

Beresford High School Band
2013 Fall
Mr. LeMaster

Course Description: This course meets first period of each day five days a week. In this class the students will read and perform a variety of different types of music. The students will play instruments, clap rhythms, rehearse, march, and compete to the best of their ability. The purpose of this class is to help students realize how far they can stretch those skills, to improve teamwork, and to expand their creative and cognitive boundaries.

Materials: Students are responsible for their own instruments. Some students may borrow instruments from the school but must check these instruments out with the instructor. Reeds and other materials can be purchased from the instructor through the school as needed. Music for band will be purchased by the school and distributed to the students. The students are responsible to take care of this music and must see to it that it is not lost. Marching band uniforms will be checked out to students for use during parades and competitions. Students are responsible for any damage that may be done to these uniforms. They are brand new, and we want them to last a long time. Black marching shoes will be required for each student “see below”.

Course goals and objectives: The main goal of this course is to broaden our students’ musical experiences and to relate them to the world around them. Students will become more proficient performing on their instruments and they will expand their musical and intellectual vocabulary. In today’s world we rely so much on the physical outcomes that we can see and touch immediately. Music is an abstract outcome that takes hours and hours of hard work and dedication. That is why a course like this is so important for our students. Our goal is to teach students the importance of persistence, patience, and practice.

Assessment and grading policies: Students will be assessed in many different ways throughout each semester. These assessments are as follows:

1. **Concert Attendance/Attire:** Students attendance is expected and required at every public performance. Exceptions to this must be taken up with and approved by the instructor at least **two weeks prior** to the performance unless extenuating circumstances occur. Approval for dismissal from a performance is up to the instructors’ discretion. **Work is not an acceptable excuse to miss a performance.** Any student who misses a performance will immediately lose 40% of his or her overall grade, and receive a 0 for that concert attendance grade. The second time a student misses a concert he or she may be terminated from the band. All the students in the program rely on each other just like a team and if a student misses a performance it hurts everyone in this band program. **Dress for concerts should be all black. Absolutely no jeans or tee shirts.** Points for concerts will be docked if a student shows up in jeans and or tee shirts. Students will lose half of their possible points for improper attire.

2. **Pep Band:** Students who participate in sports and are not able to perform during games because they are playing will not have their grade penalized. For each assigned pep band performance each student will receive 20 points of credits. If a student misses a pep band performance he or she will receive 0 points out of 20.
3. **Playing tests:** Each student is required to play for the instructor during each semester. The first of these tests will be over the memorization of our marching band piece. During the rest of the playing tests the student must perform an excerpt from a piece of music or a solo that we collectively choose. They will also be required to play scales selected by the instructor prior to the playing exam. The individual students and the instructor will negotiate times for these exams to take place. Each of the exams will be worth 50 points.
4. **Participation, Attitude and Behavior:** Students should come to each rehearsal and performance prepared. Failure to do so without a viable excuse will result in loss of points for that day. Respect for each other is absolutely expected in this band room. Lack of respect for fellow students and teachers will be considered in each daily grade as well. Cell phones should also be kept out of the band room. Any cell phone found will be given to Mr. Degen, and the student will have to serve consequences with him. Reading materials and homework should also be left out of the band room, except when told otherwise. **Band is not study hall.**
5. **Extra band opportunities:** As the year goes on there will be many opportunities for students to participate in extra activities that relate to band. These activities will eventually contribute to the students' grade and an opportunity to letter.
6. **Concessions:** Since there is only six concessions we will not need the help from every student. A student can choose to do a concession in place of **part** of a playing test, or in some cases in place of a pep band performance. These things are important, but there should be incentive for working in the concession. Free soda and popcorn will be provided for those students who volunteer to do concessions as well.
7. **Sectionals:** 2 sectionals for each section will take place two mornings during the first quarter of the school year. These days will be given by the section leaders. If a student can not make the sectional, they can make up this time with Mr. LeMaster, Mr. Jones or a section leader or drum major before or after school. These sectionals are worth 20 points each.
8. **This Syllabus:** This syllabus is worth 20 points and is due by Tuesday August 27. Each school day it is late it will be docked 1 point. The information presented here is very important for parents and students.

Classroom expectations: Students should always come prepared to work toward bettering themselves and the band by working hard and participating in class. Every student should be in their own seats with their instruments out ready to play within two minutes after the bell rings. Ample time will be given for students to put their instruments away so they are not late for their next class. Talking is not allowed while rehearsal is taking place. If the instructor is working with a particular section some minimal whispering may be tolerated as long as discussion is about the music and everyone is ready to play when that sectional is done. **Respect** for each other and the band room itself is expected at all times.

Dates to know: Fall Semester

August 30 Possible Football Game. (TBD)
September 16th-Memorization of marching piece due.
September 20th-Homecoming.
September 27th-Menno Band Days.
October 4th- Chester Marching Festival
October 5th-D Days Vermillion.
October 12th-Football Pep Band.
October 18th-Football Pep Band.
October 24th – Football Pep Band.
December 12th – Winter Concert

Spring Semester:

Basketball pep band and other important dates will be sent home at a later time.

Important Parent Information!

Shoes: In an effort to make our marching band look more uniform I am requiring that all members purchase marching shoes. This is especially important since we have brand new band uniforms, and would like to complete the set with shoes.

The cost of a pair of these shoes will be approximately **\$21.95**. These shoes have an excellent reputation in the band world, and should last at least 4 seasons. The name of the brand is “Dinkles” and the model of shoe is the “Glide”. After speaking with many area band directors, many times seniors will sell their shoes to an upcoming freshman that does not have a pair. We will fit each student the first full week of school, and order them after everyone is fitted.

Please send a check made payable to BHS, with band in the memo, along with the signed last sheet of this syllabus. Please contact me with any concerns or thoughts.

Music Boosters: TBA I would really like to get a monthly Beresford Band Booster meeting started ASAP.

Parent or Guardian: I look forward to meeting those of you I have not met yet and growing with this band program and community. If you have any concerns or questions about the above information please contact me via email at brian.lemaster@k12.sd.us or at my office number during the day at (605)-763-4240.

Please sign and date below so that I can verify that you have read all of the above information on the previous pages, and agreed to the dates and terms of this class.

Thanks,

Mr. LeMaster

Parent/Guardian: _____ Date: _____

Student: _____ Date: _____