

2009-2010 Dake Junior High Band Syllabus

Mr. Springstead (336-3068, www.westirondequoit.org/dake/Springstead)

Mr. Kluge (336-0627, www.westirondequoit.org/dake/Music/Kluge/index_Kluge.htm)

WELCOME!

We would like to welcome you to a new year of music-making! We look forward to getting to know all of our new Dake students and getting caught up with the lives of our returning students. The following information will be crucial to your success in band and lessons. Please read it with your parent(s) or guardian(s), sign it, and have one of them sign it. Return it to Mr. Springstead or Mr. Kluge by September 11.

SCHEDULING

All bands will meet every other day (3 times per six-day rotation). Students are also required to attend lesson groups once every six-day rotation.

LESSON GROUPS

Once you are assigned to a group, you will be pulled out of classes once every six days on a rotating basis. You will not have to keep missing the same class over and over. You will be given a copy of your lesson schedule; keep it in your planner. A copy will also be posted outside the band room.

LESSON ATTENDANCE

Attendance at lessons is mandatory. Occasionally, however, a teacher will prefer that you not attend a lesson because the material you would miss can't be made up, or you might be taking a test. This is fine. Let us know as soon as possible if you know you can't attend your lesson.

Sometimes you just forget; don't worry, these things happen. Depending on how many lessons are in the quarter, you are allowed 1-2 "misses" per quarter that do not have to be made-up. Please don't use them as "skips." They are there for you in case you forget. Beyond those 1-2 misses, **you must make-up all other missed lessons** (this includes lessons missed because a teacher wanted you to stay in class).

To avoid the "crunch" of students asking for make-up lessons during the last week or two of the quarter, the "**two-day rule**" will be in effect. This means that you have two days from the day you miss your lesson to schedule a make-up lesson with your teacher. If you do not, you give up your right to make-up that lesson. If you were absent, you have two days from the day you return to school to schedule a make-up. If you miss the make-up for a reason other than an absence, you will get one more chance to make it up. After that, you will again give up your right to recover that lesson. Finally, **don't forget to check in with your teachers** before coming to a lesson. We won't mark you late to your lesson because you first stopped by the class you're missing.

PLEASE NOTE: You will be expected to keep track of your lesson schedule. No one will come to your class to get you. If you leave lessons incomplete by the end of the quarter, you dramatically increase your chances of failing band. THERE IS ABSOLUTELY NO REASON TO FAIL BAND. No one fails because they are having trouble playing their instrument, only because they don't attend lessons.

EXPECTATIONS

- Be on time for all lessons and band rehearsals. This means that you are in your seat ready to play when the period begins.
- Be prepared. You must have your instrument, pencil, band music or lesson music, and other necessary equipment (reeds, valve oil, slide cream, etc.). If you do not have your instrument for two or more consecutive rehearsals, a make-up assignment will be provided for you. The exception to this policy is if the instrument is being repaired; in this case, we will require a brief note from home explaining that the instrument is being repaired and when it's expected to be returned to you.
- Have a positive attitude and make an effort to contribute to all lessons and band rehearsals in some way. We want you to succeed to the best of your ability.
- NO GUM AT ANY TIME.
- Remain quiet when Mr. Springstead, Mr. Kluge, or your lesson teacher is talking. "Quiet" also means that your instrument should be quiet, too. It's not only distracting to your teacher, but to your peers as well.
- Students are expected to practice at least 5 days per week for at least 30 minutes per practice session.
- You will turn in a practice sheet at every lesson which will be signed by a parent or guardian.
- You may not miss a concert except under extreme circumstances or an emergency. If you do have a conflict that you are aware of in advance, Mr. Springstead or Mr. Kluge must have a letter from a parent or guardian at least two weeks before the date of the concert. A call home should be expected to see if something can be worked out to allow your attendance. If this is not possible, you will be given a two-page concert review assignment or you will be asked to perform the concert music alone for your teacher (assigned at the teacher's discretion) to make-up for the missed concert. This is often more work than attending the concert, so do your best to attend. Any concert left incomplete will result in a dramatic drop in your grade.
- The Concert and Symphonic Bands and Wind Ensemble are year-long courses. Because we wish to maintain a balanced instrumentation, students are expected to honor their commitment for the entire year. Drops will be considered for unique circumstances and only after steps to continue participation in the ensemble have been put in place. These steps include conversations between the student, parent, teacher, counselor and administrator regarding participation in the ensemble.

GRADING

You will be given a grade for each lesson and an overall grade for band for the quarter:

- Lesson Grade (50% of report card grade): As part of this grade, you will be assessed not only on your lesson performance, but also on brief written assignments and/or an end-of-quarter playing exam. Other assignments may be given at the director's discretion.

- Band Grade (the remaining 50% of report card grade): This grade reflects your preparedness for and contributions to rehearsals and concerts.

BAND LOCKERS

Instrument lockers are provided for the safety and convenience of the students (and also because it is a fire hazard to leave an abundance of instruments in the band room). Therefore, all brass and woodwind students except French horns, baritones, trombones and tubas must bring in a combination lock (no key locks please) **no later than September 7**. Dake Jr. High and the West Irondequoit School District are NOT responsible for lost instruments left outside of lockers or in unlocked lockers.

CONCERT DRESS

During concerts, we'd like the attention of our audience to be on the bands as a whole, not on individual players. As a result, there is a concert dress requirement at Dake. The dress is as follows:

GENTLEMEN should wear a white, collared shirt with tie, and black pants with black socks and black shoes. No jeans or sneakers, please.

LADIES should wear a white shirt with sleeves and a black skirt (please nothing higher than the knee) or black pants. No jeans or sneakers, please. Also, flip-flops are not permitted.

This concert dress is similar to that of the high school performing ensembles. Please contact one of us immediately if the concert dress requirement poses any problems. We will assume that all students will arrive at concerts in this attire if we do not hear anything from you.

Thank you for your attention to our policies. We look forward to a very exciting school year in Concert Band, Symphonic Band, and Wind Ensemble!

-----clip and return by 9/11-----

2009-2010 Dake Bands Contract

We have read the Dake Bands Syllabus and we agree to follow the policies listed here. Also, we have taken note of the concert dates listed on the concert calendar, and we will provide a combination lock for a band locker by September 7th (if applicable).

Student Signature _____

Parent/Guardian Signature _____

Date _____