Hempstead High School Bobcat Band Syllabus 2026-2027

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Course Description and Objective

The High School Band is a large musical ensemble that consists of any 9th through 12th grade student that wishes to pursue the art of music through the playing of a woodwind, brass, or percussion instrument. It is designed to give students a wide variety of musical experience at a high level. Marching band, concert band, region auditions, solo & ensemble groups, and jazz club will be offered throughout the year. Students will receive instruction in fundamental music principles, performance and practice techniques, and individual playing skills as well as instruction in life skills including communication, professional demeanor, time management, and discipline. This instruction will be accomplished by exposing students to a variety of music literature through small and large ensemble playing as well as competitions, contests, and teamwork building activities.

Required Materials

1. **A clean instrument in proper working condition. Cleaning supplies are available in the band hall at the cleaning station, as are reeds, but are limited in supplies.**
    a. Students using a school owned instrument must tell one of the band directors when something is not working or broke
    b. Students using a personal instrument are responsible for getting it repaired on their own (we recommend the String and Horn Shop in Brenham, TX)
2. **A music folder (provided) which will contain:**
    a. All assigned music (provided)
    b. Pencils
3. **A flip folder (provided) which will contain:**
    a. Show Music, Warm-ups, Stand Tunes (list on Google classroom)
4. **Performance Attire:**
    a. Marching Season- marching band shoes, band shirt, band shorts, and long black socks. Uniform provided.
    b. Concert Season- solid black school appropriate clothes (dress pants, button up shirt, formal skirt, or formal dress), solid black shoes (no visible coloring), and black socks.

Band Rehearsals & Classroom Policies

1. All school handbook rules and Bobcat Band Handbook rules will apply to this classroom.
2. Morning rehearsals start at 7am EVERY SCHOOL DAY unless otherwise communicated via email. ***7am rehearsals start on the 2nd day of school!***
    a. Students are expected to be ***ON THE PRACTICE FIELD AT 7AM*** during marching season, unexcused tardiness will result in points being deducted from daily grades.
    b. Students are expected to be ***IN THEIR SEAT AT 7AM*** during UIL concert season, unexcused tardiness will result in points being deducted from daily grades.

3. Attendance: Students are expected to fulfill attendance obligations for the following Band events that occur outside of classroom time:

- All football games (test grade)
- ALL Monday night rehearsals 6-8pm (quiz grade)
- Sectionals 2-3 times a month (quiz grades)
- ALL Parades - Homecoming, Festival of Lights, and MLK (test grades)
- ALL Marching Contests including;
    - Blinn marching contest (test grade)
    - UIL marching contest (test grade)
- Concert & Sight-Reading (FINAL exam grade)
- Winter & Spring Concerts (test grades)
- Students should realize that their individual part plays a HUGE role in the overall sound and presentation of the band. When attendance obligations are not met, it affects everyone on many different levels. Attendance grading is described under the Performance Attendance Policy.

4. Everyone will respect the rights of others, including personal feelings, space and instruments.
5. **Only water** is allowed in the band hall at any time, no gum, candy, & mints.
6. No one will be allowed to leave rehearsals without a valid pass.

Performance Attendance Policy

Being in a performing ensemble requires participation elements that most other classes do not have. Teamwork, dedication, dependability, and being linked to each other as part of a whole, are essential skills employers look for. **Concerts are who we are, they are what we do for other people, and are the culmination of weeks of hard work and preparation.** Therefore, we consider all performances mandatory and part of the grading process. Missed performances cannot be made up like a test or quiz. There is no way to re-create that exact same artistic opportunity. Missed performances can be cause for removal from the band program.

An EXCUSED absence must meet the following criteria:

1). Family death.
2). Family emergency (car accident, someone taken to hospital, etc.).
3). Sickness as excused by school policy (if you are well enough to be in school, you are well enough to be at a concert, rehearsal, etc.).

An UNEXCUSED absence includes, but not limited to:

1) No call no show.
2) Student work schedule.
3) Events scheduled AFTER band events have been scheduled.
4) The student is in school, but skips performance.
5)

Life happens, and conflicts arise. Therefore, **each circumstance, both excused and unexcused,** will be discussed individually with the student, Mrs. Leach.

Grading

Students will be graded on a point system for various activities throughout the year.

Activity	Weight
Morning, Afternoon, & Evening Rehearsals	10%
Playing Assessments	15%
Practice Assignments	5%
Written Reflections	5%
Performances	30%
Final Exam (UIL C&SR)	40%

- Morning, Afternoon, & Evening Rehearsals include weekday 7am rehearsals, Monday night rehearsals, sectionals, and any other rehearsals called by Mrs. Leach. Please check the calendar for rehearsal dates on the back.

- Playing assessments may include marching band sets, scales, method book exercises, growth assessments, or sections of music.

- Practice assignments are given individually based on individual growth and ability.

- Performances include ALL football games, school concerts, marching contests, pep rallies

- The final exam is UIL Concert & Sight-Reading on April 7th

Makeup and Late Work Policy

Late work for "homework" such as rehearsals, playing assessments, practice assignments, and other assignments are accepted until the date of the performance the work was assigned for. Make ups for performances, playing quizzes, etc., must be made up within 2 weeks of the missed performance or due date. Students must speak with Mrs. Leach outside of class time to determine make-up assignments. Full credit for an EXCUSED absence may be given to students who complete the makeup process. Full credit will NOT be able to be recovered for an UNEXCUSED absence. However, partial credit may be recovered.

It is assumed that any student who is enrolled into High School Band, due to the nature of the class, is fully aware of, and agrees to the policies and procedures set forth in the syllabus.

PLEASE TURN AROUND FOR THE Rehearsal, Sectional, & Event Calendar!!

Evening Practice Calendar 6-8pm

1st semester
August 24th
August 31st
September 14th
September 21st
September 28th
October 5th
October 12th
October 19th
***October 20th* (Tuesday)**
October 26th
November 2nd
November 9th
November 16th
November 30th

2nd Semester
January 11th
January 25th
February 1st
February 8th
February 15th
February 22nd
March 9th
March 16th (Tuesday)
March 22nd Rehearsal at Blinn
March 29th
April 5th

***This is the day before Marching Contest on a Tuesday, students will vote on rehearsal time)**

Sectional Calendar

sectionals will be once a week during the following weeks. Each section will meet at a different time based on individual schedules and will be posted on the goggle classroom

1st semester
August 31st - September 3rd
September 14th - 17th
September 21st - 24th
October 5th - 8th
October 12th -15th

2nd Semester
January 11th -14th
January 25th - 28th
February 1st - 4th
February 15th - 18th
March 9th - 4th
March 22nd - 25th
March 29th - April 1st