

Marriotts Ridge High School Band

12100 WOODFORD DRIVE
MARRIOTTSVILLE, MD 21104
410- 313-5573 FAX 410-313-5574

COURSE(S) Concert Band
Wind Ensemble/Marching Band
Percussion Ensemble
Jazz Ensemble

INSTRUCTOR J. Nick Ellis
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WEBSITE <http://www.mrhsbands.com>

Course Description

The Marriotts Ridge High School band program is dedicated to training musicians to perform at the highest of levels. It is important to note that we will not only be playing instruments in this course, but we will also be learning the language of music *through* performance. As such, a significant portion of your efforts in this course will be devoted to refining your performance skills, increasing your ability to read new music at sight, and exploring what it means to be a well rounded and fully literate musician. Please refer to the MRHS Music Mission Statement in the MRHS Music Handbook, as that will be the guiding principle of our learning.

Materials (Please see the required materials list. Below are the basics.)

- Instrument and related supplies (mutes, valve oil, reeds)
- Metronome
- Tuner
- Pencil
- Band folder and music (provided)

Grading

Grading for all ensembles will be standards based. The HCPSS music grading standards are aligned with the National Standards for Music Education and can be found [HERE](#). A total point grading system based on 1000 points per marking period will be used to determine students' grades. The standards that will be assessed are indicated below with their corresponding percentages of the total grade for each marking period.

Regular/Honors Scale

Grading categories are weighted as follows and based on the **HCPSS Music Standards**

Mus s1 Refinement & Composition Develops and applies strategies to generate and express a variety of musical ideas.	10% (100 points)
Mus s2 Musicianship Uses best practices and experiences to inform and develop an authentic voice.	10% (100 points)
Mus s3 Applied Skills & Technical Development Demonstrates skills and strategies appropriate to music making.	25% (250 points)
Mus s4 Procedures & Practices Demonstrates appropriate musical practices in the classroom or rehearsal environment.	45% (450 points)
Mus s5 Reflection Communicates understanding of concepts and strategies through the evaluation of music.	10% (100 points)

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GT Scale

Grading categories are weighted as follows:

Mus s1 Refinement & Composition Develops and applies strategies to generate and express a variety of musical ideas.	5% (50 points)
Mus s2 Musicianship Uses best practices and experiences to inform and develop an authentic voice.	5% (50 points)
Mus s3 Applied Skills & Technical Development Demonstrates skills and strategies appropriate to music making.	10% (100 points)
Mus s4 Procedures & Practices Demonstrates appropriate musical practices in the classroom or rehearsal environment.	45% (450 points)
Mus s5 Reflection Communicates understanding of concepts and strategies through the evaluation of music.	5% (50 points)
GT Requirements Complete GT requirements and turn in checklist at the end of each marking period	30% (300 points)

Grading Standard Descriptions

Creativity and Composition

Students will participate in class discussions and complete assignments to further their understanding of music theory and creative processes. Some classes may complete a music theory unit.

Musicianship

Students will participate in class discussions and complete assignments that explore musical works performed in the class to further their understanding of performance practice. Assignments will include listening to personal, ensemble, and professional recordings, and researching musical works to understand cultural and historical context.

Applied Skills & Technical Development

Every student will receive graded performance assessments and skills tests throughout the year. These may be in-person, and/or video recorded. Students may request to view their own recording submission within one week of the assessment. Submitted recordings will be discarded after grading is complete.

Procedures and Practices

Students are not just learning to perform on their instruments, but they are also learning to conduct themselves in a large ensemble rehearsal. This class will put the student in the role of a professional musician. Students are observed and assessed on the instrumental performance and rehearsal etiquette expectations listed below:

- Play your best and actively participate in rehearsal. Always.
- After the second bell, you have 5 minutes to get your instrument, be seated and ready to begin. If you are not ready by the time the tuning note is given, you will lose grade points.
- You will have 2 minutes before the end of class to pack-up.
- Have a pencil at the ready to take notes and mark your music.
- Refrain from any action that inhibits the rehearsal process for you or anyone else.
- When the director is on the podium, be attentive and ready to follow directions
- No food, gum, or drinks other than water. Aside from being prohibited in the band room, these items can damage your instrument and the space. These items also distract you from the task at hand.

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- Cell phones are prohibited during rehearsal unless you have specific permission to use a tuner app.
- Music is the property of MRHS. Treat it with respect. You will be charged repair or replacement cost of any destroyed or damaged materials.
- Act mature and respectful at all times. Condescending or derogatory comments towards anyone in the program will not be tolerated. Such behavior will result in disciplinary action and will have a negative effect on your advancement in the program. Bullying or harassment of any kind will result in immediate office referral and possible dismissal from the band program.
- Be respectful of school property and facilities. You are financially responsible for any damage to school property and instruments.

Students will receive 50 points per week for rehearsal etiquette. (450 total points) Since it is expected that students meet these standards from the first day of class, students are awarded all of these points at the beginning of the quarter. Deductions are as follows:

-25 points	Unprepared for the rehearsal, no instrument, music, no pencil, no mouthpiece
-25 points	Food or cell phone out during rehearsal
-10 points	Disruption to rehearsal/class (talking out of turn)
-5 points	Failure to have instrument out and be in seat 5 minutes after the bell rings
-5 points	Failure to follow director's instructions or participate in rehearsal (playing when asked)
-5 points	Failure to clean up area and store instrument properly (instrument care and safety)

Attendance at non-school hour rehearsals and performances is mandatory for all students. **Absence from a rehearsal or performance will have a major impact on your grade for this grading standard.** Important note: This includes any extra-curricular ensembles you are enrolled in concurrently (Big Band, Marching Band.) Absence from a rehearsal or performance will carry the following deductions:

-100 points	absence from a rehearsal
-150 points	absence from a dress rehearsal
-200 points	absence from a performance

There are no "excused" absences from rehearsals and performances. If you are absent for a rehearsal or performance and the absence is considered excused by HCPSS policy then you will have the opportunity to complete a make-up assignment. If the absence is unexcused, there will be no make-up assignment available to you. The only excused absences that will be considered are family emergencies and illness. You may be asked to provide documentation for these absences.

Reflection

Students will participate in reflective activities. Some may be written. Some will be class discussions. Students will evaluate their performances and performances by other groups in the following categories: tone, technique, intonation, musicality, balance, interpretation, musical effect, and other factors.

GT Requirements

In order to receive GT credit students must go above and beyond the regular expectations of the class. I do not recommend students for GT credit unless they are taking private lessons, as it is unrealistic for students to complete the requirements without lessons. In order to receive GT credit, students must complete the GT experiences outlined in the HCPSS GT document which can be found on the [MRHS Band website](#). Students in 6th period Wind Ensemble Marching Band earn their GT credit through their required participation in Marching Band. Please read this information carefully before considering enrolling in the GT Course.