Patuxent High School Bands

*Percussion Ensemble Syllabus*

Mr. Stephen Lane, Director

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**Course Description:**

The Patuxent High School Percussion Ensemble is open to any student in grades 9-12 with any level of experience and ability playing percussion.  Rehearsals occur every day during the school year.  The ensemble performs two concert annually with possible additional performances for special events and community involvement.  Students will gain an understanding of percussion techniques as well as building individual and ensemble skills.  The repertoire performed will expose students to a wide variety of musical types, styles and examples of quality ensemble music.  All pieces will have goals aimed at teaching/learning core objectives and entertaining.  Students will be given the opportunity to perform in both large and small ensemble settings.

**Mission Statement:** To provide each student with a commitment to musical excellence through opportunities and experiences that cultivate servant leadership, self-improvement and personal development.

**Website/Calendar:** www.patuxentband.com

Please check the Patuxent High School Band website regularly for a full calendar of events and updates on every performing ensemble we have to offer.

**Important Dates**

*Attendance at the events below is MANDATORY! Please make sure you have cleared these dates in your calendar! You are expected to schedule your events around these dates.*

* Tent. visit from Frostburg State University Band: Monday, November 6th
* All-County Band/Jazz Auditions: Tuesday, November 14th, 5pm-8pm @ HHS (Optional)
* Winter Concert Dress Rehearsal: Thursday, December 7th, 2:30pm-6pm
* Winter Concert: Thursday, December 14th, Report - 6pm (Concert - 7pm)
* All-County Band Concert: Thursday, January 18th, 7pm @ PHS (Optional)
* Festival Dress Rehearsal: Friday, February 23rd, 2:30 – 6pm
* District XII Festival: Tuesday, February 27th @PHS, Time TBA
* Mulch Sale: Saturday in April Date TBA, 7:30am-4:00pm
* District Solo and Ensemble Festival: Saturday, March 17th @ Calvert MS (Optional)
* Spring Concert Dress Rehearsal: Wednesday, May 2nd, 2:30pm – 6pm
* Spring Concert: Wednesday, May 9th, Report - 6pm (Concert - 7pm)
* State Solo and Ensemble Festival: Saturday, May 19th @ Towson University (Optional)
* Graduation Rehearsal: Monday, June 4th - Periods 6-8

**Performance Attire:**

Required dress for all Wind Ensemble Performances is listed below:

* White Dress Shirt (Students will provide their own)
* Black Dress Pants (Student provides – jeans are NOT acceptable)
* Black Socks and Black Dress Shoes (Student provides - sneakers not permitted)
* If an alternate performance attire will be used, the director will provide this information in advance to allow all students to be prepared
* **If there are any issues with providing the required attire, please contact Mr. Lane.**

**Expectations:**

* All Calvert County and Patuxent High School policies apply in this class.
* Phones, iPods, tablets, headphones, etc. should not be visible during class. Students will be issued one warning, and if the problem persists, the items will be confiscated or turned into an administrator. Phones may be used at times for tuning apps and other uses in the classroom but should be used for this purpose only.
* It is your responsibility to be in class on time, be prepared, and be ready to learn.
* There should never be food or drinks in the band room AT ANY TIME (with the exception of water).
* Gum is not permitted in class.
* You are expected to treat your instrument and the school instruments with care and respect. Please respect others instruments and do not play them without permission. Wind players are NOT permitted to play the percussion instruments unless given permission by Mr. Lane.

**Required Materials:**

Students should have the materials below with them in class EVERY DAY.

* “The Packet” percussion book **(Mr. Lane will order these)**
  + **Each student is encouraged to purchase this book for $30 for use throughout the year. Once purchased, it is the student’s book to keep when they leave PHS!**
  + If you cannot afford a book, Mr. Lane will provide one for you at no cost that will need to be returned at the end of the school year.
* Pencils are required EVERY DAY for class.

The following items can be obtained from a local music store OR [www.steveweissmusic.com](http://www.steveweissmusic.com)

* Practice Pad (Vic Firth Pad12 Single Sided Practice Pad Recommended)
* Drum Sticks (Innovative IP 1 General Hickory, or Vic Firth SD1-General Recommended)

**If you have any issues providing the required materials, please contact Mr. Lane**

**Grading Policy:**

Band classes at PHS are unlike any other class. Because of the performance nature, students are required to attend certain events outside of the school day. This is necessary to teach students how to perform in front of an audience and demonstrate their skills. As such, it is impossible to replicate this experience during our class time. Therefore, it is crucial that they attend each performance for the dates listed above. The process for making up a missed performance is listed below in the “Make-Up Work” section. Please refer to the below policy of how students will be assessed each marking period.

