

George West High School Band Syllabus 2021-22

Ms. Ella Lowrance

Director of Bands

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Course Objectives:

The objective of the band program is not only to develop the student's skill in musicality, but to help boost confidence, provide several performance opportunities, and teach understanding about music's role in everyday life. These can be achieved through cooperation and practice. By the end of the semester the student should show musical growth and a better understanding of band.

Materials Needed:

- Pencil
- Appropriate footwear (marching season)
- Instrument
- Instrument supplies (reeds, cork grease, slide oil, etc.)
- Music folder and/or flip folder

South Texas Music Mart will visit every Thursday to drop off instrument supplies and pick up instruments for repairs. Students may purchase supplies directly through Music Mart on these days, or can submit supply order to the band director. You may also visit Music Mart's storefront in Corpus Christi.

Instrument Care and School Property:

Instrument care is your responsibility. You will need to keep your instrument clean and in working condition. It is very important that damaging substances are kept away from the band room and your instrument (ex. Soda, food, etc.). If you do not know how to clean your instrument properly, ask your director.

Should any damage to band equipment be deemed irreversible (ex. Broken stands, broken mouthpieces, instrument parts bent or broken off, etc.), you will be held financially responsible for repairs and/or replacements.

Note: South Texas Music Mart can come to pick up instruments in need of repairs, however, if the instrument belongs to you and not the school then the repair costs will **not** be paid for by the school.

Expectations:

- Arrive to class on time. After the bell rings you have 3 minutes to be seated with your instrument and music.
- Absolutely NO food or drinks are allowed in the band hall (water bottles are okay).
- Always be prepared to write on your music.
- Always have your instrument ready when class starts.
- Respect the people, equipment, and items of the band hall.

Attendance:

Attendance plays a major role in your grade. Band is a performance/participation based course. **Attendance for rehearsals and performances are mandatory.**

Only those with excused absences may miss any of these, and even then those will have to be made up at a later date. When performance dates are given, plan accordingly.

Excused absences include:

- Illness *with* a doctor's note (or an absence from school)
- Family emergencies verified by family
- Approved academic or extra-curricular conflicts (with notice)
- Religious observances (with notice)

Communication with the director is **VITAL** for absences and must be given a week in advance, and no less than one day. If the director is informed of an absence within less than 24 hours there is no guarantee it will be excused.

Email is the preferred method of contact.

Grading:

Attendance (50%) – When even one person is missing the entire band is impacted. Attendance will count the **most** towards your grade. **This includes concert and contest performances.** Absences are allowed if they fall under an excused absence, but must be made up at a later date.

Participation (30%) – Active participation means more than just sitting in a chair. In order to be counted as participating you must be actively listening to instructions and playing your instrument with your peers.

Tests (20%) – Chair tests will gauge your understanding of the music. They will always be told in advance so that you may have enough time to prepare.

(Please detach below section and return with student)

I have read the course syllabus for band, and understand the expectations and guidelines for class.

Parent/Guardian Name: _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____

Student Name: _____

Student Signature: _____