

SYLLABUS: 7TH & 8TH GRADE BAND

INFORMATION

Teacher: Mr. Freidhoff

Contact Information: jfreidhoff@mercer.k12.pa.us

Class Location: Band Room

Class Period: 9th

Class Meets On:

Monday
Full Band

Tuesday
Band Only

Wednesday
Full Band

Thursday
Band Only

Friday
Alternates every other week

Band App QR Code:



INTRODUCTION

Welcome to 7th & 8th Grade Band! The purpose of this class is to allow students who play musical instruments to practice, play, and perform together in a concert band setting. Throughout the year, students will be given various pieces to perform together as a group as well as several public performance opportunities. Students must demonstrate an acceptable level of performance on an instrument as determined by the director in order to be a part of the band. Students who are interested in joining the band but who do not yet know how to play an instrument need to make arrangements for lessons via the school or through a private music studio. See Mr. Freidhoff for more information.

MATERIALS

Instrument (student owned or school owned)

Band Folder (provided)

Sheet Music (provided)

SCALE CHECKS/RUDIMENT CHECKS (MIDTERM)

At the end of the 2nd marking period, students will be required to complete scale checks/rudiment checks. Students are encouraged to memorize and perform the following scales/rudiments for their instruments, but it is not required. Students who play a woodwind or brass instrument are required to perform the major scales listed below. Percussion students must perform the rudiments listed below.

Brass, Woodwind, and Mallet Players:

Major Concert Scales: Bb, Eb, F, and Ab

Snare Players:

Rudiments: 1 – 15 Application at Silver level tempo

<http://www.vicfirth.com/education/rudiments.php>

PLAYING TEST (FINAL)

At the end of the 4th marking period, students will be required to complete a playing test from the music that we have performed this year. Mr. Freidhoff will select an excerpt from the music to be performed for a grade. Passages will be different depending on the instrument.

LESSONS/PRACTICE

Currently, there are no lessons offered during the school day, so students who want lessons are encouraged to take them at a local music store if possible. Mr. Freidhoff will allow students to come down on the band room and practice during the following periods unless this privilege gets abused and students are not productive, make a mess, or disrupt what is going on in the band room. (Periods 5, 6, 7, and 9)

PERFORMANCES

The band will perform at various concerts during the school year. All students are required to participate in the concerts. The concert dates for the 2023 – 2024 school years are listed below:

Winter Concert: Tuesday, December 5th @ 7:00PM (Dress Rehearsal is December 4th @ 7:00PM)

Spring Concert: TBD when spring sports schedule is finished

OTHER OPPORTUNITIES

Small Ensembles: Students interested in forming small ensembles (flute ensemble, clarinet choir, saxophone quartet, brass ensemble, percussion ensemble) should see Mr. Freidhoff ASAP about forming a group, setting up rehearsal times, and selecting repertoire. These groups will have the opportunity to perform at the spring concert.

Jr High Band Fest: This is an honors ensemble that students can participate in. Interested students will sign up when Mr. Freidhoff asks for interested members and a committee will determine which students from each school will participate. Students must be able to meet the following obligations in order to participate in the ensemble:

Festival: Tuesday, March 26th @ Seneca Valley HS

Jazz Band: Jazz band is open to any student at Mercer (not just concert band members). Students must audition in October and rehearsals begin in November after the marching season has concluded. Check the bulletin board in the band room for more information. Typically, only 8th grade students are eligible to audition but Mr. Freidhoff may consider a 7th grade student if they are motivated and talented.

COMMUNICATION

Mr. Freidhoff will be using the BAND App to communicate with students and families, have students submit assignments/playing tests, and put updates for everyone to be on the same page. CHARMS and Google Classroom will NOT be utilized! All students MUST sign up for the band app as it will be part of their 1st quarter grade. Parents and guardians are STRONGLY encouraged to sign up as well so they are in the loop, but this is not required. For each parent/guardian a student has sign up they will receive at 2% boost as extra credit on their 1st quarter grade. Use the QR code at the top of the first page to sign up.

AGREEMENT & SIGNATURES

Parents and students, after going over this together, please sign and date this portion of the syllabus and return it to Mr. Freidhoff by Friday, September 1st. By signing this, you indicate that you have read and will abide by the class rules and guidelines listed above and below.

Student Name: _____

Signature: _____

Parent Name: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____

GRADING

Students will be evaluated each quarter in the categories listed below. Each category is worth 100 possible points. All categories will be added together in order to determine a grade. Point totals will vary each marking period due to scale/rudiment checks and the number of concerts throughout the year. Playing Tests and Scale Checks are to be recorded using a student's cell phone or school chrome book and uploaded to Mr. Freidhoff or they can be done in person. Mr. Freidhoff will go over the procedures in class.

- Participation: How well a student acts, behaves, and is present at rehearsals.
- Preparation: How well a student takes care of their music, instrument, and is ready to start on time.
- Playing Test: Playing tests will be assigned after the spring concert and serve as the final for this class.
- Scale Checks: Scale checks must be submitted prior to the deadline at midterms.
- Performances: Student attendance for concerts.

	<i>Participation</i>	<i>Preparation</i>	<i>Playing Test (Final)</i>	<i>Scale/Rudiment Checks (Midterms)</i>	<i>Performances</i>
A: Excellent 100pts.	Student has a great attitude, attempts all music at rehearsals, and is present at all rehearsals.	Student is always prepared to start class on time and properly takes care of their instrument and music.	Student plays the excerpt with a maximum of 2 mistakes in terms of pitch, rhythm, dynamics, articulations, and phrasing.	Each scale worth 10 points, 1 point taken off per wrong note, 130 points total. Each rudiment worth 4 points, .5 point taken off for each error, 136 points total.	Student attends all performances and dress rehearsals during the quarter.
B: Above Average 80pts.	Student has a good attitude, attempts most music at rehearsals, and is present at most of the rehearsals.	Student is prepared to start class most of the time and properly takes care of their instrument and music.	Student plays the excerpt with a maximum of 4 mistakes in terms of pitch, rhythm, dynamics, articulations, and phrasing.		
C: Average 60pts.	Student has a neutral attitude, attempts most music at rehearsals, and is present at part of the rehearsals.	Student is prepared to start class most of the time and takes care of their instrument and music most of the time.	Student plays the excerpt with a maximum of 6 mistakes in terms of pitch, rhythm, dynamics, articulations, and phrasing.		Student attends all performances during the quarter (misses dress rehearsal).
D: Below Average 40pts.	Student has a bad attitude, attempts some of the music at rehearsals, and is present at few of the rehearsals.	Student is occasionally prepared to start class on time and needs to take better care of their instrument and music.	Student plays the excerpt with a maximum of 8 mistakes in terms of pitch, rhythm, dynamics, articulations, and phrasing.		
F: Failing 20pts.	Student has a bad attitude, attempts none of the music at rehearsals, and is present at none of the rehearsals.	Student is not prepared to start class on time and needs to take better care of their instrument and music.	Student plays the excerpt with 10+ mistakes in terms of pitch, rhythm, dynamics, articulations, and phrasing.		Student misses performances during the quarter.