## **Instrumental Music: Band Syllabus**

**Fraser High School**

## **Semesters 1 & 2**

James E. Rodgers

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**Course Descriptions:**

**Varsity band** is the band in which all 9th grader students should enroll.  It performs as a concert unit with an emphasis evenly placed on achieving a high level of ability in all technical and musical aspects of performance.  No student may enroll in Varsity band for more than one year without the consent of the director.  Upon completion of Varsity band, students may enroll in Concert band, or audition for acceptance into Symphony band. Students who enroll in Varsity band have the OPTION to participate in Marching Band.  Marching Band includes attendance to band camp prior to the start of school (at the student's expense), weekly practices on Wednesday evenings and during seminar, and the marching obligations of the class.  By choosing to participate in marching band, the student must understand that it is a commitment for the entire marching season.

**Concert band** consists of students in grades 10 through 12, and performs as a concert and marching unit at school and community functions.  It studies standard band literature of an intermediate to advanced level.  Emphasis is placed on the continuing development and study of all technical and musical concepts.  This class includes weekly Wednesday evening and seminar rehearsals during the marching season, and may include extra rehearsals at other times throughout the school year.

**Symphony band** consists of students in grades 9 through 12, accepted by audition only, and performs as a concert and marching unit at school and community functions.  It studies standard band literature of an advanced level, striving for an attainment equal to the best high school and college band organizations.  Emphasis is placed on the continuing development and study of all technical and musical concepts.  This class includes weekly Wednesday evening and seminar rehearsals during the marching season, and may include extra rehearsals at other times throughout the school year.

In addition to the marching season, the Varsity, Concert, and Symphony bands perform in the Holiday concert in December, Festival concert in February, Band Festival in March, and the Spring concert in May each year.  There are also opportunities for students to participate in pep bands, District and State Solo & Ensemble Festival as soloists, in small ensembles, and in large chamber ensembles, as well as the Graduation Band for Commencement.

**Jazz Ensemble** consists of students in grades 9 through 12. Selection for the class is by audition only. **An audition date will be posted.** Students have the opportunity to audition **one time per year.** Auditions are held in the spring of the year for the following fall. Second semester information on the web site will include a statement of the audition dates. ***Auditions will consist of playing all 12 blues scales memorized, a short prepared selection, and sight-reading.***Each student must demonstrate the ability to attain the desired technical skill to enter Jazz Band and must maintain the desired technical skill from year to year to ensure selection for the ensemble. A student who has been accepted into Jazz Band, but does not continue in the class consecutively from year to year will need to re-audition to be accepted back into the class. The quantity of players selected is outlined in the *Program of Study*, and can vary from year to year.

The jazz band performs in the Holiday concert in December, State Jazz Festival in March/April, and the Spring concert in May each year.  The jazz band also accepts many gigging opportunities for special dinners, meetings, conferences, and performances at local jazz clubs and events throughout the year.

**MARCHING BAND** is not a scheduled class during the school day. It is comprised of all Symphony Band and Concert Band members. Volunteers are accepted from the members of Varsity Band. Students may be eligible to “waive” one semester (.5 credit) of Physical Education upon written request if the following criteria are met:

1. The student has junior status and has completed five high school semesters.
2. The student has received a grade of “C” or better in two season of **marching band** or completed two seasons of a high school sponsored sport in good standing, and
3. The student has a minimum cumulative 3.40 GPA based on a 4.0 scale.

*(Please See the “Physical Education Waiver Form” at the end of this document)*

**How to Be Successful in this Course:**

We strive for excellence in all aspects of the band program. We truly believe in the ten two-letter words to live by: ***"If It Is To Be, It Is Up To Me!"***

Band is one of the few academic classes that rely totally on the combined output of **all** students for the end result. There are no "bench" players in band. All students must perform with everyone else and strive to achieve. All actions by an individual (whether good or bad) affect everyone.

The secret to success is communication. We need to keep the communication lines open between parent, student and teacher. With all of us working together and with good communication between us, we will have a positive educational experience.

**Materials:**

**UNIFORMS**

**Marching Band** (Marching Season):

The regular marching uniform consists of bibbers (pants), jacket, hat and plume, hatbox, and a garment bag, all of which are provided by the school. Percussion players will be issued a tuxedo, bow tie and fitted for a tuxedo shirt (purchased through the band). Tuba players will need to purchase a beret (purchased through the band). **White gloves and white marching shoes (black marching shoes for percussion)** are also needed (at the student's expense-purchased through the band). It is the responsibility of the student to obtain **navy socks (black for the percussion)** to wear with the marching uniform. These items are ordered when the marching season begins. Parkas/raincoats are available when weather dictates. When uniforms are issued each student pays $10.00 to cover *end of the year dry cleaning.* A summer uniform consisting of t-shirt and shorts is also purchased through the band for $25.00 per set. Color guard will purchase their uniform and shoes through the color guard coordinator-costs vary from year to year.

