

Alpharetta High School Band Syllabus

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Band Website: www.alpharettaband.org

Hello and welcome to the 2022-2023 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) and are required. You will receive a grade for your attendance and participation in these events. Failure to attend an announced 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 cellphone 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. Failure to follow these instructions may result in confiscating the phone and possibly a written referral.

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 Charms.

Grading Policy

Grades will be determined as follows:

Major -55%:

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

Performances:

Attendance at band concerts is required. If a student has an unexcused absence from a concert, he or she will 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. You will perform a vital role in the success of your 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 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 must pay a **concert band fee of \$200** for the school year.

\$100 paid to the OSP account and \$100 paid to the charms account.

This fee is due by September 1st. This fee will cover supplemental material such as:

1. Habits for a Successful Musician method books
2. Tuners and Mic Clips for every student to use during class
3. Supplemental music and workbooks used for classes
4. Section coaches throughout the school year.
5. Section coaches and guest conductors for the January Concert Band Camp.
6. Smart music subscriptions for all students
7. Locks for music lockers
8. LGPE entry fees, recordings, and score purchase

Tux and Dress Rental Fees

Our uniform for concerts and performances will be a standard black tuxedo and a formal black dress.

Gentlemen - Tuxedo rental (jacket and pants) fee - \$50 (unless you own your own tux)

Ladies concert dress for those that do not have one or need a replacement - \$70 (Dresses will be yours to keep)

This uniform rental/purchase fee is due by September 1st and should be paid through Charms. Students will be fitted for tuxedos and dresses and issued concert uniforms by the end of September.

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, e.g., Taste of Alpharetta
- Football parking

Alpharetta High School Band

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

- 2022-23 Band Course Syllabus
- 2022-23 Band Handbook
- 2022-23 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)