



BAGPIPE BAND

Helix Charter High School
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COURSE PROFILE

Students in bagpipe band are part of a highly specialized and communal education environment. Although an instructor leads the class, much of the teaching comes from group activities and is often student directed, in keeping with the traditions of pipe bands of Scotland.

The Helix Bagpipe Band introduces all aspects of the Scottish culture rather than just learning to play the pipes and various Scottish drums. This should include Scottish history using DVDs, Highland dancing (Highland Fling, Sword Dance), and Helix pipe band history when the opportunity presents itself. This gives awareness of the importance of bagpipes to Scotland as well as the English military culture, which is the basis for this pipe band.

THE HELIX INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC HANDBOOK

All students are expected to thoroughly read and familiarize themselves with the content of our department handbook. It will be addressed during the first few days of school and is always available online at http://helixinstrumental.org/images/uploads/2015:16_Fall_Handbook_copy.pdf. All instrumental music students are held to the policies in this handbook, regardless of prior knowledge or understanding.

DROPBOX

Our department disburses materials via Dropbox on a regular basis. You can also get your own account for free. Please email Mr. Bengé (benge@helixcharter.net) for the Dropbox link if you haven't already received it.

CURRICULUM

The bagpipe band studies a variety of tunes arranged for this ensemble. Memorization of these tunes for the purposes of development and public performance factor heavily into the class grade. Students are responsible for maintaining tunes already taught for building a repertoire of performance possibilities.

STUDENT MATERIALS

Required materials for participation in the Helix Bands are specifically defined in the Helix Instrumental Music Handbook, viewable at http://helixinstrumental.org/images/uploads/2015:16_Fall_Handbook_copy.pdf. However, for general daily purposes please have the following:

- Student's individual instrument and all equipment necessary to play.
- Sheet music, both provided and downloaded/printed from Dropbox.
- No. 2 or equivalent mechanical PENCILS (NEVER mark on sheet music in pen). A pencil is expected to be on your music stand at every rehearsal.
- Each student will be outfitted with the appropriate bagpipe band uniform parts. If you miss Fitting Day before school, you will need to schedule a makeup fitting with Mrs. Kelley via Ross Naismith or Mr. Benge.

PERFORMANCES AND EVENTS

The pipe band is one of the busiest groups on campus. Their performance schedule is continuously updated. Keep up to date via our website, which shows the most current schedule. Various gigs throughout the year will be announced as they are booked.

Friday Home Football Games (call time 4:00 pm)

September 11
September 18
October 16
November 6

Drum Clinics: Three will be scheduled for the fall. Dates will be provided ASAP by Lorraine Kelley or Ross Naismith.

Community Parades (tentative) - Morning/early afternoon events

November - Veteran's Day Parade
March - St. Patrick's Day Parade
Late May/Early June - Flag Day Parade

Various gigs throughout the year, announced as they are booked. These are subject to change but generally follow the same rough weeks/dates every year. See calendar at www.helixinstrumental.com/pages/calendar for final information and dates.

EVALUATION

Attached to this syllabus is an excerpt from the Helix Instrumental Music Handbook detailing the grading policy. Please familiarize yourself with the handbook and the practice expectations outlined therein. Students are trained to practice effectively and, as such, it is the responsibility of each student to prepare for all performance evaluations.

It is especially important to note that the departmental grading policy has shifted to 1/3 Participation and Attendance, 2/3 Performance Evaluation. See the handbook for details.