



## Fort Atkinson High School COURSE SYLLABUS

**Course Title:**

Blackhawk Band

**Teacher Name:**

Mr. Kading

**Room Number**

M122

**Teacher Availability:**

When door is open

See lesson schedule

Arrive: 6:00-6:30am

Depart: 4:30pm – please call ahead to be sure of availability

**Grade:**

9-12

**Course Length:**

2 Semesters

**Email/Phone:**

KadingA@fortschools.org

(920) 563-7811 x1120

**Course Description and Purpose:**

Blackhawk Band is a musical performance based course for wind and percussion players that is designed for all musicians who desire to be challenged and are willing to work/practice outside of class. Sectionals and additional instruction are encouraged. The course also teaches self motivation, working in a group setting, setting both long and short term goals, leadership, problem solving, creativity and expression, responsibility and caring. Musical skills include an advanced awareness of pitch and rhythm, harmony, applied music theory taught through some of the best music literature available.

**Recommended Supplies:**

*Resources on line at [www.fortatkinsonmusic.org](http://www.fortatkinsonmusic.org)*

**Reed players** should own their own box of reeds.

- Saxophone: Vandoren #3, Rico Grand Concert select #3, Hemke #3
- Clarinet: Vandoren #3 ½ or 4, Rico Grand Concert Select, #3
- Bass Clarinet: Vandoren #3
- Oboe and Bassoon should look to Nielsen or other double reed specialty stores for their reeds

Single reed players should own their own mouthpiece

Recommended Set-up:

- Saxophone - Vandoren AL3, TL3 or BL3 mouthpiece with Vandoren "Optimum", ebonite ligature.
- Clarinet – Vandoren B13, 5RV and similar Vandoren ligature

**Brass** should own their own mouthpieces

**Recommended Mouthpieces:**

- Trumpets – Bach 3C or 1 ½ C
- Trombone – Bach 4 or 5G  
Schilke 51 or 51D
- Tuba – Bach 18 or Hellberg 120S

**Percussionists** should own several pairs of wood tip drum sticks – 5A and 5B, soft medium and hard keyboard mallets, and soft medium and hard timpani sticks to be kept in a stick bag.

**Course Outline:**

## Quarter 1:

- Marching Band
- 1 one-on-one lesson
- 1 Individual or small group lesson
- 4 Sectionals
- 5<sup>th</sup> grade concert

## Quarter 2:

- Concert Band
- 4 Individual or small group lessons
- 2 Sectionals
- Pep Band
- Holiday Concert

## Quarter 3:

- Concert Band
- 4 Individual or small group lessons
- Badger Honors Band (Optional)
- 2 Sectionals
- Pops Concert
- Pep Band
- Chamber ensembles
- Solo and Ensemble

## Quarter 4:

- Concert Band
- 4 Individual or small groups lessons
- 2 Sectionals
- Final Concert
- Clinic Day
- Memorial Day
- Rock Day
- Graduation

## Grading Policy

*"When I examine myself and my methods of thought, I come close to the conclusion that the gift of imagination has meant more to me than any talent for absorbing absolute knowledge."*

~Albert Einstein

*"I believe in professionalism, but playing is not like a job. You have to be grateful to have the opportunity to play."*

~Wynton Marsalis

*"What you get by achieving your goals is not as important as what you become by achieving your goals."*

~Henry David Thoreau

The grades for this course are divided like so:

- **40%** of the grade comes from your participation in **Performances**
- **35%** of the grade comes from your performance in **Lessons/Sectionals**
- **15%** of the grade comes from your independent **Practice**
- **10%** of the grade comes from your contribution of **Ensemble-ship**

**Performances** – Throughout the year the band will perform several concerts for and with the community. These performances are a window into the band class room. They are required and act as a summative assessment for the ensemble.

**Lessons/Sectionals** – Each quarter band students will attend a variety of one-on-one lessons and/or sectionals. Each quarter the quantity and character of each these meetings will be different to meet the needs of the full ensemble.

**Make-up Lessons or Sectionals:** If a student is unable to schedule a lesson or attend a sectional they are welcomed to video record their lesson and submit their recording for feed-back via their personal Google band folder.

**Lessons** – Lessons are one-on-one or small group meetings with teacher/student. Students will be scheduled for most of the lessons based of their specified availability. For the remaining lessons students will sign up for a lesson time and be held accountable for that time. In lessons we will develop technique– fine-tune details of the performance music.

**Sectionals** – Sectionals are group-based instruction. Instrumentation will vary depending on the need of full ensemble. These meetings will be pre-scheduled at the beginning of each quarter. Students will sign up for a lesson time and be held accountable for that time. . In sectionals we will develop technique – develop ensemble-ship skills – fine tune details of the performance music.

