

# Middle School Band

## Class Syllabus

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### Class Objectives

- Develop reading and performing instrumental music
- Develop appropriate instrumental techniques
- Learn and apply appropriate rehearsal techniques
- Perform music on campus and off campus
- Experience music of different styles, periods and cultures

### Class Contents

- Mastering an instrument: develop good instrumental technique that will allow playing for entire life
- Score elements: learn musical elements like staves, notes, note values, rests, expression marks, and interpretation vocabulary
- Rehearsals: Develop skills like time management, peer learning, and folder organization
- Performances: Develop skills like stage presence, following the conductor, proper dress, time management

### Class Materials

- All music rehearsed and performed will be provided by the instructor
- Students should provide instruments like flutes, clarinets, saxophones and trumpets. There is a limited amount of instruments to be rented from the school if needed. A rental agreement will be provided and the rental fee will be added to the school bill. The instructor will provide most expensive instruments with no rehearsal fee.

### Course Schedule

Month	Content Emphasis	Month	Content Emphasis
Oct – Nov	First Performance	Mar – Apr	Second Performance
Dec	Christmas Concert	Apr	Spring Concert

## Major Class Components

**Performances.** The purpose of the band is to perform for audiences. So attendance at all performances is mandatory. Most of the performances will be on weekends. Why is attendance mandatory?

- Performances provide an experience that cannot be reproduced in the classroom.
- Performances are also the means by which the skills learned in class are evaluated.
- Instrumental playing is a team effort. Any performance is weakened by every missing instrumentalist. As with any team effort, we rehearse and perform together.

If the student misses a performance, partial credit for the performance grade will be given. Only one excuse for missing a performance will be accepted per semester. Unexcused absences will affect the student overall grade. If a student misses more than one performance in a semester, the student will be transferred to Music Appreciation class which has no performance obligations.

**Rehearsals.** Each student must follow the rules of class rehearsal as follows:

- Arrive on time when second bell rings
- Bring instrument and folder to each rehearsal
- Set up instrument, stand, and music stand before director stands on the podium
- Remain attentive and follow the instructor as all times
- Do not talk when the instructor is speaking or conducting the band
- Do not bring food, drink or gum to class
- Do not operate any electronic devices during rehearsals
- Place instrument and stand in assigned area after rehearsal

**Theory/Projects.** Each student will be assigned music theory and/or sight-reading exercises to increase their musical knowledge and skills. The music theory assignments will be given in the first and third quarters. Most will be completed in class but some may need more study and research and be turned in by a specific due date. Assignments with due dates will be posted so both student and parent can know what is expected.

## **Grading Method**

Grades are earned by assessing each student's knowledge (classroom assignments and projects), skills (sight-singing and ear-training assessments), and participation in daily rehearsals and required performances. Grades will be assessed on a point system as follows:

All performances, rehearsals and assignments will be worth 10 points. Students who cooperate and accurately complete the activities and assignments will receive the full ten points. Points will be deducted by the following method for each grading element.

### **Performances** – One point per occurrence

- Late to announced time
- Dressed improperly
- Playing a part not as rehearsed or not at all
- Choosing not following instructions

### **Rehearsal** – One point per occurrence

One point will be deducted for each infraction of the rehearsal class rules as stated above. Three or more infractions in one-week period will result in disciplinary action that may include a parent/teacher conference.

### **Assignments and Projects**

Each assignment and/or project will be accompanied by a grading criteria with a specific due date. The points earned will be based on the grading criteria for the assignment or project.

### **Grading Categories and Weighting:**

Performances	40%
Rehearsals	40%
Theory/Projects	20%

### Grade Point Scale

A+	4.00	B-	2.70
A	3.75	C+	2.30
A-	3.50	C	2.00
B+	3.30	D	1.00
B	3.00	F	0

### Instruments

Each student will need to choose to play an instrument. To play an instrument, each student will either need to own an instrument or rent one from a store or GMAA. The GMAA rental fee will be \$15 per month or \$60 per semester. Depending on the progress made by each student, they can be eligible to perform with the High School Band in their scheduled performances.

**Uniform.** Each band member will be required to purchase the following clothes for performances. Grading will be assigned into Performance category

Girls: White shirt, purple bow tie  
Boys: White shirt, purple bow tie

The two items will be \$20.00. The students will need to supply their own black skirts or pants and black dress shoes.

**Folders.** Students must keep all the assigned music in a marked folder. No additional writing should be put on the front or back of the folder. The folder must be brought to class every day. A folder record will be kept and a grade will be assigned at the end of the term for good care of the folder and music. At the end of the semester, all music must be returned to the music department. Grades will be assigned in the Rehearsal and Performance category.

**Transportation.** GMAA does not have buses and will not provide transportation to any performance. It will be the responsibility of the student to arrange for transportation to and from a designated performance within the Miami metropolitan

An electronic copy of the syllabus can be reviewed at [www.gma.edu](http://www.gma.edu) under the **Download** section of the website. It will also be available on the **Schoology** application that the students use for their classwork.

Please review it and sign this page as confirmation you agree to the syllabus of this class.

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Printed name of student

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Student Signature

Date

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Parent Signature

Date

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Teacher Signature

Date