

South Oldham High School Band

RYAN MCALLISTER - DIRECTOR

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August 17, 2016

Dear Parents:

I would like to let you know how excited I am to work with your student this year in the SOHS Percussion Ensemble! The SOHS Bands have a history of great performance. I hope that this year we will be able to continue the tradition.

As we are hoping to achieve a high level of performance, I have very high expectations for students in this class. Due to the nature of this class, there will be several rehearsals and performance events that involve participation outside of the school day. Attendance at these events is required of all students in percussion ensemble.

Attached to this letter is a copy of the syllabus/handbook for this school year. In it I have detailed explanations of my expectations for this year as well as provided dates for the events we will be participating in. Please review this handbook and have your student return the acknowledgment form and the attached Field Trip Permission Form in to me by Friday, August 19.

Also attached is information about Remind which I will be using for class communications. Please follow the directions to sign up for this communication. I will use this to keep you informed of upcoming events. If you signed up for marching band remind, you still need to sign up for this in order to get concert ensemble reminders.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me. You may call me at 241-6681, ext. 128 or e-mail me at ryan.mcallister@oldham.kyschools.us.

Sincerely,

Ryan McAllister
Director of Bands
South Oldham High School

ACKNOWLEDGMENT FORM

I acknowledge that I have read and understand the Percussion Ensemble Syllabus/Handbook for the 2016-2017 school year and agree to abide by the stated rules and policies.

Student Name (Print)

Student Signature

Parent Signature

Date

**SYLLABUS/HANDBOOK
PERCUSSION ENSEMBLE
2016-2017**

www.sohsband.com

COURSE PURPOSE

The main purpose of this course is to improve musical proficiency on one's instrument, expand upon knowledge and principles of music and musicianship, and to provide performance experience.

GRADING

Grading for this course will be based upon the following:

- 40% Class participation (Daily Grades)
- 30% Test/Quizzes
- 30% Performance and Rehearsal Attendance

CLASS PARTICIPATION (DAILY GRADES)

You will receive a daily grade of 10 points for completing the following requirements on a daily basis:

1. In seat ready to start class with all necessary items within two minutes after the bell rings.
2. Instrument in good working order with all needed components (i.e. mutes, reeds, etc.).
3. All needed music and a pencil on your music stand.
4. Sitting with proper posture and playing position.
5. Being prepared to play when asked to do so (not engaged in off-task behavior that results in you not playing at the correct times).
6. Looking over music/fingerings when your section is not being worked with and not causing a distraction for the rest of the class.

If on any given day you do not complete one of the above requirements, your daily grade will be lowered for that day. Not having an instrument and/or music to read will result in a 0 for that day.

TEST/QUIZES

You will be responsible for learning your part to all music that we perform. **You will be expected to practice as your homework for this class!** Playing quizzes and tests will periodically be given over assigned music as well as work from your ensemble books. Some playing tests will be live. Others will be recorded.

Being able to play all the parts in your music well is your most important responsibility in this class!

PERFORMANCE/REHEARSAL

This includes attendance at all concerts and any other required performances.

Concerts

Attendance at all Concerts is **mandatory** for this class. Missing a performance will result in the significant lowering of your grade. A performance schedule for this year is attached at the end of this syllabus.

If you believe you will have to miss a performance it needs to be cleared with Mr. McAllister as far in advance as possible (no later than two weeks before the performance).

Rehearsals

There will be approximately 1-2 after school rehearsals for each concert. Attendance at these rehearsals is mandatory! The schedule of rehearsals for this semester is on the last page. A schedule for next semester rehearsals will be available later in the year. Attendance at these rehearsals will be part of your grade. Please request off work, etc. so that you can attend these rehearsals.

If there is an unavoidable conflict that will cause you to have to miss a rehearsal, you must submit a rehearsal excuse form no later than two days before the missed rehearsal. These forms can be found in the mailbox outside Mr. McAllister's office and on the band website. If you do not fill this out you will receive a 0 for the rehearsal.

We cannot have effective rehearsals without good attendance!

ALL-DISTRICT/ALL-STATE AUDITIONS

All students are strongly encouraged to audition for the KMEA All-District Band. The All-District Band auditions are scheduled for November 16 at Oldham County High School. This audition also serves as the first-round audition for the Kentucky All-State Band. If selected, you will be expected to attend the final audition for the All-State Band, which will take place on Saturday, December 10 at John Hardin High School.