Required meeting quantities per quarter:

Quarter 1:

- 1 – One-on-one lessons \* (Before 9/29)
- 1 - Individual or small group lesson (Before 10/27)
- 4 – Sectionals\*\* (1 a week during marching season - with marching section)

Quarter 2:

- 4 - Individual or small group lessons (1st before 11/11, 2<sup>nd</sup> before 12/2, 3<sup>rd</sup> before 1/6, 4<sup>th</sup> before 1/19)
- 2 – Sectionals (once a month - with concert section)

Quarter 3:

- 4 - Individual or small group lessons (1st before 2/3, 2<sup>nd</sup> before 2/17, 3<sup>rd</sup> before 3/10, 4<sup>th</sup> before 3/22)
- 2 – Sectionals (once a month - with chamber ensemble)

Quarter 4:

- 4 - Individual or small group lessons (1st before 4/21, 2<sup>nd</sup> before 5/5, 3<sup>rd</sup> before 5/19, 4<sup>th</sup> before 6/2)
- 2 – Sectionals (once a month - with concert section)

\*- More lessons are welcomed and encouraged! After everyone has signed up for their time, students will be allowed to sign-up for additional times.

\*\* - More sectionals are welcome and encouraged! Additional sectionals can be student lead.

**Attendance policy** - If you need to miss a rehearsal or sectional or performance or any other graded event, in order to receive 95% credit we need the following:

- Written notification from a parent or guardian 24 hours in advance.
- To make up for the points missed, an extra lesson can be scheduled before the end of the quarter.
  - If notification is less than 24 hour prior, not from a parent or guardian, or not written, only 80% credit will be granted upon completion of the make up lesson.
  - If no notification is given, only 70% credit will be granted upon completion of the make up lesson.
  - If a genuine emergency prevented attendance, and notice could not have been given, after you and your family are safe, inform Mr. Kading as soon as you can, and 95% can be granted upon completion of the make up lesson.

**Practice** – Smart and frequent practice is the cornerstone of success in every profession. Practice is an individual need and a collaborative trust. Therefore, the assessment of practice will be shown in the daily progress of technique and knowledge. In addition, the student can only know the reality of assessment. This portion of the grade will lean heavily on self-assessment.

**Ensemble-ship** – is defined as the ability for musicians to function effectively in groups. This requires the careful balance on convergent actions and divergent thoughts. This balance is on display by the entire ensemble as individuals and as a unified entity at every rehearsal, and will be assessed, and addressed daily.

The criteria for grading will be based on these categories of assessment will be based on:

- Active participation and contribution
  - At performances
  - In lessons
  - While practicing
  - For the ensemble
  
- Technical, and musical execution
  - At performances
  - In lessons
  - While practicing
  - For the ensemble
  
- Exploring creative solutions and connections
  - In performance preparation
  - In lessons
  - While practicing
  - For the ensemble
  
- Musical knowledge demonstration and execution
  - In performance preparation
  - In lessons
  - While practicing
  - For the ensemble
  
- Developing the vocabulary, ears, and eyes for critical analysis
  - In performance preparation
  - In lessons
  - While practicing
  - For the ensemble
  
- Seeking and making connections between music/ musical preparation, and other subjects/elements of life
  - In performance preparation
  - In lessons
  - While practicing
  - For the ensemble

### **Available supports for Student Learning:**

Students may come in any time for extra guidance from the instructor. Also, we have many talented students in our department who can offer guidance to less experienced musicians. We also are well connected with many area professional teachers at the various Universities and do know of several private instructors who can advise students in case of concerns. Learning to network is an important skill that can reap immediate benefits in music (and life!) If any concerns arise, please contact the instructor. We have a NEW WEBSITE! There will be many resources posted there as well. [www.fortatkinsonmusic.org](http://www.fortatkinsonmusic.org). After a student attends their first lesson in person, they will gain access to and learn about “Google Lessons”.

### **Classroom Expectations:**

Be on time (“To be early is to be on time and to be on time is to be Late!), having music prepared, be attentive and respectful of all students and teachers. Personal Electronic Devices should not be used during class unless specifically directed to do so by the instructor. Be empathetic to those whom you do not understand – much can be learned when you view the world through others eyes!!! When teacher is speaking attention with your eyes is expected. You will have two minutes to prepare and warm up after initial bell has rung. You are expected to be in the room when bell sounds. You are expected to be silent during school announcements and read class announcements from the scrolling power point on the screen in the front of the room.

This class is unlike any other. Music is personal and collective. In order to understand music you must let yourself go, and learn to express yourself in intangible ways. A firm understanding of music is an essential understanding of yourself and your community. This exploration is delicate and at times will leave you vulnerable. Because of this it is imperative that EVERY student of music must actively practice and observe not only tolerance, but understanding, appreciation, and respect of every person, musical style, and culture involved in this study.

Please feel free to call or email anytime with any concerns

Tony Kading  
KadingA@fortschools.org  
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If you have time to volunteer in the music library or help with uniforms, chaperoning trips or any other skill or talent that you think might be beneficial, let me know – I would love to have more parents here in the school and could really use your help!

