

**Northwest Guilford High School Band**  
**Percussion Ensemble Course Syllabus**  
**Brian McMath, Director**  
**Drew Brooks, Assistant Director**

**Mission:**

The Northwest Guilford High School Band exists to:

Help students develop musical skills such as a precise sense of rhythm, proper tone production, and an accurate sense of tuning, proper response to conductor, and a fundamental understanding of music theory and sight-reading.

To expose the student to a variety of musical styles order to develop tastes and appreciate for those styles

To expose students to advanced band literature

To cultivate in each student an enjoyment of performing which will in turn produce a self-motivation on their part of the student to work and learn in rehearsals

To provide opportunities which prepare students for collegiate level literature

**Expectations:**

Students will perform academically in taking written tests and playing tests. Written tests will be announced. Playing tests will be announced and unannounced and due through Canvas or in person.

Conduct guidelines, which must be followed:

1. Follow all directions
2. Raise your hand to be recognized to talk
3. No Food, Candy, or Drink is allowed in the band room
4. No homework or class work from other classes is to be done during band class
5. Respect our facility and all equipment in it
6. Respect each other
7. Be on time to all events
8. Electronic devices are not allowed in class. These will be taken on sight and turned into the office. A parent must retrieve item from office after 24 hours has passed
9. All Northwest and Guilford County School rules apply

**Contact Information:**

The most efficient way to reach me is through my school email address: [brooksa4@gcsnc.com](mailto:brooksa4@gcsnc.com)  
School phone number is 605-3300 ext. 20696

### **Grading:**

The grading policies for band classes are as follows:

The student will receive 20 points per day of school. Five days a week equals a grade of 100 for that given week. Students are required to have daily materials (instruments, music, sticks, mallets, pencils, folders, etc) and participate in class.

Participation is the main objective in this course. If you come to class without an instrument, reed, mouthpiece or sticks, 15 points will be deducted from your daily grade. Students will copy out of the Harvard Dictionary of Music for each offense.

Points are deducted for not having materials and especially for the disruption of class. Talking to others during rehearsal is the largest challenge. Class size is usually over 50 students, so any form of talking is a distraction.

**CONCERTS ARE GRADED EVENTS!!!!!!** If a student does not show up for a concert, then **50 points will be deducted for their final 9 week grade.** ALL concerts are considered exams. Students must show up **ON TIME** and **DRESSED APPROPRIATELY** or they may not be allowed to perform and will suffer the same point deduction consequence.

### **Extra-Credit Options:**

1. Take private lessons (documentation from teacher is required)
2. Audition for All-County, All-District
3. Selection for the bands named above
4. Attend other arts performances (chorus, drama, orchestra, etc.)  
\*program from performance required\*

### **Tutorial Times:**

My tutorial times vary throughout the week or see Mr. McMath during ***WIN*** but will be announced and students are welcome to have private lessons or small group rehearsals.

### **Private Teachers:**

It is recommended that all students seek private lessons. These lessons will count as extra credit points toward their overall band grade and will be of benefit in developing your musical ability. To perform within the top ensemble here at Northwest, is very competitive. We have a set instrumentation within this ensemble. Taking private lessons are needed to be placed within this ensemble, not to mention in preparation for All-County, All-District and All-State Band.

A good private teacher is perhaps one of the most valuable investments a parent can make for a child. Band directors are trained in the instruction of every orchestral instrument, but that knowledge cannot compare to that of a professional musician who makes a living playing one instrument. The entire idea can be linked to specialists in the medical profession.

Private teachers are excellent for the serious music student who wished to grow faster, or for the average student who is having isolated problems which would benefit from the knowledge of a specialist. These private lessons help the student gain more confidence and move to the higher levels of the band program faster. Students are chosen for the higher performing ensembles due to their skill on a given instrument and participation in music outside of the classroom.

