

Beginning Band (Band 1) Syllabus

Mt. Edgecumbe High School

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Course Description

Beginning Band is a class that focuses on playing band instruments. Students in this class do not need any experience playing instruments, but could have up to a few years of experience. Students will learn proper instrumental technique, with a focus on long-term development. Students will learn warm-up exercises that will help them develop embouchure, tone, fingering, rhythm, and technique. Students will also learn music theory skills that will help them read music, develop their musical ear, and reproduce written and recorded music. With guidance, students will prepare band arrangements for performance.

Supply List

- ☐ Instrument and related gear (provided if necessary)
- ☐ Water
- ☐ Tone & Technique book (provided)
- ☐ Music (provided)
- ☐ Computer
- ☐ Pencils & erasers

Grading—Grades are based on the published MEHS grading scale and will be weighted as follows:

Daily Participation and In-Class Work Ethic: 70%

This is the daily, in-class participation and it is the most important category for the final grade. All absences (except for medical appointments) must be made up in order to get daily participation credit. Each day's participation is based on a 5-point scale that uses the following criteria, one point for each criterion:

- On time to class and uses the first 15 minutes of class appropriately.
- Focus is on the teacher, participates in class discussion, and is not distracted by cell phone.
- Completes in-class activities.
- Does not distract from others' learning opportunities.
- Comes to class with required materials (computer/pencils/etc.)

Performance Opportunities: 15%

Student participation in performance opportunities is not optional for this class. Alaska General Music Standards 4.1, 4.2, 4.3, 5, and 6 are all focused on students preparing music for presentation to an audience. An audience could be as formal as an end of the trimester concert or music festival performance, but it could also be as simple as a lunchtime campus concert or school celebration, such as an assembly or graduation. In general, performance opportunities cannot be made up unless in the case of a family emergency.

Music Theory and Playing Proficiency Skills Checks: 15%

It is expected that students increase their ability to read music and translate that information to the playing of their instrument. Weekly or bi-weekly skills checks will help both the student and teacher assess progress on the music theory fundamentals of note reading, dynamics, rhythm, and mastery of class repertoire and set individual and group progress goals.

Expectations

1. Be Respectful: Being respectful to yourself, others, and materials creates a learning space where we all feel valued and empowered to take risks. It is my #1 classroom expectation.
2. Be Responsible: We all are the most successful when we "show up" prepared. Come with your class materials, your best attitude, and a smile on your face. Communicate with me if you are having a hard day, and we will get through it together. It means the world to me!
3. Work Hard: Learning music or improving your current musical skill is challenging. It requires perseverance and diligence.

Procedures

1. Set Up: Students will set up the classroom upon arrival.
2. Clean Up: The last 5 minutes of class will be used for clean-up.
3. Classwork: The focus will be on the individual musician's development and the ensemble's collective growth.
4. Homework: Outside of class resources for learning songs will be utilized.

"Music is life. That's why our hearts have beats." ~ Cecily Morgan