



COLOR GUARD

Helix Charter High School

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COURSE PROFILE

The color guard class is a FULL-YEAR course offering instruction for beginning, intermediate, and advanced Helix Charter High School students. The student is given an opportunity to develop technical skills and the vocabulary that comes from dance and equipment (flag, rifle, saber) as well as skills of composition, musical interpretation, and performance. Students are introduced to the elements of team building, problem solving, maneuvering, and conflict resolution as well as performance observation and analysis, basic design, and choreography.

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. Benge (benge@helixcharter.net) for the Dropbox link if you haven't already received it.

CURRICULUM

The goals and objectives of the Color Guard class will be met through daily instruction, physical conditioning, and performance.

Daily objectives

Each day the students will learn and refine their fundamental movement, dance, and equipment skills in addition to repertoire for the current show production.

Long-term goals

Students will learn about larger-scale concepts through concentrated study throughout the semester. Time spent on these subjects will depend on the level of interest and depth of material. Potential study areas include the following:

- Performance observation and analysis: Instruction will include viewing and evaluating both live and taped performances.

- Basic Visual Design and Choreography: Instruction will include a survey of visual art forms and discussions on shape, color, and movement. Students will do a series of assignments leading up to a final project that will include design and choreographing their own visual production (final exam).

STUDENT MATERIALS

HIMA (Helix Instrumental Music Association) will provide various flags, sabers, and other props for rehearsal and performance. Students are expected to maintain provided props with the utmost care. Students must provide workout clothes and proper shoes.

CLASS POLICIES AND DISCIPLINE

I. Tardies

Students are responsible to be on time to class every day. The tardy policy set by the school administration will be strictly enforced. Students need to be ready to learn at the sound of the bell. Students who do not have their equipment from the shed at the sound of the bell will be considered tardy.

II. Attendance at Performances and Rehearsals

Color Guard, as part of the Highlander Band, and Winter Guard (during the spring semester) are both co-curricular activities, meaning that there is a required after-school component that also factors into the class grade. Attendance at ALL performances and rehearsals is mandatory. Failure to perform in any given performance will result in significant loss of credit. Refer to the Helix Instrumental Music Handbook, downloadable at http://helixinstrumental.org/images/uploads/2015:16_Fall_Handbook_copy.pdf for specific grading policy.

III. Participation

Participation in class is very important. When students miss class they are also inhibiting their classmates' ability to succeed in the activity. Participation points will be given for every day the student is in class and actively participating.

IV. Classroom Behavior

Students are responsible for creating an efficient learning environment. Students who consistently disrupt the class by talking during rehearsal will be warned twice before having detention assigned. Additional problems will be handled through the Helix grade level principals and may result in the student being removed from the program.

V. Rehearsal Attire

Color Guard is an athletic activity. Students must be in rehearsal-appropriate attire every day during class. Athletic clothing should be worn (NO JEANS OR SANDALS WILL BE ALLOWED). It is impossible for you to fully participate in the activity when you are not dressed appropriately. Remember that Color Guard counts as a PE class.

EVALUATION

Attached to this syllabus is an excerpt from the Helix Instrumental Music Handbook detailing grading policy. Please familiarize yourself with it 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.