

Pipers of the Plains

Instruction Syllabus

Goal: Train and maintain a Pipe and Drum Band capable of performance and competition at appropriate levels.

Objective: Train pipers using a sequential syllabus in a tutorial delivery model.

Schedule: Wednesday evening, 6:30-8:30 pm at Northern Hills Junior High (5620 NW Topeka Blvd)

Elements: Practice chanter handouts approved by the Pipe Major (P/M), sheet music and oral explanations/interpretations by the P/M

Evaluation: All steps within the sequence must be initialed by the P/M or an appointee

Conclusion: Well-trained musicians exhibiting BAND and SOLO skills with emphasis on BAND. Facilitate growth and discipline of the band and ensure continual improvement of the band's standard

IMPORTANT: All Pipe and Drum Bands are by construct, if not always by practice, PERFORMANCE bands. To PERFORM with a band it is required that one PLAY with the band.

COMPLETION STANDARDS, by nature, become more difficult at each level. Evaluation, explanation, review, and critique will always be provided and based on solo play; not an average of the band's performance at a given point in time.

Note to beginning piping students: initial investment need only be a practice chanter and an instruction book, recommendations available. A polypenco chanter costs \$40-60, and the book around \$20. The band can assist in finding sources to purchase these items. Exercises may be sent to augment the green book or clarify expressions.

The intent of the instructors is to follow the syllabus in order, but innovation is sometimes required. Movement from one element to another within the same level is expected; however, one should not jump between levels.

Hours per week are listed as estimated time needed for practice to advance one's level of play. A minimum of ½ hour practice per day is recommended. The time required to advance through these levels is dependent on attendance and practice as much as or more than natural ability.

Estimated practice time required per week (in hours) to advance:

	Novice (practice chanter)	Intermediate (start on pipes) Approx Grade 4	Advanced Approx Grade 3
Stage I	3	2	2
Stage II	3	2	2
Stage III	2.5	2.5	3
Stage IV	2.5	3	2
Stage V		2.5	3
Stage VI		2	3
Stage VII		2	3
Stage VIII		1	2
Stage IX			1
Stage X			3
Stage XI			3

Performance expectations:

All pipers are encouraged to obtain a proficient level of playing such that performance playing is possible. There are no requirements at this time for matching performance chanter on the Highland bagpipes, and any modifications to the bagpipe are up to the individual.

Dress requirements for performance include:

- Kilt of personal preference
- Belt
- Sporan
- Hose
- Ghillie brogues
- White long sleeve button down dress shirt
- White short sleeve button down dress shirt
- Black military sweater
- Glengarry hat

All other items are optional and up to the individual (knives, dirks, sgian dubhs, etc.)

Novice

	Instructor	
	Initials	Date
Stage I: (COP lesson1)		
Elements of notation	_____	_____
Finger posture	_____	_____
Scale development	_____	_____
Right hand	_____	_____
Left hand	_____	_____
Both hands simultaneously	_____	_____
History, notes, background, & cultures	_____	_____
Stage II: (COP lesson 2-3)		
G gracenote	_____	_____
D gracenote	_____	_____
E gracenote	_____	_____
^H A gracenote	_____	_____
GDE played roundly	_____	_____
GDE dot & cut	_____	_____
Review	_____	_____
Stage III: (COP lesson 3-5)		
Double ^H G	_____	_____
Heavy throw on D from ^L A	_____	_____
Heavy throw on D from scale	_____	_____
GDE exercise (attached)	_____	_____
Scale echo beats	_____	_____
Shakes D, C, B (D open & closed)	_____	_____
4/4 Slow March: Scots Wha Hae (very slowly & marked, eyes on leader)	_____	_____
Stage IV: (COP lesson 6-12)		
Light throw on D from G	_____	_____
Double ^h A	_____	_____
Double F	_____	_____
Half double F (from ^H A)	_____	_____
Tachums roundly	_____	_____
Tachums dot & cut	_____	_____
Tachums exercise (attached)	_____	_____
2/4 Quick March Set: Brown Haired Maiden (eyes on leader) High Road to Gairloch	_____	_____
4/4 March: Alexander's Welcome (eyes on leader) Kansas No More	_____	_____

