



Junior Concert Band 8

Instructor: Ms. Marissa Heaven
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Course Description:

Welcome to Windsor's Instrumental Music Program! Junior Concert Band is a performance-based course that introduces students to ensemble music-making through progressive training in instrumental technique, music literacy, and ensemble skills. Students will explore a variety of musical genres and styles while developing their ability to read music, interpret repertoire, and work collaboratively within a band setting.

This course emphasizes the fundamentals of tone production, rhythm, articulation, and ensemble awareness. Students will perform regularly throughout the school year and build the habits of discipline, creativity, and collaboration essential to musical growth.

Band 8 serves as the entry point into Windsor's concert band pathway and is open to students with prior experience on a band instrument.

Big Ideas (*from the BC Arts Education Curriculum*)

- Music is a unique language for creating and communicating.
- Music provides insight into the experiences of people from different times, places, and cultures.
- Growth as a musician requires perseverance, resilience, and reflection.
- Collaborative music experiences build community and nurture relationships.
- Through music-making, one's sense of identity and belonging evolves.

Course Goals & Learning Outcomes

Students will:

- Develop foundational technique on their chosen instrument.
- Build ensemble skills, including tuning, blend, rhythmic precision, and expression.
- Perform a variety of repertoire across genres and styles.
- Strengthen sight-reading, listening, and critical thinking through rehearsal and reflection.
- Demonstrate responsibility, preparation, and teamwork in all musical settings.

What Ms. Heaven Expects

- Full participation with a positive attitude, punctuality, and respect.
- Openness to learning and taking creative risks.
- Attendance at all scheduled concerts and rehearsals.

What Students Can Expect

- Opportunities to train and perform at a high standard.
- A supportive environment with access to extra coaching and growth opportunities.
- Regular feedback to guide musical development.

Assessment & Evaluation

Students in Junior Concert Band will receive **ongoing formative and summative assessments** throughout the semester. A variety of assessment tools will be used, including:

- Rubrics and performance criteria
- Playing quizzes and written theory checks
- Concert and in-class performances
- Self- and peer-assessments

Students are expected to take pride in their work, demonstrating a high level of **preparation, effort, and care** in all musical tasks.

Assessment Breakdown:

100% - Musicianship, Performance and Participation

40% Concerts Full participation is expected, from set-up to take-down. Concerts are treated as **performance-based examinations** and represent the most significant assessments of each semester. An unexcused absence from a concert is equivalent to missing a major exam.

20% Personal Musicianship Evidence of **individual preparation and practice**, musical growth, and self-discipline. Includes technical assessments, sectionals, and practice logs or checks.

40% Daily Rehearsals & Assignments Consistent, positive contribution to rehearsals; includes **punctual attendance, team awareness, equipment care**, and respectful participation. Students are expected to maintain ensemble protocol and contribute to a safe and productive learning environment. Quizzes, reflections, self-assessments, or written assignments related to musical theory, history, or personal progress.

Course Guidelines

Practice & Self-Discipline: students are expected to

- Arrive at rehearsals **prepared and having practiced** their parts.
- Use **personal time and/or sectionals** to learn music outside of class.
- Treat ensemble rehearsal time as an opportunity to **blend individual preparation into group performance**.

“Practice is individual. Rehearsal is collective.” Students are responsible for learning their own parts so rehearsals can focus on ensemble cohesion.

Attendance & Punctuality

- **Regular attendance** is essential for success in this performance-based course.
- **Concerts are mandatory** and function as key evaluations. Missing a concert without a valid excuse is treated as missing a final exam.
- Absences and repeated lateness may affect overall assessment, as they disrupt both individual learning and ensemble progress.

If a student anticipates a conflict with a concert or rehearsal, they must inform the teacher well in advance to discuss alternative arrangements (if possible).

Required Uniform:

Option 1	Option 2
White DRESS shirt Black DRESS pants Black DRESS socks Black DRESS shoes **Windsor Music Sweater **Green bowtie	Black DRESS shoes Black knee-length skirt with opaque black tights or dress pants (not leggings) **Windsor Music Sweater **Green sash

Major Performances:

- **Winter Band & Strings Concert – Wednesday, November 26 @ Kay Meek**
- **June Band & Strings Finale Concert – Wednesday, June 4th @ Kay Meek**
**see Windsor Music calendar for details*