



Millbrook High School Bands

Wind Ensemble Syllabus

WIND ENSEMBLE SYLLABUS

Teacher: Mrs. Georgia Kate Shelton

Office Hours 2:20-3:30 Mondays (Spring), Tuesdays (Fall), and Wednesdays, By Appointment

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Work Phone: 919-850-8787 ex29034

Website: millbrookbands.org (*Director Bio Link Found Here*)

Course Description:

Wind Ensemble is the advanced level performance-based ensemble at Millbrook High School. It is intended for dedicated and accomplished wind musicians and percussionists who are looking to advance to the next level. Emphasis is placed on performance, individual tone production, technical development and sight-reading, as well as ensemble balance, blend, intonation, and aesthetic musical growth. Students will learn these skills through a focus on tone building and technical exercises and the performance of literature. **A few after school rehearsals and performances are to be expected and required.**

Goals and Expectations:

Students will improve performance skills, demonstrate knowledge of basic music theory, analyze and evaluate performances, and gain a deeper understanding of music's role in society and throughout various historical periods. **Students will attend all concerts and rehearsals involving Wind Ensemble, unless the band director grants an excuse in advance. This includes Music Performance Adjudication and the Southeastern Regional Concert Band Festival in Atlanta, GA.** A list of dates can be found on the band website at millbrookbands.org. Wind Ensemble students will perform large ensemble, chamber (small ensemble), and solo literature. **Students are held accountable for learning their music outside of class.** Students are also expected to improve through regular habits of effective practice outside of class. Please see the Band Handbook for a clear list of all classroom expectations.

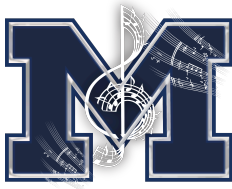
Important Dates (*Required unless otherwise stated*):

- 10/7 - Fall Concert
- 12/4 - 12/6-UNCW Honor Band Clinic/*Optional*
- 12/11 - Winter Concert
- 1/10 - All District Band Auditions (Broughton High School)
- 1/17 - All-District Band Snow Date (Location TBD)
- 1/23 - 1/24-All District Band Clinic (NC State)/*Required only if selected**
- 2/17 - Pre-MPA Concert & Clinic
- 2/24 - Jazz Cafe
- 3/7 - All-State Auditions/*Required if eligible**
- 3/17, 18, or 19 - MPA (If we attend in District, if not it will be the week after)
- 4/9 - Carowinds Festival of Music Trip
- 4/30 - Solo & Ensemble Videos Due/*Optional*
- 5/1-5/3 - All-State Band Clinic (UNCG)/*Required only if selected**
- 5/21 - Spring Concert and Banquet
- 6/11 - Graduation Performance at Raleigh Convention Center (4pm)

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Director of Bands

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Honors Class Disclaimer:

Wind Ensemble (Band Advanced) is an honors class. In order to earn honors credit, students must meet the following requirements, in addition to the requirements of a standard level band class:

- Audition for **one** of the following honor ensembles:
 - All-District Band
 - Eastern Region Orchestra
 - Central Region Jazz
 - *If selected for the ensemble you must participate. If you place highly enough for an All-State callback, you must audition for All-State.*
- Perform at the Southeastern Regional Concert Band Festival (if attending that year)

If a student does not complete one of the two requirements listed above, their final letter grade will be lowered one level. I.E. an "A" will become a "B", a "B" becomes a "C", etc. If a student fulfills neither of the requirements listed above, their final letter grade will be lowered two levels.

Curricular Topic Sequence:

- Tone Production, Technique, Articulations, Balance, Blend, Basic Music Theory and Music Literacy will be the focus of all the units covered in Wind Ensemble
- Fall Concert Preparation (8/27–10/7)
- All-District/Region Solo Preparation (8/28-1/10)
- Winter Concert Preparation (10/9-12/11)
- Chamber Cycle One (12/13-2/20)
- MPA & Southeastern Regional Concert Band Festival (if attending) Preparation (12/13-3/25)
- All-State Solo Preparation (1/7-3/7)
- Chamber Cycle Two (2/21-4/25)
- Spring Concert Preparation (4/7-5/21)
- Graduation Preparation (5/23-6/11)
- *The dates in parentheses may be altered slightly throughout the year****

Performing Arts Grading:

- Formative Assignments - 35%
 - Musicality
 - In class performance (Having all of your materials)
 - Performance demonstration when asked
 - Sitting correctly and using correct playing techniques
 - Putting your instrument in the proper place at the end of rehearsal/percussion putting away all instruments (not leaving anything uncovered or on the floor)
 - Every class you do not have your instrument and/or music will result in a 20-point deduction from your biweekly participation grade. Cell phone usage when a student is in a device free zone results in a 10-point deduction. Not having a pencil is a 5-point deduction per offense.
 - Practice Logs
 - Weekly Practice Logs are to be turned in each Monday of the quarter. Completing the listed requirements will earn students full credit. Practicing outside of class is an integral part of the success of each ensemble. Students are



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expected to come to each class with their part learned so we can focus on making music and not practicing for individual players.

- Minor Assignments/Written Work - 10%
 - Music Theory Exercises
 - Counting Exercises
 - Completion Exercises
- Major Assignments/Playing Tests - 20%
 - Required All-District Scales and 11-12 Chromatic (Passed off in order of Circle of 4ths)
 - Concert, Chamber, and Soloist Recording Submissions as required and laid out by the director for each unit
- Projects/Performances - 35%

Cell Phone Policy:

Our world is bombarding us right now with alerts, messages, notifications, and updates. In order to keep your attention and listening at the highest level, I am banning cell phones from rehearsal. Do not bring your cell phone to your seat. If you wish to use a tuner during rehearsal, please bring your own or borrow one from the class set. I will also be only bringing my watch into rehearsal unless I am videoing. The main point of this policy is to promote better quality attention and listening to each other during rehearsal. We'll talk about this throughout the semester.

