, courses will have a mid-term, final exam, or a graded assignment. Students who do not exempt, will be expected to attend. See exemption policy on the AHS Website.

Reference individual course syllabus to determine if a mid-term or final exam will be administered for your course. Mid-terms, final exams, and gradable experiences will not be administered early; thus, students should make every effort to be present on the dates of the mid-term or final exam. For courses with a Georgia Milestones End-of-Course Test (EOC), the EOC will count 10% of the final grade and serve as the final exam at the end of the course.

ACADEMIC HONESTY

To encourage good study habits, fair competition, and positive development in the area of academics, the Alpharetta faculty supports a strong policy for academic honesty. Students should read and understand the school's Academic Honesty Policy as published in the Handbook for Students and Parents. Students are responsible for adhering to these policies at all times and on all assignments, assessments, projects, or tasks. In order to reinforce Alpharetta High School's commitment to academic honesty and the ideals of being a R.I.C.H. Raider, students will be expected to write or sign an Academic Honesty pledge prior to completing an individual assignment. The AHS Academic Honesty pledge states: ***As a R.I.C.H Raider, I, ___ (student name) ___, pledge that I have neither given nor received assistance on this assignment.***

GRADING SCALE

Letter grades will be assigned according to Fulton County's approved grading scale, which is as follows: A—100-90, B—89-80, C—79-70, F—69-0. Honors points are added by the district at the end of each semester to the grade for Honors (H), Advanced Placement (AP), International Baccalaureate (IB), and Dual Enrollment (DE) courses. Progress reports are visible in the portal every 4.5 weeks and report cards are visible in the portal every nine weeks. Credit for high school courses is earned at the end of each semester. Final transcripts are mailed home at the end of school year.

INFINITE CAMPUS

Fulton County Schools uses Infinite Campus as the learning management portal, which allows students and parents to view the student's academic progress and attendance online. For more detailed information including instructions for creating an account and logging in, you may visit www.fultonschools.org/infinitecampus. Parents may enable Infinite Campus notifications for student grades and daily attendance in the Parent Campus Portal.

COURSE LEARNING PLATFORM

Fulton County Schools has begun its transition to Canvas for the in-class learning platform. During the 2023-2024 school year, some teachers will pilot Canvas while others will continue using Microsoft Teams. A complete list of all faculty and their associated class learning platform can be found on the AHS Website or by visiting <https://tinyurl.com/23-24StaffDirectoryAHS>. Please contact your child's teacher with any questions related to their class learning platform.

R.I.S.E.

R.I.S.E. stands for Re-teaching/Instructional Support and Enrichment. It is dedicated time made by each teacher on a weekly basis for students to receive additional support to help build to content mastery. AHS highly recommends students attend RISE sessions when their cumulative numeric average is below 74 or when the student earns a 79 or below on a specific major assignment/ assessment.

AHS DEPARTMENT R.I.S.E. SCHEDULE

SCHOOL YEAR	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
2023-2024	<i>Social Studies</i>	Electives including World Language	<i>English/Language Arts</i>	<i>Science</i>	<i>Math</i>

RECOVERY

All students will have one (1) opportunity to recover all major assessments if they score below a 75%. Recovery must be completed within 10 days of the original assessment or prior to the next major assessment, whichever comes first. Students are eligible to earn a replacement grade on a recovery assessment that is no higher than 75%. A teacher must offer a RISE session to support students who need to recover a major assessment after the graded assessment is returned and before the recovery assessment is administered.

COMMUNICATION WITH FACULTY

Due to limited access to a phone during the school day, please email faculty members with questions and concerns, so they may answer inquiries and resolve issues in a timely manner. Faculty will strive to respond to e-mail within 1 business day. Parents and guardians may arrange individual teacher-parent conferences; however, if a conference with more than one teacher is desired, the student's counselor can help coordinate the meeting. Parents must meet with a teacher before requesting a meeting with the department chair; parents must meet with a department chair and teacher before requesting a meeting with the department administrator.

LOST/DAMAGED PROPERTY POLICY

Students are financially responsible for all property issued by Alpharetta High School. These items may not be left in classrooms, and teachers are not responsible for students' items left unattended. Items issued to the student must be turned in at the end of the course or as otherwise determined. Students will not receive credit for turning in another student's book, and students may not turn in replacement books. The cost of replacement items will be assigned to any student that fails to turn in property that was issued. Damaged items are subject to replacement cost. If a student is issued damaged property, the student must notify the administration in writing immediately.

