

**Duke Ellington School of the Arts**  
**Wind Ensemble/Concert Band**  
**Show Band**  
**Course Syllabus**

**Mission** – The mission of the Duke Ellington School of the Arts Wind Ensemble/Concert Band is to provide an environment that cultivates individual success.

**Beliefs:**

Ensure rigorous academic preparation  
Emphasize an inclusive, innovative school culture  
Enhance positive relationships  
Commit to lifelong learning  
Produce active, responsible citizens

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## **Class Description:**

### **The Wind Ensemble**

This class offers the most advanced concepts preparing students with the necessary skills to continue to advance in their musical abilities. Fundamental and advanced concepts of music are reviewed and reinforced. Various genres of music and cultures are studied and basic/advanced skills of interpretation, expression, and musicality are taught. Individual and ensemble performance is a required component of this course.

### **The Concert Band**

This course is designed to give the students an introduction in ensemble playing; improve their technique on their individual instrument and build their classical repertoire. The main focus of this course is to build the performance skills of all incoming students to transition to our premiere ensembles: Wind Ensemble, Jazz Orchestra and Orchestra. All students should transition to one of the premiere ensembles by the end of the 2<sup>nd</sup> advisory. Failure to do so will affect their overall grade.

### **Show Bands**

The Duke Ellington Radical Elite Show Band is made up of students' in grades 9-12. The band performs at parades, festivals and competitions, as well as Duke Ellington school functions that require their services. The success of the Show Band relies on the commitment and attitude of each individual in the band. Every person in the band is a contributing member – when one person is missing, the whole band is affected. Show Band is aural and highly visual; everyone is in the spotlight. This band is hard working; requires repetition, long hours, and can be very taxing physically and mentally. There will be some frustrating days, and there will be many fun

days as well. The end result after all those long hours of practice make it a rewarding experience when you perform your first show.

### **Class Expectations**

Students are expected to participate fully in a directed music rehearsal for each class meeting.

**This includes arriving on time and participating with instrument and music for every rehearsal!**

Students are to have a pencil on their music stand and have available the appropriate accessories for their instruments. In addition, all students are expected to practice their instrument daily at home in preparation for class. All students must be committed to the band. Because these are performance oriented ensembles, rehearsals are very important to the success of the activity. Time management is a priority. Students must make time for rehearsals, performances, and more importantly, study time. If you manage your time well, you will be able to attend all rehearsals as well as keep your grades up. It takes self-discipline, perseverance as well as a responsible attitude. Students should also have a personal organizer to set up a “schedule of routine” to help assist with time management. Students must also follow directions given by the band directors, advisors, and section leaders. Everyone must learn to work together as a team; everyone plays an important role in the ensembles. When someone is absent, it makes it hard for the rest of the group to rehearse and it will slow the progress of the band. The Show Band requires intricate motion with music, in addition everyone is assigned a unique spot. Students must also practice the music as well as memorize all of the parade and show music. Every student is accountable for knowing his or her music and drills. There will periodically be tests to check on the progress of each individual. Students will be assigned music binders and will be responsible for the upkeep and return of their music binders at the end of the school year. Students should bring their pencils, music binders, instruments, and water to all rehearsals.

### **Instructional Philosophy**

Students will experience a variety of teaching methods and experiences. Warm-up exercises are performed during each class period and vary by day. These exercises reinforce basic musical concepts as well as provide an introduction to new concepts. Warm-up exercises may include long tones, lip slurs, scales, technical and lyrical exercises, and rhythm studies. The class will continue with full group, small group, or individual music rehearsal as appropriate. Students will also experience a number of ear training and sight reading exercises on a regular basis.

### **SHOW BAND PHILOSOPHY:**

Show Band is intended to foster teamwork, perseverance, time management, responsibility, commitment, pride and most of all, to have fun. The main goal is to grow as an individual and learn how to work together with others to achieve a common goal. For every little task we accomplish, it brings us closer to our goals. It is the process that we must go through in order for us to reach our goals and in turn become successful. Success is not measured by the amount of points you score or awards you receive; success what you have gained through the experience

you have encountered during the journey. Overcoming adversity and challenges will make you a stronger and better person.

### **REHEARSALS:**

Show Band rehearsals will be held after school in the band room, gym, and sometimes at the school field.

