Patuxent High School Bands

*Symphonic Band Syllabus*

Mr. Stephen Lane, Director

lanes@calvertnet.k12.md.us

443-550-8840

**Course Description:**

The Patuxent High School Symphonic Band is a performance group consisting of brass, woodwind and percussion instruments.  Rehearsals occur every day during the school year.  The ensemble performs two annual concerts as well as performances at the District Band Festival and Maryland State Band Festival (pending qualification).  The pieces performed will include popular and classical works from diverse genres selected to expose the students to a wide variety of musical types and examples of quality ensemble music.  All pieces will have goals aimed at teaching/learning core objectives and entertaining.  Music will be selected based on the ensemble talent level and other curricular goals.  Students will focus on improving basic sound production techniques and improving individual and ensemble skills.  Listening, breathing and rhythmic study and sight reading will be used often to give students a solid playing foundation that will help them progress as they move up to higher level ensembles.  All incoming students are placed into Symphonic Band without audition.  Placement in Wind Ensemble is possible through a successful audition with Mr. Lane.

**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:

* Men: Tuxedo
* Pants, Jacket, Bow Tie and Cummerbund provided by PHS.
* **Students will be required to obtain a tuxedo shirt, black dress shoes and black dress socks.** 
  + **Shirts can be purchased locally at select stores OR online at places like amazon.com.**
  + **Sneakers are NOT permitted to wear for performances.**
* The school provided items will be kept at school and returned to the uniform room after each performance.
* If you have any issues obtaining any of the required items, please let Mr. Lane know immediately so arrangements can be made.
* Women: Concert Dress (Provided by PHS)
  + Will be kept at school and returned to uniform room after each performance
  + Black Dress Shoes (Student provides – sneakers are **NOT** permitted)

**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.

* Your Instrument and any parts to make it work (mouthpiece, valve oil, slide grease, EXTRA reeds, etc.)
* Music Folder (If you choose to share a folder, it is YOUR responsibility to make sure your partner has their music, even if you are absent.
* Pencils are required EVERY rehearsal.

**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 his/her instrument. Students will also be required to complete written assignments on occasion.

**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.

**Scale/Rudiment Studies:**

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

**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 practice it or ask for help from Mr. Lane.

**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://www.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 procedures 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 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_