**Tardy Policy:**

***Begins Tuesday, Sept. 7th***

**1st Accrued Tardy**

Teacher Issued Warning

**2nd Accrued Tardy**

Teacher Issued Warning

**3rd Accrued Tardy**

Teacher assigned WIN Detention / Parent Contact

**4th Accrued Tardy**

Teacher assigned WIN Detention / Parent Contact

**5<sup>th</sup>+ Accrued Tardy**

Admin Referral and ISS All Day

**Daily Procedure:**

The following is the daily class / rehearsal procedure for all Northwest Bands:

- Band classes / rehearsal begin each day with students arriving on time; prepared for class with music, mouthpiece, reeds, sticks, mallets, pencil and instrument
- Students should be in their assigned seat after the tardy bell rings
- Students will warm-up properly on their own
- NO ONE is to talk or leave his / her seat during class without permission
- Students will return all instruments and equipment to the proper storage areas
- ALL CASES will be latched and placed ON SHELVES in assigned locations
- Students are to keep the band room and storage areas clean and neat at all times.
- Trash containers are provided throughout the band room
- If in doubt: PICK IT UP, PUT IT UP and STRAIGHTEN IT UP!!!!

### **Class Participation Policy:**

All students are expected to be playing in band class each day. Class participation is vital to your quarter grade. Below are the “top-four” excuses I hear for not playing in band class. Each excuse is followed by my policy on the subject.

1. **Braces** – Many students have braces and I realize that these can sometimes be painful, especially when the orthodontist tightens your appliances in the morning and you have band in the afternoon. I will work with you on this as long as I do not feel that you are taking advantage of the situation. Follow your doctor’s instructions, but I will need a note from the doctor once an appointment has finished.
2. **‘I Forgot My Horn’** – This comment will allow you to copy out of a musical theory / dictionary book for the entire class period and receive 15 points off your grade for the day. Anything that keeps you from playing, no reeds, mouthpieces, etc has the same consequences. Then you will take the assignment you’ve completed for the day and have your parents sign it that evening and return to me the following day.
3. **‘My horn is in the shop’** – If your instrument is in need of repairs, you **must** bring a note from the shop with the date taken, the work requested, the estimated pick-up date, and a shop phone number where I can confirm the repair. Students will be allowed two days without penalty for shop repairs. If the repair lingers, I will handle on an individual basis. If the repair runs close to a performance, then the student may be removed from the concert due to a lack of rehearsal time with the ensemble. Make up work will be given and a possible concert jury performance may be in order.
4. **‘I don’t feel good’** – In general, if you are well enough to be at school, you are well enough to participate. However, I realize that sometimes this is not the case. All incidents of this nature will be handled on an individual basis.

### **Class Supplies:**

The following is a list of required class materials for students in the Northwest Percussion Ensemble. In general, everything you need to play your instrument.

- Binder with Sheet Protectors
- Pencil and Paper
- Manuscript Paper
- 1 pair concert snare sticks
- 2 pair of medium yarn marimba mallets
- 1 pair of rubber xylophone mallets
- 1 pair timpani mallets
- Pitch pipe
- Practice Pad / Stand with name written in Sharpie
- Stick / Mallet Bag with name written in Sharpie

## Concert Attire

**Percussion Ensemble** students will have 2 different uniform options:

**#1** - Black DRESS shoes: close-toed (NO sneakers, clogs, sandals, flip-flops, boots or platforms allowed), LONG black socks, black DRESS pants (no jeans are allowed) and black belt. White LONG sleeve dress shirt (no polo's) AND tie. Hair color must be a natural color for all performances given and out of performers face.

**#2** – SOLID black outfit. Black dress shoes: close-toed (no sneakers, clogs, sandals, flip-flops, boots or platforms allowed), black dress pants / slacks ONLY. **(No skirts, jeggings, yoga pants or jeans allowed)** A black top, which can be long sleeve or short sleeve, neck line must be CONSERVATIVE. NO sleeveless tops allowed. Jewelry must be kept at a minimum (better if none is worn). Hair color must be a natural color for all performances given and out of performers face.