If you are selected for either the All-District Band or the All-State Band, you are expected to attend. The only exception to this will be if you have a conflict that you clear with Mr. McAllister in advance. All-District Band will occur on January 6 and 7 and All-State Band will occur on February 8-11.

SOLO AND ENSEMBLE

Every student will be required to attend solo and/or ensemble festival. You may perform either a solo or an ensemble or both. Solo and Ensemble Festival will be on March 25 at North Oldham High School.

UNIFORMS

You will each be assigned a tuxedo or dress uniform that we will wear at most concerts during the year. You are responsible for proper care of this uniform. You will also need to supply your own black shoes and black socks (guys)/black hose (girls). Marching Band shoes can be used for guys.

INSTRUMENTS

Percussion equipment is supplied, but for this class you will be required to have you own pair of **concert** (not marching) snare sticks and a practice pad with you every day. If you do not have these already, they are available for purchase from the director or at any local music store. You must pay for supplies at the time of purchase. Make sure your name or initials are on your sticks so they don't get mixed up with other students. All other mallets, sticks will be provided.

You will be required to play all instruments (snare, mallets, timpani, and accessory) as a requirement for this class. You will also be responsible for taking care of and keeping track of school equipment used as part of you grade! The band has thousands of dollars invested in percussion equipment and it is each percussion student's responsibility to help take care of this equipment.

Having your sticks and practice pad will be part of your daily grade. Please make sure you have these with you every day!

PRIVATE LESSONS

All students should take private lessons! It is not required, but very strongly encouraged. A list of recommended teachers in the area is available on the band room door.

Taking private lessons is one of the best ways to ensure success on your instrument. Because there are a large number of students in the band class, class time will focus on group instruction. Private lessons can provide one on one instruction that will greatly benefit you in your instrument study. More students taking private lessons will also make our ensemble more successful. Please ask Mr. McAllister if you need more information or help in finding a private instructor.

STUDENT FEES

Fees should have been paid at registration with other school fees. This fee is used to pay for uniform, music, trips, instruments, supplies, and other necessary items for the band.

There may be additional fees collected throughout the year for audition and participation in All-District Band, All-State Band, UL Honor's Band, Solo and Ensemble and other "honors" type events.

FUND RAISING

It cost of lot of money to maintain a band program. Instruments, music, uniforms, trips etc. are all a large expenses. While some funding for these is provided by the school, a lot is provided through the Band Boosters. You will be asked to participate in several fundraisers throughout the year. Participation in these fundraisers is strongly encouraged and very important to the success of our band.

CLASS PROCEDURES

Entering the Band Room:

1. When the final bell rings, you should get out your instrument, music, and anything else you need for rehearsal and then take your seat.
2. You should spend the time before class starts warming-up your instrument and practicing parts you need to work on.
3. Class will begin 2 minutes after the final bell rings.

Leaving class/ restroom use:

1. Students should use the restroom before coming to class.
2. Using the restroom is not an excuse for being tardy.
3. Students should only leave class for emergency.
4. If you need to leave class, you must have a hall pass. Please sign the hall pass on the board at the front of the room and have it signed by Mr. McAllister.

End of class:

1. **Put away all music; store mallets, sticks, and accessories in the correct places; and cover all percussion instruments.**
2. Students should not enter the hallway until the bell rings. The door should remain shut until the bell rings.

Classroom environment:

1. No food or drink in the band room during the school day! Only exception is you are allowed to have a water bottle. Please deposit all food and drink in the trash can upon entering class.
2. No chewing gum ever in the band room!
3. Please put all trash in the trash can. Be responsible for cleaning up your area at the end of class each day.
4. Do not write on music stands!
5. Treat the band room with respect and help to keep it clean.

CLASS RULES

1. No talking when the director is talking! This is the most important class rule in developing an effective ensemble. With the large number of students in our class, we will not have effective rehearsals unless you cooperate with this rule.
2. Do not get out of your seat without permission.

