Lehi High School Advanced Percussion Class Syllabus & Procedures

Mr. Stephen L. Hughes, Director of Percussion and Instructor

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Course Description

Advanced percussion meets during 3rd Period on A days throughout the 2014-2015 school year. The purpose of this course is to familiarize you in as many aspects of percussion practice and performance readily avalible to you at Lehi High School. Focuses will shift from basic technique, stroke development, and music literacy.

Required Materials, Supplies, and Fees

* Three-ring Binder with Dividers and Plastic Inserts (No other classes may be shared with this folder)
* Blank Music Sheet Paper
* College Ruled Notebook paper
* A Pen
* A pencil
* Snare Drum Practice Pad
* Snare Drum Sticks (Marching or heavier concert sticks preferred)
* Additional Concert implements based on curriculum and ensemble needs\*

\*Note: Every student should eventually own concert snare drum sticks, and marimba, vibraphone, and timpani mallets.

Rules and Procedures

Students are expected to arrive on time to class and immediately begin to set up the class per Mr. Hughes’ instructions to the previous class period. At times, there maybe over lap from Mr. Hughes teaching at the University of Utah meaning students will have to tear down and end during the last 15 minutes of class. This time will be monitored by Mr. Reynolds and if students can not behave they will wait for Mr. Hughes’ arrival while doing a written assignment.

Students are to have all supplies, materials, and music for each class. Failure to do so will result in the student doing a written assignment and not participating in the class for that day.

Students may ask questions and even suggest ideas. However, students must not talk while the teacher is talking. Respect and responsibility are also expected. Students will be treated fairly and with respect. Student failure to be kind and respectful will result in an office referral and expulsion from the class for the remainder of the period.

Attendance

Attendance to class and after school rehearsals is mandatory. Students can received excused absenses for issues that Alpine School District deems as excusable. Family vacations, outings, and work are unexcused absenses. The Director of Percussion should be consulted about attendance in unique circumstances. If an after school rehearsal is missed, an attendance form is required for credit otherwise the attendance grade for that day will be a zero.

Percussion Class Fees

Each year students will have to pay fees for the percussion class. Fees are broken down into concert uniforms, instrument rental, and a class fee. Uniform fees only have to be paid once in the three years.

Concert Uniform Fitting

Concert uniform fitting will take place in the first few weeks of school. Concert uniforms only have to be purchased once in the three years at LHS unless growth or ‘wear and tear’ requires you replace it.

Grades

A 100% - 90%

B 89% - 80%

C 79% - 70%

D 69% - 60%

F 59% - 0%

Practice Records – 35% of Grade

Pass offs – 35% of Grade

Performance Attendance – 10% of Grade

Class Attendance – 10% of Grade

Final Exam – 10% of Grade

Grades are based on practice records, pass-offs, performance attendance, and class attendance. Students will not receive exeptions from practice records or pass-offs except for serious bodily injury or severe extenuating circumstances deemed excusable by the Director of Percusson’s discrestion. The grades for this course are designed to reflect a collegiate model to prepare students for further academic study post-high school.

Practice Records

Practice Records are due every week on the first class of the week. Blank forms are avalible from Mr. Hughes. You are required to practice at least 2 and 1/2 hours a week outside of class. Private lessons will waive practice records with a monthly written statement from your private lesson teacher.

Private Lessons

Students are not required but are encouraged to take private lessons. It is especially encouraged if a student desires to major in music in college or have a music career in the future. Inquire from Mr. Hughes about local teachers and lesson options in the area. Private lessons count towards weekly practice records.

Pass-offs

Below is the list of REQUIRED pass-offs for the Fall 2014 semester. Pass-offs can be played for Mr. Hughes during specific class pass-off times or maybe recorded and emailed to Mr. Hughes or uploaded to youtube and the link sent to Mr. Hughes. Just performing pass-offs will NOT give you an automatic A. Rudiments must be played at three different tempos of your chosing (slow, medium, and fast). Scales will be played up and down the entire range of the instrument regardless of octave in three different tempos of your chosing (slow, medium, and fast). Drum-set Grooves can be played alone at three different tempos (slow, medium, and fast) or with ONE tune of your chosing. Most of these pass-offs will be covered in part or fully in class.

To pass a pass-off, the Director of Percussion will look for the following:

* Rhythmic Accuracy
* Pitch Accuracy
* Steady Tempo
* Appropriate strokes
* Sound difference between taps and accents
* Groove and style

The PASS – OFFS for FALL 2014 are as follows:

* Warm-up Routine
* Rudiments:
  + Alternating Flams
  + Paradiddle
  + Open Stroke Roll
  + Paradiddle-diddle
  + Patafla-fla
* Major Scales
  + All 12 Major Scales
* Minor Scales
  + All Natural Minor Scales
* Whole Tone Scale
* C, G, D, A, E Blues Scales
* Tommy Igoe Essential Grooves (First 5 Rock)

Solos and Ensembles

This year every student is required to perform a solo or an ensemble piece in preparation for Utah PAS Day of Percussion and the Fall Percusson Chamber Concert. Senior students will have promminent roles in the Chamber concert.

Wind Symphony

Wind Symphony will take place during the same block as Advanced Percussion. Wind Symphony will be instructed by Mr. Reynolds, Director of Lehi Bands. The Director of Percussion will asisst with percussion parts for band pieces. Some parts may become curriculum focused in the percussion class. However, most parts should be playable and easy to work up without to much help from the Director of Percussion except in trying to make the parts excellent! Excellent, clean, and musical excerpts of the band music is a top priority and other class activites can be suspended if the percussion section parts are not playable.

Warm-up Routine

Due to the amount of time we meet weekly and academic schedules, it is important that our time is used efficiently. The Warm-up rountine is a collection of rhythms and rudimental exercises which effect stroke and musical development on every percussion instrument. The warm-up rountine will be learn with snare drum pads and then on other percussion instruments. This will build chops and approach to an assortment of percussion instruments in preparation for percussion ensemble, wind symphony, symphonic band, marching band, jazz band, and steel drum band.

Rough Curriculum for Fall 2014

August/September: *Classes 1 – 15* Procedures/Syallabus/Classroom Rules, Warm-up Rountine, Solo and Ensemble Approvals, Pass-offs and Pass-off Instruction

October: *Classes 16 – 25* Pass-offs and Pass-off Instruction, Warmup Routine Additions, Solo and Ensemble Coaching Sessions,

November/December: *Classes 26 – 42* Percussion Ensemble Music for Regionals and State, Pass-offs, Fall Symphonic Band Concert Preparation, Fall Percussion Chamber Concert Preparation, Sight-reading, Complete Fall 2014 Pass-offs, Fall LHS Music Department Christmas Concert preparation

Required Performances and Practices (Fall 2014)

Fall Band Concert (December 4th at LHS auditorium)

Fall Percussion Chamber Concert Rehearsal #1 (TBA)

Fall Percussion Chamber Concert Rehearsal #2 (TBA)

Fall Percussion Chamber Concert Dress Rehearsal (TBA)

Fall Percussion Chamber Concert (TBA)

Fall Orchestra Concert (Dependent on collaboration and need)

Fall Choir Concert (Dependent on collaboration and need)

LHS Music Department Christmas Concert

DISCLOSURE DOCUMENT

I, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, understand and agree to the rules, procedures, expectations, and requirements of the 2014-2015 Percussion Program. I understand that this is a graded course with mandatory rehearsals, performances, and classtime. By signing this document, I understand it is a contract that binds me to the rules and expectations of the percussion program at Lehi High School.

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STUDEN SIGNATURE DATE