

Beginning Band Syllabus

Teacher: Mrs. Bestreski

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Course Overview:

This class is designed to teach foundations of both music theory and performance to beginners on a band instrument. Students will develop musical understanding and skills through use of proper terminology, critique, discussion, music theory study, and learning and performing on a band instrument. The mid-term and final projects will be concert performances.

Course Goal and Objectives:

The goal of this course is for students to gain an understanding of the studies and processes important to improving personal musicianship and group performance, and to learn proper technique and performance skills on their instrument as well as the appropriate, associated music theory. At the completion of this course, the student will be able to:

- Show working knowledge of musical concepts and terms as related to performance on their instrument
- Perform appropriate repertoire with proper technique on a band instrument.
- Feel more comfortable performing in front of a group

Grade Distribution:

Students will be graded in the following areas:

- Tests/Concerts 35%
(Concerts are **mandatory**. Detailed information will be provided.)
- Quizzes 30%
- Classwork/Homework 30%
- Bellwork 5%

Late Work:

Written work will always have a due date, and students are required to write these dates in their agendas. Consequences for late work are as follows:

- Up to 3 days late - 10 points deducted per day
- More than 3 days late - maximum grade of 50%
- Work not turned in by the end of the quarter will receive a 0%.

Absences:

- If a student is absent when an assignment is due, the number of days absent is the number of extra days allowed to complete makeup work. For example, a student absent for two days will have two extra days after returning to school to get their work turned in before it is considered late. Missed work is the student's responsibility.
- If a student is absent for a test/quiz, it will be given in class the day they return.

Class materials/storage:

- **Pencils:** Musicians always work in pencil, so students will be required to have a pencil (wood or mechanical) in class every single day. ***Use of pen for class work will result in a grade deduction of 10 points on the given assignment.**
- **Music slots:** Each student will be assigned a shared slot for storing a music folder and method book. These slots are not to be used for anything else.
- **Folder:** Every student will be given an oversized band folder for their music, to keep in their music slot in class. These folders are not made for backpacks and can be easily destroyed, so they must be left in school. It is recommended that students get a regular sized folder to use for storing written work and for taking music home to practice.
- **Method Books:** Each student will be assigned a numbered band instrument method book. This book belongs to the school and should be treated as a text book. No markings whatsoever should be made in this book unless the students are directed otherwise. Books will be collected at the end of the school year. Any books lost or damaged during the year or upon collection, will be subject to a replacement fee equal to the book's current cost of about \$9 to \$12.
- **Music:** Students will receive printed music for use in class and performances. Music is also to be treated as text books and should remain in good condition with no markings except the student's name on the first page in pencil. Certain other markings will be allowed as discussed in class, and must be in pencil. Music must remain free of drawings, tears, etc. All music must be in class every day and will be collected following each concert. Lost or damaged music is subject to a \$1 per piece replacement fee.
- **Instruments:** Each student will need an instrument for band class! Some will have their own; others may rent from a music store or borrow from the school. Regardless, please understand that instrument choice is limited by both availability and ensemble constraints. In order to create a proper educational environment, it is the job of a band director to create a *balanced* ensemble of *varied* instruments. Please keep this in mind and remain flexible as instruments are assigned. For those who will use a school instrument, an additional form will follow once that instrument is assigned. Students will be expected to have their instrument in class EVERY DAY.
- **Instrument lockers:** Each student will be assigned an instrument locker for storing their instrument. These are to be used for instrument cases, extra pencils, personal music books or sheets, etc. - not music folders and method books which should be kept flat in their slots. They are also not for food, extra clothing or other personal items.

Missing or mistreated items: If a student forgets their pencil or music, they must let the teacher know right away in order to borrow what they need for the class period. This is meant to help the student *once in a while*. Music slots, lockers and especially instruments, must be taken care of and are a privilege to use. Mistreating instruments, lockers, or music slots on more than one occasion or being unprepared for class on a regular basis will result in written rules and a phone call home. Students who repeatedly mistreat a school instrument will lose the privilege of using that instrument.

Daily Class Procedure:

Each day in our class we will follow a simple daily procedure.

1. Enter the room quietly and get your folder from your music slot.
2. Go directly to your seat, and check the board for instructions.
3. Most days, drop off your folder and agenda at your seat, immediately pick up your instrument and a music stand, and return to your seat. If the board says “no instruments” simply be seated and follow instructions.
4. Once seated, copy down any required assignments or homework.
5. Complete any written or practice bellwork listed on the board then simply continue practicing or wait quietly for further instructions.
6. At the end of class, do not pack up until instructed to do so. The teacher will dismiss you, not the bell.

Keeping Connected from Home

Our school uses several online resources in order to better connect with students and parents at home. Here’s what you should be checking...

- **Crosspointe:** This is where grades and attendance are posted. Checking this regularly can help you stay on top of your work and be successful!
- **Studio 645 (<http://studio645.com>):** Since the Arts are unique and often have different requirements, events, etc., compared to most academic courses, we have an additional website. To avoid confusion among sites, everything that gets posted online for music courses (aside from grades and attendance) will be posted here.
- **Blackboard:** This online learning website is being used school-wide. To avoid confusion however, all music info will be posted on Studio 645. If something is posted on Blackboard, all the information and a link to the Blackboard page will still be posted on Studio 645, making that your convenient one-stop site.

These online resources make it easier to get info home to you, but you should still feel free to email/call any time with questions or concerns, and you may still receive an email or call with teacher concerns such as:

- A behavior issue requiring an essay or detention
- One major assignment or several smaller assignments that are late/missing
- An overall grade dropping to a D or below
- A sudden change in behavior or classwork – either negative or *positive!*

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Beginning Band Syllabus Return Sheet

This syllabus/information sheet serves as each student's first homework grade!
Besides collecting contact information, it is very important to know that all class information reaches home. Please complete this sheet and turn it in to the class bin as soon as possible. If you have any questions or need to contact me, please feel free at any time! Just use the email and/or phone number listed at the top of the first page. (Email is far more effective and will get a quicker response.)

Class Period: _____ Due Date: _____

Student Name (Print Neatly!): _____

Parent(s) Name(s): _____

Parent Preferred Email: _____

Parent Preferred Phone: _____

We have read the Beginning Band Syllabus and are looking forward to a successful and fun year! We will do our best to be prepared for class and will contact Mrs. Bestreski with any questions or concerns.

We... (please check one):

Own or rent an instrument, or will be purchasing or renting one very soon.

Would like to borrow a school instrument for the year.

Parent Signature

Student Signature