The Homecoming Pep Assembly uniform consists of a theme T-shirt (**purchased** **by the student** through the school), blue jeans, socks and tennis shoes.

Proper care of the marching uniform will be taught to each band member at the beginning of the school year**. All long hair (male and female)** **must** be put up underneath the hats for performance. **Plain White T-shirts are to be worn under the jacket.** **No** jewelry is to be worn...leave it at home so nothing happens to it**. If you have pierced ears, wear only plain silver or gold studs. All other types of earrings are not permitted.**

**Each student** is responsible for their marching uniform and their appearance. ***Anyone who is not in the required*** ***uniform may not march, and his or her grade will be affected***. The uniform will need periodic dry cleaning through out the season in addition to the end of year cleaning done by the band. Any stains should be cleaned immediately. **Bibbers (or pants), jackets, hats, hat boxes, and garment bags are to be returned in the spring. Plumes and parkas will be returned after each use. *Items not returned on time will result in fines being placed on the student’s band account.***

**CONCERT UNIFORM**

The concert uniform for the Fraser Bands consists of the following:

**Ladies:** Black short-sleeved jumpsuit (**purchased** by the student at the cost of approx. $60), pearl necklace (provided by the band), black hose and black shoes (provided by the student). Measurements and fittings for the jumpsuits will be taken in late September of each school year to ensure delivery of jumpsuits before our Holiday Concert. A small number of used jumpsuits are generally available each year at approximately half the cost of a new one. Students interested in used jumpsuits should mention this when fittings are taking place. Jumpsuits are machine wash and dry. A material usage fee of $5.00 is paid in the fall to cover costs of fixing and replacement pearls. **Pearls are returned each year in the** **spring. *Pearls not returned on time will result in fines to the student's account.***

**Men:** Black tuxedo and bow tie (provided by the school), white wing collar tuxedo shirt (**purchased** by the student at the cost of approx. $20), black socks, and black dress shoes (provided by the student). Measurements for shirts and tuxedos are done in the early fall. A $10.00 fee is collected in the fall to cover the end of the year cleaning. A $5.00 material usage fee is collected to cover replacement of ties. **Tux pants and jackets are returned in the spring. Bow ties will be returned after each performance. *Items not returned on time will result in fines to the student's account.***

**You** are responsible for your concert uniform and for your appearance. ***If you are not in the required*** ***uniform you may not perform and your grade will be affected***. Keep your uniform clean. Any stained uniforms should be cleaned immediately (at your expense).

**COSTS - Some costs are charged every year-please note.**

Female marcher

* $10 cleaning fee marching uniform (every year)
* $ 5 material usage fee (every year)
* $ 3 gloves (as needed)
* $10 beret (as needed for percussion/tuba players)
* $35 marching shoes (as needed)
* $70 new jumpsuit (as needed)
* $25 summer marching uniform (as needed)

Female non-marcher

* $5 material usage fee (every year)
* $70 new jumpsuit (as needed)

Male marcher

* $10 cleaning fee marching uniform (every year)
* $ 5 material usage fee (every year)
* $ 3 gloves (as needed)
* $10 beret (as needed for percussion/tuba players)
* $35 marching shoes (as needed)
* $10 cleaning fee tuxedo (every year)
* $20 tuxedo shirt (as needed)
* $25 summer marching uniform (as needed)

Male non-marcher

* $10 cleaning fee tuxedo (every year)
* $5 material usage fee (every year)
* $20 tuxedo shirt (as needed)

**MUSIC**

Music is distributed in school during class periods. Everyone should have a copy of his/her own music and should bring it to class daily. **YOU** are responsible for your music, both for learning it and for keeping it in good shape. You are expected to turn in all music when it is requested. Music should be prepared at home so productive rehearsals may take place during class time**. Music left in the band room randomly may be collected and will result in the lowering of the student’s grade.**

**INSTRUMENTS**

All students are responsible for their instruments whether they be personally owned or borrowed from the school. All students are expected to have proper equipment (reeds, valve oil, sticks, mallets, etc.) at all times. No instruments are to be left in the band room. Instruments should go home on a regular basis to encourage and remind students to practice. **All students who continually forget to put instruments away will have their grade affected.**

**FHS Building Grading Scale:**

The following percentage ranges will be used:

