

# Percussion Ensemble Syllabus

Advanced Band

2018-2019



## Instructor Information

### Instructor

Mr. Luke Walker

### Email

Luke.Walker@vbschool.com

### Office Location & Hours

109, Mondays, 11:50-12:40

## General Information

### Course Description

This course gives students the opportunity to develop high standards of musicianship. Emphasis is placed on artistic performance commensurate with advanced performance literature. Students become acquainted with the great heritage of symphonic literature. After-school rehearsals and performances are required of all students. Membership is based on ability, interest, and experience and requires the director's approval. Content in this course changes annually; therefore, this course may be repeated.

The standards for High School Instrumental Music, Advanced Level, enable students to acquire more advanced technical and expressive skills and demonstrate a mature level of musicianship. Percussion students become more proficient in the use of mallet instruments, timpani, and auxiliary instruments. Through playing, improvising, and writing, students create expressive rhythmic and melodic variations. Students research career options in music. They perform music at Solo Literature Grade Levels 4 and 5 of the Virginia Band and Orchestra Directors Association (VBODA). Students discuss and evaluate characteristics of personal performances and compositions, as well as the works of others. They discuss relationships between musical concepts and the concepts of other disciplines, and they are involved in exploring various cultures, styles, composers, and historical periods. Students are provided with opportunities to participate in local, district, regional, and state events.

## Course Materials

### Class Materials

- 1.5" binder with sheet protectors for music
- Chromatic tuner (not a guitar tuner or tuning application)
- Percussion Only
  - Pair of concert snare sticks (SD1s)
  - Stick bag
  - Practice Pad

### Concert Attire

Students are required to own the items listed below. Attire requirements not only make the ensemble look uniform, it is a criteria we are assessed on at VBODA Concert Band Assessment. Items are not provided by the school. Appropriate concert attire is a part of the students' concert grade. All music classes at FCHS use the same concert attire.

- Gentlemen
  - White tuxedo shirt, black tuxedo pants, black tuxedo jacket, black tie & cummerbund, black socks, black dress shoes
- Ladies
  - Black dress (“Laurel” model from Southeastern Apparel), black dress shoes (closed toe)

## **Course Expectations & Procedures**

In this course, you are expected to learn **MUSIC**.

**M**aintain a positive attitude and participate in class activities.

**U**nderstand practice is required and essential to your success.

**S**how respect for all instruments, people & materials in the classroom.

**I**nterruptions & rudeness are not tolerated. Raise hand before speaking.

**C**ome to class on time, ready to learn & with all of your necessary materials.

## **FCHS Cell Phone Policy**

All cell phones are to be placed in the class phone holder or shut off and placed in a book bag for the duration of the block. If a student chooses to keep their phone in their possession and takes it out during instructional time a referral will be submitted for ISS for defiance. With every student having their own issued device, there is no instructional need for cell phones. Students will be assigned a number that corresponds to a numbered slot in the cell phone holder. Students will place their devices in the holder at the beginning of the block and will pick them up at the end of the block.

## **Seating / Part Assignments**

Percussion parts for ensemble pieces will be based on director recommendation/auditions. Students will be assigned to perform with both the Concert Band and Wind Ensemble based on the need of each ensemble & the abilities of the percussionist. Parts will be assigned at the beginning of each concert unit.

## **Virtual Learning Days (October 8th and November 6th)**

Students will be provided lessons in advance of the designated Virtual Learning Days which mirror learning experiences that would take place during the traditional school day. Students will complete the work using either technology or a paper/pencil method. Assignments may be completed on the Virtual Learning Day or within a designated 10-day window. In addition, virtual office hours will be provided during each Virtual Learning Day to allow students to ask questions and receive help on assignments.

## FCHS Grading Policies

### 1. Grade Calculation

All teachers at First Colonial High School use the Total Points method for calculating grades. More important assignments are "weighted" more heavily simply by carrying more points. For example a homework assignment may be worth 10 or 25 points, where a test may be worth 100 or 200 points. To calculate the grade one would add all of the points that were earned, then add all the points that were offered. The earned points gets divided by the offered points and that total is multiplied by 100 to get the overall grade. See example below:

<b>Assessment</b>	<b>Points Earned</b>	<b>Points Possible</b>
<i>Homework 1</i>	5	10
<i>Homework 2</i>	0	10
<i>Quiz 1</i>	40	50
<i>Homework 3</i>	9	15
<i>Homework 4</i>	4	10
<i>Quiz 2</i>	42	50
<i>Test 1</i>	75	100
<i>Homework 5</i>	10	10
<i>Homework 6</i>	8	15
<i>Project 1</i>	60	75
<i>Test 2</i>	80	100
<b>Total</b>	<b>333</b>	<b>445</b>
<b>Quarter grade</b>	<b>333/445</b>	<b>74.8%</b>

In this example, the student earned 333 points out of a possible 445, thus earning a 74.8% (grade of C).

