

Beginning Percussion 2020-2022 Syllabus

OVMS Instrumental Music Department

Thomas Russell, Director

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ovband.org



Owen Valley
Patriot Band and Guard

Program Objectives

The Owen Valley Band program...

- provides students with high quality musical experiences.
- develops musicianship through performance both in and out of the classroom.
- educates and entertains our community with a wide variety of performances.
- instills in students a desire to continue to pursue music and musical experiences beyond their time with the Owen Valley program.

Course Objectives

By the end of their first year of instruction percussion students should be able to...

- name the parts of their instrument.
- know how to properly put together, maintain, and take a part their instrument.
- demonstrate how to hold their instrument and show proper posture when playing it.
- describe and demonstrate the proper technique for producing characteristic tone on their instrument
- identify the clef of their instrument and recognize the notes that they learn on that clef.
- identify the following notes and rest: eighth notes, quarter notes, half notes, and whole notes.
- describe and demonstrate musical terms, dynamics, and articulations commonly used by first year students.
- perform with steady pulse alone and with others on varied selections.

Required Materials

Students must bring the following things to class each day to receive full credit for participating:

- Pencil
- Percussion instruments are provided by the school. However, there is a \$50 fee per year that can be paid in two parts (\$25 each semester)
- 1 pair of Vic Firth SD1 Generals or equivalent concert sticks (NO Drum Set Sticks)
- The following items are recommended:
 - Stick bag to protect their sticks
 - Earplugs
 - 1 pair of Balter BB22 Medium Marimba Mallets or equivalent medium strength yarn mallets (will be required for Intermediate Percussion Class)
 - Snare drum and bell kit (optional, but highly recommended)

Concert Attire

For performances students will wear:

Gentlemen

- Band Polo (order form coming soon)
- Black Pants (slacks preferred)
- Black Belt
- Black Socks
- Black Shoes (dress shoes preferred)

Ladies

- Band Polo (order form coming soon)
- Black Pants, Capris, or Skirt (knee length or longer)
- Black Belt (if there are belt loops)
- Black socks/black or tan nylons (optional)
- Black Shoes

Classroom Expectations

1. Be prepared with all materials for class and enter the room by the designated time.
2. When someone addresses the class, stop talking or playing and listen.
3. Follow directions the first time they are given.
4. Keep hands, feet, and objects to yourself.
5. No profanity, teasing, name calling, or yelling.

Rewards

Individual

1. Verbal praise from Mr. Cramer
2. Positive contact with a parent (via letter, phone, or email)

Consequences

Individual consequences will be given when a classroom expectation is not being met. Individual consequences will reset each week, except in situations where students have a recurring offense. In that situation an individual student's consequences may be defined specific to that individual student and their behavior.

Individual

1. Verbal Warning
2. Lunch detention and parent contact
3. Referral (Further infractions result in additional referrals)

*Severe Clause - Any action deemed severe enough may result in an automatic referral

Procedures

Snare Drum Days

1. When students enter the room, they need to put their book bags along the front of the room. Students will take their sticks and books to their playing area.
2. On these days students will begin by getting a snare drum stand out of the closet in the back right corner of the room. Snare drums are found in a locker in the back center of the room. Secure the snare drum on the stand before getting a music stand. Music stands are found by the band room office.
3. Students will arrange themselves in a semi-circle in the center of the room facing the whiteboard. Students will not play their instruments until Mr. Russell has instructed them to. Students will have their sticks down at their sides whenever someone is talking. The exercise will always start after

eight clicks from the metronome, once everyone is in set position.

4. When class is finished, students will put away their music stands, snare drum, and snare drum stands and return their personal items to their book bags. Mr. Russell will dismiss the class when everything has been cleaned up.

Mallet Days

1. When students enter the room, they need to put their book bags along the front of the room. Students will take their sticks and books to their playing area.
2. On these days students will get a mallet instrument from the far side of the room and arrange it in a semi circle facing the whiteboard, splitting the middle of the room. Students will then grab one or two music stands per instrument, depending on the instrument selected.
3. Students will not play their instruments until Mr. Cramerl has instructed them to. Students will have their sticks down at their sides whenever someone is talking. The exercise will always start after eight clicks from the metronome, once everyone is in set position.
4. After rehearsal ends, students will push the mallet instruments to make two lines perpendicular to the white board near the two practice room doors. The mallet instruments cannot block a straight line path from the practice room doors to the exit of the band room.
5. Mr. Cramer will dismiss the class when everything has been cleaned up.

