

EWG Sr. High Band

2014-2015 Course Syllabus

Mr. Gregg Charest, Director of Bands

Purpose: This course is designed to be a study of modern band repertoire.

Requirements and Responsibilities: The most important thing about this class is for you to have your instrument in school with you every day. A band locker (with a lock) will be provided for you by the school, and it is here that I expect you to keep your instrument and music. You must also bring your instrument home with you to practice every day, since a large part of your grade will be based on performance assignments. On a weekly basis, Mr. Charest will update the Band website with new assignments (which will also be announced in class), and you are responsible for preparing these assignments by practicing your instrument. The Band website is: www.EWGBands.com, but you can find the specific Sr. High Band assignments at <http://www.ewgbands.com/sr-high-band>

Philosophy of Rehearsal Time: Rehearsals are not to learn your part – rather they are to learn everyone else’s part and therefore, the music. Rehearsals are time to work collectively, not individually. The discovery of how the composition works and creating the most profound and educated recreation of the composer’s intent is the focus of rehearsal time. At this level, your part is your responsibility. This minimum standard is important for all to understand because it is the professional standard.

Ensemble Placement: Your placement in the ensemble is at the discretion of Mr. Charest’s judgment. Chair placements are a necessary part of high school band at any level – Mr. Charest needs to be able to distribute parts for each piece in order to keep our sound well balanced. Mr. Charest will make placement decisions (1st flute vs. 2nd flute) based on the following criteria:

Our first formal chair placement audition will take place in the second week of each semester. You will be given three exercises to prepare: From “Warm-ups that Work,” play page 5 exercise 3 (Bb Major scale), page 16 exercise 1 (Bb Chromatic scale), and page 21 Three Hummel Figurines 1. Tier measures 1-26.

What if the student feels that they are in the wrong chair?

Challenges are designed to correct chair placements, to give students an opportunity to practice (to correct mistakes) and challenge themselves to do better. The Challenge system is intended as a way for students to move up their section's chair placement order. Students who feel they should be placed in a higher chair may request a challenge to determine any possible placement changes. All challenges are based upon the Mr. Charest’s approval, and his decision is final.

The Challenge system includes, but is not limited to the following.

1. Notify Mr. Charest that you wish to challenge your placement.
2. All Challenges take place at the end of band class in front of the entire band.
3. Mr. Charest will notify the challenger and the challengee of the required music within 24 hours of the request (A/B schedule may slow this).
4. Music for the challenge will be selected from the CURRENT music in our repertoire.
5. Students may challenge up to two chairs in front of them. If a challenger wins their new seat, they move up and all affected players move down one chair.
6. Principal players may only be challenged by 2nd chair.
7. The challenger must CLEARLY defeat their opponent for such a major change to be made, so any new placements are COMPLETELY at the discretion of Mr. Charest.
8. A challenger must wait at least two weeks between challenges.
9. There will NEVER be ANY challenges during the two weeks prior to any performance.
10. Mr. Charest reserves the right to delay or deny any challenge, and that decision is final.

Chair placement and challenges will be decided by the following criteria:

1. Tone
2. Expression
3. Rhythm Accuracy
4. Pulse/Tempo
5. Pitch Accuracy

Grading: You will be graded in the following manner:

30% - Classroom Performance and Participation

40% - Concert Performance and Participation

30% - Recorded Solo Assessments – Use Charms Portal

100%

What will we study? We will study music of the twentieth and twenty-first centuries (1900's-2000's). The pieces we will play for each concert are listed in the Band Room, as well as on the Band website: www.EWGBands.com

Use your best effort!