**ABSOLUTELY NO NAVY clothing may be substituted. NO athletic, tennis or cross training shoes, hiking or climbing boots are allowed. No jeans (of any color) will be allowed. Points will be deducted from grade if dress is not appropriate.**

**Students who do not follow the guidelines for correct concert attire may NOT be allowed to perform with the ensemble and thus will not satisfy the performance component of their grade**

**Advanced Placement:**

At the end of the school year, students will be given a final exam that will determine their placement in the NWGHS band program for the following school year. Students will either remain in beginning Percussion/Concert Band, or advance into Symphonic Band or Wind Ensemble depending on final exam scores and the instrumentation needs for the advanced ensembles.

**Requirements for Advanced Placement****Symphonic Band**

Students will need to meet and demonstrate the following standards to be **CONSIDERED** for advanced placement into the NGWHS Symphonic Band:

- Consistently demonstrate proper rehearsal etiquette and preparation
- Play all 12 major scales with arpeggios at a minimum tempo of 100 bpm
- Recognize and play all 40 essential rudiments
- Sight read grade 4 percussion repertoire on snare and mallets
- Be able to match pitch and properly tune timpani
- Audition for All-County Band
- Pass final exam with a grade of 80 or higher

**Wind Ensemble**

Students will need to meet and demonstrate the following standards to be **CONSIDERED** for advanced placement in the NWGHS Wind Ensemble:

- Consistently demonstrate proper rehearsal etiquette and preparation
- Play all 12 major and natural minor scales with arpeggios at a minimum tempo of 120 bpm
- Recognize and play all 40 essential rudiments
- Demonstrate and play with proper 4 mallet technique (Steven's grip)
- Sight read grade 5 percussion repertoire on snare and mallets
- Be able to match pitch and properly tune timpani
- Audition for All-County Band and All-District Band
- Pass final exam with a grade of 90 or higher

\*Final selection into an advanced ensemble is left up to the discretion of Mr. McMath and Mr. Brooks, and is not limited to the requirements listed above. We look forward to teaching you this year!

### **Concert Performance Dates**

***Required Rehearsal – Wednesday, December 14<sup>th</sup> 4:30 – 6:00 pm***

Holiday Concert – Thursday, December 15<sup>th</sup> 7:00 pm

***Required Rehearsal – Wednesday, March 8<sup>th</sup>, 4:30 – 6:00 pm***

MPA Concert – Thursday, March 9<sup>th</sup> 7:00 pm

***Required Rehearsal – Wednesday, May 24<sup>th</sup>, 4:30 – 6:00 pm***

Spring Concert – Thursday, May 25<sup>th</sup> 6:30 pm

Graduation – June 6<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup>? – TBA (Greensboro Coliseum)

***\*Required Audition Dates for Proficient Level\**** - (you provide your own transportation)

Tuesday, November 1<sup>st</sup> – All County Auditions – Western Guilford HS - free

Mon-Tues, November 28<sup>th</sup> – 29<sup>th</sup> – All County Clinic – Smith HS

Saturday, January 7<sup>th</sup> – All District Auditions – Orange High School - \$8.00

Saturday, January 14<sup>th</sup> – All District Auditions Snow Date – Orange HS

Friday, January 27<sup>th</sup> – 28<sup>th</sup> – All District Clinic @ NC School Science & Math

### **Optional Audition Dates -**

February – UNCG – Honors Band via mp3

**Make sure your child AND yourself has Downloaded the ‘Band App’ onto your phone, created an account and searched *NWG Concert Band*. Request to join and answer Security Questions. This is how ALL information is disseminated throughout the year.**



Please check the band website [www.nwvikingband.org](http://www.nwvikingband.org) for ALL important information: Charms, Dates are located under the calendar drop menu. All-County, All-District, All-State Auditions and clinics are listed within the calendar as well.

**My child and I have received a syllabus for the Percussion Ensemble at Northwest Guilford High School. We understand and AGREE to the guidelines and expectations of this course. Both parties sign and return to Mr. McMath**

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**(Student Name Printed)** **Date**

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**(Student Signature)** **Date**

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**(Parent Name Printed)** **Date**

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**(Parent Signature)** **Date**

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**(Parent email address)** **(Parent Phone #)**