

# School District of Springfield Township

## Springfield Township High School Course Overview

### **Course Name: Symphonic Band**

#### Course Description

Symphonic Band is an instrumental ensemble. Students rehearse and perform standards of concert band literature as well as solid arrangements of popular music. The music requires home practice. The group performs at the Winter Concert, Festival of the Arts, the Woodmere Chamber Concert, and Commencement. Attendance at these performances is mandatory. The class is yearlong. (Grades 9-12)

#### Unit Titles

Unit 1: Sight Reading

Unit 2: Programming a Concert

Unit 3: Rehearsal Techniques and Individual Practice

Unit 4: Performing for a Live Audience

Unit 5: Reflection and Critique

#### Essential Questions

1. Why is sight reading a critical skill for musicians?
2. What factors do you consider when programming a concert?
3. How do we vary rehearsal techniques when preparing selections for performance?
4. What practice techniques are successful for you in preparing selections for performance?
5. How do you deal with the anxiety and stress of a performance?
6. Why is reflection and critique of a performance critical to progress and future success?

#### Big Ideas/Enduring Understandings

- Unit 1: Sight Reading
  - Music is a viable career, and the musicians who sight read the best are the ones who are hired for performance and studio work.
- Unit 2: Programming a Concert
  - A successful program is the result of balance; e.g., selection variation and length, preparation time.
- Unit 3: Rehearsal Techniques and Individual Practice
  - Varying techniques during ensemble rehearsal allows for thorough preparation of selections.
  - Practice techniques are specific to the individual musician, and can be varied to address specific needs.
- Unit 4: Performing for a Live Audience
  - Anxiety and stress as related to performance in music are common and, although they may never be completely eliminated, they can be managed with experience and training.

- The audience hears with their eye; looking good equals sounding good.
- Unit 5: Reflection and Critique
  - Reflecting on successes and shortcomings after performances is a critical step in improving the level of future performances.

### **Key Competencies/Skills/Procedures**

- Unit 1: Sight Reading
  - Recognize key signatures, time signatures, tempo markings, accidentals
  - Scan for challenges
- Unit 2: Programming a Concert
  - Determine level of difficulty, time allotted to prepare
  - Include varied styles
  - Distinguish between standard literature and popular arrangements
  - Determine appropriate length of program
- Unit 3: Rehearsal Techniques and Individual Practice
  - Warm Up
  - Sight Read
  - Practice scales
  - Perform a run-through
  - Identify problem spots
  - Isolate problem spots
  - Repeat passages
  - Memorize
  - Mark parts
  - Take effective notes
- Unit 4: Performing for a Live Audience
  - Be prepared
  - Dress uniformly and appropriately
- Unit 5: Reflection and Critique
  - Answer: What worked? What didn't? What can we improve?
  - Set realistic goals

### **Core Vocabulary**

All Units

*analyze, associate, define, demonstrate, describe, determine, develop, distinguish among, evaluate, identify, perform, read, recognize, synthesize*

### **Core Resources**

Literature from STHS Instrumental Library levels 2.5 to 5, musical instruments, digital tuners and metronomes, recording software and hardware, mp3 recordings, grooves shark.com, YouTube and other video and audio web resources.

### **Pennsylvania State Standards Guiding Course**

- 9.1.12.A Know and use the elements and principles of each art form to create works in the arts and humanities.
- 9.1.12.B Recognize, know, use and demonstrate a variety of appropriate arts elements and principles to produce review and revise original works in the arts.
- 9.1.12.C Integrate and apply advanced vocabulary to the arts forms.

- 9.1.12.D Demonstrate specific styles in combination through the production of performance of a unique work of art.
- 9.1.12.G Analyze the effect of rehearsal and practice sessions.
- 9.1.12.K Analyze and evaluate the use of traditional and contemporary technologies in furthering knowledge and understanding in the humanities.
- 9.2.12.A Explain the historical, cultural, and social context of an individual work in the arts.
- 9.2.12.A Relate works in the arts to geographic regions.
- 9.2.12.I Identify, explain and analyze philosophical beliefs as they relate to works in the arts.
- 9.3.12.A Explain and apply the critical examination processes of works in the arts and humanities.

Prepared October 2010—CG

Approved--chr