

# PERCUSSION TECHNIQUES

2016 - 2017 SYLLABUS

PART 1: COURSE INFORMATION

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## Instructor Information

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## Course Description

The Percussion Techniques class is designed to offer students the opportunity to develop a deeper understanding of the percussion instrument family, and offer performance experiences that more specifically challenge and adhere to a percussionist's needs. This class will also expose students to other areas of percussion performance through marching band drum line music; indoor drum line show; and concert percussion ensemble opportunities. Students will also utilize non-traditional areas of percussion such as "found" instruments; non-traditional notation; unique voiced ensembles; and extended techniques only found in percussion-specific music.

### Prerequisite

- Percussion participation in the East Aurora School District Band Program (5-8 grade participation)

## Textbook & Course Materials

### Required Text

- All Required texts will be provided via copied materials from an array of sources. Students are required to bring a 3-ring binder with tab inserts.

### Other Required Materials

- *Please see the District Percussion Sticks & Mallets list for what required implements are needed.*
- Metronome
- Practice Pad – Gum Rubber or Kevlar (xymox, offworld)
- Pitch Pipe
- 1 – 3 Black Hand Towels
- Stick Bag

## Course Requirements

- E-mail address to sign up for online services & resources
- Basic Technological Knowledge

## Course Overview

**There will be four different frameworks for this course:**

1. Group Rehearsal – The first semester of the percussion class will focus on skills found in the marching percussion ensemble. Focusing on techniques and music for Football and Basketball half-time performances. These opportunities will help develop the techniques that are focused on in the technique classes. This will also help develop internal timing, “chops,” and ensemble awareness.
2. Technique Classes – Students will be told the basic techniques and considerations among various percussion instruments. They will also spend time developing the basic techniques to be used in the literature chosen for concert.
3. Small Ensemble Rehearsals – This structure will allow for 3 – 4 different ensembles to rehearse simultaneously. Upperclassmen will be chosen to be “coaches” for the ensembles, allowing them an opportunity to teach. Other students will get performance experience through small ensemble playing.
4. Project-Based Rehearsals – Students will be broken into small groups to create, develop, rehearse, and perform a piece using the methods, instruments, and techniques learned throughout the year.

### Online Resources

*District 131 Music Website*

*Bullet Proof Musician Blog*

*YouTube*

*Percussive Arts Society Website*

## PART 2: STUDENT LEARNING OBJECTIVES

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- Students will develop their basic understanding of a percussionist’s role in various settings.
- Students will develop and apply a basic understanding of various percussion instruments and techniques to be used in performance.
- Students will develop technical abilities on various percussion instruments to achieve a highly executed performance.
- Students will create a musical composition using techniques, instruments, and knowledge to inform musical choices.

- Students will develop physical abilities to perform a technical musical passage while executing visually appropriate interpretation.
- Students will analyze and adapt to conclusions drawn from a performance to apply to the next performance opportunity.

You will meet the objectives listed above through a combination of the following activities in this course:

- Attend all classes.
- Perform in Two Percussion-specific performances.
- Perform in Concert Band Concerts.
- Perform in a half-time marching band show.
- Explore concrete definitions, and the means of breaking those definitions to better accomplish a task.

## PART 3: CLASS OVERVIEW/SCHEDULE

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- **Unit 01: Drum Line & Standard Techniques**
  - Focusing on marching band music, pep band music, and stand cheers.
  - Good Practice Habits
  - Discuss and develop basic techniques on Snare Drum, Keyboard Instruments, Timpani (Crash & Bass if time)
- **Unit 02: Indoor Percussion Show & Standard Techniques**
  - Preparation for Prism Concert
  - Rehearsal & Performances of Indoor Percussion Show
  - Techniques on: Bass Drum & Crash Cymbals; Tambourine & Triangle; Other Auxiliary Instruments
- **Unit 03: Percussion Ensemble & Advanced Techniques**
  - Once a year, there will be a large project that students will choose, create, develop, and perform. These vary year-to-year and provide students with a unique opportunity to apply their skills and knowledge in a non-traditional way.
  - Tone Characteristics of Percussion Instruments: Defining an Individual's Sound

## UNIT 04: COMPOSITION, RESEARCH, AND/OR PERFORMANCE PROJECTS & ADVANCED TECHNIQUES

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- Preparation for our final concert, this includes the group project performance(s), and new, more traditional, percussion ensemble music.

