

PCEP VARSITY BRASS COURSE SYLLABUS FALL/SPRING 2010-11

Course Description

This ensemble/class is designed to further enhance the musical skill level of band student(s) through chosen literature, fundamentals, and exposure to various professional and collegiate ensembles. Classroom activities are structured to provide opportunities for aesthetic expression. This ensemble depends on the successful efforts of each individual to do their part to flourish. We ask that every individual contribute his or her part.

Attendance

All rehearsals and performances are mandatory. With our limited rehearsal time, it is imperative that we make the most of each rehearsal. As a member of the PCEP band program, you have an obligation to your fellow band members to be at all rehearsals on time, be prepared, and have all necessary equipment.

1. All band students must abide by PCCS attendance policies.
2. Absences and tardies will be excused in the following situations:
 - A. Medical emergency or personal injury
 - B. Death in the family
 - C. Religious Holiday
 - D. Special circumstances pre-approved by Mr. Armbruster at least two weeks in advance. Students must have their absence approved by the director.
 - E. Conflicts between other PCEP activities should be brought to the attention of the director as soon as possible so the problem can be resolved with the other activities' sponsor. Conflict with non-school sponsored activities may not be considered.

All absences and tardies are to be communicated by the parents to the director of the student's band. We need as much advanced notice as possible so that we can resolve conflicts where applicable. **Please refer to the PCEP Band Handbook for further details.**

Mr. Armbruster's band office phone number is 734-582-5666

His preferred email address is: **David.Armbruster@pccsmail.net**

PLEASE make every attempt to communicate with us because we will make every attempt to communicate with you. ***Telephone calls are the preferred method of primary communication.*** In case of illness or family emergency, a telephone call to the director is appropriate, prior to the rehearsal/performance.

Students absent from school for the entire day are not allowed to rehearse or perform after school with the band as per school policy.

An absence from a rehearsal must be made up after consultation with the director. Participation at all rehearsals is required and is part of the student's grade.

For Performances and Night/After School Rehearsals, two unexcused tardies equals one unexcused absence. One unexcused absence lowers the final grade one letter. Two or more unexcused absences will be reassessed at the discretion of the Director(s) and participation in the band program.

All Rehearsals and Performances are located on the calendar section of our website. www.pcepbands.net

Grading

Daily Rehearsals/Participation

Students enrolled in performing ensembles will receive 5 points per day for active participation in rehearsals. Students are expected to be prepared for rehearsals which includes being in their assigned seat at the beginning of each rehearsal, having all equipment and music for instrumental ensembles, and being attentive during the rehearsal. Students may lose points for nonparticipation including being tardy to class, tardy for rehearsal, talking, sleeping, doing homework, not singing or playing and not being prepared for rehearsals. Being prepared for rehearsal is defined as having all necessary materials for rehearsals (instrumentalists should have instruments & music, concert sticks and mallets for percussionists, mutes and valve oil for brass players, reeds for woodwinds). All students must have a pencil for every rehearsal.

Playing Tests/Practice Logs

Musical evaluation helps the teacher, as well as the student to see where the student is musically. These evaluations target areas of fundamentals for improvement, as well as different areas of their assigned literature. Also to insure the success of the ensemble, each member tested on their individually assigned music must pass with 90% to be allowed to perform. Testing requirements and deadlines will be specific to each band and grades will be determined based upon successful completion of assignments.

Semester Exam

This playing exam will be administered at the end of the semester. This test will incorporate skills developed throughout the semester.

Rehearsals outside of the school day

Sectionals insure that the music is attainable for the students. It also gives the instructor an opportunity to give more individualized attention to the students other than a rehearsal. Sectionals also help insure that each like instrument match tone and sound quality better which improves the overall sound of the group. Full band after/before school rehearsals are usually dress rehearsals in preparation before a major performance/event. **ALL** rehearsals are mandatory.

The director will provide a schedule of required after school rehearsals and performances at least two weeks prior to the event. Students will be given points for actively participating in each activity. After school rehearsal are worth 50 points, after school concerts are worth 100 points and district and state Festivals are worth 200 points. At the director's discretion, students who have missed rehearsals or have not actively participated on a daily basis may be denied the privilege of performance at concerts or contest with loss of credit. Students with an excused absence must demonstrate proficiency in performing the assigned material and may make up after school rehearsals and performances through extra points determined by the director.

Performances

Attendance to all performances is mandatory. Students are responsible for having the proper concert attire and equipment. A failing grade will be assessed for the quarter without an excused absence. We will be fitting all students for Tuxedos and Gowns at the beginning of the school year.

**The 4 Concert Performances are: October 19th, December 9th, March 3rd & May 12th.
This does not include District Band Festival that will be held later in March.**

Eligibility

Since band is a team effort, which depends on each individual's contribution to the organization, it is imperative that the every student is academically eligible for his or her performances. Students who have an ongoing academic eligibility problem will be reassessed at the discretion of the Director(s).

Attitude

Band affords students many experiences. Camaraderie, self-discipline, artistic expression, the development and enhancement of psycho-motor skills, hand-eye coordination, are all elements that derive from time spent contributing to the band. These are skills which stay with students for a lifetime. In the grand scope of things band will be an enjoyable and rewarding experience. And it is not only what we make of it, but it is also how we make of what we make. Without each student contributing to their fullest potential, our experience as a group is always less than what it should be. So please, let's be prepared and **MAKE EACH MOMENT COUNT**.

***Let's have a GREAT
2010-11 school year!***

Please detach this form and return

I have read the Varsity Brass syllabus with my child and understand the requirements and expectations of the class. I will periodically check the website for information regarding section rehearsals, guest conductor rehearsals, concerts, and festival performances. I also understand that attendance is mandatory both during the school day as well as for any after school rehearsals.

Parent Signature: _____

Student Signature: _____

Date: _____

Please return this form by Friday, September 10th, 2010

Varsity Brass