Day and Time:

Mondays: 5pm – 6:30pm

Tuesdays/Thursdays: 4:30 pm – 6:30 pm

### **PERFORMANCES:**

Most of the Show Bands performances will take place outside of the school walls. All students are expected to participate in **EVERY** performance. If you have a conflict that is not school related or excused by a parent/ guardian, you will not be excused for that performance.

### **CLASSROOM/FIELD RULES:**

1. All school rules are in effect.
2. Only band students are allowed in the band room. Friends that are not part of the band must wait for you outside of rehearsal.
3. No swearing
4. No eating, drinking, or gum chewing anywhere in the band room, gym, this also includes the field during the rehearsals.
5. Always clean up after yourself, put your chair, stand, and instrument away properly.
6. Do not play with anybody else's instruments.
7. Respect for other people's property; do not "borrow" anything without asking for permission.
8. Students are to remain in uniform whenever they are in the public eye. This means shirts must be tucked in neatly, zippers and buttons fully closed. Exceptions will be made at the discretion of the band director.
9. Last but certainly not least, NO CELL PHONES DURING CLASS OR REHEARSAL!

### **CHAIN OF COMMAND:**

Section leaders are selected by the band director through auditions and recommendations. Keep in mind that the student leaders are human, as well as the band director; we will make mistakes. The following is a chart of the chain of command.

-HEAD & ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

-ADULT ASSISTANTS

-DRUM MAJOR

### **Course Materials:**

1. Instrument
2. Instrument accessories (i.e. mutes, reeds, etc...)
3. Percussion instrumentalists must have a complete percussion kit to include pitch pipe and stick bag (hard and soft timpani mallets, concert drum sticks, soft and hard melodic instrument mallets, etc...)
4. Pencil and music folder

## Course Requirements

1. All rehearsals and performances are mandatory. This includes after school rehearsals in preparation for performances (work scheduling and extra-curricular activity conflicts will not be acceptable reasons to miss rehearsals).
2. Prepare music through a rigorous daily practice schedule.

## Grading Procedures

Students will be graded by:

### **Participation [10%]:**

Participation will count for **10%** of your overall grade and it will be graded daily out of **4 points**.

- Class attendance, promptness and participation. Any absence must be supported by a note from home signed by a parent or legal guardian. Tardiness without a pass will affect the student's grade. **(1 pt.)**
- Materials: Instrument, instrument accessories (mouthpiece, reeds, valve oil, cork grease, etc.) **(1 pt.)**
- Music and Music Binder **(1 pt.)**
- Behavior (Rehearsal protocol) **(1 pt.)**

### **4 Points Total**

### **Practice and Application [50%]:**

Practice and Application will count for **50%** of your overall grade and it will be graded daily out of **10 points**.

- Quality of in class performance: Evidence of a consistent daily practice schedule. **(4 pts.)**
- Homework assignments: Preparation for and quality of performances. **(4 pts.)**
- Independent in class practice **(2 pts.)**

### **10 Points Total**

### **Assessments: 40%**

Assessments will count for **40%** of your overall grade and each assessment will be graded out of **100 pts**.

- Performances
- Play Tests

### **Dress requirements for Wind Ensemble performances**

Students will not be allowed to perform and will receive a failing grade for the performance if they are not in the correct performance attire as indicated below.

Male – black tailored suit (no saggy cuffs), white collared shirt, long matching black tie, black bow tie, black socks, and black shine-able dress shoes.

Female – black full-flowing dress culottes or black long skirt with white collared blouse, flesh tone stockings and black dress shoes. No cleavage, midriff, bare shoulders or pants/pant suits allowed. All jewelry worn for performance must be modest and conservative. For additional information, please seek advice from the designated female advisor.

### **SHOW BAND UNIFORMS:**

Top: All black, long-sleeved, button-up dress shirt.

Bottoms: All black dress pants

Shoes: All black Chuck Taylor style tennis shoes.

### **Performance numerical Breakdown of Rubric**

20% - Tone Quality

20% - Rhythm/Tempo

20% - Rudiments/Technical Accuracy

20% - Interpretation/Expression

20% - Scales (all Major, and all forms of Minor)

*Attendance and Behavior will affect the overall grade:*

### **Attendance**

Unexcused absences and tardy will affect the student's overall grade as listed in the rubric and community handbook. All performances and performance rehearsals are mandatory.

**Behavior**

Students are to maintain professional behavior in class or rehearsal. The list below is just few examples of what will not be accepted.

- Unauthorized talking/conversations
- Eating food or chewing gum
- Being disruptive in class
- Unauthorized talking, texting, or viewing your cell phone