

# Northside HS Panther Band Program Syllabus

## **Course Description:**

This course is designed to give the student an enriching and diverse instrumental music education. This class provides several performance opportunities for the student in a variety of settings. The daily objective of the course is to foster and promote musical growth through the playing of an instrument by the student. As a member of the band class/program, group effort and cooperation are necessary to a successful program. Band is a skilled effort in which each student is expected to show technical and musical growth throughout this course.

## **Concert Band/Jazz Band**

- Concert Bands perform numerous concerts throughout the year and compete in UIL and other competitive festivals.
- Our high school bands travel and perform at various music festivals and events across the area, region, state, and occasionally outside the state.
- Jazz Ensemble is typically available to students as an additional class option or as an extracurricular opportunity.
- It is common for students to participate in the UIL Solo and Ensemble Contest and/or full orchestra for concerts or contests.

## **Course Objectives**

The course objectives are:

1. To produce a characteristic tone on individual instruments
2. To identify and demonstrate a knowledge of musical notation;
3. To demonstrate fingerings and positions for the practical range of individual instruments
4. To develop good individual practice habits
5. To demonstrate a basic understanding of the elements of music. These include timbre, dynamics, articulation, rhythm, melody / pitch, harmony, texture, form, expression and style
6. To demonstrate a basic understanding of and ability to perform ensemble playing skills and techniques
7. To develop problem-solving and evaluation skills applicable to music
8. To develop an aesthetic sensitivity to music
9. To demonstrate knowledge of music as a creative art form of man in an historical context

## **Learner Outcomes**

### **Tone Production-**

Upon completion of the Northside Band, students will be able to:

1. Consistently perform with correct posture, hand position, breath support and embouchure control.

### **Musical Notation-**

Upon completion of the Northside Band, students will be able to:

1. Recognize advanced fingering patterns and all note names
2. Speak note names aloud while reading music
3. Speak note names aloud and finger along
4. Demonstrate knowledge of the fingering chart by playing it in eighth notes, both ascending descending, starting on any pitch
5. Identify key signatures and the sharps and flats contained within the concert keys of C, F, Bb, Eb, Ab, Db, Gb, Cb, E, A, D, and G
6. Perform major, minor, and chromatic scales two octaves, when appropriate

### **Practice Habits-**

Upon completion of the Northside Band, students will be able to:

1. Develop and document an organized, weekly practice routine
2. Discuss and apply appropriate practice methods / techniques
3. Use of Smart Music/Make Music Technology in improving and learning music

### **Elements of Music-**

Upon completion of the Northside Band, students will be able to:

1. Timbre-Recognize the difference in *timbre* of all band instruments, and ensembles which may include concert band, marching band, jazz band, string orchestra, full orchestra, and choir.

### **Dynamics-**

1. Identify the dynamic marking of pp, p, mp, mf, f, and ff
2. Identify the dynamic marking of fp and sfzp
3. Demonstrate all dynamic levels
4. Demonstrate gradual increase and decrease in volume while maintaining characteristic tone, balance, and blend.

### **Articulations-**

1. Demonstrate connected, accented, and detached tonguing and slurring.  
Identify various articulations in musical assignments

### **Rhythm-**

Demonstrate an understanding of pulse and beat division by:

1. Tapping foot down and up during lessons
2. Counting and playing whole, half, quarter, eighth, sixteenth notes and rests, dotted quarter notes, dotted half notes and dotted eighth-sixteenth
3. Recognize syncopation and be able to demonstrate syncopated rhythms
4. Recognize and play downbeats and upbeats
5. Recognize and play songs in 6/8 and 12/8 time
6. Recognize and play songs in alla breve time

### **Melody, Pitch, Harmony-**

1. Identify and correctly balance melody, bass line, countermelody, and harmony in the music they perform
2. Understand and apply the Pyramid of Sound in musical exercises and assigned selections
3. Compare pitches and identify and fix pitch inconsistencies

### **Texture-**

1. Perform music in homophonic and polyphonic textures
2. Identify the difference between melody and accompaniment
3. Identify, describe, evaluate, and demonstrate the “pyramid of sound”

### **Form-**

1. Perform songs in binary and ternary form
2. Perform and recognize the forms of march, overture, canonic form, theme, and variation
3. Perform music that modulates and uses rhythmic transformation

### **Expressive Elements-**

1. Discuss the musical effect of the combined musical elements

### **Style-**

1. Explore tempo, interpretive, and articulation styles standard to specific genres
2. Describe the historical background of a composition and biographical information of selected composers

### **Units of Instruction**

1. The band program is set up in a series of concert cycles that meet the developmental needs of the student band population

### **Instructional Material**

Essential Elements 2000; Tim Lautzenheiser, John Higgins, et al, Hal Leonard Publications, 1999

Foundations for Superior Performance, R. Williams and J. King, Kjos Music Co., 1998

MakeMusic Software – Band members will have to subscribe to this tool

Concert performance pieces are selected from the Northside High Band Library which houses over 500 titles of varying levels of ability. Programs are customized to the specific needs of each ensemble. Each student will have performed at least one piece from each of the following genres by the completion of their 12<sup>th</sup> grade year.

