

MIDDLE SCHOOL/HIGH SCHOOL BEGINNING BAND SYLLABUS

Instructor: Mr. Gregory Jacot Class Period: 2 (HS) / 7 (MS)
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Course Description: In this class, students will learn the basic techniques and musicianship of playing a concert band instrument. They will demonstrate what they have learned at periodic concerts throughout the year. This class will also cover basic music history, theory, and composition concepts.

Required Materials*: Pencils, Folder, Instrument & Accessories, Essential Elements Book 1 for your instrument

*I do not want financial concerns to prevent any interested student from taking this course. All materials will be provided at the beginning of the year to any student who needs them.

Instruments: The school has a small collection of instruments that band students may borrow to use during the school year. There may not be enough for everyone, so students are encouraged to obtain their own instrument if possible. Students who borrow a school instrument will sign an agreement stating that any damage coming to the instrument due to *negligence* or *irresponsible behavior* (not general wear-and-tear) may result in responsibility for repair costs and prevent them from borrowing school instruments in the future.

Students may still be responsible for obtaining some accessories (like reeds).

Instrument Choices: Our ensemble is a *concert band*, which means students will have the below options for instruments. Beginning students are highly recommended to pick one of the instruments from the *preferred* list below, as these are generally easier to start with. Students with some previous experience and/or recommendation from Mr. Jacot may elect to choose one of the *advanced* instruments instead. These have a harder learning curve from the start, but this course will still serve as an “intro” to learning the instrument.

Preferred: Flute, Clarinet, Alto Saxophone, Trumpet, Trombone, Euphonium

Advanced: Oboe, Bassoon, Horn, Tuba, Percussion

Within the first few days of classes, students will learn about and have the opportunity to test some instruments to see which one feels the most natural.

Generally speaking, most other instruments will not be able to participate in this ensemble, including stringed instruments (violin, guitar, bass) and piano. Questions about instrument options should be directed to Mr. Jacot.

Instrument Accessories Needed: Each instrument will need a unique set of accessories to be playable. Here is a table for reference, split into “essential” and “optional” accessories. There are certainly plenty of other accessories that could be useful over time, but these should get us through year 1.

<i>Instrument</i>	<i>Essential</i>	<i>Optional</i>
Flute	1. Flute tuning rod and swab (may come with instrument)	1. Music stand (for practice at home)
Oboe	1. Reeds: Soft or medium-soft oboe double reeds 2. Small cup for reeds (shot glass or similar size works well) 3. Cleaning swab 4. Cork grease (may come with instrument)	1. Music stand (for practice at home)
Clarinet	1. Reeds: 2.5 strength Bb Clarinet reeds - Vandoren or Rico are common brands 2. Cleaning swab/“weighted chamois” 3. Cork grease (may come with instrument)	1. Music stand (for practice at home)
Alto Saxophone	1. Reeds: 2.5 strength Eb Alto Saxophone reeds - Vandoren or Rico are common brands 2. Alto saxophone cleaning swab 3. Cork grease (may come with instrument)	1. Music stand (for practice at home)
Bassoon	1. Reeds: Medium-soft bassoon double reeds 2. Small cup for reeds (shot glass or similar size works well) 3. Cleaning swabs/other cleaning system	1. Music stand (for practice at home)
F Horn	1. Rotary valve oil	1. Music stand (for practice at home)
Trumpet/ Cornet	1. Valve oil (liquid in a small bottle - Blue Juice is good)	1. Music stand (for practice at home)
Trombone	1. Trombone slide cream OR trombone slide lubricant liquid (NOT slide	1. Music stand (for practice at home)

	grease)	
Euphonium/ Baritone	1. Valve oil (liquid in a small bottle)	1. Music stand (for practice at home)
Tuba		1. Music stand (for practice at home)
Percussion	<i>See Mr. Jacot for details</i>	1. Music stand (for practice at home) 2. Drumsticks/mallets 3. Practice pad/bell kit

Practicing: For quicker progress, students should practice outside of school as well. My beginning band director required 3 hours at home each week, and that helped me pick up the instrument at a much quicker rate. I would recommend the same for you, if possible.

If you would like to schedule a practice with Mr. Jacot after school (on solos, small groups, etc.), you must let him know in advance. I cannot guarantee I will be available after school if you tell me the day of!

Weekly Participation & Attendance Grades: Weekly participation will be graded with a maximum of 4 points per day (=20 points for a 5-day week). Active participation in these classes is expected and required; failure to participate fully may result in a lowered participation grade for the day. You will automatically lose all 4 points for the day if you do not bring your instrument to class. Failure to bring the proper materials to class (e.g., music, pencil), skipping class, being on your phone during class, and disruption of classroom learning will result in point deductions as well.

Since attendance is graded separately, not attending a class will not hurt your participation grade (except in cases of skipping). The grade will simply be adjusted proportionally to account for any missed days. Weeks in which 50% or more of the days are missed will be exempted from the grade.