## Course Challenge System

Each quarter students will have an opportunity to a prize by having the highest score for successfully completing specific challenges for points. Students will have to complete the challenges with perfect, or near-perfect accuracy. There is no limit to how many challenges the students are allowed to compete, and there is no set order to specific sets of challenges. The amount of points awarded are based on how difficult the challenge is. The harder the challenge, the more points. Students may choose whichever challenge they feel they have enough time to accomplish. Testing times for these challenges are yet to be determined. This challenge system is designed to motivate students to practice skills that will transfer into their playing, Challenges include completed exercises at specific tempos and performing solos; if a piece of music is not on the list, it needs approval and a point rating BEFORE it is played for points. If a student fails to complete the challenge, they may retest at the specified times to possibly receive the points.

**Each quarter, students are required to get 50 points from challenges they complete. For qualification to audition for Wind Ensemble, students need at least 600 points BEFORE the audition, and 400 points for Wind Symphony.**

\*\*\*Students could possibly get partial points for attempting challenges (5 star rating), however, this approach is to be determined.

## Indoor Drumline Rehearsals

Due to space availability, the Percussion Methods class will meet before school twice a week to rehearse the indoor program in the gym. It is important that all students attend these rehearsals as they are the only opportunity to rehearse drill and put the show together. Any conflicts that may occur should be well communicated in advanced to ensure that minimal time is wasted by the ensemble. Rehearsal time is extremely limited, and the success of the group is contingent on member's dedication and attendance.

## Wind Ensemble Percussionists

To earn honors credit for the class, percussionists that are in Wind Ensemble must coach one percussion ensemble in the second semester. This will require a greater knowledge of a piece of music, analytical abilities to identify trouble areas, and basic scheduling abilities to ensure that enough time is given to all areas of the piece.

