



# Twin Valley High School Band

4897 North Twin Valley Road Elverson, PA 19520

Robert W. Bennett Jr. Director

Website: [twinvalleybands.com](http://twinvalleybands.com)

Instagram: [instagram.com/tvhsbands/](https://www.instagram.com/tvhsbands/)

## 2023/2024 Syllabus

Symphonic Band / Parade Band

**Instructor:** Mr. Robert Bennett

**Email:** [rbennett@tvsd.org](mailto:rbennett@tvsd.org)

**Phone:** 610.286.8619 - *Music Office*

**Availability:** via email, after school

## TVSD Goal Statement

Every Student Every Day

## Course Description

The Symphonic Band is comprised of students who have the desire to study and perform on a wind or percussion instrument in a large ensemble instrumental music setting. Symphonic Band provides students with experiences designed to develop their technical and musical understandings at a higher level. Primary emphasis is placed upon the development of characteristic instrumental tone, musical literacy, and ensemble performance through the study of a wide variety of excellent musical literature. Students enrolled in this course will be required to take lessons during the school day, participate in several concert performances throughout the year, and attend all scheduled local community parades throughout the course of the school year. Each year this ensemble will also participate in a music department trip (not required). This course acts as a prerequisite to all other band offerings.

## Course Objectives

1. To gain a better working knowledge of how to play the instrument.
2. To develop musical independence and musical literacy, so each performer is able to approach music outside of a rehearsal setting on their own. This fosters lifelong appreciation for music past the high school experience.
3. To perform at a mature musical level related to the years of experience and time spent already studying the instrument.
4. To learn how to contribute as a student performer in an instrumental **ensemble** setting.
5. To work together with others in a collaborative way to seek common end results of musical products.

## Lessons:

There are two necessary components to band participation at the high school level: pull-out lessons / sectionals and full ensemble rehearsals. Lessons and sectionals are designed to address instrument specific skills. Full ensemble rehearsals are designed for ensemble performance skills (ex. balance, blend, internal pulse, knowing how your individual part contributes to the rest of the group, etc.) and application of what is taught in lessons. Each student enrolled in Symphonic Band / Parade Band must attend 6 pull out lessons per grading quarter. Small group lessons will begin on Tuesday, September 6th. Below are the details on how lessons will operate during the 2023-2024 school year.

- Pull - out lessons will be 45 minutes in length
- No student will ever miss an entire period of class
- All students will be working on their approved level
- Lessons operate on a Monday - Friday schedule
- Students need to ask permission from their teacher before attending lessons

**\*\*If a student cannot attend the required lessons, they may arrange a time with Mr. Bennett after school to make up a lesson.**

*(I will always make myself available to students, however this will occur only if a student asks for the extra lesson)*

### **Instagram/Facebook**

Throughout the course of the season, the TVHS Band will make use of Twitter and Instagram. Please follow the band on Twitter to receive reminders, report times, scoring information, return times, etc... TVHS Bands will also post information on fundraisers, links about music, and entertaining music materials.

Facebook Search: TWIN VALLEY HS BAND

Instagram: @TVHSBANDS

### **Schoolology**

Throughout the course the online LMS service SCHOOLGY will be used for discussions, listening assignments, and quizzes/ tests.

### **Required Materials Items Needed for Rehearsal**

1. 3 ring binder (1 inch)
2. **Pencil** to mark your music and for notes.
3. All related course materials (Circle of 4ths, instrument, music folder, and Chromebook)
4. Reeds will be available for purchase from Mr. Bennett. A price list will be available in the Music Office.
5. All woodwind instrumentalists are required to rotate 4 playable reeds at all times. There will be reed checks throughout the semester.

### **Required Texts:**

*Circle of 4ths*, Meredith Music Publications, *Student Supplements*

*Function Chorales*, Steven Mellilo

*Rhythm Readers*, Steven Mellilo

*Scale Works* - Steven Mellilo

Whaley - *Portraits in Rhythm*

## Grading

### Grade Categories

#### **Assessments / Performances (60%)**

- Pathway Assignments
- Unit Assignments
- Audio Assignments / Recordings
- Band Performances (Parades, Concerts, etc.)