Attendance will be graded following the FAS MS/HS Handbook policy.

Late Work Policy: Late work will be accepted up to 1 week after the due date with a 20% penalty (e.g., a 22/25 would be adjusted to a 17/25). After the 1 week deadline, late work will not earn points, but can be turned in for comments if desired. The end of the marking period is the last day late work can be submitted.

Playing Quizzes: Students will be frequently assessed in class on their progress. Formal playing quizzes generally happen 3-4 times per marking period, and will be announced in advance. These playing quizzes will be evaluated out of 30 points, considering these three factors:

1. Pitch: Are the notes and fingerings accurate? (10 points)
2. Rhythm: Are the rhythms being interpreted correctly? Is the tempo steady? (10 points)
3. Musicality: Does the performer consider dynamics, articulation, technique, style, phrasing, etc. in their performance? Does it sound “musical?” (10 points)

Academic Eligibility: Students are encouraged to stay on top of their class work and remain in good standing at all times with their grades. However, since performances are considered class assignments (not extra-curricular activities), academic ineligibility will not prevent a student from being able to attend a performance. Academic ineligibility may, however, prevent students from being able to attend purely extra-curricular opportunities with their ensemble (like class trips to performances by other groups).

Performance Attendance Policy and Grading: Unless explicitly stated otherwise, all performances are **mandatory** and will be worth large amounts of points. All students are expected to be at every performance unless arrangements are made with Mr. Jacot in advance. An unexcused absence from a performance will always result in a 0% with no way to make it up.

To be excused from a performance, students must either provide Mr. Jacot with a written note, signed by a parent/guardian, detailing the performance that is going to be missed and why, or have their parent/guardian send an email to Mr. Jacot directly with the same information. This note must be provided **at least 2 weeks prior to the performance**.

Conflicts of any sort (besides those listed in the “unacceptable reasons” below) will be considered, though students should keep in mind that performances are graded and should be prioritized whenever possible. The performance calendar has been designed to avoid athletic event conflicts as they have initially been planned.

Students may be excused from a performance after the 2-week deadline for the following:

- Absence from school due to illness
- School-authorized absence (suspension)
- Emergencies beyond the student’s control

For any of the above, a phone call or email from the parent prior to the performance, if at all possible, will be sufficient.

Since all performance dates are known well in advance, these are NOT acceptable reasons for missing a performance:

- Work conflict - Oversleeping - Athletic practices - Babysitting
- Not having a ride (Note: per school policy, Mr. Jacot cannot give you rides to or from school events.)

Even if the absence is excused, students may still be required to complete a make-up assignment or playing quiz, determined on a case-by-case basis.

Performance Attire: Students may be provided with uniforms that they will wear at performances. The students will have two options:

1. A floor-length black dress.
2. A black tuxedo jacket and black slacks and a white dress shirt.

All students should wear black socks and black closed-toe dress shoes (flats or small heels). Jewelry (except for small stud earrings) must be removed. Hair should be out of the face and secured with dark-colored, non-distracting hair accessories. Do not wear perfume, lotions, or nail polish. It is the student's responsibility to keep track of their uniform and keep it clean and in good condition. Failure to follow the concert dress code may result in the student not being able to perform or losing credit on the performance.

Some performances may have a different dress code and/or some classes may not be assigned uniforms. In these cases, students are simply expected to look "dressed up" and will not have specific required articles of clothing. If you have any questions about uniform requirements, please ask Mr. Jacot for clarification.

If you need any help obtaining the non-school provided parts of the uniform (like black socks/shoes), please let Mr. Jacot know as soon as possible. Students are expected to have their uniforms ready to go at least one week prior to the performance – Mr. Jacot will likely not be able to obtain any other uniform pieces past that deadline, especially the night of a performance! As a reminder, not following the dress code *will* result in lost points and could prevent the student from being allowed to perform, so make sure you have all parts of the uniform and keep them in good shape.

Calendar: A calendar of music events will be provided with this syllabus. Please hold on to it and make note of important items on your personal calendar.

Passes: Students will receive 2 passes per marking period to use as they choose. They can be used for any of the following purposes:

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| - Go to locker/hall/water fountain | - Go to the bathroom | - Excuse a tardy arrival (shortly after the bell) |
| - Go to the office for non-emergency purposes | - Turn in late homework (still within a week) with no penalty | - Get a confiscated phone back at the end of class |

Other uses may be specified as well, and students may suggest other uses, subject to approval by Mr. Jacot. They cannot be used, however, to avoid disciplinary action (e.g., lunch detention), except in the case of cell phones.

Music Boosters: Parents/guardians: This year, we are hoping to start a Music Boosters program. This is not exclusively a fundraising group - it simply aims to help the music department in a number of different capacities. If you are good with sewing/hemming, for example, we always need help with uniforms. There's something for everyone. If you are interested in helping out with the music program in any capacity, please let Mr. Jacot know!