



# Elizabeth Forward High School Symphonic Wind Ensemble

## Syllabus

### **Instructor:**

Mr. Spang

Email: [sspang@efsd.net](mailto:sspang@efsd.net)

Website: <https://sites.google.com/site/efwarriorband/home>

Phone:

Grades: 9-12

Help Hours: Before and After School

### **Course Descriptions:**

The Wind Ensemble is the premier band at EF High School. The purpose of this ensemble is to refine fundamental aspects of playing a band instrument and introduce students to quality wind band literature. Skills taught in Wind Ensemble include: proper tone production, blending sounds, intonation, rhythmic reading and understanding, articulation, phrasing, listening skills and correct stylistic interpretation of the given literature. The Wind Ensemble rehearses daily throughout the school year and prepares wind band literature to be performed at the Veteran's Day Assembly, Veteran's Day Concert, Senior Citizen's Day Breakfast, Winter Concert, Combined Concert, Spring Concert, and the Spring PMEA Adjudication Festival.

### **Course Content and Objectives:**

Each semester, the course content will be determined by the music selected for the concert. Our objective is to continue to grow as young musicians and foster a lifelong appreciation for the art of music. By the end of the year, each student should have a better understanding of the fundamentals of their instrument, how to practice, and how to play/rehearse in an ensemble setting.

### **Course Requirements:**

Instrument – Each student MUST have an instrument in order to enroll in this class. If the student does not have an instrument, they must see me before signing up for this course.

Concerts – Your attendance is required at each concert. This year, the winter concert will be held on ....., and the spring concert will be on .....

Performance Attire –

*Veteran's Day Concert* - Red, White, and Blue w/black dress pants.

*Holiday Concert* - Ugly Christmas Sweaters

*Combined Concert* - Black bottoms, dress shirt (any color), and a tie.

*Spring Concert* - Black bottoms, dress shirt (any color), and a tie.



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### **Required Materials:**

- “Foundations for Superior Performance” (Warm-ups and Technique for Band) by Richard Williams and Jeff King
- Three ring binder
- Protective plastic sheets
- Pencil
- Music
- Instrument

### **Suggested Materials:**

(primarily for use at home)

- Metronome
- Tuner

### **Grading Policy:**

Sectionals:	4 x 25 pts (per 9 weeks)	=	100 pts
Playing Tests:	2 x 50 pts (per 9 weeks)	=	100 pts
Rehearsals:	9 x 10 pts (per 9 weeks)	=	90 pts
Concerts:		=	100 pts

<u>1st 9 weeks (145 pts)</u>	Playing Tests =	100 pts
	Rehearsals =	90 pts

<u>2nd 9 weeks (345 pts)</u>	Playing Tests =	100 pts
	Rehearsals =	90 pts
	Veteran’s Day =	100 pts
	Holiday Concert =	100 pts

<u>3rd 9 weeks (345 pts)</u>	Sectionals =	100 pts
	Playing Tests =	100 pts
	Rehearsals =	90 pts
	Combined Concert =	100 pts

<u>4th 9 weeks (345 pts)</u>	Sectionals =	100 pts
	Playing Tests =	100 pts
	Rehearsals =	90 pts
	Spring Concert =	100 pts



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### **Classroom Etiquette:**

Maintaining an orderly, productive, and positive environment during band rehearsal requires everybody's cooperation. Please come to class on time and be in your seat with your materials ready when the late bell rings. If it is absolutely necessary for you to arrive late or leave early, then please do so as quietly and unobtrusively as possible. Please do not talk to your neighbors during class (many students have no idea how distracting this can be to others). Also, please do not eat (chew gum) in class or do other things not related to band.

### **Other opportunities and resources:**

*Private Lessons* – This is probably the quickest and easiest way to get better at playing your instrument (as long as you are also practicing what you're learning during your lessons). Please let me know if you are interested in taking advantage of this opportunity.

*Percussionists* – Use this link to practice at home!

<http://vicfirth.com/education/rudiments.html>

*Metronome Online* – Everybody should use this when practicing!

[www.metronomeonline.com](http://www.metronomeonline.com)

### **Strategies for Success:**

*Attendance* – Regular attendance is essential for mastery of the material in this course. Frequent absences will undoubtedly have an adverse effect on your grade. If you HAVE to miss this class on a regular basis, please contact me so we can find a solution.

*Regular Listening* – Listen to world-class musicians who play your instrument. Listen to world-class ensembles. Youtube can be an extremely valuable tool! Attend the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra concerts at Heinz Hall in Pittsburgh. This is a world-class ensemble, and they are not located very far from here!

*Daily Practice* – Nothing beats quality practice time. Remember, you will not always see or hear immediate results. Practice time is like putting money in the bank. You will only get better as you put more time into your instrument!

*High Standards* – Always hold yourself to the HIGHEST standard! Be sure that every note is *in TUNE, in TIME, with a GREAT SOUND*. Establish this HIGH standard as a habit!

*Ask for help if you need it* – I will always be willing to answer any questions you may have. If I do not have an immediate answer for you, I will find one for you and get back to you. Please do not be afraid to ask me any music-related questions!



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### **PBIS Classroom Expectations:**

#### **B**e Safe:

- Listen to staff
- Maintain personal space

#### **R**espect Others:

- Be on time
- Be polite
- Use appropriate language and tone

#### **A**ccountable:

- Be prepared
- Be honest
- Do your own work
- Use electronic devices only when permitted

#### **V**ictorious:

- Do your best work
- Celebrate academic success

#### **E**nthusiastic:

- Have a positive attitude
- Take ownership of learning