



## **MARCHING BAND AND MARCHING PE**

Helix Charter High School

Michael Bengé, Associate Director of  
Instrumental Music

### **COURSE PROFILE**

Marching Band/PE is a course designed for rehearsing the combined Highlander Band. It incorporates all the aspects and personnel of Concert Band, Symphonic Band, Wind Symphony, Percussion, and Color Guard classes in ways specific to the marching band.

Students will develop performance skills on their primary or assigned marching band instrument. This includes both musical development and visual performance aspects. Students are given specialized instruction on their particular instrument as well as ensemble education in an effort to increase the student's aesthetic awareness and appreciation of music so that they may become a functioning member of any musical ensemble.

All members of this course are expected to commit to personal and ensemble excellence. Regular and faithful attendance to all rehearsals and performances is understood. This is a comprehensive, performance-based class. Students are expected to learn notes and rhythms *before* attending the next rehearsal. Rehearsals are not for learning your part, but for learning how your part fits into the show.

Please bring a pencil to every rehearsal and use it regularly to mark your music. Be early for rehearsal. Warm up and be mentally prepared before we begin. ("If you are on time, you are late.") Commit to being an integral part of the ensemble. That means being supportive of each other, patient, and helpful.

If you are a section leader you have the added responsibility of **LEADING** your section. That means guiding your section both technically and musically, not only during sectionals, but also during every rehearsal. Section leaders are expected to organize and lead sectionals at least once every two weeks and to communicate with the conductor regarding the progress of sectionals.

Section members are expected to help create high-functioning, efficient sectionals by being on time, prepared, and engaged. Students contribute to the musical growth and pride of the school and community by participating in various performances such as concerts, football games, parades, assemblies, and marching band competitions.

**This class has a co-curricular requirement of weekly evening rehearsals, usually on Wednesdays from 5:45 to 9:00 pm, weekly sectionals held after school, a two-week band camp held just before the beginning of school, and a few Saturday rehearsals throughout the semester.**

## **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](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.

## **PRIMARY TEXTS**

Sheet music is passed out as necessary and is also accessible via the Helix Band's Dropbox account. Students will also read chorales and various other published music as the semester progresses.

## **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](mailto:benge@helixcharter.net)) for the Dropbox link if you haven't already received it.

## **STUDENT MATERIALS**

- **Instruments/Reeds/Oils/Sticks/Mallets** (taped if snare, tenor, or bass drums)
- **Music, in a three-ring binder, with dots written in.** These are required at every rehearsal from the first day of band camp to the last rehearsal of the season. We strongly recommend sheet protectors to keep your music in a readable condition.
- **Dot Books.** The visual staff/directors require the marching members to do these regardless of writing the dots in your music. This is just another step in memorizing your dots.
- **Pencil.** Mechanical pencils are preferred because we won't have a pencil sharpener readily available. Don't rely on anyone else having a pencil for you. When changes need to be made, we expect them to take as little time as possible. Also, we prefer you don't use pen because changes are subject to change.
- **Proper attire.** Athletic shoes (not boots, sandals, dress shoes, bare feet, etc.) and nonrestrictive clothing are required for marching band class and any marching band rehearsals. We strongly encourage the use of sunscreen and a hat as well as having plenty of...
- **Water.** Every day, whether you think you need it or not.
- **Other useful items:** Drum key, stick/mallet bags, sunglasses, stick tape, very-fine-grit sand paper for reeds.

## **CONCERTS AND PERFORMANCES**

Below is a typical, tentative list of performances in which the bands will participate. These are subject to change but generally follow the same rough dates every year. See the calendar at [www.helixinstrumental.com/pages/calendar](http://www.helixinstrumental.com/pages/calendar) for final information and dates.

- Home football games and marching band competitions throughout the fall.
- SCSBOA Championships and Disneyland Parade (November).
- Veteran's Day concert and/or parade, or another fall concert event.

- Winter concert (w/the Helix Choirs) and La Mesa Christmas in the Village

## EQUIPMENT

The school equipment you use this semester is your responsibility. You will be asked to load, transport, and perform with the equipment in a range of environments that could be harmful to the equipment. Please make sure that any repair or normal wear and tear is brought to the attention of your staff/directors immediately. If the instrument(s) are damaged as a result of negligence, abuse, or vandalism, you and your parents will be responsible for its repair or replacement.

## EVALUATION

The class grade is composed of 67% performance, 33% attendance and participation.

### PERFORMANCE GRADING – 67%

Students earn these grades through performance and written evaluations. Performance evaluations are a combination of scale tests, literature execution, written evaluations, and marching visual performance in Marching Band/Marching PE, Bagpipe Band, and Color Guard classes. Color Guard will be evaluated on drill and choreography memorization and execution.

Performance assessments will mostly be done through the use of Smart Music. All students will need their own home subscription for Smart Music ([www.smartmusic.com](http://www.smartmusic.com)). Students who are unable to have access to Smart Music at home may do their assignments at school. Students are required to use SmartMusic for their individual performance assignments.

### ANNOUNCED EVALUATION DATES

- August 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> – Playing Test #1 (first show movement)
- August 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> – Playing Test #2 (second movement,)
- September 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> – Playing Test #3 (Third movement)
- September 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> – Parade March test (everyone tests)
- October 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> – Open Retesting (to raise grades)
- November 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> – Chair Placement Audition (etude, scales, sight reading)
- December 19<sup>th</sup> – End of First Semester

### PARTICIPATION AND ATTENDANCE GRADING – 33%

Students begin with an attendance “A” and maintain it by attending all performances and rehearsals. Having correct equipment, instruments, accessories, sheet music, and attire is part of this grade. Credit may be withheld or reduced at the Director’s discretion for not having all required items (such as long black socks for concert, uniform parts, pencil on stand in rehearsals). All grades are cumulative for the entire semester.

#### Unexcused Situation

ONE Performance absence:

TWO performance absences:

ANY Rehearsal absence:

DRESS Rehearsal absence:

ANY Sectional absence:

FOUR Tardies, class or after school:

#### Grade Reduction

“F” attendance grade

“F” overall class grade

Attendance grade drop, 10 points or 1 letter (ex: “A” to “B”)

Attendance grade drop, 20 points or 2 letters (ex: “A” to “C”)

Attendance grade drop, 5 points or half a letter (ex: “A” to “A-”)

Attendance grade drop, 10 points or 1 letter (ex: “A” to “B”)

## **SCHEDULE**

Students are informed of the marching band schedule during classes, on the information boards in class, via an email list from the Helix Instrumental Music Association (HIMA), on our Facebook page, [www.facebook.com/helixinstrumental](http://www.facebook.com/helixinstrumental), **AND** on a calendar on the department website, [www.helixinstrumental.org/pages/calendar](http://www.helixinstrumental.org/pages/calendar). It is ultimately the student's responsibility to communicate this schedule to their families and ensure they meet the expectations of the class and co-curricular components. "Not knowing" with five venues of communication is entirely unacceptable and is never an excuse.

## **A NOTE ABOUT ENDORSEMENTS**

Your staff carries several manufacturer endorsements and sponsorships. These companies have been generous enough to extend some of our benefits to the programs that we teach for in exchange for a few considerations:

- 1) We must not use any other company's products at any public event (competitions, parades, football games, etc.).
- 2) We must not display any other competing company's logos on t-shirts, backpacks, binders, etc., at any public event.
- 3) We cannot publicly endorse any competitor's products verbally or written on message boards, blogs, etc.

It is rare that any high school ensemble is even considered for a product endorsement, so we hope you share in the staff's excitement about this opportunity.