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | 87-89% = B+ | 77-79% = C+ | 67-69% = D+ |  |
| 94-100% = A | 83-86% = B | 73-76% = C | 63-66% = D | 59 and under = F |
| 90-93% = A- | 80-82% = B- | 70-72% = C- | 60-62% = D- |  |

**Your semester grade will also be calculated using a weighted system:**

**70%- Competency assignments and assessments (performances)**

**30%- Practice (daily participation, rehearsals, sectionals)**

**Performing Arts Department-Specific Grading:**

The criteria are as follows: 1) daily participation, 2) playing tests, 3) concerts/recitals, 4) written assignments, and 5) extra credit. Grades are based on a 10-point WEIGHTED grading system, earning points toward successfully meeting the course competencies.

**Course Competency Statements:**

1. Students will apply skills and knowledge to perform in the arts. (Standard #1)
2. Students will apply skills and knowledge to create in the arts. (Standard #2)
3. Students will analyze, describe, and evaluate works of art. (Standard #3)

**Daily participation:** Positive classroom participation, cooperation, and attitude are key elements of productive rehearsals. Students should come prepared for class with a pencil, all music, their instrument, and a smiling face. **Students receive 10 points per class based on** attendance, being prepared, participation, positive attitude, and cooperation.

*\*\*\*Attendance and participation in any after school marching band practices, additional after school or SMART rehearsals, and sectionals will be required throughout the school year, and will earn the student 10 points toward their grade*.\*\*\*

**Playing tests:** All playing tests are worth 10 points. These tests will determine the proficiency of individuals on scales and/or musical excerpts. Grades are determined based upon the accuracy of the key elements of music which are **tone, articulation, rhythmic accuracy, pitch accuracy, dynamic contrast, and overall musicianship.** Missed playing exams can be made up after class, during lunch periods, or after school, upon the student’s arrangement with the band director.

**Concerts/recitals:** **CONCERT ATTENDANCE IS REQUIRED!** The performances are the culmination of the student’s work during the grading period or semester, and therefore, are considered to be a major test grade, such as a final exam. Attendance and performance in all concerts and shows will earn the student 10 points. If a student misses a performance for any reason other than illness or family emergency, the student will receive a “zero” for the performance. The student is responsible for doing extra credit to earn recovery points for any missed performances.

**Written assignments:** During class periods, there are handouts, worksheets, writing assignments, and/or written tests administered for teaching purposes. These are assigned point values, which are figured into the total points at the end of the card marking period.

**Extra credit:** Extra credit can be earned by each student for participation in Solo & Ensemble festival, private lessons, after school rehearsals, demonstrations for recruitment, attending concerts outside of school, Pep Bands, and any extra performances beyond the required performances for the year.

**Absent Work Policy:**

All assignments must be turned in within a number of days equal to the length of the ***excused*** absence. Please see Blackboard to keep up with all missed assignments when you cannot be in class.

**Late Work Policy:**

All assignments must be turned in. Your grade will be reduced by 20% for each class period that the assignment is late.

**Plagiarism/ Academic Integrity:**

Please review the following description of Academic Integrity from the FHS Student Code of Conduct:

**1.91 Academic Integrity. As a Fraser High School student, you are expected to present yourself, your knowledge, and your skills honestly. Cheating and plagiarizing are not acceptable and will result in a failing grade for the assignment as well as possible disciplinary action. In addition, students who assist those who cheat or plagiarize are subject to the same consequences as those who do.**

**Examples of cheating:**

1. Sharing answers for class work or homework unless explicitly instructed by the teacher to do so.
2. Submitting work that is identical to another student’s work when asked to only share ideas.
3. Copying someone else’s class work, homework, or test answers.
4. Disclosing the content of a quiz or test.
5. Using electronic devices, such as cell phones, iPads, laptops, or calculators when not instructed to do so.
6. Using or attempting to use “cheat sheets,” notes, information written on book covers, hands, etc. during a quiz or test.

**Examples of plagiarism:**

1. Paraphrasing or rewording another’s work without acknowledging the source.
2. Copying directly from a source (verbal, print, or electronic) without acknowledging the source with appropriate quotation marks or citations.
3. Borrowing, buying, or downloading a paper from the Internet and submitting it as your own.
4. Submitting another person’s paper as your own.

**FHS Competency Policy**

Students must pass all competencies with a minimum of 60% to earn credit in the course.

**Remediation**:

If students do not pass the competency on their first try, they must remediate and reassess in order to pass.

**Performing Arts Department** **Reassessment Policy:**

If students do not pass the competency on their first try, they must remediate and reassess in order to pass.

