



Mona Shores High School Bands

Course Syllabi



Overview:

Welcome to the Mona Shores Band program. Our concert, jazz and marching bands have established a tradition of excellence lasting over four decades. Our primary mission is to strengthen each student's appreciation, understanding and performance of music through experience on a wind or percussion instrument.

Grading Policy:

The grading policy for the Mona Shores band is the same one that is used for both the choir and orchestra programs. Students begin each new term with a total of 100 points, and final grades are awarded using the following scale:

A	93-100	C	73-77
A-	90-92	C-	70-72
B+	88-89	D+	68-69
B	83-87	D	63-67
B-	80-82	D-	60-62
C+	78-79	F	59 and below

In terms where a final exam is given, 80% of the final grade will be based on the term grade, 20% will be based on the final exam. During marching season, playing off of all marching band music constitutes the final exam grade.

Deductions of points (per infraction) will occur in the following situations:

Tardy to a rehearsal	-2
Tardy to a performance	-4
Unexcused Class Absence	-4
Excused Class Absences in excess of 7 times within a term	-2
Unprepared for Class (no instrument, pencil, music, dot book, etc.)	-2
Inappropriate Behavior	-2
Class Disruption	
Disrespect towards staff or other students	
Having food, gum, cell phones or other prohibited items	
Lack of effort	-2
Late turning in forms/equipment/uniforms (per day)	-1
Violating uniform guidelines (uniform requirements vary by season)	-6
Unexcused absence to a rehearsal outside of school day	-10
See below for guidelines for what constitutes an excused absence	
Unexcused absence to a performance	-20
Inappropriate concert behavior	-50

Gaining of Points (capped at 15 points per term):

Participation in extra, non-paying performances (director approved)	Variable
Participation in Solo and Ensemble (with rating of II or higher)	+10
Other volunteer service at discretion of director	Variable
Attendance of other concerts/performances	+5

Students must have a one page typed report along with the program and ticket attached. The concert must be a style other than most popular concert venues, and must be approved by your director in advance.

No student may make up points for an unexcused absence to a performance.

Attendance:

Attendance is the MINIMUM level of expectation to receive a favorable grade. Band (and any ensemble music making) is an experiential art form, meaning one must actually be present as part of the ensemble to experience it. For this reason, performance and rehearsal are vital to the curriculum, and unexcused absences are very detrimental not only to the band program, but to an individual student's grade in the course. Few things outside of a family emergency or significant illness on the part of the student constitute an excused absence. In order for an absence to be excused, the following steps must be taken:

1. **At least TWO (2) weeks ahead of time**, an absence excuse form must be filled out completely, signed by the parent and student, and turned into your ensemble director. Absence excuse forms are available from Mr. Boyden.
2. Directors will return a signed copy indicating if the absence has been approved along with any necessary make-up work to students.
3. **Absences are excused only at the discretion of the director.**
4. **Make-up work will be assigned for EXCUSED ABSENCES ONLY** (unexcused absences will count against one's grade with no opportunity for make-up work). All make-up work must be completed by the date specified on the make-up work assignment, and at the very latest, the last day of the term in which the absence occurred. **No late work will be accepted.** The student's grade will reflect the missed performance/rehearsal until the make-up work is turned in.
5. Please know in advance that **work conflicts will never be considered** an excused absence. Also, due to the number of students in the band, we cannot excuse family events or conflicts caused by vacations.
6. Resolutions for conflicts due to **MONA SHORES HS SPORTS OR CO-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES** will be negotiated by the director and the coach/sponsor of the conflicting activity. There is no need to fill out an absence excuse form, but it is necessary to approve conflicts at least a week in advance with your director.
7. Each student will be given a calendar at the beginning of the year.

Musical Tests:

Throughout the year, students will have various playing or written tests. Some playing tests will be in front of the directors and others will be in front of section leaders/principal players. Students always have the option of playing a test for a director instead of a section leader if requested.

Band Lockers:

Band lockers are the property of the school, and are subject to the same handbook policies as our school lockers. Students are strongly encouraged to bring a combination lock (key locks are not permitted) to secure their belongings. Students are asked to record the combination with their director in case the combination is forgotten, or if a parent/guardian needs access to the locker when the student is not in school.

School Owned Equipment, Music and Uniforms:

Equipment, uniforms and music checked out to students become their responsibility until turned in. Students will be fined for the replacement/repair value if music, uniform parts, or equipment are lost, damaged or stolen.

Mona Shores Code of Conduct and Student Handbook:

All Mona Shores policies outlined in the student handbook (see agenda book) are in effect during all band activities, whether on-/off-campus or during/outside of the school day.