



Zion-Benton Bands

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VARSITY BAND (VP730) SYLLABUS 2017-18

Instructor

Mr. Kazmi; KazmiS@zbths.org (note that we no longer use "g.zbths")

Course Description and Objectives

Varsity Band is designed for developing wind and percussion instrumentalists. The course emphasizes advancing performance skills, musical interpretation and techniques. Through rehearsals, clinics and performances, students will broaden their musical repertoire with advanced literature of many styles and periods.

Grading

Semester grades will be broken down as follows:

Performance Participation: 40%

Student attends all performances, exhibits appropriate etiquette at all times and has the necessary materials for performance (i.e. instrument, music, uniform, etc). Appropriate audience behavior is expected from students not on stage. Students are not to leave performances prior to the last ensemble's final selection unless it has been pre-arranged, in writing, with the director. This category includes dress rehearsals, concerts, festivals, and athletic band performances.

Daily Participation: 20%

Student comes prepared to all rehearsals with equipment needed to be successful (instruments, music, reeds, mouthpiece, mutes, sticks, mallets, pencil, etc.). Daily playing assessments may be included in this category as evidence of preparedness for class that day.

Music Assignments: 40%

- a.) Students will be given periodic playing assignments, either excerpts from upcoming concert literature or etudes/scales/other fundamentals. Some of these assignments will be submitted electronically (e-mail or Canvas)
- b.) Occasional written assignments
- c.) Concert Credit: Each student is expected to attend one 'live' performance per semester. Students need to turn in a program or ticket stub with their name on it to receive this credit. Students may not submit an activity they are involved in unless it is pre-approved by the director.

Grading Scale is standard 90/80/70/60 cutoffs, with semester grades being determined on the VPA Department scale of 90/10.

Attendance Policy (Quoted from Band Handbook)

Perfect attendance is considered the norm for music programs everywhere. If you are absent, it is your responsibility to find out what material/work you have missed. For every day you are absent, you get ONE day to make up missed work. If you know in advance that you will be absent from class, make sure to let us know. You are expected to complete any work you miss by the day you return to class for a prearranged absence. If for some reason you need to miss an event occurring outside the school day, please fill out and submit a conflict form available in the band room.

ANY ABSENSE FROM A PERFORMANCE NEEDS TO INVOLVE PARENT CONTACT (PHONE CALL- DO NOT E-MAIL)

PERFORMANCE: EXCUSED vs. UNEXCUSED ABSENCE

For any public performance, the following guidelines will be used concerning absences:

EXCUSED:

- Personal Illness
- Family Emergency
- Death in the immediate family
- Religious observance
- Weddings of immediate family with minimum 4 weeks notice

UNEXCUSED (0 credit for the performance grade):

- Work (including baby-sitting either family or friends)
- Homework
- Disciplinary absences (suspension, etc)
- Lack of Transportation
- Social Activities (such as relative visits, weddings other then specified above as "Excused," baby showers, parties, trips, etc.)
- Out of town trips/vacations with family or friends

For school-sponsored sports and activities, conflicts will be addressed on a case-by-case basis by the director. As a rule of thumb, performance always supersedes practice or rehearsal; playoff or state-level games or performances supersede home or "regular" games or performances; other events will be decided on an individual basis. For any conflict (rehearsal or performance), a minimum of 14 days notice is required for an excused non-emergency absence.

Tardy Policy

Tardies are handled with standard ZBTHS Student Handbook Procedures. Students are expected to be in their seat when a downbeat is given 2-minutes after the bell rings (11:19AM). All locker and restroom needs need to be taken care of from 11:12AM-11:19AM.

Do not leave class once rehearsal has started - it disrupts the flow of rehearsal for others and yourself.

Final Exam

Band classes will meet during final exam week during the designated period exams will be given.

Required Daily Materials

In addition to their instrument, music, and a pencil, students will need to bring appropriate accessories to class specific to their instrument. A detailed list is included in the band handbook. A lot of this can be ordered online CHEAP and with free shipping. We also have a representative from Quinlan & Fabish visiting us weekly. Anything ordered through them can be delivered to school.

Lockers

Each student has been assigned a locker, and are expected to keep their instrument and accessories in that locker. Items found in unassigned lockers will be discarded. Folders need to be stored in the folder slots after rehearsal each day. Storing them in the band room lockers damages them.

Technology

We use the Charms office suite to track all instrument, uniform, and student contact data. Please register online at charmsoffice.com. All grades will be posted on Skyward, which can be accessed through the ZBTHS website. In addition, we have the band Google Calendar as needed.

Communication

As one of the goals of this course is to establish adult-level communication and personal responsibility, communication will occur **PRIMARILY THROUGH THE STUDENT**, with reminders to parents, etc., via electronic or physical means as needed. If you feel you or your student has a specific communication need, please contact Mr. Kazmi.

Solo/Ensemble

All band students participate in a 3-week Chamber Ensemble unit during the spring semester. Students will be placed in ensembles by the director and assigned music. These performances will happen on Solo/Ensemble night. Students are **HIGHLY** encouraged to perform a solo, especially if they are working on one with a private instructor.

