



## **BAND PROGRAM**

### **BLUE STEEL SYLLABUS**

#### **MUSIC ENSEMBLE 1-1 (STEEL BAND)**

02-103B Ensemble Room, 7:20 – 8:12 AM | Wednesdays 7:20 – 8:01 AM

#### **INSTRUCTOR AND COURSE SUPERVISOR**

Jeffrey Willis, Associate Director of Bands

Office and hours: by appointment

Phone: (407) 482-8709

Email: jeffrey.willis@ocps.net

Course Supervisor: Dr. Anne Carcara

#### **DESCRIPTION OF COURSE**

This course is a survey of the traditional instrument of steel pans from the island nation of Trinidad and Tobago. The class will primarily focus ensemble playing within the steel pan band. Students with little or no experience in a vocal or instrumental ensemble develop basic musicianship and ensemble performance skills through the study of basic, high-quality music in diverse styles. Student musicians focus on building foundational music techniques, music literacy, listening skills, and aesthetic awareness. Other areas of focus will include music theory, improvisation, and arranging. Public performances may serve as a culmination of specific instructional goals. Students may be required to attend and/or participate in rehearsals and performances outside the school day to support, extend, and assess learning in the classroom. The class is open to any student at University High School.

#### **OBJECTIVES AND GOALS OF THE COURSE**

Students will analyze and put into practice performance techniques of steel pan playing. Successful students will improve rhythmic understanding, musical expression, and performance artistry, as well as pedagogical concepts and techniques. The immediate goal of the ensemble is the preparation for performance in concert, festival, and gig settings. Each class will build on previously learned ideas and techniques so it is very important that you attend every class.

#### **CLASSROOM RULES AND PROCEDURES**

- Class will start promptly when the bell rings. Tardy students will be expected to have a pass or to get an LOP for admission into class.
- Come in and set down backpacks against white board wall.
- Read board for instructions and class assignments.
- The use of cell phones or other electronic devices is prohibited during the class period.
- Always be ready to play when instructed to do so.
- Food and drink are not allowed in the classroom and band area.
- Do not talk while the instructor is speaking.
- Raise your hand if you have a question or to answer a question.
- You are responsible for learning your own part.
- Work together and collaborate to learn music.

- Sectional time is to be utilized for learning music.
- Outside help from the instructor is available upon request.
- At the end of class, return mallets to the mallet box and close binders.

**GRADING**

*Playing Tests - 40%*

Playing tests will be given regularly. The test will be on Fridays with the testing material posted at the latest the Monday the week of the test. The test will be with a metronome and may be tested individually, as a section, or full group. *Daily Progress - 25%*

Daily progress is attendance and participation in class.

*Classroom Assignments - 25% Project - 10%*

\*Make-up work may be completed at a mutually agreeable time by the student and instructor.

**PLAYING TEST RUBRIC:**

<b>A (10 points)</b> The piece is played entirely accurately, with no note or rhythmic errors. Attention is given to all musical details.
<b>A- (9 points)</b> The piece is played with a high degree of accuracy, with minimal note or rhythmic errors. Attention is given to most musical details. Time spent in practice is evident.
<b>B (8 points)</b> The piece is played with a few note and rhythmic errors, or occasional pausing. Some musical details may have been overlooked. A higher degree of perfection would have been attainable with more effort.
<b>C (7 points)</b> The piece is played with a substantial number of note and rhythmic errors. Musical details are regularly overlooked. Practice time is not evident.
<b>D (6 points)</b> The student performs the piece with a low degree of accuracy, with note and rhythmic errors occasionally rendering the piece unrecognizable. Musical details are entirely, or almost entirely, ignored. A lack of practice time is evident.
<b>F (5 points or fewer)</b> The student performs only part of the piece, or does not perform. Note and rhythmic errors render the piece almost entirely unrecognizable. Musical details are not performed, acknowledged, or understood. Little to no time spent in practice is evident.

**REQUIRED MATERIALS**

The class will provide the instruments, mallets, music, and other materials. The materials are a class set and care must be taken to make them last.

**MUSIC OF THE WORLD PROJECT**

In this class we will explore other musical cultures and styles. Each student will be assigned a different culture to research and present throughout the school year. The project will be in stages with different assignments due every 9 weeks. A detailed outline of the project will be provided.

**IMPORTANT DATES**

See Band Calendar on the website: [www.UHSband.com](http://www.UHSband.com)

\*Gigs will be scheduled per need and student availability.

*Disclaimer: I reserve the right to make adjustments to the syllabus, depending on how the class progresses throughout the semester.*