

Wallenpaupack Area School District

Wallenpaupack Area High School

Course Title: Freshman Band/Chorus

Length of Course: Year-long

District Policies:

Academic Integrity:

Academic integrity is essential to the success of an educational community. Students are responsible for learning and upholding professional standards of research, writing, assessment, and ethics in their areas of study. Written or other work which students submit must be the product of their own efforts and must be consistent with appropriate standards of professional ethics. Academic dishonesty, which includes cheating, plagiarism, multiple submissions and other forms of dishonest or unethical behavior, is prohibited.

Assessment:

The goal of grading is to report student progress and achievement to the parents to strengthen the home-school connection. The grade should accurately reflect the student's performance in mastering the PA Standards and the WASD curriculum.

Attendance:

Regular school attendance is vitally important to academic success. Not only does attendance reinforce and enrich the learning process; it also establishes patterns and attitudes that will carry forward into adult work habits. Regular, consistent attendance is a prerequisite to successful school life. Children should be absent only in cases of illness or emergency.

Special Education:

Our commitment to each student is to ensure a free appropriate public education which begins with the general education setting, with the use of Supplementary Aids and Services. Inclusive education describes the successful education of all students with the appropriate supports and services to participate in and benefit from the general classroom settings and other educational environments.

Course Description:

This elective allows selected students to participate in both concert choir and freshman band. The music skills of these students must be well above average. Both the band and chorus instructor may request a demonstration of ability. Students in this classification must maintain a 90 average to continue in both performance groups.

Curricular requirements include attendance at selected rehearsals and performances, including summer band camp.

Summer Band Camp is a requirement for all band students. Students who do not fulfill this requirement will receive a "0" for the course and be removed from band.

Grading is based on 25 percent playing exams, 25 percent written work and 50 percent attendance/participation. All band members who fulfill their curricular requirements are eligible for participation in jazz ensemble, PMEA band festivals, collegiate honors bands and band trips.

Pennsylvania State Standards: All WAHS courses are aligned to the PA State Standards and Common Core Standards, where applicable.

Major Activities:

Units of study:

- 1. Marching Band literature/performance skills**
- 2. Winter Concert literature/performance skills**
- 3. Scales, etudes, and technique exercises**
- 4. Spring Concert literature/performance skills**

Student Responsibilities:

Extracurricular attendance:

All Freshman Band/Chorus students are expected to attend marching band rehearsals and performances, both inside and outside of the school day. A schedule of all required events, from summer rehearsals in August through to Memorial Day parades in May, will be distributed before students choose to schedule band.

Each student is allowed to miss TWO marching band events (rehearsals or performances) throughout the school year. Absences in excess of two are unexcused, and will affect the student's participation grade for that marking period. Absences due to illness (i.e. absent from school, or with a doctor's note), family emergency, or WAHS sports obligations, are always excused and do not count against the two.

Rehearsal Participation:

All Freshman Band/Chorus students are expected to have a working instrument. The school provides percussion, tubas, baritones, bari saxes, and bass clarinets only. Students are expected to be on time for rehearsals, to be prepared with all necessary materials (instrument, music, drill/coordinate sheets, pencils).

Homework Policy:

The primary homework assigned to Freshman Band/Chorus students is the continued practice of their instrument and assigned music. At this grade level, students should be practicing their instrument at home a *minimum* of 15 minutes a day, every day. In addition, there will be one writing assignment per marking period, assigned as homework.

Make-up work: Students are given one day for each day absent to make up work except in extenuating circumstances.

Late work: Five points are deducted each day from the final grade for each project that is turned in late unless specific arrangements are agreed upon with the teacher.

Assessment:

Grading components:

Grades for each marking period consist of:

- 1. Participation – students receive a grade for their satisfactory participation in each rehearsal and performance –
50 pts total***
- 2. Playing exam- students will perform an individual playing exam, based on the assigned repertoire for that marking period. Criteria include satisfactory demonstration of tone quality, technique, rhythm, articulation, and expression. –
25 pts total***
- 3. Writing assignment– students will complete a writing assignment (i.e. reflective paper, concert review, persuasive essay, research paper on music/composer being studied). Criteria include evidence of thoughtful preparation, accuracy of information.
25 pts total***

Content Pacing Guide:

Topic	Major Assignments	Estimated Time
MP 1: Marching Band literature / performance skills	MP 1 participation (summer rehearsals, curricular rehearsals, extracurricular performances)	12 weeks (includes August rehearsals, as well as all of MP 1)
	MP 1 playing exam	6 weeks (usually takes place in late September)
	MP 1 writing assignment	3 weeks (usually due in late October)
MP 2: Winter Concert literature/performance skills	MP 2 participation (curricular rehearsals, extracurricular performances)	9 weeks
	MP 2 playing exam	6 weeks (usually takes place in early December)
	MP 2 writing assignment	2 weeks (usually due in late December)
MP 3: Scales, Etudes, and Technique Exercises	MP 3 participation (curricular rehearsals only)	9 weeks
	MP 3 playing exam	6 weeks (usually takes place in mid March)
	MP 3 writing assignment	3 weeks (usually due in early April)
MP 4: Spring Concert literature/performance skills	MP 4 participation (curricular rehearsals, extracurricular performances)	9 weeks
	MP 4 playing exam	6 weeks (usually takes place in mid May)
	MP 4 writing assignment	2 weeks (usually due in early June)