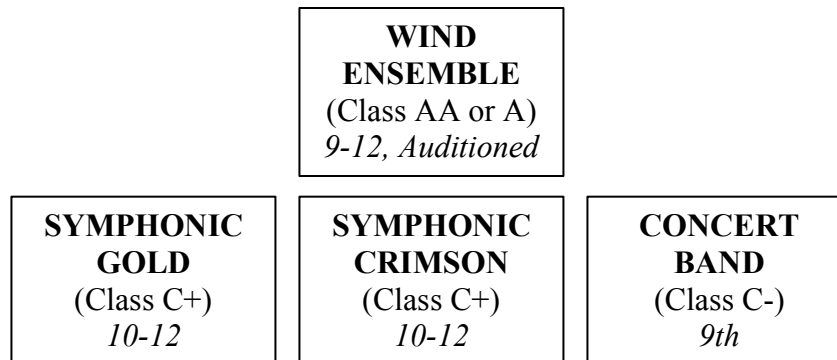


Band Auditions for 2012-2013

We are excited to present a new phase in the growth and development of the BBHHS Band Program! This is the proposed creation of a new ensemble in 2012-2013: the **BBHHS Concert Winds**.

As the program has grown over the years, it has also evolved. For a time, there were only two bands for students in grades 9-12: the Symphonic Band (9-12, auditioned) and the Concert Band (9-12, non-auditioned). Then, the auditioned Wind Ensemble was added, and the Concert Band became a 9th grade ensemble, making the Symphonic Band a 10-12 non-auditioned ensemble. A few years ago, the Symphonic Band was divided into two equal groups: Symphonic Gold and Symphonic Crimson.

CURRENT MODEL:

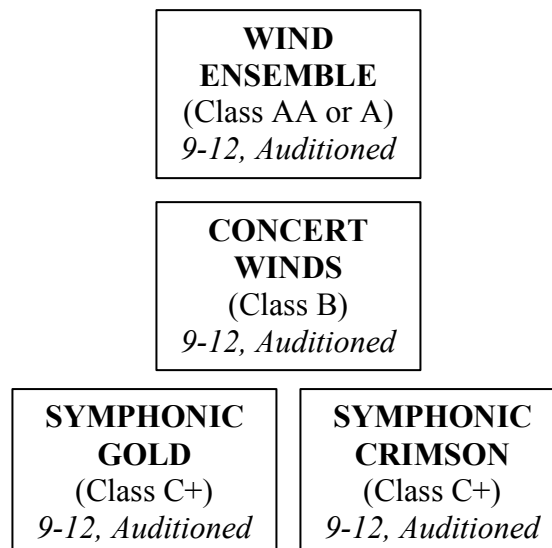


The letters “AA,” “A,” “B,” and “C” refer to the Ohio Music Education Association (OMEA) system of band classification. Class “AA” is the most difficult music, and Class “C” is the least difficult.

The limitation of this current model is the absence of an auditioned ensemble that will meet the needs of the 9-12 band student who is motivated to excel, but may not yet be comfortable playing at the Wind Ensemble level (*One comparison to illustrate this would be a high school offering Spanish I and Spanish IV, with no intermediate courses to progress from one to the next*).

In music education, one of our primary objectives is to provide a variety of opportunities for our students, so that every child can find **both challenge and success, at a level that is appropriate for their development**. Therefore, we are proposing the following model:

PROPOSED MODEL:



The intention of this new development is **not** to foster increased competition among our band students, but rather to increase the variety of opportunities that are available to them. Our students function at all levels of musical development, and we seek to provide an appropriate environment in which each musician can excel.

Provided that the scheduling is feasible*, beginning next year we will have four 9-12 ensembles: Wind Ensemble, Concert Winds, and Symphonic Gold/Crimson (the Symphonic Bands will remain equally divided). In order to pursue this realignment, **all band students will be asked to complete an audition recording this year**, to allow us to determine scheduling (this audition will simply take the place of the traditional winter assessment, which we have done for several years, and therefore will not create any additional work for our students).

There will be two sets of audition materials: One for Wind Ensemble, and another for Concert Winds/Symphonic Band. Every student must submit an audition recording, using one of these sets of music. Students auditioning for Wind Ensemble, who are not selected, will still be considered for the Concert Winds and Symphonic Bands. **Audition music and detailed information will be available to students at the Band Midterm Exam (and online), and auditions will be due via email by Friday, February 3rd.**

This audition is the primary determining factor in students' ensemble placement for next year. However, the **Directors reserve the right to adjust placement** based on effort, attitude, and improvement throughout the remainder of this year, as well as following chair placement auditions in the fall.

Our ultimate intention is to provide a high-level, well-rounded music education for our students. We are so fortunate to have a large program, with many talented students and supportive parents! We believe that this system can allow us to better serve our students with increased musical opportunities designed to provide them with success, while simultaneously challenging them to advance, and to grow as musicians and individuals.

*There is always the possibility that a schedule change, or some unforeseen challenge, may render this model impractical for the coming school year. If that is the case, the audition will still be counted as an "assessment," but we will continue with our present model in 2012-2013. Although we have done a great deal of research, (and spoken extensively with administrators, colleagues, and past directors), we will not fully know the viability of this arrangement until we begin to run scheduling scenarios in February.