Athletic Bands

Students in the band program are members of the Marching Zee-Bees and Zee-Bee Pep Band. Varsity Band students participate in the Jubilee Days Parade and "Band Night."

Jazz Band, Pit Orchestra, Flute Choir, etc

In addition to the concert and athletic bands, students may elect to participate in Jazz Bands, Pit Orchestra, or various other ensemble opportunities such as Flute Choir. If you are interested, please see the director.

Extra Events and Trips

As part of the unique nature of performance-based courses, we will occasionally have extra events and outings, including field trips, clinics, and contest. As these events are considered integral to the curriculum of the course, students are all expected to participate in these events. Please note the dates on the calendar and arrange your schedule with other classroom teachers accordingly – not having you at these events diminishes the entire ensemble's experience.

Auditions for 2018-19

Auditions for the 2018-19 bands will take place in the spring. All students will complete the audition process as part of their Semester 2 exam grade. Auditions are considered a benchmark assessment.

Finances

While there are expenses associated with participating in the band program, it is our goal to never have finances be an impediment to participating. If you are having a financial issue with some of the course requirements, speak with your director one-on-one.

Course Expectations

PUBLIC PERFORMANCES

One of the primary purposes of this course is to teach students the art of public performance. If you have signed up for band, you have signed up to perform in public. You have already received the performance calendar, well in advance, for this academic year. Please note these dates on your personal and family calendars and include them in your plans. The more that families are involved in each of the great parts of the band program, the more you will enjoy your band experience.

CLASSROOM PROCEDURES AND POLICIES

It's not easy to list a set of rules without sounding "negative," but rules are set for a positive outcome. A positive outcome is a rehearsal where a lot of music is played, many musical concepts are learned, and all involved feel a sense of accomplishment. There should be respect on each side of the conductor's podium. Another challenge in striving for that model rehearsal environment is the size of the ensemble. A set of rules for a big group, typical for band, needs to be structured. The following are guidelines designed to help create that environment:

Students will come to class prepared to learn.

Students will be attentive and respectful. Cell phones on/out will be confiscated and may be picked up from the Dean's Office at the end of the school day, per ZBTHS Handbook policies.

Students will refrain from eating, drinking, and chewing gum in the band room or practice rooms (water is ok).

All instruments must be in good playing condition.

Passes out of the class will not be issued other than emergencies.

Music, folders, uniforms, and school-owned instruments are property of the school and are expected to be returned in excellent condition. Any damage beyond normal wear & tear is the fiscal responsibility of the student.

All general rules of student conduct as listed in the ZBTHS Student Handbook will be observed.

CONCERT DRESS REQUIREMENTS

Gentlemen:

Solid black collared shirt

Solid black pants

Tall black socks and solid black shoes (NO athletic shoes please - marching band shoes OK)

Ladies:

Solid black pants or floor-length skirt

Solid black top or blouse

Solid black shoes (NO flip-flops please)

Black or nude nylons (No bare legs please)

SUPPLIES

Please see the Band Handbook for detailed supply needs. Most of these items are available from a variety of local and internet vendors in a variety of reputable brands. If you have any questions about where to obtain these items, or if you have financial concerns about these needs, please contact the band office. Varsity Band students will also need an electronic chromatic tuner, 1-inch clearview binder, and pencil case.

CALENDAR/HANDBOOK RECEIPT PAGE - VARSITY BAND

This page contains the MAJOR GRADED PERFORMANCE DATES FOR VARSITY BAND.

This does not include:

- Pep Band (schedule is flexible and will be released in November)
- Evening rehearsals (marching band)
- =Extra-curricular opportunities (Jazz Band, Pit Orchestra, etc)

PARENTS/GUARDIANS: Please initial next to each performance date, confirming that you have added these dates to your family calendar. While we want students to be advocates for themselves regarding schedules, we also want to ensure that they are set up for success to be at all of their performances. Should you have questions or need assistance, please contact Mr. Kazmi.

THE DATES BELOW PERTAIN TO VARSITY BAND ONLY. IF YOU HAVE STUDENTS IN MULTIPLE ENSEMBLES, PLEASE REFER TO THEIR INDIVIDUAL COURSE SYLLABUS

Date	Time	Event	Parent Initial
8/30/17	6:00PM	Full Band rehearsal	
9/4/17	11:00AM	Zion Jubilee Days Parade (Parade Step-off at 1PM)	
10/6/17	5:30PM	Home Football Game (Band Night)	
10/19/17	7:00PM	Varsity Band Recital Night	
12/12/17	7:00PM	Holiday Band Concert (CCC Auditorium)	
2/8/18	7:00PM	Winter Band Concert (CCC Auditorium)	
3/12/18	5:00PM	Band Solo/Ensemble Festival	
5/2/18	7:00PM	Spring Band Concert	
5/12/18	Morning	Music in the Parks Festival - Varsity Band work weekend	
5/23/18	6:00PM	Patio Pops Concert, Awards, and Picnic	

By signing here, I acknowledge that I have received and read the Band Handbook, Varsity Band Course Syllabus(including attendance policy), and received a copy of the 2017-18 Full Band Calendar:

_____ (Student)

_____ (Parent/Guardian)