Unit	Week	Topic	Readings	Activities	Due Date
0:0 First Quarter	0: 8/25	Class Overview, Structure & Expectations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Class Syllabus</li> <li>Technique Packets</li> <li>Schedule</li> <li>Percussion Challenge List</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Charms, Handbook Signature, Percussion Fee, Resources, Class Structure, Percussion Challenges</li> <li>Video Examples &amp; Discussion</li> </ul>	Binder w/Divider Tabs - Monday
1:A	1: 8/29	Snare Drum Techniques & Stroke Types	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cavaliers Drum &amp; Bugle Corps Technique Packet</li> <li>Goldenberg Snare Drum Basics</li> <li>Rudimental Cookbook</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Learn, Assess, &amp; Teach – Basics of the Rudimental &amp; Concert Techniques</li> <li>Sight-reading basic etudes (Goldenberg)</li> <li>RCB: Exercise 1 &amp; 2</li> </ul>	
1:A	2: 9/6 4 Day Week	Rudiments: 4 Categories	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Vic Firth: 40 Standard Rudiments</li> <li>Three Camps</li> <li>Stick Control</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Play: Single, Double, Triple Stroke Roll, Paradiddle, Paradiddle-diddle, Double Paradiddle, Flam, Flam Tap, Flam Accent, Drag, Drag tap</li> <li>RCB: Exercise 1 - 3</li> </ul>	Video Assignment – Rudiments Slow – Fast 9/6/2016
1:A	3: 9/12	Rudiments Continued; Grid Exercise	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Three Camps</li> <li>Gallop</li> <li>Accent-Tap</li> <li>Basic Accent Grid</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Playing Test – RCB: 1 &amp; 2</li> <li>Grid Drumming</li> </ul>	
1:A	4: 9/19 SIP – 9/22	Playing Test in Class	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Evaluation Rubric</li> </ul>	Playing Test – Accent Grid	Thursday 9/22/2016
1:A	5: 9/26	Review	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review all previous exercises &amp; readings</li> </ul>		Summative test on Snare Drum techniques
1:B.1	6: 10/3	2 Mallet Marimba Technique & Scalular Exercises	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cavalier’s Technique Packet</li> <li>“Green Scales”</li> <li>Goldenberg Etudes</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Teaching Technique</li> <li>How to Practice Scales</li> <li>Green Scale Exercises</li> </ul>	
1:B.1	7: 10/11 4 Day Week	2 Mallet Marimba Technique Cont.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Green Scales</li> <li>Goldenberg Etudes</li> <li>Irish Washwoman</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review Technique</li> <li>Green Scales</li> <li>Irish Washwoman</li> </ul>	Washwoman Competition
1:B.2	8: 10/17 SIP Day	4 Mallet Marimba Technique	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>M.O.M. Readings</li> <li>Interval Exercise</li> <li>Doin’ it Right</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Teach Technique</li> <li>Double Vertical Exercise</li> <li>Interval Exercise</li> <li>Doin’ it Right w/1 Hand</li> </ul>	Read M.O.M. & Take Notes
1:B.2 Second Quarter	9: 10/24	4 Mallet Marimba Technique – Stevens	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Technique Block</li> <li>Method of Movement – Reading Material</li> <li>Doin’ it Right</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Interval Exercise</li> <li>Doin’ it Right</li> </ul>	
1:B	10: 10/31	Review Both Mallet Techniques & Test	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review techniques</li> <li>Playing Test</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Doin’ it Right Test</li> <li>Irish Washwoman Test</li> <li>Green Scales</li> <li>Interval Exercise</li> </ul>	
2:A	11: 11/9 2 Day Week	NO Technique	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li></li> </ul>	
	12: 11/14 SIP Day	Concert Music – Handout Indoor Focus	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li></li> </ul>	

Unit	Week	Topic	Readings	Activities	Due Date
	13: 11/21 Two day week	NO Technique	•	•	
	14: 11/28	Concert Music	•	•	
	15: 12/5 Concert Week	Concert Music	•	•	
	16: 12/12		•	•	
	17: 12/19 Finals		•	•	

## Part 4: Grading Policy

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### Graded Course Activities

Percentages	Description
25%	Performances
10%	Playing Tests/Quizzes
10%	Homework
15%	Concert Review
15%	Participation (Reflections & Challenge Points)
15%	Final Exam

### Late Work Policy

Late homework will be accepted, however will encompass a 10% penalty for each day following the deadline.

### Viewing Grades in Infinite Campus

Points you receive for graded activities will be posted to the Infinite Campus Grade Book, please check Infinite Campus to be sure the work you have turned in gets properly recorded.

## Part 5: Course Policies

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### Participate

Participation will include **reflections and exit tickets** done through Apollo. At the start of each class, students will complete a round of *Note Names*. Each week, students will receive a grade on the percentage they received upon completed the assignment, on a **random chosen day**.

Participation will also include student's preparation of music for each class period. It is expected that practicing is an ongoing homework assignment that will be completed each day. The amount each student practices depends on the skill-level of the student and difficulty level of the literature being studied.

### Build Rapport

If you find that you have any trouble keeping up with assignments or other aspects of the course, make sure you let your instructor know as early as possible. As you will find, building rapport and effective relationships are key to becoming an effective professional. Make sure that you are proactive in informing your instructor when difficulties arise during the semester so that they can help you find a solution.

### Complete Assignments

**Assignment turn-in will vary depending on the assignment.** There will be moments to turn in assignments electronically, as well as hardcopy. Please be sure you understand the expectation with each given assignment.

### Commit to Integrity

As a student in this course (and at this program) you are expected to maintain high degrees of professionalism, commitment to active learning and participation in this class and also integrity in your behavior in and out of the classroom. This includes the care and maintenance of the equipment, others, and yourself.