

F.M. BLACK MIDDLE SCHOOL HONORS BAND

COURSE OBJECTIVES AND GRADING PROCEDURES

Aesthetic experiences are a vital part of student growth. Band, as a musical organization, provides one medium of aesthetic expression for students. Our department goal, therefore, is that each student be able to express the aesthetic values of music through performance skills and theory comprehension.

This class meets every day during the school year. Honors Band is made up of like family instruments (woodwind, brass, and percussion) to enhance more uniform instruction. Percussion is the only class that meets separately from the ensemble. The Frank Black Honors Band performs at 2 on campus concerts: **Winter Concert (December 14/ Rehearsal: Dec. 13 3:30 – 5:30pm), and Spring Concert (April 28/ Rehearsal April 27 3:30 – 5:30pm)**, in the **F.M. Black Auditorium**. Other performances include off-campus activities such as **1 football game, All – City Auditions, Region Band Auditions, Blinn Music Meet, Waltrip Concert and Sight-Reading Festival, UIL Concert and Sight-reading** and other community activities. Since each class meets separately during the school day, we can only prepare the **whole band** by having after-school rehearsals, which are **curricular** and therefore **graded activities**. These rehearsals are mandatory and necessary for every student participant. These rehearsals are set from 3:30pm – 5:30pm prior to our Concert or Festival events. All students should wear the following for all concerts: **White collard button down long sleeved shirt (tucked in), Black Slacks, long black socks/hosiery, black dress shoes (close toed), Black belt, Vest/Tie (issued by Band Director) --- *jeans, shorts, flip flops or sneakers will not be allowed.*** Letters, emails, and/or website postings will be sent with the student in advance regarding specific times and other important details about each concert.

TEACHING OBJECTIVES FOR HONORS BAND STUDENTS

- To learn and use good posture while performing
- To learn the correct method of breathing (wind instruments)
- To learn and use correct embouchure while performing (wind instruments)
- To learn and use correct hand position
- To learn and use the correct technique for percussion playing (percussion only)
- To learn the proper concept of tone production and tone quality
- To know the various articulation markings such as slur, staccato, legato, etc.
- To be able to clap and count rhythmically
- To learn and understand the musical terms necessary for the High School
- To develop discriminatory listening skills
- To develop good home practice routines
- To promote social development through large group interaction
- To develop personal and self-discipline
- To prepare students to advance to the High School

GRADING PROCEDURES

50% - of the six – weeks grade will be based on daily grades including class work and participation.

30% - of the six – weeks grade will be based on major tests including playing tests and written exams

15% - of the six – weeks grade will be based on major quizzes

5% - of the six – weeks grade will be based on the amount of daily home practice. Students are required to practice at least 43 minutes a day (5 hours per week) in order to receive a 100% on their practice sheet that week. If a student cannot practice at all on a given day due to an unavoidable conflict, the practice time must be made up on another day within that practice week. We **strongly** encourage equally – distributed practice time in order to promote musical success. **Points will be appropriately deducted if a student turns in less than the required time. Likewise, extra credit will be given to students who practice more than the weekly requirement. Parents will sign the student’s practice sheet each week to verify the amount of home practice in ink, No initials.** Practice sheets will be checked the **first day their class meets**, and in the case of a holiday, teacher in-service day, etc., practice sheets will still be checked on the first day their class meets. Short writing assignments will be given to students not having their practice sheets filled out and signed on the first day their class meets. In addition, 10 points will be deducted per day regardless of when the class meets.

PARENT SIGNATURE: _____