3. Respect yourself and other people (including the director) in the room at all times. This includes instruments and other personal belongings. **Do not play an instrument that you do not play (such as percussion equipment).**
4. Homework or other class work is not to be done in this class. Even if the director is working with another section, you should be focused on something band related. You can use this time to finger/learn other music, etc.
5. Cell phones may be used for class designated purposes only such as using a tuner app. You may not have cell phones out for any other reason once the bell rings.
6. All school rules apply in this class.

DISCIPLINE PROCEDURES

If you repeatedly violate the above procedures and rules, the following discipline procedures will be used (different procedures for different circumstances):

1. Student Conference
2. Parent Phone Call
3. Office referral

This class is an elective. You should be in this class because you want to be in it. Your behavior should reflect that! Band is a team activity - we will only be successful as a group if everyone is on task and cooperates with all rules and directions!

ADDITIONAL PARENT INFORMATION

All band parents are invited to join the SOHS Band Boosters. This organization meets on the second Thursday of each month at 7:00 p.m. in the band room.

We will be asking for volunteers to help with various things throughout the year including fitting students for uniforms, making alterations of uniforms, and chaperoning events. If you are interested in helping with any of these activities please contact Mr. McAllister.

COMMUNICATION/WEBSITE

I will be using the app Remind to send out reminders and important information. Please see the attached handout and sign-up for Remind. Please note if you already signed for marching band Remind, you still need to do this sign up in order to receive updates for the concert ensembles.

You are also encouraged to use the website to check for schedule, forms, etc. at www.sohsband.com.

CHECKLIST FOR SUCCESS

Here is a proven plan for success as a music student:

1. A positive attitude, encouraging parents.
2. Good attendance at school and music rehearsals.
3. **Private Lessons!**
4. Own an intermediate/professional quality instrument by ninth grade.
5. Audition for All-District Band and All-State Band.
6. Play a solo and/or ensemble at festival each year.
7. Attend honors band clinics and summer music camps.
8. Practice 5 days a week, 20-40 minutes a day.
9. Own good recordings of artists performing on your instrument.
10. Attend band, orchestra, and professional soloist concerts.

PERCUSSION ENSEMBLE CALENDAR OF EVENTS

CONCERTS/PERFORMANCES (TENTATIVE)*

November 15	Concert - 7:00 p.m. Report at 6:00 p.m.	SOHS Auditorium
December 13	Holiday Concert - 7:00 p.m. Report at 6:00 p.m.	SOHS Auditorium
March 14 and 15	KMEA Festival Exact Date and Time TBA	M.L. Collins HS Shelbyville, Ky.
March 25	Solo and Ensemble Festival	North Oldham HS
May 23	Concert – 7 p.m. Report at 6:00 p.m.	SOHS Auditorium
June TBA	*SOHS Graduation Date and Time TBA	Location TBA

*You will be notified of exact dates for TBA events as soon as they are available

Rehearsals

Wednesday, November 9	4:00-5:00
Tuesday, December 6	4:00-5:00
Tuesday, February 28	4:00-5:00
Tuesday, March 7	4:00-5:00
Tuesday, May 16	4:00-5:00

All students are required to attend these rehearsals! Please plan in advance – ask off work, etc! Your grade will be lowered for each unexcused absence from a rehearsal. More importantly you are letting down your fellow band members who have made the effort to be there.

Auditions/Extra Activities

November 16	All-District Auditions/All-State Round 1 Auditions – 6:00 p.m.	Oldham County HS
December 10	All-State Auditions Round 2	John Hardin HS (Elizabethtown)
January 6-7	KMEA All-District Band	Location TBA
January TBA	UL Honor's Band	University of Louisville
February 8-11	KMEA All State Band	Galt House Hotel Louisville Louisville

Tentative Schedule for Pep Band Basketball Games

(Attend 4 – Report time for all games is 6:45 p.m., games start at 7:30 pm. unless otherwise noted)

Thursday, December 1	Boys vs. Shelby Co.
Friday, December 9	Boys vs. Grant Co.
Monday, January 9	Girls vs. Southern (Report 5:15 p.m., Game starts at 6:00 p.m.)
Tuesday, January 17	Girls vs. Grant Co.
Thursday, January 19	Girls vs. Trimble Co.
Tuesday, January 31	Boys vs. North Oldham
Tuesday, February 7	Boys vs. Eminence
Tuesday, February 14	Girls vs. Anderson Co.

***Check the google calendar on the website for updates – www.sohsband.com – click under schedule.**