

Keystone Oaks Middle and High School Music
(2022-2023 Performing Ensembles Syllabus)

Courses: High School Chorus – Grades 9-12, High School Symphonic Band – Grades 9-12, Middle School Concert Band – Grades 6-8

Instructor: Mr. Eibeck

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Keystone Oaks School District Mission Statement:

Excellence in engaging, empowering, and enriching today for tomorrow's expectations

Music Department Mission Statement:

The Keystone Oaks School District Music Department's mission is to provide a comprehensive music education to all students that fosters every student's musical and creative ability and creates a foundation for lifelong music involvement.

Music Department Vision Statement:

To provide each student with a life-long love, appreciation, and understanding of quality music and music-making, while promoting self-discipline, teamwork, and leadership skills for the 21st Century.

Thank you for choosing to enroll in a music ensemble course for the 2022-2023 school year! While participating in one of the ensembles below is definitely not "easy," it is one of the most satisfying and rewarding experiences you can have while you're here at Keystone Oaks. We strive to perform quality music to the best of our ability so that our audiences and students alike have a memorable experience. The following is meant to be a general guide for students and their parents/guardians so that we may continue to build on the legacy of success of our performing ensembles here at KO. I'm truly looking forward to a great school year with each ensemble!

We will use Google Classroom as a means for communication and to post important course information and assignments. Please check this resource regularly to stay up to date in class.

Tentative Concert Dates:

The following performances have been scheduled, but dates and times are *tentative* and subject to change. Please mark these dates on your calendars for future planning.

Middle School Concert Band – Grades 6, 7 and 8

- Dress Rehearsal—Wednesday, December 21, 2022—2:45-5:00pm
- Concert—Thursday, December 22, 2022—Call Time 6:00pm, Curtain at 7:00pm.
- Dress Rehearsal—Wednesday, May 17, 2023—2:45-5:00pm
- Concert—Thursday, May 18, 2023—Call Time 6:00pm, Curtain at 7:00pm.

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Chorus 9-12, Jazz Band 9-12, Symphonic Band 9-12

- Dress Rehearsal—Wednesday, December 14, 2022—2:45-5:00pm
- Concert—Thursday, December 15, 2022—Call Time 6:00pm, Curtain at 7:00pm.
- Dress Rehearsal—Wednesday, May 10, 2023—2:45-5:00pm
- Concert—Thursday, May 11, 2023—Call Time 6:00pm, Curtain at 7:00pm.

High School Symphonic Band 9-12 and High School Chorus 9-12

- Annual afternoon performance at the Allegheny County Courthouse—TBD—Monday, December 5 or December 12???

Learned and Demonstrable Skills:

Students in Middle School Band, Chorus, High School Jazz and/or High School Symphonic Bands will develop the following musical skills throughout the course as applicable:

1. Control the expressive elements of music such as tone, texture, phrasing, dynamics, intonation, and balance.
2. Follow basic and advanced conducting patterns.
3. Count and read various rhythmic patterns using a prescribed system.
4. Read music notation and lyrics (in various languages) and understand symbols for articulation, tempo and dynamics.
5. Perform various technical studies, such as scales, arpeggios and vocalises, in common various keys.
6. Sight-read music one grade level below ensemble performance level.
7. Demonstrate the ability to improvise over an ensemble accompaniment.
8. Demonstrate correct playing posture, instrument position, embouchure control, breath support, tone quality, diction, and articulation.
9. Demonstrate proper care for one's instrument
10. Understand the basics of good vocal health.
11. Listen to and analyze their own and others' musical performances.
12. Compare/Contrast, Describe, and Identify, using written musical terms, the pieces, composers, styles, and periods of the music each ensemble studies.

Students in Middle School Concert Band, Chorus, High School Jazz and/or High School Symphonic Bands will develop the following personal and ensemble skills:

1. Perform collaboratively with other students.
2. Exhibit self-discipline, team work and goal-setting ability.
3. Exhibit respectful behavior to the instructor and each other.
4. Develop the responsibility to follow through with a commitment.
5. Develop and exhibit a positive attitude toward music making.
6. Understand that music can be a life-long adventure!