**Course Competency Statements:**

Students will apply skills and knowledge to perform in the arts. (Standard #1)

* Intonation and Technique

Students will apply skills and knowledge to create in the arts. (Standard #2)

* Tone, Rhythm, and Interpretation

Students will analyze, describe, and evaluate works of art. (Standard #3)

* Interpretation

Competency grades are assigned at the end of each semester and are determined based on the student’s successful participation in an assigned required performance. If the student misses the performance for any reason, he/she is required to perform individually for the band director in order to earn competency.

**ADDITIONAL CLASSROOM INFORMATION:**

**Classroom Expectations**

* Be on Time—be in the classroom at the bell; be in your assigned seat with your instrument within 5 minutes of the bell
* Be Prepared—always have your instrument, accessories, music, folder, and a pencil
* Be Respectful
* Be Responsible
* Be Supportive of the Learning Process
* Leave all electronics (phones, iPods, iPads, Kindles, laptops, hand-held games) off and in book bag.
* WATER IS THE ONLY ACCEPTABLE BEVERAGE OR SNACK ALLOWED DURING CLASS

**ATTENDANCE**

Band is an academic class and attendance is **required at every performance and rehearsal.** The exceptions are:

1. **School-related function that is cleared or approved in** **advance**. It is the student's responsibility to inform **all** parties involved when excused absences are requested. Those involved in athletic activities are **not** excused from a rehearsal or performance unless we are **notified and approve** of the absence, **nor** will those students always be excused from their class commitment.

2. Death in the family or involvement in wedding. A written advance notice of participation in a wedding must be provided to the band director.

3. Illness or surgery. **If you are ill at the time of a performance, it is your responsibility to call or email us at school.**

4. Other considerations will be on an individual basis.

**Absences without prior notification will be considered unexcused.**

***Items which are non-excusable:***

1. **Work/Babysitting.** You are to arrange your work and/or babysitting schedule around your school schedule unless a rehearsal or performance is scheduled "at the last minute."

2. To make up work in another class, unless the reason for making up the work is due to band and it is **cleared in advance**.

Each unexcused absence from a performance and/or rehearsal will result in the lowering of the student’s grade.

**REHEARSALS**

Rehearsal time is at a premium. Therefore, certain understandings must be had by all to ensure effective rehearsals.

**All** band members are to be in their respective places **by** the assigned time. This means that you **must** have your instrument out and be ready to go **before** the assigned time.

**STUDENT ACCOUNTS**

Each of the band students has an account that is kept by Mr. Rodgers. All profit from individual fund-raisers is deposited directly into their account. Account totals are available to students/parents at any time; just contact Mr. Rodgers or Mrs. Fiedler by phone or e-mail.

Some students make regular deposits into their accounts in addition to fund-raising. Money not used this year is automatically carried over to next year. Funds in the band account can *only be* *used for band related items* such as: band trips, uniform fees, band supplies (reeds, flip folders, etc.), marching band camp, and solo and ensemble fees.

***Deductions to accounts*** will be made when a student does not turn in school assigned items (uniforms, tuxedos, pearls, instruments) or money owed for items such as: fund raisers, band camp, marching shoes, homecoming tee-shirts, band trips, tuxedo shirts, jumpsuits, etc. ***Student accounts that are in the negative will be forwarded to the school bookkeeper***. ***Funds owed by the student will then be posted on Power School by the bookkeeper. Students cannot receive books or purchase tickets for school dances until accounts are paid up.******Seniors******will not receive their cap and gown or diploma until their account is paid up. It is the******responsibility of each student to check on the status of his or her band account periodically during the school year.***

**ATHLETICS**

We will gladly work with students in resolving conflicts with practices and games (meets), when done in **advance.** The calendar of performances and activities for the band is printed early in the year. It is the **student's** responsibility to work out all conflicts with us and with coaches. Please remember that band is an **academic class** for which you receive credit. We are willing to work out a "shared-time" agreement with athletics; we are not willing to always release you.

**SMART PERIOD**

Mr. Rodgers’ SMART period meets every day. Students are expected to be in class on time for attendance. Video announcements (when available) will be played immediately following attendance. Students who need to travel must sign out on the logbook at the front of the classroom next to the band office, and sign back in when they come back. SMART period for band is utilized often for marching band sectionals, combined class rehearsals for Concert band and Varsity band, extra rehearsals before performances, and for Solo & Ensemble and chamber ensemble rehearsals.

**Teacher Contact Information:**

James Rodgers April Fiedler

Director of Bands Teaching Assistant

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