#### **Lessons (30%)**

- 6 Lessons during each marking period
- Make up lessons can be completed after school or at another scheduled time

#### **Daily Band Participation (10%)**

- Performance Participation, Band Class Participation/ Preparedness - Including: rehearsal attendance (**arriving on time to rehearsals**), Appropriate class participation, having required materials (music, reeds, instrument, sticks)

#### **Late Assignments:**

Late assignments will only be accepted up to 1 week after the due date of the assignments original due date. Please reach out if you need assistance in completing a given assignment a few days before the deadline.

#### **Learning Resources:**

All concert/ classroom music will vary each quarter according to the instructor's assessment of the group's overall ability.

#### **Note:**

Necessary adaptations and accommodations will be made for special education students as detailed in students' IEPs.

#### **Course Expectations:**

##### **Electronic Device Policy:**



Cell phones and other devices **cannot** be out during band rehearsals.  
This includes the device sitting on your stands.



Students with cellphones/laptops out during rehearsal will receive a verbal communication to please put the device away. If the device is seen again, on the person or stand, next steps will be taken, potentially including a referral to the office. Students playing Timpani may use a device to tune their instruments when appropriate.

**Punctuality:** Be on time to all rehearsals and performances. Band rehearsal will begin no later than 6 minutes after the bell rings. Students should be in their seats with instrument ready to play at that time.

**Set-up:** please look to the smart board when arriving for the day's rehearsal plan. Additionally please attend class prepared to rehearse and be respectful of your classmates' time.

**Practice:** Make an effort to practice on a daily basis and establish a good practice routine.

**Respect the Space:** At the end of rehearsal, take care to put all materials back in their proper places. Percussion - Instruments should be covered, sticks should be put back in the black cabinet.

**All instruments** need be put away in a storage locker after rehearsal. There will be no music or other materials left in the instrument storage area.

**Any student sing a school owned instrument** must fill out a usage agreement. Both Parents and Students need to sign the agreement.

**Please be respectful of the equipment that has been provided for your use.** No student should be handling an instrument or piece of equipment that does not belong to them or has not been assigned to them. Instruments are expensive and need to last.

**Academics:** Maintain a strong academic standing in all course work.

**Personal Responsibility:** Become responsible for and assume responsibility for your own actions.

**Respect:** Have respect for yourself, your peers, and those in authority

**Take pride in your accomplishments and "get better" with each opportunity provided to you.**

**Performance Dates:**

**Wednesday, October 4** - New Holland Parade

**Wednesday, October 18** - Elverson Halloween Parade. (Rain date, 10/19)

**Monday, October 23** - Honey Brook Parade (Rain Date 10/24)

**Saturday November 18** - Reading Christmas Parade Parade

**Friday, December 1** - West Chester University Day &

**Sunday, December 17** - Holiday Band Concert

**Wednesday, March 13** - Mid Winter Band Concert

**Friday, May 3** - PMEA MPA Performance @ Exeter HS

**Saturday, May 18** - Spring Band Concert

**Saturday, June 8** - Graduation Performance

**Concert Dress**

**Guys** - Black Pants, Black Jacket, Black Shirt, Black Tie, Long Black Socks, Black Belt, and Black Shoes

**Girls** - Black Dress, or Black Pants and Shirt or Blouse. Black flats, or heels. Heels must be shorter than 4 inches.

## Twin Valley Band Syllabus Signature Page

Our signature below acknowledges this and contains our pledge to make every possible effort to adhere to the policies / procedures outlined within this document. By signing this document we are also aware of the concert schedule outlined for the Twin Valley Symphonic Band / Parade Band and will be in attendance at these events.

**Student Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Grade:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Instrument:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Parent/Guardian Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Home Phone #** \_\_\_\_\_ **Work Phone #** \_\_\_\_\_

**Email Address** \_\_\_\_\_

**Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

BANDS

*"Pursuing Excellence"*