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Music Classroom Rules and Expectations:

Students enrolled in any of the above courses are required to fulfill the following duties:

1. Be respectful of the instructor and each other at all times.
2. Attend each daily scheduled class fully prepared as described below.
3. Participate fully in each class as described below. Always give your best effort.
4. Study and practice independently beyond the school day all music and other materials presented in class.
5. Perform at all scheduled concerts in the concert attire described below.
6. Attend all dress rehearsals prior to the performances.
7. Keep the room and instrument storage rooms clean and organized at all times. If you see garbage or personal items in these places, clean it up! Please and Thank You!
8. Follow the Student Code of Conduct as described in the Student & Parent Handbook of the Keystone Oaks School District.
9. Electronic devices of any kind are not permitted during class.
10. Eating and drinking are not permitted in any class.

When students are engaged in live, remote learning through Google Meet, the following expectations are in place:

11. Log in to Google Meet for class on time.
12. Find a quiet, private and organized space to participate in class via Google Meet.
13. Students must use headphones to participate in class via Google Meet.
14. Recording, using cellphones, taking pictures or screen shots, etc. is not permitted during class via Google Meet at any time. Please respect everyone's privacy.

Instrument and Music/Folder Storage:

Students will be issued a folder and slot in the music cabinet for storage and organization of their ensemble music. It is your responsibility to keep the music in your folder organized and in good condition throughout the school year. Part of your participation grade will include random folder checks to ensure you have everything you need for class. Music will also be made available via Google Classroom.

All band students will be assigned an instrument locker and combination lock for their use during the school year. These lockers are **not** for long term storage of personal items such as school textbooks, clothing, and other personal items. You are borrowing them for the sole purpose of storing your instrument and other equipment needed for band. You may use them for personal items only when you're in the music room for class. Please use only use the locker you are assigned; under no circumstances should students be sharing lockers or switching the locks assigned to their locker. All lockers are expected to be locked using the combination lock assigned to that bin at all times. Keeping your locker

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and the instrument storage room clean and free of trash and debris is your responsibility. **Do not remove the lock from your locker.** You will be responsible for the replacement cost of the lock if it is lost or misplaced.

Grading and Assessment:

Home practice is required in all performing ensemble classes. Students will be given practice assignments (homework) during each class meeting, and students will be expected to demonstrate completion of these assignments regularly through class participation and playing/singing assignments through Google Classroom, Flipgrid, in person, or other means. Grades in the above courses will be based on two major areas:

1. Performance Skills Demonstration, Development, and Growth
2. Effective Rehearsal Participation Demonstration, Development, and Growth

Performance Skills activities include, among other things, evaluations in students' ability to sing and/or play concert music, vocalises, scales and other technical studies, and sight-reading. As every member of the ensemble plays an integral role in the success of the entire ensemble, every rehearsal, including dress rehearsals, and every performance is mandatory for each member of the ensemble. Home practice is a required component for making progress in music ensembles. Students are expected to practice a minimum of one hour per week beyond their in-school rehearsal time. Singing and playing tests and assignments will be used throughout the school year to allow students the opportunity to demonstrate their ability in the required Performance Skills. Students are expected to complete all assignments on time.

Effective Rehearsal Participation is the responsibility of every student enrolled in one of the above ensembles. Each individual affects the success of every rehearsal and performance. The following rules for effective participation will apply:

1. Have your instrument, folder, music, and a pencil for each class.
2. Keep your music and folder properly organized and your instrument/voice in good working order.
3. Be in your assigned seat with everything you need for class ready to rehearse when the bell rings. The director will not wait for you, and your participation grade will reflect your level of punctuality and preparedness.
4. Avoid all behaviors that disrupt the class (such as talking, chewing gum, eating, and using electronic devices). These waste rehearsal time, impair your music education, and keep us all from reaching our true potential as musicians and as an ensemble.
5. Students should come to class ready to be fully and actively engaged in each rehearsal. Inattentive behavior, or being unprepared for class, will affect your participation grade for the day.

