

# *Alpharetta High School Bands*

## **Percussion / Band: Course Syllabus FALL Semester**

Mike Walsh (ext. 27761) and Ira Jenkins (ext. 27664)

Office Hours: by appointment only

Phone: 470-254-7640 email: [walsh@fultonschools.org](mailto:walsh@fultonschools.org) [jenkinssi@fultonschools.org](mailto:jenkinssi@fultonschools.org)

**SUGGESTED TEXT:** scales and all-state etudes (available at [www.gmea.org](http://www.gmea.org)); various rhythm and technique-building books (supplied); various ensemble works (supplied) – music is provided and assigned to individual students, new music performed for each concert.

### **COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

NAFME: The National Association for Music Education, states, “music allows us to celebrate and preserve our cultural heritages, and also to explore the realms of expression, imagination, and creation resulting in new knowledge”. Instrumental Music is our vehicle to get there. In the fall we will explore various types of popular and art music forms through teaching the basic fundamentals of instrumental performance, using the Marching Band and Concert Band as our primary vehicles.

### **GOALS:**

- *Understand* the major scales as they are used in and relate to music.
- *Identify* the fundamentals of musical performance.
- *Create* an understanding of music theory and performance fundamentals;
- Begin to *apply* all learned skills and fundamentals to actual musical works, resulting in performance.

### **REQUIREMENTS:**

ALL STUDENTS will need an instrument. AHS Bands will only provide the large brass / woodwind instruments and percussion instruments All students shall participate in Symphonic Band I or II, Wind Ensemble, Percussion class, and/or Marching Band during the fall semester. Students will be scheduled in either into Percussion Class, Symphonic Band I or II, or Wind Ensemble during the regular school day. Placement is based on auditions from the previous spring. Marching Band is after school only. The opportunities for further participation during the year (i.e. Jazz Band, Symphony, musical pit orchestra) will be posted periodically. You may sign up for any available experiences you may qualify for. Students who elect to participate with the Marching Band are expected to attend Summer Band Camp (Rock Eagle 4-H camp) and pre-school practices, perform at football games, Marching Festivals, and fall Cluster Concert. Percussion class and Concert Ensembles will perform according to posted schedule. All winds will be required to have an instrument; percussion and large instruments will be provided instruments based on availability. Percussion should purchase a gig-bag with their own sets of sticks / mallets (see separate handout).

## **EVALUATION:**

Grades will be based on your performance; a final exam will be worth 15% of your final grade. The percentages listed are subject to change. See Band Handbook on website for more details.

**50% = Performances and Rehearsals**

**20% = Class participation, attitude during large-group rehearsals, having instrument and required supplies (ie. reeds, valve oil, mute, etc)**

**15% = Performance-based assessment (video, audio, Smartmusic, live assessment)**

**15% = Semester Final**

## **Provision for Improving Grades**

1. 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 teacher concerning recovery opportunities. Teachers are expected to establish a reasonable time period for recovery work to be completed during the semester. All recovery work must be directly related to course objectives and *must be completed ten school days prior to the end of the semester.*

2. Teachers will determine when and how students with extenuating circumstances may improve their grades.

All other details of the Band Program are outlined in the band handbook, downloadable via the AHS Band website. ( [www.alpharettaband.org](http://www.alpharettaband.org) )

## **LOST / DAMAGED MUSIC:**

Students are financially responsible for all books and music issued by AHS Bands. Texts and music are not to be left in the classroom (storage is made available) and teachers are not responsible for the music or books once they have been assigned to the student. Music and books assigned must be turned in at the end of the semester or course. The cost of replacement will be assigned to any student that fails to return the exact book and/or music that he/she was issued and/or to any student that turns in damaged books or music. There is a two-week grace period for students to document damage before the student becomes accountable for the damage and cost.

## **AHS RECOVERY / RISE**

### **(TEACHING INSTRUCTIONAL SUPPORT and ENRICHMENT policy)**

Students with a course cumulative average of a 74 and below must attend RISE sessions to demonstrate a legitimate effort to meet all course requirements. After attending RISE sessions, attending class regularly, and completing all course work\*, a student is eligible to request recovery on major assessments, which he or she may score up to 74%. The recovery grade will replace the previous grade but will not exceed 74%.

\*All unit work must be completed in order to exhibit mastery. Any credit given will be awarded in accordance with the stated course late work policy in the teacher's syllabus.

The student must initiate the recovery process within five days of the student receiving the graded assignment and the grade being posted to Home Access Center (HAC).

Furthermore, all Recovery opportunities expire ten days before the end of each semester.

Any Recovery / Rise assigned in Band classes will be on Wednesday or Fridays before or after school, or during 4B lunch, at the discretion of the instructor and will likely involve Smartmusic assignments.