



**Evansville North High School  
Instrumental Music Department**  
*Band and Orchestra Syllabus*



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**String Specialist:** Mrs. Karen Renner

**General Information:**

The North High School Bands and Orchestra are performance-based organizations. The classes are considered co-curricular, which means that participation in rehearsals and performances outside of the normal school day are required and used for evaluation and grading for the course. Music classes are unique from other classes due to the fact that contributions from each individual directly affect the product of the whole organization. For this reason, each member is expected to maintain good attendance, make a good effort to make positive contributions to the group, and to cooperate with other members of the group. In addition, it is recognized that there will be members with different skill levels, so taking you from where you are and moving you to a higher achievement level is the goal.

**Assessments:** Daily class attendance and participation, participation in rehearsals and performances, various playing or written exams.

**Grading Policy/Co-Curricular Policy:** This information will be given in a separate document which will be distributed along with the Calendar of Events. (if you have received it at the beginning of the year, you will not receive another copy – it is a year-long document)

**Required Materials:** Instrument, all necessary music (most provided), pencil, any other requested material by the Director.

**Units of Study:** Warmup exercises, rhythm, musical notation, tone quality, intonation, balance, blend, articulation, phrasing, dynamics, terms and symbols, breath support. All of these units are discussed within the study of music and how they relate to the compositions we perform. In addition, students will be given supplemental written music theory assignments or music articles to read. Quizzes will be given over these items of study.

**Literature:** A variety of music styles will be covered, including Baroque, Classical, Pop, Jazz, and Contemporary.

**Calendar of Events:** All known rehearsals, performances, and audition dates/times are listed on the Calendar of Events document which will be distributed during the first week of school.

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**Performance Attire – Band:** A summer uniform consisting of the Green Brigade shirt, black shorts, and white tennis shoes will be used for early school year performances. For marching season, a full band uniform provided by the school will be distributed to each member. Each member will be required to order black marching shoes through the band. For concert season, the performance attire will be long sleeve white dress shirt or blouse, black dress slacks or mid-length skirt, black socks, black dress shoes.

**Performance Attire – Orchestra:** Orchestra members will be required to wear a black and white formal uniform to be determined at the beginning of the year.

**Course Description – Band:** Class meets every day and receives one credit. First semester students are expected to participate in the Green Brigade, North High School's award-winning marching band. The Green Brigade is committed to excellence in their musical presentations. Members will work on developing music as well as visual drill movements to produce a competition show. After October, the emphasis switches to concert music preparation for the North District Instrumental Music Festival, performances at feeder schools, solo/ensemble events, and 2 major concerts in the spring semester. Special performance opportunities may also occur during the course of the year. During basketball season, members are divided into 2 performing pep bands with similar instrumentations that alternate required performances at home games.

**Course Description – Orchestra:** The orchestra consists of string instrumentalists. This class meets every day and receives one credit. The orchestra performs at 3 major concerts a year in addition to several special functions at the school and within the community. Orchestra members also participate in the ISSMA District and State Solo/Ensemble contests. In March, the orchestra is an integral part of the spring Musical. At times, wind and percussion players will be combined to the strings to provide a full orchestra experience.

**Honors Opportunities:** Members of the Band and Orchestra have several opportunities available for performance with local, regional, and state performing organizations. These include: EVSC Honors Band, Honors Orchestra, Honors Jazz, IBA All-Region, All-District, and All-State Bands, All-State Orchestra, EPYO, and ISSMA Solo/Ensemble events. *To participate in these organizations, you MUST be enrolled in one of the North instrumental music classes.*

### **Daily Expectations:**

1. Be in the room **before** the tardy bell rings! (No exceptions)
2. No food or soft drinks allowed in the room!
3. Get instrument/equipment out and take seat ASAP!
4. Have your instrument, music and any other necessary equipment daily!
5. Be courteous and attentive!
6. Take care of putting instrument, music, and equipment back in its proper place at the end of the rehearsal!
7. Meet your responsibilities to the group! Be a team player!
8. Give your **best effort** all of the time, and have fun!