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Points are assigned to the following ensemble activities. Dress rehearsals and performances are mandatory and are impossible to make up. Partial credit may be available at the discretion of the director in extenuating circumstances when they are brought to his attention and discussed in advance. This list is not exhaustive of possible grades.

1. Class Participation—Up to 100 Points per week (20 Points/Day)
2. Post-Concert Evaluations—Varying Points
3. Playing/Singing Assignments—Varying Points
4. Practice Reflections—Varying Points
5. Folder Checks—Varying Points
6. Written Assignments—Varying Points
7. Dress Rehearsals—75 Points
8. Performances—100 Points

Performance Attire:

To ensure an ensemble in performance that looks as good as it sounds, the following performance attire is required:

Middle School Concert Band – Grades 6 and 7

- Please dress for a very special occasion. Students should wear dress pants and blouses or a dress or dress pants, dress shirt and tie. All students should wear dress shoes. Jeans, tennis shoes, flip flops, etc. are not appropriate concert attire.

Middle School Concert Band – Grade 8 AND

High School Symphonic Band, Chorus, and Jazz Band – Grades 9-12

- Please choose from the following:
 - Long black skirt (below the knee) OR black dress pants (no jeans), appropriate hosiery/black stockings/dress socks, black dress shoes (no tennis shoes), black dress shirt/blouse, appropriate neck tie. (All black formal attire)

Mr. Eibeck reserves the right to deny performance to any student who does not follow the above attire guidelines, and such denial will affect the student's grade.

Each piece of the performance attire must be freshly cleaned and pressed. You will not be permitted to wear jeans, tennis shoes, flip-flops, or any other article of clothing that differs in style or color from the above dress code under any circumstances.

If the clothing described above presents a financial hardship for any reason, please contact the director for a confidential discussion so we can work something out for you.

High School Symphonic Band Seating:

The director will seat the symphonic band by either audition/playing test or placement at his discretion. The title of "Section Leader" or "First Chair" will

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reside with the first chair player in each section that has more than one player. Once seating has been completed, the following rules will apply in the event a student wishes to challenge for chair placement:

1. Each semester will have one challenge period.
 - a. First semester—September, October and November.
 - b. Second semester—January, February and March.
2. Students may move one chair at a time with each challenge.
3. Student wishing to challenge notifies the student in the next highest chair that you wish to challenge.
4. Both students come to the director to set a challenge date.
5. A student may only challenge the same student once during each semester's challenge period.
6. Challenges will be on the current band music we are studying and technical studies chosen by the director. Both students will play the same material. Higher parts prevail.
7. In the case of all ties, seating will remain the same. You must be clearly superior to win the challenge.

Tips for Success in Band and Chorus:

1. Take your instrument and/or music home to practice on a regular basis.
2. Schedule a regular time to practice that won't be interrupted, preferably on weekends or as part of your nightly homework time.
3. Make your environment as conducive to practicing as possible: find a quiet place with good lighting that is free of distractions like TVs or other noise, invest in a music stand, practice chair and metronome/tuner.
4. Keep your instrument/music in good order.
5. Don't allow yourself to make excuses for not practicing.
6. Study privately! This is absolutely the quickest and most effective way to play and sing well. Please see the director if you would like some suggestions for private teachers in the area, and please let me know if you already study privately.

Additional Materials for Instrumentalists:

1. Tuner/Metronome—There are also several great apps available.
 2. Fingering chart for your instrument
 3. Extra Reeds, Cork Grease, Valve Oil, Slide Grease, etc.
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Student and Parent/Guardian Acknowledgement:

Please sign and date below and return to Mr. Eibeck by **Friday, September 9, 2022**. Returning this acknowledgement is a homework assignment, and students will receive a homework assignment grade for returning their syllabus acknowledgement on time. Late submissions will not receive full credit. Signing below indicates both the student's and parent's understanding of the information described above, including all requirements and expectations, as well as mandatory dress rehearsal and concert dates.

Student Printed Name _____

Student Signature _____ Date _____

Parent Printed Name _____

Parent Signature _____ Date _____

Parent Email Address _____

Phone Number _____

Class(es) _____ Period(s) _____