



Senior Concert Band 11-12

Instructor: Ms. Marissa Heaven
mheaven@sd44.ca

Course Description:

Welcome to Windsor's Instrumental Music Program! Senior Concert Band is our top-tier concert ensemble, designed for advanced musicians in Grades 11 and 12 who have demonstrated a high level of proficiency, commitment, and leadership in instrumental music. This performance-based course challenges students to refine their technical and expressive skills while engaging deeply with complex, diverse repertoire.

Students are expected to take greater ownership of their learning, demonstrating independence in practice, preparation, and musical decision-making. They will engage critically with music theory, historical and cultural context, and interpretative nuance, while contributing meaningfully to the musical and social life of the ensemble.

As senior musicians, students are also encouraged to act as role models and section leaders, supporting the development of a collaborative and high-achieving musical community. Concert participation, festivals, and community performances are essential components of the course.

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

- Music is a powerful medium of creative and personal expression.
- Music allows us to explore and understand ourselves and others.
- Music reflects, documents, and shapes societies and cultures.
- Artistic growth requires risk taking, perseverance, and reflection.
- Leadership and collaboration in music foster strong communities

Course Goals & Learning Outcomes

Students will:

- Refine advanced technical and expressive skills on their chosen instrument through focused individual and ensemble practice.
- Perform diverse and challenging repertoire with stylistic accuracy, musical interpretation, and expressive nuance.
- Demonstrate ensemble leadership through consistent contributions to blend, balance, intonation, and rhythmic precision.
- Apply advanced music literacy skills—including theoretical understanding, complex rhythms, and interpretive markings—in rehearsal and performance settings.

- Analyze and reflect on music from historical, cultural, and social perspectives to inform interpretation and deepen artistic understanding.
- Take initiative in rehearsal preparation, goal setting, and problem-solving, modeling professionalism and responsibility.
- Support a collaborative and inclusive ensemble environment by mentoring others, engaging in peer feedback, and contributing to ensemble success.

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 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 Blazer **Green bowtie	Black DRESS shoes **Windsor Music Dress **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*