

## Teacher: Ron Fiorito, Jr

- Phone: (847) 718-4498
- E-mail: [ron.fiorito@d214.org](mailto:ron.fiorito@d214.org)

## Course Description

In the Elk Grove High School Band Program, students will focus on developing technical skills in tone production, articulation, and technique on their specific instrument as well as in music literacy and sight-reading. Emphasis is placed on the development of musicianship through progressive technical studies and intermediate to advanced modern and classical band literature. Musical skills as well as aesthetic critique are assessed each quarter. In band, students will grow in their performance abilities on their individual instruments as well as improve their aural skills, musical terminology, and music theory knowledge.

## Grading Breakdown

- **40%** **Performances**
  - Based on attendance at concerts, preparedness for performances and rehearsals. The penalty for an unexcused performance absence will be significant and appropriate. Each musical ensemble's performance is judged by our school, community, our families, and in some cases, professional adjudicators. One person's absence greatly affects the entire ensemble's performance. The performance schedule is published well in advance in order to avoid conflicts. The best policy regarding any conflict is to communicate with your director as soon as possible.
    - If student has an excused absence from a performance, an appropriate alternate assignment will be given at the discretion of the director.
- **30%** **Habits of Work**
  - Performing at an appropriate level individually, within the section, and with the ensemble on a daily basis. Individual participation, preparation, improvement, and performance are also expected. Appropriate behavior, possession of needed materials, music, and instrument.
  - Tardiness will result in a loss of habits of work points. Bring a good attitude and work ethic to class everyday, help other students with material being learned, and cooperate with the director and other students.
- **30%** **Playing Assessments/Written Tests & Assignments**
  - Graded performances, individual and in-class playing, written tests, written assignments, participation in sectionals (scheduled at director's discretion), and auditions.
- **10%** **Final Exam**
  - The Final Exam will include a performance assessment and/or a written exam on concepts studied in class.

## Band Calendar

All EGHS Band rehearsals, events and performances will be posted and updated on the Band Website. This is the best resource for staying updated on concerts, rehearsals, and other EG band events.

Attendance at all performances and events are **REQUIRED** for all EGHS band students, unless otherwise specified.

## Music Folder and Parts Policy

After seating is assigned for each concert, each student will be assigned a folder and set of parts. Students are responsible for these materials for all rehearsals and performances. If a student does not have a music part or folder during rehearsal or a performance, the fine is \$2 per piece and \$15 per folder.

## Marching Band Uniforms

Marching uniforms are provided by the school, and are kept in the Uniform Storage Room. Students must provide:

- 1) Black DrillMaster marching shoes (purchased through the Band)
- 2) Black socks (solid black-no patterns)

Guidelines for Marching Band Uniform Wear:

- 1) No jewelry is to be worn, including earrings
- 2) No makeup is to be worn, including fingernail polish (Color Guard may use matching makeup)
- 3) The entire uniform is to be worn at all times, unless otherwise instructed by Mr. Fiorito
- 4) Students will pay a uniform rental fee.

## Concert Uniforms

Women – Black concert dress (provided by EGHS)

Men – Tuxedo jacket and pants, tuxedo shirt, bow tie, vest, (provided by EGHS) black socks, black dress shoes

## Informal Concert Attire

All students are required to purchase an EG music polo (\$28). Pep assemblies and pep band performance attire will be jeans and the polo. Any other functions will be khakis and the polo.

## Private Lessons

It is well known that private study with a qualified professional musician on a given instrument is the best way for a student to achieve their highest potential. Although not required, private lessons are strongly encouraged for all students. The music director maintains a list of recommended private teachers. Many private instructors provide lessons at school during and/or after school hours. The lesson teacher determines private lesson fees. See your director for scholarship information.

## Band Leadership

### Leadership Committee

Members of the band leadership committee are appointed by the director based on application, interview and input from the band students. Applications will be made available at the beginning of the school year. The leadership committee will help with organizational and administrative tasks including:

- Recording daily attendance
- Passing out paperwork at the beginning of class
- Collecting and alphabetizing paperwork in class
- Monitoring the needs of others (solving simple issues)
- Monitoring cleanliness of practice rooms, rehearsal space and hallways
- Contributing to the management of classroom discipline
- Organizing a “checklist” of musical issues in daily rehearsals
- Planning and organizing band social events
- Concert setup and teardown
- Band concert and event publicity
- Speaking at Band or other EG Music concerts and events

### Section Leaders and Seating

Section leaders will be selected by Mr. Fiorito at the beginning of the year and may be rotated at each concert cycle.

On a daily basis, all section leaders should be prepared to:

- Provide fingerings for difficult passages to their sections
- Keep an ongoing list of problem areas from the repertoire to rehearse in sectionals
- Efficiently lead sectionals and keep section members focused on the task at hand
- Conference with Mr. Fiorito following sectional rehearsals
- Perform difficult parts of the repertoire as a model for the class when appropriate

Seating throughout the band will be rotated frequently. Students will be placed in seating that will best benefit the needs of all members of the band.

### Solo and Ensemble Festival

Participation in Solo & Ensemble Festival is an important part of a student’s musical growth. Held each year in January, this event provides the opportunity to prepare solo and small ensemble literature and perform for an experienced adjudicator. Students receive a performance rating and comments. The comments received are constructive in nature, and are intended to help the student improve and mature as a musician. Participation in Solo & Ensemble Festival is required for all band and orchestra students.