### 2. Homework

The accumulative grade of all homework will not exceed 10% of the overall grade.

### 3. Late Work

Late work will be accepted, with a penalty of 10% accrued each class period the work is late up to 40%, if the assignment is turned in during the current unit of study. Academic detention will be assigned for missing assignments. Students will be required to complete the missing assignment during academic detention. Students are not required to attend the detention, if the assignment is turned in prior to serving the detention.

### 4. Zeros

Every effort will be made to hold students accountable for completing missed assignments before assigning a zero. Work not submitted on time will result in a "MI" missing grade, equating to a zero. If work is submitted prior to the end of the unit of study, the late work policy will apply.

### 5. Reassessments/Retakes

Reassessment opportunities for summative assessments will be given to any student who has completed all formative assessments for the unit of study. The following conditions to reassess may apply:

- a. All formative assessments for the unit of study are completed prior to the date of the summative assessment.
- b. All assignments are turned in for the unit of study (no missing work).

All reassessments must be completed by the end of the nine-week grading period.

## **6. Make-up Work**

Make-up work will be provided for excused absences. Full-credit will be given for an excused absence. It is the responsibility of the student to acquire missing work. Assignments will be given an “MI” until the work is turned in and graded. Make-up work must be completed within the current unit of study.

Make-up work for unexcused/unverified (UNV) absences will be allowed at the teacher’s discretion. The late work policy may apply to make-up work for unexcused/unverified absences.

## **7. Extra Credit**

Extra credit shall be used sparingly and purposefully as an opportunity for further learning. Teachers will clearly articulate to students how an extra credit assignment is aligned to curricular objectives. Extra credit shall be related to the current topic of study, fairly available and accessible and require the use of only those resources known to be available to all students. Extra credit will not be used for non-learning activities.

## **8. Schoology / Google Classroom**

In years past, all teachers at FCHS have used Google Classroom as an online tool to share assignments & assessments. Beginning this year, we will be transitioning to Schoology, an online platform that has many of the same features as Google Classroom, but also provides many other useful tools not available in Google Classroom.

## **Attendance Policy**

In general, each rehearsal & performance is considered mandatory. From time to time, special events will arise & are usually considered optional (i.e. visiting brass ensemble or soloist concert). Being a team activity, it is critical for each member to be present for not only their benefit, but for the benefit & success of the ensemble. Practice is when you learn your part, rehearsal is when the ensemble learns each other’s’ parts.

### **Conflicts with Band**

Resolving conflicts with mandatory band rehearsals/concerts and other activities or events is the responsibility of the student. Students are encouraged to participate in other clubs & activities, but should keep in mind that band activities are curricular & take precedence over extra-curricular activities. Skipping a band activity for an unexcused reason will result in the student receiving a “0” for that event. Students that miss a dress rehearsal for an unexcused reason will not be allowed to perform at the concert. All conflicts with performances must be resolved in favor of band participation. Work, clubs, sports events, homework, and extra-curricular activities are not considered excused absences for missing any mandatory band activity.

### **Excused Absences**

According to the VBCPS absence policy, a legitimate excuse for absence is personal illness, illness or death in the family, exposure to contagious disease, religious holidays, or extremely inclement weather. For illness related absences, a doctor’s note is required for the absence to be excused. In the event of religious holidays, advanced notification of at least 2 weeks will be required for the absence to be excused & for proper measures to be taken to ensure the success of the ensemble. Students that miss a mandatory band event with an excused absence will have the opportunity to complete an alternative assignment to replace the grade for the missed activity. All alternative assignments will be due prior to the end of the unit of study. Alternative assignments are composed of 2 portions, a written concert reflection (must attend an approved concert) & the performance of all concert literature for the director.

## Unexcused Absences

Students that miss a mandatory band event with an unexcused absence will receive no credit for the event. Students that miss a mandatory dress rehearsal will not be allowed to perform at the accompanying concert.

## Course Schedule

Being a performance-based course, students enrolled in band classes are required to attend & perform in multiple concerts during the year. Leading up to each concert, after-school rehearsals (graded) are held to combine wind & percussion students. A dress rehearsal will be held during the week prior to each concert, which is mandatory (graded) for all students. Students that are unexcused/absent from the dress rehearsal will not be allowed to perform at the concert. Students are required to arrive at the given call time before each concert actually begins. Specific call times are given out at least one week in advance of the concert & are typically 30-60 minutes before the actual concert begins.