Intermediate

		Instructor	
Stage I: (COP lesson 13-14)		Initials	Date
Scale doublings		_____	_____
Grips		_____	_____
Taorlauth		_____	_____
3/4 Set:	Green Hills of Tyrol I See Mull	_____	_____
4/4 March Set:	Wings Rowan Tree	_____	_____
Stage II: (COP lesson 15)			
Birl w/ ^H G grace		_____	_____
Birl w/ C grace		_____	_____
Review: Throw on D		_____	_____
4/4 Quick March Set:	42 nd Highlanders Scotland the Brave	_____	_____
2/4 Quick March:	Highland Laddie	_____	_____
6/8 March:	The Steam Boat	_____	_____
Stage III:			
Tachum Review		_____	_____
Slurs		_____	_____
Grip Review		_____	_____
6/8 Slow March:	Skye Boat Song	_____	_____
3/4 Slow Air:	Amazing Grace	_____	_____
6/8 Slow Air	Morag of Dunvegan	_____	_____
Stage IV:			
Handling the Pipes		_____	_____
Maintenance		_____	_____
Reeding		_____	_____
Tuning approaches		_____	_____
Proper blowing technique/posture		_____	_____
Steadiness		_____	_____
Understanding chanter reed seating, construction, & care		_____	_____

All previous stages must now be mastered with the pipes. (Use of a goose and playing of the drones with out the changer are good breathing and blowing tools)

		Instructor	
		Initials	Date
Stage V:			
	GDE review	_____	_____
	Rhythm	_____	_____
	Pitch	_____	_____
	Tone	_____	_____
	Tuning	_____	_____
	Expression	_____	_____
	Execution	_____	_____
4/4 March:	Wearing of the Green	_____	_____
3/4 March:	Lord Lovat's Lament	_____	_____
Stage VI:			
	Strathspey exercises (attached)	_____	_____
	Tied-note runs	_____	_____
	The lilt & dance background	_____	_____
4/4 March:	Keel Row	_____	_____
4/4 Strathspey:	Campbeltown Kiltie Ball	_____	_____
4/4 Strathspey:	Orange & Blue	_____	_____
4/4 March:	Heyken's Serenade	_____	_____
6/8 March:	Atholl Highlanders	_____	_____
6/8 March:	Angus MacKinnon	_____	_____

	Instructor Initials	Date
Stage VII: Reviews: Tachum, throws, doublings, strikes, the metronome	_____	_____
6/8 March: Garryowen	_____	_____
2/4 The Men of Argyll	_____	_____
4/4 Marketplace of Inverness	_____	_____
2/4 My Love She's But a Lassie Yet	_____	_____

Advanced

		Instructor Initials	Date
2/4 Hornpipe:	Clumsy Lover	_____	_____
6/8 Jig:	Honey in the Bag	_____	_____
6/8 Jig:	Banjo Breakdown	_____	_____
6/8 Jig:	Rocking the Baby	_____	_____
6/8 Jig:	Teacher on the Green	_____	_____
6/8 Jig:	Kesh Jig	_____	_____
6/8 Jig:	Cork Hill	_____	_____
6/8 March:	The Highlanders	_____	_____
4/4 Slow March:	The Minstrel Boy	_____	_____
3/4 Slow March:	Mingulay Boat Song	_____	_____
6/8 March:	Flower of Scotland	_____	_____
6/8 Air:	Rhu Vaternish	_____	_____
4/4 Reel:	The Deil among the Tailors	_____	_____
2/4 Hornpipe:	The Black Bear	_____	_____
2/4 March:	The Drunken Piper	_____	_____
6/8 March:	The Mucking of Geordie's Byre	_____	_____