

Osseo Senior High School Music Department

Symphonic Band and Varsity Band Information 2009 – 2010

Mr. Steve Boulka conducts the Symphonic and Varsity Band which consists of students in grades 10 - 12. A variety of band literature representing many contrasting styles and historical periods will be studied and performed in a major concert at least once each Trimester (concert performances and graduation are required attendance). Class emphasis will be on furthering the development of instrumental and ensemble performing skills. Students will participate in a variety of activities to increase individual music skills and understandings.

Band Department Handbook

Your student received a copy of the Band Department Handbook on the 1st day of school. Please take time to read through it with your student. It is filled with important information regarding required concert dates, grading policies and extra-curricular opportunities. The handbook signature page must be signed by you and your student. It is part of your student's first trimester grade, so make sure to turn it in on time!

Your daily homework in band is to PRACTICE

At OSH, we do not require students to complete "practice calendars" indicating how much time they practice on their instrument. However, we highly encourage daily practice! A student will improve their musical abilities significantly more by practicing a little each day instead of practicing for a longer period of time once or twice a week. Much of practicing involves the building up of muscle memory and if we leave that training for even a few days the muscles will "forget" what they learned. As a result, music practice cannot be "crammed" like a person might do for a test. Success in music can only be achieved through the repetitions that a daily practice routine brings!! Regular consistent practice is the "homework" for Band and insures musical growth, successful tests and a good grade in Band!

The general rule is to average 30 minutes of practice per day, practicing lesson material and mastering the band music. Advanced students will practice more. Some students practice less. The idea is to establish the relationship between practicing and success in band. If you practice more you will earn good grades on tests, play better and enjoy it more! This will also enhance your success in auditions.

THE MINIMAL EXPECTATION FOR PRACTICE FOR ALL OSH BAND MEMBERS IS FOUR 30 MINUTE PRACTICE SESSIONS PER WEEK

Smart Music for 2009 - 2010

Students will receive weekly Smart Music assignments and playing tests and be able to complete them from the comfort of their home. Please visit www.smartmusic.com for instructions for how you can purchase a home subscription to Smartmusic for only \$30. If your computer has a microphone, you may not need to purchase one from Smartmusic, but please know that built in microphones don't always work very well. Please contact Mr. Boulka if you have any questions.

Because the internet is needed for Smart Music, students without at home internet (or dial-up), will be allowed to use music department computers and subscriptions to complete their assignments before school, after school and during guided study time. If you student is struggling to get their smartmusic assignments done due to computer availability, please speak with Mr. Boulka for assistance. Please note: You are NOT required to purchase your own home subscription. Doing so simply allows you to work from the privacy of your home. Music department computers are available (for Smart Music) before school, after school and during guided study.