

**St. Benedict's Preparatory School  
Pep Band & Drum Line Curriculum  
Summer Term 2018**

**Dr. Jeremy Fletcher, instructor**

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**Purpose:**

The Pep Band and Drum Line are ensembles that perform music such as fanfares, rally cries, and high-energy numbers meant to excite a crowd at pep rallies and sporting events. Most high schools have a week of band camp in August as a preparation for the upcoming school year. While our groups meet for a month in the summer and have no set performance calendar in the fall, the groups will learn the material well enough that they can be reconfigured on short notice if asked to play at various points in the fall and winter term, including at soccer games or the annual basketball tournament. A second purpose is to develop practice skills and a warm-up routine that students can continue to follow throughout the school year.

**Instruments:**

St. Benedict's has a large (but limited) number of instruments that are available for student use. In order to use a school instrument, students and their parents must sign a statement of responsibility. Students may also use their own instruments or rent one for personal use. Dr. Fletcher can assist students in locating a music store from which to rent. Other materials including reeds, swabs, and cork grease will be provided by the school.

**Grading:**

Classroom Participation and Behavior - 50%

Music proficiency test - 30%

Performance 1 participation - 10%

Performance 2 participation - 10%

**Grading Scale:**

A	94-100
A-	91-93
B+	88-90
B	85-87
B-	82-84
C+	79-81
C	76-78
C-	73-75
D+	70-72
D	67-69
D-	64-66
F	00-63

### **Class Participation Rubric:**

**A (95%)** - The student almost always:

**B (86%)** - Most of the time, the student:

**C (77%)** - On average, the student:

**D (68%)** - Some of the time, the student:

**F (63%)** - The student almost never:

- enters the room quietly and goes to his assigned seat.
- sets up any necessary materials without delay.
- waits for instructions and prepares for class both mentally and physically.
- avoids playing common area instruments like the drums, piano, etc.
- listens while the teacher is speaking and does not practice or play.
- follows directions quickly without questioning or arguing.
- is polite and respectful of other students during class.
- cleans his area before leaving and picks up trash whether or not it's his.
- collects all his personal materials at the end of class.

### **FAQ:**

1. **Why is an A equal to 95% instead of 100%?** This is because nobody is perfect.
2. **Are there plus or minus grades?** Yes, this either adds or subtracts 3 points. For example, a B+ = 89% and an A- = 92%.
3. **How do alert slips affect my class participation grade?** An alert slip related to class participation lowers your grade by 3%. One alert slip drops you from an A (95%) to an A- (92%).

### **Late Policy:**

Every third time a student is late, his OVERALL grade will be lowered by 3%.

### **Attendance:**

In ensemble classes attendance is extremely important. Most of the work is not written and therefore is impossible to make up. Even if a student learns the music on his own, an absence still negatively impacts the quality of a rehearsal for the other students involved. As a result, unexcused absences and or cutting class will lower a student's class participation grade by 6% for each instance. Notification by the student or his parents of the intent to be absent does not guarantee that the absence will be excused. All school-sanctioned events (such as athletic events and field trips) will count as excused absences upon receipt of a student list from the coach or trip moderator. If a student misses more than five classes in summer term due to absence (excused or unexcused), it is the school's policy that he cannot receive credit for the class and will fail, except if all make-up work is completed, in which case he will receive an audit.

### **Music Proficiency Test:**

Music students will be graded on their proficiency. Pep Band students will be required to play scales and chords in several keys. Next, they will be expected to perform an excerpt from the repertoire that they have learned. Third, students can expect to sight read a short passage. Finally, students will play a short etude demonstrating their

knowledge of dynamic markings, articulation, and expression. Drum Line students will be tested on rudiments and rolls at a variety of tempos, repertoire, sight-reading, their ability to keep a steady tempo, and their ability to play with dynamics.

**Practicing:**

Nothing has a bigger impact on musical development than individual practice. This is the equivalent of homework on a musical instrument. Through practice, students learn how to problem solve independently and how to become musically self-reliant. This benefits not just the individual but also the ensemble, because rehearsal time becomes focused on group success and not individual problems. Students are required to practice between 15 and 30 minutes a day. If individual circumstances make practicing at home difficult, then arrangements can be made for a student to practice at school immediately after the school day.

**Performances:**

The Pep Band and Drum Line will perform in front of an audience at least twice during the five weeks of summer term. The first definite performance will take place in the afternoon on Sunday, August 19th at Monkfest. The second performance will take place at convocation during the last week of summer phase.

**Extra Help:**

Extra help is available everyday in the band room for one hour after school ends. Advanced notice is appreciated, because otherwise the teacher may leave the room to accomplish other tasks.

**Google Docs and Student Email:**

In order to receive and submit many assignments and other documents (such as this syllabus), students must have the ability to use Google Docs. This means that they must have a functioning Google email account provided by the school that they check and maintain regularly. It is the students' responsibility to make sure that this is working. If a student knows or suspects that his school provided email is not working, he should contact Dexter Lopina in person, by phone at 973-792-5700 x5727, or from an outside email account sent to [pchelp@sbp.org](mailto:pchelp@sbp.org).

**Academic Honor Code:**

Lying, cheating, and stealing are considered unacceptable violations of the Academic Honor Code and are subject to disciplinary action.

Lie: a false statement made with deliberate intent to deceive; an intentional untruth; a falsehood.

Cheat: to take an examination or test in a dishonest way, as by improper access to answers; to violate rules or regulations.

Steal: to take (the academic property or work of another or others) without permission or right, especially secretly or by force.

“I will not cheat. I will not lie. I will not steal. I will report anyone who does.”

**Community Commitment Code:**

“Benedict’s men are persons of integrity. Whatever helps my brother helps me. Trust is the virtue by which we build our community, violation of the community’s trust is grounds for dismissal.”

We respect the property of others and of the community. It is our responsibility to ensure that we care for our own belongings, the possessions of others, and the shared property of the community. Benedict’s men do not steal.

We are truthful with ourselves and with our brothers. Benedict’s men do not lie.

**Discipline:**

First offense – warning & possible phone call.

Second offense – asked to leave teaching area and report to Mr. Rowe, who may prescribe additional consequences including JUG and/or community service.

Third offense – phone call home & possible request for parent conference.

**Band Room Rules:**

1. Respect the band room.
2. Respect others.
3. Respect yourself.

**Band Room Policies**

1. The computers are only for use on music class assignments. All other activities must be approved by Dr. Fletcher.
2. Students are not permitted in the band room without an adult employee of SBP present. Anyone found in the band room without an adult present will be cited with a Community Commitment Code violation.
3. If an instrument breaks, let Dr. Fletcher know immediately. Do not try to fix it yourself and do not take someone else's equipment. Make sure that you save all the parts.
4. No cell phones or other electronic devices. If a cell phone is used in class for calling, texting, or any of its other functions, it will be collected and given to Mr. Rowe as per school policy.
5. No food. It will be collected and thrown out.

**PARENTS:**

YOU DO NOT NEED TO SIGN THE SYLLABUS. INSTEAD, PLEASE SEND AN EMAIL TO [jfletcher@sbp.org](mailto:jfletcher@sbp.org) THAT SAYS:

“MY NAME IS (parent’s name) AND I AM THE PARENT OF (your son’s name). I HAVE READ AND UNDERSTOOD THE SYLLABUS”