1st Warning: Student will be asked to put it away.

2nd Warning: I will take it away and turn it into the front office for it to be retrieved at the end of the day.

3rd Warning: Student will be written up and given ISS or lunch detention and I will call the student's parents.

Materials Needed:

- 1) **Black, three-ring binder. No sheet protectors, please.**
- 2) **Metronome** for at home practice (required for everyone)

*** Note: It is acceptable to have a smartphone/tablet metronome application that ranges anywhere from free to \$2.00 to purchase. There are also websites that provide free metronomes. *** Free Online Metronome: <http://www.metronomeonline.com/>

- 3) **Tuner.**

*** Note: Again, most smartphones/tablets offer downloadable tuners from as low as free to \$3.99. ***

- 4) **Reeds (Woodwinds only)** - Single reed players (clarinet/saxophone) need to have at least 4 good (vandoren or d'addario) reeds on hand at all times. Double reed players (bassoon/oboe) should have at least 2 good reeds at all times. **NO RICOS. PLEASE.**
- 5) **Mouthpieces (Brass only)** - All brass players are required to purchase their own mouthpiece (see below for recommendations). While most brass players already own their own mouthpiece, the Millbrook Band Program does not have the funds to provide everyone with a quality mouthpiece. **Clarinet and saxophone players are encouraged to use high quality mouthpieces (see list below).** Most mouthpieces that come with the instrument are low quality mouthpieces.
- 6) **Concert Dress** – Tuxedos and black dresses, paid for by families, ordered through the boosters. You will be measured for these the first week of school.
- 7) **Instrument** in proper working condition (read below policy for students renting an instrument)



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- 8) **Mallets and Drum Sticks (Percussionists only)** – Percussionists need to own: a pair of general snare sticks, a pair of general yarn mallets, a pair of general hard rubber mallets, and general timpani mallets.

Band Social Media:

- Cut Time: – Each student will have a Cut Time account, allowing access to the band calendar, fees owed, playing tests, etc). Students new to the band program will receive sign in information soon from our Band Booster Treasurer.
- The Band App: Registration Information will be available soon.
- Facebook: Millbrook High School Bands
- Twitter: @millbrookband
- Instagram (Booster Run): milbrookbands
- Instagram (Student Run): mhsbands1923
- Sign Up Genius to volunteer at events throughout the year usually organized through Ali Orcutt.

Band Boosters:

Learn more about our band program! *Meetings are held at 6:30PM the 3rd Thursday of each month in the band room (exceptions posted on band website calendar).* This year's band booster board includes:

- Wendy Newsom, President
- Denes Kovacs, Vice President
- Scott Davis, Treasurer
- Sara Teristi, Asst. Treasurer
- Rachel Davis, Secretary
- Ali Orcutt, Webmaster

Questions regarding band boosters can be sent to: president@millbrookbands.org

Classroom Fair Share

We ask that each of our students contributes a \$75 classroom Fair Share payment every year to help defray the costs of running the Band Program. This payment covers the cost of music, clinicians, and instrument repair. It also includes for the 2025-2026 school year the registration cost of All-District Auditions.

Communication Disclaimer

If you contact me, expect a response most likely within 24 hours but in certain cases please allow up to 48 hours. Emails I receive after work hours on Friday will not be responded to until the next work day. If you do not hear back from me within 48 hours please resend your email.

WCPSS School Owned Instrument Policy:

WCPSS does provide some school owned instruments available for students to borrow. These instruments are listed below. Once a student rents an instrument, it is their responsibility to ensure it's cared for properly. Any damage beyond normal wear will result in students being assessed the full repair or replacement cost. Students renting an instrument must obtain and fill out a WCPSS Instrument loan agreement. Students will not have access to their instrument outside of school until they return this document.

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Students who do not rent an instrument must still fill out a personal property waiver and return it to the band director.

Instruments the Millbrook Band owns for students to rent:

Tubas, Baritones, French Horns, Bass Clarinets, Baritone Saxophones, Tenor Saxophones, Bassoons and Oboes. Students may have to share instruments based on the number and the need.

CAROWINDS TRIP INFORMATION AT A GLANCE

This trip is a great way to showcase students' performance levels while also having a fun day in the amusement park. More information about this trip will come later in the semester, but if you are curious about how this trip works, visit this website: [Youth Performance Opportunities | Festival of Music | Carowinds](#)

RECOMMENDED UPGRADES

A pitch pipe/Stick Bag (percussion)

Clarinet Mouthpieces - VanDoren M13 Lyre Mouthpiece, Fobes

Saxophone Mouthpieces - Selmer C*, Vandoren AL3, Eugene Rousseau NC4

Trumpet Mouthpieces - Bach 5C, 3C, 1 or 1.5C

Trombone Mouthpieces - Bach 5G or 4G, Schilke 51 or 51D

Tuba Mouthpieces - Helleberg 120S, Bach 18

RECOMMENDED INSTRUMENT UPGRADES

Piccolo Yamaha YPC 62

Flute Yamaha 684 H, Jupiter Di Medici, Altus

Clarinet Buffet E-11 (Intermediate) R-13 (Professional)

Oboe Loree or Fox 400

Bassoon Fox Renard 220 or 222

Saxophone Selmer Superaction 80 Series II or III, Yamaha Custom

Trumpet Bach Stradivarius or Yamaha Xeno

Horn Conn 8D

Trombone Bach 42B, BO, or Yamaha Xeno

Euphonium Yamaha 321-S

Tuba St. Petersburg or Miraphone 191 or 187