

# Elite Scholars Academy Band and Orchestra Program Fall 2022

“Striving for Performance Excellence”



## Beginning Band (P4) and Beginning Orchestra (P5) Syllabus

**Mr. T. Nick Tewell, Director**

Band Room 300, Orchestra Room 302

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Welcome to the Elite Scholars Academy Band and Orchestra Program! Please take a moment to carefully review all information. It contains class procedures, ensemble expectations, course standards, assessments, dates, and performances. I ask that you keep these packets for reference, and return the Syllabus Form to confirm that you have reviewed all information.

### **Course Description**

There will be a very high musical and artistic standard for the Elite Scholars Academy Band and Orchestra Program. It is imperative that students and parents understand the ramifications of setting such high standards.

This is a performance based class. Students will only improve through consistent class participation and strong individual effort. Students will continue to develop their knowledge of their instruments, music theory, the ability to analyze and evaluate music, and the use of critical thinking skills to make refinements in their performance.

*Practicing your instrument is your homework for this class!* Students are expected to practice 2-3 times per week outside of class time, as well as take their instrument home for the weekends as well as ELBC Days. Preparation in advance for rehearsals is key to success for the ensemble.

Individual growth is also encouraged through participation in solo and ensemble festivals, district honor groups, and private lessons.

The Georgia Standards of Excellence for Music can be found here:

<https://www.georgiastandards.org/Georgia-Standards/Documents/K-12-Music-Georgia-Standards.pdf>

### **Communication**

I am happy to be of assistance in any way possible. For all students, as well as parents/guardians, **Mr. Tewell's door is always open.** Email is the quickest way to reach Mr. Tewell, and a response will be returned within 2 school days. Some topics are best for either a phone call or in-person conversation, and I will communicate that as needed.

The Elite Scholars Academy Band and Orchestra program has launched a new website for the 2022-2023 school year! Mr. Tewell will add assignments, forms, dates, and other resources as they become available, so students and parents can access information at any time. The website can be found at:

[www.esabandorch.com](http://www.esabandorch.com)

Each Sunday evening, there will be an ESA Band and Orchestra Weekly Update sent to all parents, as well as all students who wish to be included. This will include events and graded assignments for each class, upcoming events, and any other information that needs to be shared.

### **Attendance**

There will be 2-3 major performances each semester, as well as numerous after school sectional / full ensemble rehearsals. These will occur throughout the school year, and attendance at these events is required and graded. The dates and times for these events will be announced at the beginning of each semester, or as far in advance as possible. **All currently known dates can be found in the Band and Orchestra Calendar of Events.**

Students are expected to be in attendance at all ESA Band and Orchestra events. An absence is considered excused when it would also be excused by the school: illness, family emergency, death in the family, school field trip, etc.

For rehearsals, if there is a conflict, please communicate with Mr. Tewell **as soon as you know about it**, in order to resolve it. It is never too early! I will always work to come up with a solution that is as close as possible to our mutual satisfaction.

For performances, if there is a known conflict, please communicate with Mr. Tewell **immediately.** Missing a major performance is extremely hurtful to the ensemble's ability to perform at the highest level. Everyone is a crucial piece of the puzzle.

Concert Attire: The **Elite Scholars Academy Formal Uniform** will serve as concert attire, unless otherwise announced. Concert Attire includes black dress shoes, as well as no additional articles of clothing over the Elite Scholars Academy uniform.

**Instructional Materials and Resources**

General Supplies:

1. Black Binder, 1 inch.
2. Chromebook.
3. Pencil (mechanical is best!).

Music Supplies:

1. Instruments - These are available to borrow from the school pending availability and student need. **All school instruments will need to be checked out by the student, with a signed permission form to be kept on file with the director.** Elite Scholars Academy is VERY fortunate to have instruments that are in good condition, and the expectation is that students strive to keep ESA instruments in top condition. Please let Mr. Tewell know right away if a repair is necessary.
2. Method Books - each class will work from one or more method books during the school year. The choice is pending teacher evaluation of each ensemble during the opening weeks of the school year. In some instances, the book is in the ESA Band and Orchestra Library, and the students can borrow it for as long as needed. If not, students may be asked to purchase their own copies.
3. Instrument Accessories for All - some accessories and supplies will need to be provided by the students. These include a **luggage tag** for their instrument case, and a **wire music stand** for home practice. Instrument-specific supplies can be found below:

Strings	Woodwinds	Brass	Percussion
<p><i>All:</i> Rosin, soft cleaning cloth.</p> <p><i>Violin and viola:</i> Shoulder rests.</p> <p><i>Cello:</i> Endpin stop/rock stop.</p> <p>Please be aware that fingernails must be</p>	<p><i>All:</i> Polishing cloth.</p> <p><i>Flutes:</i> Handkerchief swab</p> <p><i>Clarinets:</i> 4 working reeds at a time, swab, cork grease.</p> <p><i>Saxophones:</i></p>	<p><i>All:</i> Tuning slide grease, polishing cloth, mouthpiece brush.</p> <p><i>Trombones:</i> Slide grease.</p> <p><i>Others:</i> Valve oil.</p>	<p><i>All:</i> 8” drum pad or larger for home practice with a stand, practice keyboard, stick bag, Drumsticks.</p>

trimmed to play a string instrument.	4 working reeds at a time, swab, cork grease, neck strap.		
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### Choosing Instruments

Students will be afforded the opportunity to try out all of the instruments within their class. A final decision will be made in consideration of the following: input from the student, parent, and Mr. Tewell, as well as ensemble balance and student preference.

