

# Percussion Ensemble Disclosure Document

2019-2020

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Prep/Consultation Time  
Period A4/B4 1:00-2:25 PM  
or Monday ~ 3:00-3:30 PM

## I. DESCRIPTION OF CLASS

Percussion Ensemble is a group of students playing a variety of percussion instruments, ranging from mallets to snare to timpani. The class rehearses and performs various styles of music including marches, classical, and contemporary music. Each student is tested on playing, tuning, and music theory. Students are also assigned to and participate in concert performances with the Symphonic Band and Wind Symphony.

## II. PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT AND SUPPORT

Active support of your child's instrumental effort is formally requested. **PRIVATE LESSONS** are the best means towards musical success. Do all you can to help your instrumentalist obtain them. Large group rehearsals cover only a small portion of the knowledge necessary to become a successful instrumentalist and ensemble member. Attendance at concerts and functions of the music program is crucial to continued success and involvement. Activities are scheduled months in advance. Please make sure you are aware of upcoming concerts and events to avoid last minute conflicts.

## MUSICAL PARTNERSHIP

Parents and home practice are an integral part of success. Music study is a three-way partnership composed of teacher, student, and parents. Each member of the partnership has a responsibility.

**Parents may become active members of this relationship by providing the following:**

1. Patience in reminding the student to practice daily.
2. Encouragement when the going is rough. Some things are learned easily, others require intense and repeated application. Parental sympathy and understanding are important.
3. Imagination in creating a musical atmosphere in the home. This can be accomplished by tuning into interesting musical programs on radio and television and attending live performances and concerts.

## CHECKLIST FOR SUCCESS

Here is a proven list for success as a music student:

1. A positive attitude, encouraging parents
2. Good attendance at school and practices
3. ***Private Lessons***
4. Own an intermediate or professional quality instrument by 10<sup>th</sup> grade
5. Audition for All-State
6. Play a solo or duet at festival each year
7. Attend summer music camps (or participate in marching band)
8. Practice 5 days a week, 30-40 minutes a day
9. Listen to good recordings of artists on your instrument(s)
10. Attend band, orchestra, and professional soloist concerts

## III. EXPECTATIONS

It is expected that at every rehearsal students will be prompt to class with all necessary materials. This includes: a pair of drumsticks (Vic Firth SD1 are recommended), a practice pad, and the SHS percussion handbook. Percussionists are also encouraged to obtain the following supplies as they can for their personal use: specialized sticks for drumset and drumline use, pairs of yarn, cord, and plastic mallets, one or more pairs of timpani mallets, a metronome, and a stick bag to hold their personal items. Obtaining these items for themselves increases their motivation and pride in their participation. Students will need to present their required materials to be checked off during the first two weeks of each term.

#### **IV. FEES**

A one-time participation fee of \$100 is required of members participating in any band ensemble. Money that is received as part of the activity fee will be used to cover the cost of travel, music and accessory purchase, new instruments, and professional development. All students using an instrument owned by the school are required to pay a \$100 rental fee. Money that is received for rental of musical instruments is returned to the instrumental budget to help cover maintenance and the purchase of new instruments. Students are responsible to maintain school instruments in the same condition they were issued, minus fair wear and tear. Any expense related to the abuse or mistreatment of school instruments will be dealt with individually and a fee will be assessed. Other necessary materials required will be indicated during rehearsals.

#### **V. ATTENDANCE POLICY**

Attendance during classes, rehearsals, and performances is an essential component for effective learning in band: **THERE IS NO SUBSTITUTE FOR BEING THERE!** Excessive absenteeism will be dealt with on a case by case basis with administration involvement. Members of the band are expected to perform at ALL scheduled performances. A student may be excused from a performance by contacting Mr. Major in writing no later than **THREE WEEKS** prior to a scheduled performance. After this time, students will only be excused in the case of **extreme family emergency or illness**. It is the student's responsibility to present a written explanation from parents explaining the situation.

If a student misses a performance without communicating to Mr. Major in a timely manner, the student's grade will be **D**. Unexcused absences may be appealed within 2 days after the performance. If approved, the highest grade possible will be a B-. One appeal per member per year is allowed. A second unexcused absence is grounds for failure.

#### **VI. ELECTRONIC USE POLICY**

Personal electronic devices are not acceptable during rehearsals. They are to be left in student's backpacks for the duration of any rehearsal. Failure to follow this policy will result in confiscation of the device for the remainder of the rehearsal. Multiple infractions will result in administration involvement.

#### **VII. CONCERT DRESS**

It is the responsibility of the student to obtain the appropriate concert attire. The approved concert dress is formal all black. Guidelines are as follows:

- Gentlemen: Black suit or tuxedo, white shirt, conservative dark tie, black dress shoes, and black socks.
- Ladies: A predominantly **black**, conservative (w/sleeves and below the knee) evening dress, black hose, and black dress shoes.

#### **VIII. CUT TIME USE**

The band program at Springville High uses the Cut Time program to help organize office work and inventory, as well as facilitate quick and easy communication. A calendar of the year can also be found on Cut Time and should be checked regularly. Students will be given information on how to set up their Cut Time account at the beginning of the year. This needs to be completed by the end of the first week of school.

## **X. GRADING POLICY**

The grading policy for the Percussion Ensemble can be explained in 2 parts: an “Additive Grading” philosophy and students being given more freedom in choosing how to earn their grade.

### **ADDITIVE GRADING**

Additive Grading is the opposite of traditional grading. Usually students start a term with 100% and lose points as assignments are added and graded. Unless students can maintain perfection, this type of grading doesn’t measure or communicate student progress. With Additive Grading, a student starts with zero points and their grade improves as assignments are completed. The student earns their grade for the term instead of slowly losing it.

Since Aspire isn’t set up for a grading system like this, we will be using Cut Time to keep track of earned points and regular updates will be sent out to help keep track of how students are progressing. Grades will then be posted in Aspire at the end of the term. By using Cut Time, students won’t start the term off with an “F” in their official grades and their grades will only increase over the term, never decrease.

### **STUDENT CHOICE**

Students are now going to be given the flexibility to help determine how they’ll earn their grade by completing assignments that are worth varying amounts of points. There are required assignments that they’ll have to complete every term, but approximately 30% of the grade is entirely up to them.

The students earn points by completing pass offs, having good attendance, and participating in any worthwhile musical experience. Members of the Percussion Ensemble are required to earn 700 points per term for full credit.

Points can be earned in the following 3 categories PER TERM:

- Required (400 points):
  - Pass offs – Up to 250 points total
  - EMRs (2) – 50 points each
  - Instrument Check – 50 points
- Optional (200 points):
  - Private Lessons (with a note from your teacher) – 100 points
  - Private Lessons on other instrument (with a note from your teacher) – 50 points
  - Region Solo/Ensemble Festival – 50 points
  - State Solo/Ensemble Festival – 50 points
  - Pep Band Game – 50 points
  - Extra Pass off – Up to 30 points each
  - Sectional – 25 points
  - Concert Attendance with a program (high school or more advanced) – 25 points
  - 30 minutes practicing – 10 points
  - Other ensembles – as determined by Mr. Major
  - Other musical experiences – as determined by Mr. Major
- Class Attendance (100 points)

Grades will be determined by the following scale:

A=90%, A-=85%, B+=80%, B=75%, B-=70%, C+=65%, C=60%, C-=55%, D=50%, F=49% & below.

**MR. MAJOR RESERVES THE RIGHT TO MAKE CHANGES AS NEEDED**