

University Preparatory

Wind Ensemble

Mr. Harps

Dear Parents and Students,

I would like to welcome you and your child to the 2017-2018 school year. I am very excited that your child has chosen to be a member of a music performance class. I will be incorporating new methods and teaching strategies that I am confident will help your child progress musically. As a partner with you, I will help your child be the best musician he or she can be. Please read through this information carefully so that I may address any questions or concerns you may have.

Curriculum and Grading

The majority of time in class will be spent playing together as a group. We will be preparing concert pieces and parade marches that will be performed at various times throughout the school year. The mastery of a student's individual playing ability and the contribution musically to the group will be our goal and the major objective of the class. This will be accomplished in the following ways:

Participation (5 points per day)

Students need to participate to be successful in any class. Students are required to have their instrument, (name tag on the case, this would include mouth pieces, reeds, drumsticks, etc.) music book, and all sheet music **every day**.

Students who do not bring their instrument (including ALL parts, with the name tag attached to the case)/book/music to class will lose all 5 points for that day. They may earn 2 of those points back by following along with any and all music being rehearsed during class (This is not a time they can work on classwork from another class).

The only exception for this is if the instrument is in the shop for repair (a parent note must be brought in **the first day** this occurs and the student will be required to follow along with any music we are rehearsing in class).

Written quizzes and tests (25 - 50 points each)

Written quizzes and tests, assessing music theory concepts will be given a minimum of 2-3 times per semester.

Playing tests (50 points each)

A minimum of 5 to 6 times each quarter students will be assessed through playing tests. These tests will consist of scales learned in class and excerpts from their concert music. Therefore practice is required as homework. Your child should bring his/her instrument home each day to practice. (I can tell if a student has practiced simply by seeing if his/her instrument was left in my classroom.)

Attendance at performances (200 points each)

Because this is a performing group, much of what is covered and rehearsed in class culminates in various performances throughout the school year. Some of these performances will be evening or week-end concerts which will enable families to attend. Winter Concerts will be December 7th-9th and Spring Concerts will be April 26th-28th. November 11, December 2nd are Parade Dates, do not schedule anything on these dates. Festival is March 9th-10th, keep these dates open as well. Schedules with performance dates will be passed out early each semester. Concert dress for this year will be our new **UNIFORMS!** As part of the uniform, each student must wear the following, white collared dress shirt (their Monday Professional shirt is acceptable), black dress socks and black dress shoes, no exceptions! **Failure to follow the dress code and/or not being present for the entire performance will result in losing 50 percent of the points for the performance. Performances are mandatory.**

No Food or Drinks (except water) is allowed in the classroom at any time!
NO GUM IS ALLOWED!

Additionally students will be expected to follow all University Preparatory rules.

In addition to these curricular standards, students will also be graded on the following behavioral expectations:

Citizenship/Behavior and Work Ethic Expectations

<p>A = Student demonstrates an exceptional mastery to:</p> <p>B = Student demonstrates above average mastery to:</p> <p>C = Student demonstrates mastery level proficiency to:</p> <p>D/F = Student does not display proficiency to:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">•1 Exhibit a team effort in class.•2 Exhibit correct posture, notes, rhythms, dynamics and style in testing and required performances.•3 Properly use and care for instrument and equipment.•4 Utilize proper musical vocabulary in discussions and writing assignments.•5 Be respectful of the conductor and rehearsal situations at all times!! (no talking)•6 Have instrument, all parts and supplies for the instrument, book and all sheet music ready.
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Policy on Missing or Broken Equipment:

Neither University Preparatory nor I am responsible for the condition and care of any student's instrument! It is the **student's** responsibility to care and maintain his/her instrument.

Students must keep a name tag on their instrument case at all times. Periodic checks for this will be done and graded.

If help is needed on any of the above curriculum areas, please ask! I am available to help students individually at lunch and after school. I care very much about my students' music education, and I desire to help them find success. I am looking forward to a positive, fun & successful year, and I will enjoy this opportunity to work with your child to ensure his/her success!!! If you should need to contact me you may call the school at (760) 243-5940 ext. 35805 or send e-mail to: **DHarps@vvuhsd.org**.

Thanks!

Dennis A. Harps (Director of Bands)