October 8	4-8pm	SRO Auditions (Optional)
November 9-10	Full Day	SRO Event (If eligible)
November 27	2:30-4:30pm	Full Band Rehearsal (Wind Ensemble)
November 29	2:30-4:30pm	Full Band Rehearsal (Concert Band)
<b>December 5</b>	<b>2:30-4:30pm</b>	<b>Winter Concert Dress Rehearsal</b>
<b>December 6</b>	<b>7pm</b>	<b>Winter Concert</b>
December 8	8am-3pm	District Band Auditions*
January 12	9am-1pm	Assessment Preparation Camp (Wind Ensemble)
January 31-February 1	Full Day	VBODA District 2 Honor Band Event (If eligible)*
February 5	2:30-4:30pm	Full Band Rehearsal (Wind Ensemble)
<b>February 11</b>	<b>2:30-4:30pm</b>	<b>Pre-Assessment Dress Rehearsal (Wind Ensemble)</b>
<b>February 12</b>	<b>6-8pm</b>	<b>Pre-Assessment Workshop Clinic (Wind Ensemble)</b>
February 22-23	Full Day	All-Virginia Band Auditions (If eligible)
February 26	2:30-4:30pm	Full Band Rehearsal (Wind Ensemble)
March 5	2:30-4:30pm	Full Band Rehearsal (Wind Ensemble)
<b>March 8-9</b>	<b>Full Day (TBA)**</b>	<b>VBODA Concert Band Assessment(Wind Ensemble)</b>
April 4-6	Full Day	All-Virginia Band (If eligible)
April 30	2:30-4:30pm	Full Band (Wind Ensemble)
May 2	2:30-4:30pm	Full Band Rehearsal (Concert Band)
<b>May 8</b>	<b>2:30-4:30pm</b>	<b>Spring Concert Dress Rehearsal</b>
<b>May 9</b>	<b>7pm</b>	<b>Spring Concert</b>
<b>June 13</b>	<b>12-8:30pm</b>	<b>Graduation Rehearsal &amp; Event</b>

\*If the student makes the ensemble, the student is required to attend the event. Depending on placement, the student may qualify to audition for All-Virginia Band. If the student accepts the audition (decision made during District Band event), they are required to attend the All-Virginia Band event should they make the ensemble.

\*\*Specific performance date/time is assigned by VBODA & is released in February 2019.

## Miscellaneous

### CHARMS

Charms is an online platform we use for monthly newsletters, inventory, volunteers, band calendar, and many other things. Each student will receive a CHARMS account the first week of school.

### First Colonial Band Boosters

The FCBB is the parent organization that supports all of our curricular and extracurricular ensembles. FCBB meets monthly and all parents are encouraged to attend to support our program.

### **Website**

The band website, [www.fcband.org](http://www.fcband.org) , is where most important information can be found regarding the program. The website is a supplemental resource for all information distributed in class.

### **SmartMusic**

SmartMusic is the online platform we use for practice assignments and playing assessments. Students may take each assignment or assessment as many times as desired up until the end of each unit. . Each student will be given a SmartMusic account during the first week of school.

# CONTRACT OF UNDERSTANDING

I understand and agree to abide by the First Colonial High School Percussion Ensemble Syllabus for the 2018-2019 school year. I understand I am responsible for attending all scheduled rehearsals and performances during the school year that will be included as a part of my total grade. I understand that I could be assigned to perform with either the Wind Ensemble or Concert Band and that I am required to attend all of the rehearsals specific to each ensemble. I understand that I am not required to audition for the VBODA 2 District Band, but am required to attend the event if selected. I understand that if I do not sign and return this form I may be eligible to be removed from the course.

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Student's Printed Name

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Student's Signature

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Date

I understand and agree to abide by the First Colonial High School Percussion Ensemble Syllabus for the 2018-2019 school year. I understand that my child is responsible for attending all scheduled performances during the school year that will be included as part of my child's total grade. I understand that my child could be assigned to perform with either the Wind Ensemble or Concert Band and that my child is required to attend all of the rehearsals specific to each ensemble. I understand that my child is not required to audition for the VBODA 2 District Band, but is required to attend the event if selected. I understand that if I do not sign and return this form my child may be eligible to be removed from the course.

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Parent's/Guardian's Printed Name

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Parent's/Guardian's Signature

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Date

**PLEASE RETURN THIS FORM NO LATER THAN FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 7<sup>TH</sup>.**