**MHS Music Department – Band/Choir Syllabus 2019-20**Mitch DeGrace – Director 360-318-2263  
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**Goals:**

As a music department, our overarching goal is **superior** musicianship. There are many by-products and incentives involved once we start reaching this goal. Pep band and marching band performances, performance trips, more performance opportunities in the area, attending shows and concerts, music festivals. Our students are willing to work hard in order to be successful. Mr. DeGrace has structured this program to provide the foundation in which to build quality musicianship and to ultimately reach our goals.

**“THE TRIPOD OF SUPERIOR MUSICIANSHIP”**

Efficient rehearsals in class – to be superior, we must rehearse superior  
Individual practice – working alone to become better at your instrument and learn your music  
Private lessons or tutoring from teachers section leaders at school.

**Classroom Expectations**

* Listen and follow instructions when given.
* Be prompt to all events. This means arriving before an event to ensure proper set-up and pre-warm time.
* Be ready to play when the director/drum major steps on the podium.
* Bring all necessary materials each day (instrument, pencil, music, reeds, mouthpieces, sticks, etc).
* Respect yourself, others, and school property such as music and equipment.
* DO NOT touch items that don’t belong to you.
* No gum, food, or drink is allowed in the band room (water is okay).
* Raise your hand and wait to be acknowledged before speaking.
* Bring a POSITIVE ATTITUDE and desire to get better each day.

**ATTENDANCE EXPECTATIONS – PLEASE PLAN AND COMMUNICATE**

Attendance and punctuality is a vital key to the success of any ‘team’ related activity. It is understood that perfect attendance for an entire school year is not probable (it is possible though!) **With perfect attendance serving as a basic principle of successful operation**, the following attendance conflict policy will be used. It is meant to serve as protection for the integrity and quality of the group and its committed members.

**School Related Conflicts** — If you choose to participate in Band and another school activity (sports, cheer, clubs, etc.) the following priority list will serve as a starting point for working out a resolution to the conflict.

1. Judged Music Event/Festival

2. Post Season Event

3. Music Concert

4. Regular Season League or Non League Event

5. Music Rehearsal (our time is short!)

6. Athletic or Activity Practice

Please bring conflicts to the attention of both activity advisors ASAP so a reasonable resolution can be reached. An  
individual’s contribution to the group and the competitive significance of the event will aid in the resolution. Never solve conflicts by yourself.

**Work and other Non-School Related Conflicts** — These conflicts are generally UNEXCUSED absences. Points lost due to these absences may be made up in extreme cases with the approval of the director. Occasionally, extreme circumstances make it impossible for a student to participate in the extra- curricular activities, which are required of the band and its members. These situations may be worked out to allow the student to participate in the band during the day and performances. In this situation the student will be asked to do the makeup work comparable to the amount of time missed outside the school day**.**

**Grading**

**Classroom Participation – 35%  
Performance Participation – 35%  
Playing Tests / Singing Tests / Written Assignments – 30%**

**Classroom Participation:**The student is in attendance, punctual, prepared with materials, participating in a positive manner, and following instructions given by the instructor. 5 points will be awarded for each successful class period. Students who are tardy to class will receive a maximum of 3 of the daily points. As a **performance-based** class, rehearsals and rehearsal instruction cannot be made up. Absences (excused or unexcused) and tardies will affect your grade. When you are gone, you miss vital instruction that affects all members. Missing this class doesn’t only affect you; it affects *ALL* members in this ensemble. A student will not be considered absent if he/she is on a school-sponsored event which is being held during a regularly scheduled class meeting day, **provided that prior notice is given to instructor (prior notice does not mean the day before or immediately before....*but at least 5 days in advance).***

**Performance:**In music, it is imperative that all musicians are present for rehearsals and performances. When students are missing, they are not learning. Additionally, they are missing out on valuable information and performance experience. Worst of all, when parts are not being played and positions are not being filled, everyone from the students, to the athletes, to the community notices and it makes the ensemble look less than its best. **Performances and rehearsals are not an “extra”**; they are an integral part of a complete musical experience and education.

Everyone must understand that a band or choir is a **complete team effort** and performances are an integral part of the class activities. EVERYONE relies on EVERYONE else. All of our assessments are performance based, so each concert is considered a FINAL EXAM.

**Playing Tests / Singing Tests / Written Assignments:**Periodically the student will be asked to perform individual singing or playing tests and written assignments to monitor preparation, practice, and study. Forms are also required for participation in band/choir and many of our activities. These include Medical Forms, Permission Slips, Surveys, Parent/Student Code, etc. Those forms will be tracked and credit awarded.

**Practice:**The success of any musical ensemble is determined by the amount of individual practice happens outside of class. Every class has homework, this is certainly also true with band. In order to reach our musical goals as an ensemble, students must practice on their own. The time requirement is minimal. Students need to practice their **PRIMARY instrument or voice** for a minimum of 90 minutes per week. **Students must practice both on instrumental/vocal improvement and sheet music**.

Students are required to attend AT LEAST one T3 session per 2 week cycle. This time is best used as small ensemble or section work, but can also be used for individual practice.