March

Overture

Ballad

Folk Medley

### **Evaluation Methods and Assessments:**

Evaluation methods are:

1. Objective performance tests
2. Subjective performance tests
3. Objective written worksheets and tests
4. Subjective written responses
5. Portfolio assessment (written, digital recordings, and videotaped work)
6. Oral responses
7. Performance Projects
8. Assessment at festival by recognized experts in the field of music education

### **Grading Standard**

The grading standards on objective material is as follows.

**A 90-100**

**B 80-89**

**C 70-79**

**D 60-69**

**F 59 and below**

The grading standard for the subjective material will be based on a set of rubrics.

### **Extension of Enrichment activities for special populations of students**

The student population of band classes consists of a wide range of socioeconomic, ethnic, and racial backgrounds. Because the class is open to all students, student ability is very diverse. Activities are geared for auditory, visual, and kinesthetic-tactile learners. All students participate in Solo and Ensemble Festival as well as UIL Concert and Sightreading Band Evaluations. Remedial students are encouraged to schedule tutoring sessions with a specialist on the student's particular instrument.

### **Method of Instruction:**

A variety of instructional methods are used in the Northside HS Band. Among these are:

1. Cooperative learning in large groups (Master Classes)
2. Cooperative learning in small groups (Private Tutoring)
3. Individual work (Private Tutoring)
4. Auditory, visual, and kinesthetic-tactile experiences

### **Student Materials and Handouts:**

Hand outs and student materials that are used include the following:

1. Grading Rubrics
2. Band Handbook
3. Rhythm Sets
4. Circle of Fourths/Fifths
5. Function Chorales
6. Scale Sheets
7. Music Theory Worksheets
8. Study guides for individual pieces of music
9. Instrument
10. Supplies (extra reeds, valve oil, cork grease, slide oil, sticks/mallets, etc.)
11. Pencil
12. Music Folder with Page Protectors
13. Laptops (students required to keep laptops charged for class assignments)

### Classroom Rules:

- Arrive to class on time. After the tardy bell, you have 2 minutes to be seated with your instrument.
- Cell Phones are to be placed into the cell phone bin, or backpack- **ABSOLUTELY NO CELL PHONES ON THE MUSIC STAND** (unless required to use TONAL ENERGY for tuning assignments)
- No GUM, FOOD, or DRINKS in the band hall – Water bottles are permitted.
- Be prepared with your instrument, music, and pencil every day.
- Respect the people, equipment, and furnishings of the rehearsal/practice rooms.
- Band members are required to practice musical assignments while in the band room. The band room is not a HANG OUT AREA.
- Observe all rules in the **NHS Band Handbook** and the **Student Code of Conduct for Houston ISD**

### Attendance:

Your attendance during after-school rehearsals and performances is vital to our success.

**Attendance is mandatory to all rehearsals and performances!** The given performance calendar is the official calendar and contains rehearsals and performances. Concert band rehearsals for the 2nd semester are mandatory and will be graded. Please be aware of all scheduled calendar and concert dates and plan accordingly.

### Excused Absences Include:

- Personal illness with Doctor's Note (or absence from school)
- Extra-Curricular School conflicts approved by director in advance.
- Additional requirements are found in the NHS Panther Band Handbook

Communication with the director is crucial when an absence is known. The best method of communication would be via e-mail. All band students are asked to download BAND APP for communication purposes. *Absences that are excused will be subject to a make-up assignment. Missing a performance that is graded will result in the individual performing the music for a reduced grade.* Alternative assignments (written) will not be assigned in place of a scheduled performance assignment.

Note: **Please understand that birthday celebrations, club sport practices, and NHS clubs, and jobs are not considered excused absences.** Additional information can be found in the NHS Band Handbook.

# Northside HS Panther Band Program Syllabus

The following requested signatures indicate that you have read the information, understand, and will follow the requirements of this course syllabus. The signatures are required, and each student will receive a grade for submission of this portion of the document as confirmation.

Additional information can be added to this document.

Student Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