### Music Trips

A highlight of a music student’s high school experience is the opportunity to travel. The purpose of music trips is to provide additional educational opportunities that are not available at the school. Students represent the school and community by participating in once-in-a-lifetime performance opportunities in exciting destinations, such as Florida, California, Texas, and Europe. An important component of group travel is the bonding that takes place among ensemble members. The recreational and social aspects of a trip are just as important as the educational benefits. Students may earn their trip costs through participation in the various fundraising projects offered during the year(s) leading up to the trip.

NEXT TRIP: Band/Choir Disney Tour March 2015

### Expectations of Percussion Students

1. Upon entering the room, check the board for rehearsal order
2. All percussionists will be assigned organizational duties before and/or after rehearsal
3. If you do not have a part to play, sit quietly away from those who are playing (read, study, etc.)
4. Store all percussion equipment properly when not in use / smaller items are to be put away daily and covered!
5. All percussionists are expected to own their own set of sticks mallets as described by the instructor

Percussionists will meet twice a week with percussion director Tom Leddy. Together they will work on performance techniques on all of the percussion instruments. These will be tested and observed throughout the school year for part of their band grade.

The students will also get a chance to perform in either the Symphonic or Concert band percussion ensembles. These ensembles will perform at a few times during the school year.

The highlights of the year will be at our Percussion Madness show and our Percussion Festival. Information will be sent out regarding these events. These are mandatory for all percussionists. Information on stick and mallet requirements will be sent home the first week of school. Each percussionist will need to bring these to band everyday along with his/her band folder and a pencil. Weekly practice will be expected and progress necessary to receive a good letter grade for the percussion class portion of the band letter grade.

### Expectations of Band Students

**Be respectful:** Treat each other and the music directors with respect at all times. Remember the golden rule: Treat others how you would like to be treated and we will make our music making together more meaningful and rewarding as group.

**Be organized:** Show a sense of responsibility by frequently reviewing the calendar above and informing your parents of performance dates. Show a sense of responsibility by informing the director of potential conflicts well in advance. Growth and achievement in music can only be accomplished with each group member performing their role in rehearsal and at a performance!

**Be on time:** Arrive to the band room and get necessary equipment ready when the bell rings.

**Be prepared:** Band members must be prepared with a pencil and appropriate music materials for every rehearsal. Each member must prepare his or her concert music outside of rehearsal, so that we can focus on musical and ensemble issues during rehearsal. Check the weekly band calendar and board for unit due dates and see Mr. Fiorito for extra help when needed!

**Be responsible:** Band members are responsible for all music and folders they receive. Missing or damaged original music must be replaced. If the part is still published, the music will cost \$2.00 to replace. Missing folders will cost \$15.00 to replace. All instruments are to be in excellent playing condition, and students should have all necessary accessories with carrying case, and a metronome and tuner for home practice.

**Have fun and get involved!:** We are all in band to work toward a common goal of making meaningful and memorable music performances together. I encourage students to think independently and expressively about your music, if you have an idea—share it with the group! The goal of us coming together is to create something bigger than ourselves.

## IMEA District 7 and All-State Band

The IMEA (Illinois Music Educators Association) holds auditions each October for selection to its District-level Band, Orchestra, Choir and Jazz Bands. Auditions are competitive and a limited number of students will be allowed to represent EGHS.

Audition materials will consist of the following:

Band/Orchestra woodwinds and brass: IMEA Senior Scale Sheet(winds only) and two IMEA etudes.

Percussionists: etudes on snare drum, timpani, mallet keyboard, and multiple percussion. All students must sight-read as part of the audition.

Jazz Band: a required jazz chart, jazz etude, improvisation on F Blues, and sight-reading.

The District VII Senior Music and Jazz Festivals are held each year in November. The top players from each of Illinois' nine IMEA districts are selected to participate in the All-State Music Festival, held in late January in Peoria. Only junior and senior wind and percussion players are eligible to participate in All-State.

## Required Materials

Concert/Symphonic-All- Tuner, metronome, cleaning kits for instrument, PENCIL

Brass- All necessary oil, slide grease, cleaning equipment, and mutes (cup & straight)

Trombones- All should have water spray bottle for slide

All Valve-Instruments- Should be oiled on a daily basis!!!

Trumpets- Should all be at least on a Bach 3c mouthpiece

Woodwinds- All reed instruments should be rotating between at least 4 reeds. You will need to supply your own reeds, unless there are special circumstances, and all should be on at least a #3.

Percussion: Snare sticks, timpani mallets, keyboard mallets, stick bag (brands and types to be specified at the start of the school year)

Tuners & Metronomes- These important accessories are now widely available, small enough to fit inside an instrument case, and affordable (\$15-20). (Can be purchased through the band)

## AREA MUSIC STORES

Quinlan & Fabish Music Company 621 N Main, Mount Prospect, IL 60056

847-253-5592

Quinlan & Fabish Music Company 6827 High Grove Blvd, Burr Ridge, IL 60527

(630) 654-4111

International Music Suppliers 681 Graceland Ave., Des Plaines, IL

(847) 827-0707

Music & Arts 907 W. Irving Park Rd, Itasca, IL

(800) 323-1001