

Lancer Band – Class Descriptions

February 2009

Our Concert Performance Groups

During the concert season, the Thousand Oaks High School Instrumental Music Department features three concert performance ensembles: Wind Ensemble, Wind Symphony and Symphonic Band. Placement into these ensembles is determined by audition. During the marching season, all individual ensemble members participate in the Lancer Marching Band. Students receive Visual/Performing credit, UC credit and/or P.E. credit depending on ensemble.

Wind Ensemble

The Wind Ensemble is premier performance concert band at Thousand Oaks High School. Members of this exclusive group study and perform the most advanced literature available for band. Designed for advanced students, band members must audition during June and January each year for acceptance into this select ensemble.

Instrumentation in this ensemble is usually one per part and students are seated by performance ability. The top chair in each section is the principal player and earns the responsibility to organize the needs of their perspective section. The principle player also is the soloist for any given solo that is required for the ensemble. Wind Ensemble section members are ranked by audition and may challenge the player in the next chair through the challenge process.

During their spring season, the Wind Ensemble participates in a number of district and regional band festivals throughout Southern California. This elite group has consistently earned "Superior" ratings at these festivals, many of which are by invitation only.

Wind Symphony

The Wind Symphony is designed for experienced student musicians who wish to extend their training by studying and performing a challenging musical repertoire. As their musical abilities mature through study and practice in the Wind Symphony, many of these student musicians will move on to become members of the Wind Ensemble.

Because of the high level of musical skill required, band members audition for membership in this ensemble during the months of June and January. Instrumentalists in the Wind Symphony are organized by section, with each group having a section leader called the principal player. Section members are ranked by audition and may challenge the player in the next chair through the challenge process.

During their spring season, the Wind Symphony participates in a number of district and regional band festivals throughout Southern California. This ensemble has consistently earned "Superior" ratings at these festivals.

Symphonic Band

The Symphonic Band is designed for novice and intermediate student musicians who wish to extend their training by studying and performing an appropriately challenging musical repertoire. As their musical abilities mature through study and practice in the Symphonic Band, many of these student musicians will move on to become members of the Wind Symphony and Wind Ensemble.

Band members audition for placement in our concert bands during the months of June and January. Instrumentalists in the Symphonic Band are organized by section, with each group having a section leader called the principal player. Section members are ranked by audition and may challenge the player in the next chair through the challenge process.

During their spring season, the Symphonic Band participates in a number of district and regional band festivals throughout Southern California. This ensemble has consistently earned "Excellent" and/or "Superior" ratings at these festivals.

TOHS Jazz Program

Jazz opens up an entirely new dimension for students in the Thousand Oaks Instrumental Music Department. It gives students an opportunity to experience and experiment with new styles of music. A broad range of jazz styles is explored including examples of: bebop, swing, Latin, rock, etc. Members are encouraged to improvise.

Members of the Jazz Ensembles perform with the following instrumentation: Alto Sax, Tenor Sax and Bari Sax; Trombones; Trumpets; Piano; Guitar; Bass; Trap Set (Drum Set); Auxiliary Percussion.

Thousand Oaks High School has two jazz ensembles and other individual combos: The AM Jazz Band and the PM Jazz Band. Placement into these ensembles is determined by audition. Both Jazz Ensembles perform for school activities, concerts and in various Jazz Festivals in the spring.

AM Jazz Band

The AM Jazz Ensemble is the number one jazz ensemble at Thousand Oaks High School. The members of this ensemble are selected through audition held in August from the membership of our other performing ensembles. All of AM Jazz Ensemble members are in another instrumental ensemble class and are members of the Marching Lancers. This is a yearlong class, which meets at 7:00 AM, Monday through Friday, hence the name, AM Jazz.

The AM Jazz Ensemble performs at an annual booster fundraiser and silent auction, sponsored by the TOHS Band Boosters.

PM Jazz Band

The PM Jazz Ensemble is designed for beginning and intermediate Jazz Students. This ensemble meets in the second semester of the school year in the afternoon after the normal school day.

TOHS Percussion Program

Members of our Percussion Program perform in a variety of ensembles, including our 3 concert bands, and marching band. Percussion students take a fall course together to perfect their skills in a percussion only class. In January, our percussion students audition on a snare, timpani and mallets for placement into one of the three concert bands. If we have an abundance of percussion students, we offer a percussion techniques class during the second semester.

Anyone that plays a mallet, drum or auxiliary instrument is part of the percussion department. Pit and Battery happen to be terms that are used to separate stationary percussion instruments from moving percussion instruments. Moving percussion instruments is something a student would wear or carry while moving. So if a student plays anything that is stationary they are part of the Pit section and student that is marching is a member of the battery section.

Drum Line

The Drum Line is a 2nd semester optional competitive team open to members of the Marching Band which brings a unique combination of traditional and nontraditional percussion instruments to the indoor competition arena. Consisting of the marching battery and the stationary pit, the Spring Drum Line forms a unique ensemble, competing as members of the Southern California Percussion Alliance and Winter Guard International.

During the fall competitive marching season, experienced Spring Drum Line members make a significant contribution to the Lancer Band's rhythmic force.

Students audition each December for placement in the Spring Drum Line. The program begins with a two day mini camp in January. Rehearsals are scheduled three afternoons a week, and competitions are held on Saturdays during February through April. Over night trips to distant competitions, especially those to Regional and National finals, are a treasured part of the Spring Drum Line experience.

Visual Performance - Color Guard

This Visual Performance Group is open to all students who would like experience performance through

The Thousand Oaks High School Color Guard combines the spinning and tossing of flags, rifles and sabers with the magic of dance and theater to create drama and excitement as the visual performance ensemble of our Marching Band.

Students are evaluated and put into performance sections that best fit their ability level so that each student can be successful in performance. The program begins with a two day mini camp in June. Various Rehearsals during the summer and a two week band camp in August.

For more information on 1st Semester performance, please see Marching Band.

Winter Guard

Membership to this 2nd Semester Optional competitive team is open to the members of the Color Guard and Marching Band.

Band students sign up in November for placement in the Winter Guard. The program begins with a two day mini camp in January. Competitions are held on Saturdays during February through April. Over night trips to distant competitions are a treasured part of the Winter Guard experience.

The Lancer Marching Band

All members of our Concert Bands, Percussion Department and Color Guard join together in the 1st semester during our 8th period class of Marching Band.

The total membership of all of the above ensembles work and perform together in our Lancer Marching Band. The Marching Band class meets daily in the afternoon of the 1st Semester and receives P.E. Credit so that all students can enter an extra elective or academic class during the normal school day. Four fall semesters of Marching Band fulfill the graduation requirement for P.E.

The Marching Band begins the school year with a 2 week band camp in August, and promotes student leadership as a key component to the to the education learning within this large and highly successful performance team.

We perform at 5 home football games (Friday nights) and 6 Competitions in the months of October and November (Saturdays).

The Lancer Marching Band is a member of Bands of America, where the Lancers have been two time Grand National Semi Finalists for the United States. That in the top 30 of the marching band in the U.S.

In 2005, the Lancer Band was awarded the prestigious Al Castronova Esprit De Corps Award. This great honor is bestowed to one band nationally each year and depicts a group who exemplifies the ideals of musicality, sportsmanship, team work, and citizenship of an outstanding band program.