Grading Policy

Grading for this class will be based in the following categories. Sample point totals given.

Performances (Dress Rehearsal 25 points, Concerts 50 points)

Classroom Participation (Daily Participation 3 points)

Class Assignments (worksheets and quizzes have varying point totals)

Performance Assessments (playing tests have varying point totals)

Grading Category Descriptions

Performances

Student performances are the culmination of the work that the students put in at home and in the classroom and often mark the end of a class unit. The performances may include concerts, dress rehearsals, music festivals, contests, and other events that reinforce concepts taught in the classroom, broaden the musical experiences the student is exposed to, and allows them to develop skills that a student is not completely exposed to during classroom instruction (e.g. concert etiquette, overcoming performance anxiety, and evaluating performances).

After school performances and dress rehearsals are required as part of this course. The dates for these required events as well as optional performances are attached. The optional performances listed enhance the student's musical experience.

If a student is unable to make a performance, their absence will either be labeled as excused (performances points will not count for or against the student) or unexcused (performance points will result in a lower score or no points). A student may receive an excused absence from a performance when the student's absence:

1. Meets the criteria for a school approved absence as listed in the student handbook.
2. Is reported to Mr. Cramer prior to the absence by a parent or guardian via a written note, email, or phone message (829-2266 x330). As a courtesy give this notice as soon as the conflict is known, and no later than 2 days prior to the performance, unless it is an emergency.

Members that miss one or more performances may be dismissed from the Beginning Band class.

Classroom Participation

A student's behavior and effort in class will be evaluated. Due to the performance based nature of the class it is necessary for students to work together to achieve class performance objectives. Students that participate fully are better prepared to meet classroom expectations and objectives and also provide a truer assessment of their own development and skills. A student will receive a participation score based on the criteria listed above under "classroom expectations".

Class Assignments

On a regular basis students will be given non-performance based assignments in class that will be used to reinforce concepts taught in class, to develop and use technical reading and writing skills within the performing arts curriculum, and to assess student achievement and comprehension of class concepts. Students may be asked to complete these assignments during class time or outside class time. Assignments that are assigned a due date must be turned in by the assigned date to receive full credit. Late assignments will be taken by Mr. Russell on a case by case basis and may receive partial credit.

Performance Assessments

Students will receive assignments that they must perform in order to receive credit. Students will be asked to prepare and perform these assignments to assess student achievement and comprehension of class concepts.

Questions and Comments

Use the contact information listed at the beginning of this syllabus for any questions or comments that may occur. Also sign up for Remind (@ovbmsb) so that you receive updates about things that are happening with the percussionists at all grade levels. My preferred form of contact for comments and questions is via email.

Help Support the Band!

As a new or veteran band parent you can play an important role in aiding the band in providing the great musical opportunities that our children deserve. The Owen Valley Band and Guard Booster organization raises funds, manages and builds equipment and props, takes care of uniforms, chaperones trips and performances, volunteers at and attends Band and Guard events, and supports our members in many other ways. This is a great way to stay connected with your child and make their music experience special. Please take some opportunities this year to share your time and your talents with our organization, and check the box on the attached form to get more information about our Booster program.

Please detach this page and return within two weeks of receiving it, keep the rest of the document for your reference.

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My child and I have received the Beginning Percussion class syllabus. My child and I acknowledge that we are responsible for knowing and understanding the class requirements, including after school performances and the grading policy. If we have questions we may contact Mr. Cramer

Student's Signature

Date

Parent/Guardian's Signature

Contact Information:

Parent/Guardian's Name (Print) _____

Email _____ @ _____

Cell Phone _____ Best time to call _____

____ Please enroll parent name & cell phone above in the text based notification service (Remind) for Middle School Beginning Band and Band Boosters