

7th & 8th Grade Band Syllabus

General Course Information:

Instructors: Mr. Downer: downerdo@tcaps.net

Band Office: 231-933-8346

Prerequisite: At least 1 to 2 years of band instruction or approval of band director

Textbook:

- Habits of a Successful Middle School Musician (Marshall Music)
- Sheet Music
- Handouts
- Rhythm charts

Daily Expectations:

- Student has instrument/sticks/mallets/etc
- Student has rhythm charts, music, handouts, etc
- Student has sharpened pencil on their stand
- Student has a 3 ring binder with plastic sheet protectors
- Student has extra reeds and basic accessories as needed
- Instrument is in good working condition
- Student's behavior is conducive to learning.

Assessments:

- Concerts (see band calendar)
- Homework (Home practice/Video Assignment)
- Preparation check (Instrument, Book, and Pencil)
- Playing Tests
- Written Exams
- Pop Quizzes
- Worksheets
- Scale Pass-off: 12 Major Scales and "F" Chromatic scale

Participation = 20%
Practice Assignments, Homework = 30%
Playing Tests, Performances = 50%

Participation - Each student will be graded daily for being prepared.

- **Instrument - (1 point)**
- **Binder/Book - (1 point)**
- **Pencil - (1 point)**
- **Total - 3 points/day**

Home Practice:

It is expected that students will practice 3 to 5 times weekly for 20 minutes or more each session.

Course Description:

This course studies and seeks to master many aspects of music such as note identification, proper fingerings/stickings, rhythm identification, posture/hand position, knowledge of musical terms, articulations, phrasing, musical interpretation, and proper application of time and key signatures.

An emphasis is placed on each student being able to play 12 major scales and the concert “F” chromatic scale. In addition, percussionists are expected to read both bass and treble clefs, be able to perform the snare rudiments specified by the director, and exhibit proficiency on the timpani, mallet instruments, tambourine, triangle, etc.

Attendance at Concerts:

Because performing is a major function of a band, attendance at concerts is required. If a student must be absent from a concert, a minimum 2 week notification should be given to the band director (TCAPS/LEAP sports conflicts, please refer to the district policy*). If an emergency occurs within the 2 weeks prior to a concert please notify the director as soon as possible. 231-933-8346 or downerdo@tcaps.net

*The student/family is responsible for reviewing schedules at the beginning of every season and/or semester and informing the coach and music teacher of any conflict as soon as the student becomes aware of the conflict so resolution occurs prior to the events.

When conflicts are identified, students will make the involved coach and music teacher aware of each conflict at the earliest possible date, no later than two (2) weeks (ten **school** days) prior to the date in conflict. Every attempt will be made to allow the student to participate in both events, if possible. If the student/family has to choose which event to attend, please consider the following items:

- Impact on team and music group
- Significance of event (district or state)
- School sponsored activity vs. non-school sponsored volunteer activity
- Student’s role

- Practice vs. Practice—Student/family decides which practice to attend
- Game vs. Rehearsal---Student attends game, no penalties, or make-up assignment
- Practice vs. Concert---Student attends concert, no penalty for missing practice
- **Game vs. Concert---Student/Family decides which event to attend
- **District/Region/State/Concert---Student/Family decides which event to attend.

**If a major concert is impacted, an alternative assessment can be assigned.

We are looking forward to have you in band. Stay positive, work hard, and have fun. Let's have an awesome year!

Bonus Points:

10 bonus points are available for each musical event a student attends outside the WMS music department schedule of events. (Example: Special music program at church, concerts at Interlochen, etc.) Bring a copy of the program with a parent’s signature and get 10 bonus points for that 9 week marking period.