**Concert Attendance and Performance: - 50%**

Students are given the opportunity to earn 50% of their grade through dress rehearsal and concert attendance/performance. Students will receive full credit by attending the dress rehearsal prepared AND reporting to the concert on time, in their uniform, with all the equipment they need to perform. Appropriate behavior and performance are also included in this grade as well as a post-concert assessment completed by each student.

**Playing Tests/Written Assignments: - 30 %**

Throughout each marking period, students will be assigned a variety of tasks. Student assessment will be recorded through individual playing for the director on all of the instruments in the percussion section with emphasis on the snare drum and keyboard instruments. Students will also be required to complete written assignments and exams on occasion. **The majority of playing assessments will come from “The Packet” textbook.**

**Daily Achievement of Curriculum Standards: - 20%**

Twenty percent of the student’s grade will be determined through their daily achievement. This includes but is not limited to: reporting to class on time, controlling him/her self in an appropriate manner to ensure the best learning environment is maintained for all learners, being prepared with all materials, showing adequate progress through means of individual practice **outside of class.** Percussionists are required to bring their practice pads and sticks to every rehearsal. Failure to do any of these on a daily basis will result in the loss of some or all of the points in this area.

**Scale/Rudiment Studies:**

In addition to the playing tests as outlined above, students will be expected to play from the 40 essential rudiments and major/minor scales. Students will be made aware when each scale and rudiment is due.

Students can find additional help with rudiments at the following web address: <http://www.vicfirth.com/education/rudiments.php>

**Percussion Section:**

It is the responsibility of the percussion section to maintain a clean and orderly section. Each instrument has its own labeled spot – it is expected that the percussion ensemble will return the instruments and accessories to their appropriate place, and lock the percussion cabinet upon the completion of each rehearsal.

**Late Work:**

Each assignment is due at the **beginning of the class period** on its due date. Assignments that are not turned in at this time will not be given full credit and will be graded at the director’s discretion.

**Make-Up Work:**

If students must miss class or a performance due to illness or other unavoidable circumstances, it is the responsibility of the student to retrieve and make up assignments that were missed. If a student is absent on the day an assignment is due, they must arrange a time to make up the assessment with Mr. Lane either during lunch or before/after school.

**\*Make up opportunities will be provided for missed performances, but will still have a performance component.** Students will have to prepare a solo etude chosen by Mr. Lane to perform for the ensemble by the end of the grading period. It will be their responsibility to prepare this piece and perform it to an acceptable level.

**Practice:**

The pace and rigor of this course are designed with the assumption that students will practice outside of the school day. It is impossible for Mr. Lane to break down every measure of every part in each rehearsal. If students are having trouble with a specific piece, they are expected to take it upon themselves to work it out. If you need help, ask for it!

**Fundraising:**

The equipment that is used by the PHS Band program is very expensive to purchase, repair and maintain. Because of this cost, there will be many fundraisers throughout the year that we need each student’s help in achieving. Without these fundraisers, we would not have the equipment we need.

- PHS Band students are expected to participate in ALL fundraisers!

**\*All students are required to participate in the spring mulch sale**! More information about this event will become available. This is our biggest fundraiser of the year!

**Resources:**

Band Website: <http://patuxentband.com>

Metronome Online: <http://metronomeonline.com> - Use a metronome every time you practice!

Steve Weiss: <http://www.steveweissmusic.com> - Percussion accessories and equipment

**Additional Performance Opportunities:**

There are multiple opportunities for band students to play in ensembles at the County, Tri-County and All-State levels, as well as competing in Solo and Ensemble. Additional opportunities are available for High School Honor Bands at various Colleges and Universities throughout the year. These opportunities are available to students if they are willing to put in the extra work to prepare for them. Details for these events will be handed out in class as the dates approach. These are not required events, but students are encouraged to explore these opportunities!

*\**Mr. Lane reserves the right to change this syllabus as it becomes necessary. Should this happen, students will be made aware of the changes and be given a new copy of the syllabus. \*

*--------------------Detach and return by Friday, September 8th------------------*

**Signature of Acknowledgement**

By signing below, you and your guardian acknowledge that you have read the syllabus for this class and agree to the policies and statements included. You also agree that any concert/dress rehearsal conflicts are noted below, and absence from any of the “Important Events” will result in the lowering of the class grade if make up tasks are not complete. I further understand that I will be held financially responsible for all uniforms and instruments lent to me. If they are not returned in satisfactory condition (beyond normal wear from use), I agree to reimburse PHS the amount necessary to return them to a satisfactory condition or replace them.

Student Name (Printed) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Grade \_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Guardian Mailing Address\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Guardian Cell Phone \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Guardian Work Phone \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Guardian Email Address \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Student Signature \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Guardian Signature \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_