

# **SKYLINE PERCUSSION ENSEMBLE**

**“Anything great *requires* time, patience, perseverance, dedication, and discipline.”**

## **Brief Description of Course Objectives:**

The Skyline Percussion Ensemble is an advanced, *auditioned-only* class. Students will primarily focus on aspects of percussion performance. We will study the various instruments in the percussion family as well as learn many playing fundamentals and techniques. The skills learned will enable the students to actively participate in the Skyline Performing Arts Program and achieve the highest standards of excellence.

### ***Participation is mandatory.***

Students will develop a love for music and prepare to be productive and successful members of the community. Additionally, students will learn many non-musical skills such as dedication, discipline, positive attitude, critical thinking, self-esteem, confidence, and respect.

## **Grading Policy:**

Grades will be determined using the following criteria:

**Participation:** You will receive daily participation points. They will be received through things such as class attendance, practice, and preparation. You *must* have your instruments in class every day. I *will* know if you have been practicing!

**Assignments:** Various assignments will be given throughout the year. Assignments will include playing tests, scales/exercises pass-offs, concert reports, written tests, etc.

**Performances:** We will plan to have at least one concert each term. A calendar of events for the entire year has been furnished and is also available on the SHS website. It is strongly recommended to write these dates on your home calendars *immediately*. You are expected to attend every concert and performance – no exceptions. Attendance at concerts and performances cannot be made up and is heavily weighted and will affect your grade substantially.

## **Grading scale:**

100-94 % = A	82-80 % = B-	69-67 % = D+
93-90 % = A-	79-77 % = C+	66-63 % = D
89-87 % = B+	76-73 % = C	62-60 % = D-
86-83 % = B	72-70 % = C-	59-0 % = F

Citizenship will be graded according to SHS and Granite District policy as outlined in the “Skyliner” student planner handbook. In reference to class attendance, please realize that in a performing organization it is indeed impossible to “make up” a rehearsal or performance. They only happen once! When it’s over, it’s over! However, *excused* absences will not count against the student’s point total.

## **Fees:**

The Instrumental Music Participation Fee will only be \$30 for the entire year. This includes *all* classes. If student is participating in more than one instrumental music class they will need to pay the fee only once. This money helps our program survive! We use it to purchase music, equipment, bus transportation, etc. **The fee is due during the first week of the school year.**

### **Uniforms:**

As the Percussion Ensemble is a performing group, it is important that we dress alike.

The required dress for a formal concert occasion is “concert black.”

Ladies will wear matching black dress outfits with black dress shoes. The uniform will cost ~ \$70.

Gentlemen will wear black tuxedos with black bowties, a black cummerbund or vest, black *dress shoes*, and black dress socks. Tuxes will cost \$110 (or \$130 if you want the shoes as well).

Professionals from “*Tuxedos by Lee*” and “*Concert Black Clothing*” will be in class to take measurements during the second week of school (Sept. 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup>). Please make sure you are in class these days so that we can get you fitted properly.

### **Equipment:**

The majority of the percussion equipment will be supplied by the school. However, each student is ***required*** to have (and bring to class each day) their own **practice pad, drum sticks, and mallets**. I recommend purchasing through *Backbeats Drum Shop* on 6089 S. & Highland Dr. Here are my suggestions for sticks & mallets. The *Backbeats* guys can help you choose too!

**concert sticks:** Vic Firth “SD1 Generals” or Vater “Fusions”

**rubber mallets:** Malletech BB-34

**yarn mallets:** Malletech DS-11 or DS-18

These mallets can get fairly expensive! If a few students want to purchase a set together, that might be a good idea. **It is also advisable to get a good stick bag.**

### **Expectations:**

Again, please remember that the Percussion Ensemble is one of the top performance organizations of the school. Public performances, **which may and will be outside of school time**, are ***expected*** of all students and will be considered a major part of your grade! These performances include all concerts, assemblies, region and state festivals, football and basketball games, and other special occasions. All students are expected to follow the rules, practice, participate, and **have fun!**

Additionally, you can expect me to be organized, communicate effectively, provide an accurate calendar of events, be understanding, grade fairly, be consistent in what I do and say, and not make any unnecessary last-minute changes!

There are many wonderful things planned for this school year! If you have any questions feel free to contact me at [alarson2@graniteschools.org](mailto:alarson2@graniteschools.org), at the school at 385-646-9663, or via our department website – [www.skylineperformingarts.org](http://www.skylineperformingarts.org).

Thank You!

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Director of Instrumental Music  
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**Remember – “Hard Work is FUN!”**