Here is the schedule by which students will choose and obtain an instrument:

Day	Date	Band Activity	Orchestra Activity
Wed-Fri	August 3-5	Welcome / Intro to Music	Welcome / Intro to Music
Mon	August 8	<b>Percussion Auditions Day 1</b>	Bass
Tues	August 9	<b>Percussion Auditions Day 2</b>	Cello
Wed	August 10	Brass	Viola
Thurs	August 11	Woodwinds	Violin
Fri	August 12	<b>Instrument Preference Forms Go Home</b>	<b>Instrument Preference Forms Go Home</b>
Tues	August 16	Instrument Preference Forms Returned	Instrument Preference Forms Returned
Thurs	August 18	<b>Instrument Assignments / Info Packets Sent Home</b>	<b>Instrument Assignments / Info Packets Sent Home</b>
Mon	August 22	<b>Begin Playing in Class!</b>	<b>Begin Playing in Class!</b>

### Assignments and Grading Scale

Final Grades for the semester are reflective of learning, effort, progress, and achievement.

CCPS Grade Scale:

% Score	Letter	GMAs Level	Interpretation
90-100	A	Distinguished	Advanced Proficiency, Exceeds Standards.
80-89	B	Proficient	Proficient, Meets Standards.
71-79	C	Developing	Partially Proficient, Working up to Standards.
70	D	Beginning	Not Proficient. Musically uncharacteristic.
Below 70	F	Failing	Incomplete. Not meeting expectations.

Grade Categories and Assignment Descriptions:

- 45% Classwork
  - Weekly Rehearsal Grades are 100 points per week, 20 daily points.
    - Students earn their daily 20 points by participating in class to the fullest extent, and having all necessary materials.
    - Students lose their daily 20 points by disrupting class, not participating, or not having all materials.
    - The 20 daily points are all or nothing.
- 10% Homework
  - This category is reserved for the Semester Audition. Material and Dates for the Audition will be distributed after Labor Day.
- 25% Projects/Concerts
  - This category is for Concerts and any other assignments that strictly go along with performing. This could include written reflections, discussions in class, and overall preparation.
- 5% Quizzes
  - This category is for written assignments that could include music theory assignments, rhythm packets, and other means of assessing musical knowledge outside of playing the instrument.
- 15% Tests
  - This category is for Weekly Assignments - in class or on Canvas.
  - In class assignments will be completed by THURSDAYS in class.
  - Online assignments will be due on THURSDAYS by 11:59pm.
    - Online weekly assignments must have video AND audio (meaning that Mr. Tewell must be able to watch you play). This is so that feedback can be provided on embouchure, technique, and physical posture, as well as to ensure that the work has academic integrity.

- Online weekly assignments can be recorded as many times as necessary, but only turn in **one** recording to be evaluated.
- Online weekly assignments **may not** be played in person without prior arrangements with Mr. Tewell.

Please refer to the **Calendar of Assignments** for all due dates.

#### Late Assignments

- Please communicate if there are any issues submitting assignments, as Mr. Tewell is willing to work with all students to ensure assignments can be completed and that every student is successful.
- Weekly Assignments are accepted late. This will come with an automatic 10% points deduction during the first week, and an automatic 25% points deduction subsequently.
- Auditions, Exams, and other major assignments will not be accepted late. Exceptions can be made for abnormal circumstances.
- Near the end of the semester, a final due date for any late work will be announced.

#### **Behavior Expectations and Academic Integrity**

The Elite Scholars Academy Bands and Orchestras follow all directives of Elite Scholars Academy ([https://099ccps.ss10.sharpschool.com/about/school\\_values](https://099ccps.ss10.sharpschool.com/about/school_values)) and Clayton County Public Schools, as well as those included in this syllabus and discussed in class. With an emphasis on respect, responsibility, participation, and learning focus, we will have a positive and productive class where students succeed both individually and as an ensemble.

#### Behavior Redirection Plan:

- All students have a right to a positive, productive classroom environment. Every effort will be made by the teacher to work with students and parents to guide good behavior choices. Ensemble participation is a privilege, not a given.
- Consequences may include:
  - (1) verbal warning
  - (2) parent contact
  - (3) classroom intervention such as a seat change or written work
  - (4) parent-student-teacher conference
  - (5) office referral.
  - Severe cases of misbehavior may result in an immediate office referral.
- In the rare case of behavior that does not improve after administrative intervention, the student may be assigned written work rather than playing opportunities or be removed from the music program.

Academic Integrity is expected at all times, as is mandated within the CCPS Student Handbook. Students are expected to be honest in all interactions with teachers. Students are expected to submit work for evaluation that has been completed solely by that student or that student's group. Work for evaluation must be specifically created for the current assignment, and not also for

another class, unless arrangements have been agreed upon between the teacher(s) and the student.

If a student is found cheating on a graded assignment, the student will receive a grade of zero (0) on the assignment and face disciplinary action. The follow list presents situations of dishonesty or violations of academic integrity that are not in accord with Elite Scholars Academy values:

- receiving unauthorized information about a quiz/test.
- sharing answers or other information about a quiz/test with others who have not yet taken it.
- the unauthorized use of resources for an assignment or test.
- turning in work for credit that is not the student's own (copying or plagiarism).
- presenting oneself as another (including using someone else's user ID or password).
- falsifying records or forging signatures, including parent e-signatures.

**One Final Note from Mr. Tewell**

Thank you for welcoming me into the Elite Scholars Academy family. I am excited to start this new chapter at such a wonderful school. I cannot wait to make music and get to know all of the students and families. Let's have a great year!