

Eighth Grade Band Course Syllabus

Purpose:

The purpose of eighth grade band is to further build self-confidence, improve self-expression, foster creativity, develop cooperation, teamwork, and responsibility, and increase mental and physical discipline.

Objectives:

1. To develop and master the following fundamental skills: tone quality, rhythmic development, technique, strength and endurance, and physical coordination.
2. To continue the historical units of period and style of music.
3. To increase awareness of self-discipline, hard work, commitment, and pride.

Performances:

The Eighth grade band ***is not*** a performance-based ensemble but will give a maximum of four performances during the school year. All performances are **mandatory** and will be announced well in advance of the performance. Attire for the concerts will be dress clothes as explained below. Each student is required to stay for the **entire concert**.

Grading:

Grades will be based upon the following:

- | | |
|---|----------------------------|
| 1. Class participation/responsibilities | 10 points per day |
| 2. Daily practice at home | 150 minutes per week |
| 3. Practice sheets turned in on time | 10 points every two weeks |
| 4. Weekly playing tests | 25 points per test |
| 5. Periodic written tests | 25 points per test |
| 7. Participation in performances | 100 points per performance |

Practicing:

Each student must be working to improve and grow musically. This will not only be the result of daily rehearsals but must include out of school practice so growth can take place. It is **impossible** to improve without daily practice. All students are required to practice 150 minutes per week (an average of just over twenty minutes per day). Instruments and music must go home each day. Points will be deducted for instruments and music left at school. Instruments are **NOT** to be left overnight in lockers. Each student will record their practice time on his or her time sheet and have it signed or initialed by a parent or guardian. Practice logs are to be turned in at the end of each month and students will receive ten points for having the form filled out correctly and turned in on time. A grade of “zero” will be logged for sheets not turned in on time. Practice times will be logged twice per quarter – once at mid-quarter and once at the end of the quarter.

Eighth Grade Band Discipline Plan

Classroom Rules:

1. No food, gum, soda, or candy is allowed in the bandroom.
2. Only percussionists are allowed to play percussion instruments.
3. Respect your instrument, yourself, and your classmates.

All Students Are Expected To:

1. Follow directions
2. Stay in his/her seat during class unless otherwise directed
3. Be in class on time with instrument, music, and pencil
4. Refrain from all inappropriate or disrespectful language
5. Keep hands, feet, and other objects to yourself
6. Raise hand and be recognized before speaking
7. Restroom and drinks must be done before class

Consequences:

All students will be expected to follow the rules and procedures as outlined in the Wentzville Middle School Student Handbook. For classroom infractions:

- 1st offense – verbal warning
- 2nd offense – demotion of chair position
- 3rd offense – conference with student
- 4th offense – conference with parent
- 5th offense – referral to principal's office

Attitude and Teamwork:

Each individual band student is ultra-important. However, band is a team activity and you will be actively participating as a valuable team player. Teamwork is extremely important in this class and your positive attitude will play a major role in the success of yourself and the band as a group.

Concert Attire

All students will be required to wear black and white for all performances. Gentlemen should wear black slacks, white dress shirt, black socks and black shoes. Ladies should wear a black skirt, white dress shirt/blouse, and black shoes. Black dress pants and white dress shirt is also acceptable. No jeans or tennis shoes will be allowed.

Eighth Grade Band Grading Scale

Class Participation/Responsibilities: 10 Points per day

You must have your instrument, music, and pencil each day and must participate daily. If your instrument needs repair, let the director know immediately. Points may be lost due to such infractions as (but not limited to): classroom disturbances, gum chewing, or not having equipment ready when class begins.

**Daily Practice: 150 Minutes per week
100 pts. per quarter**

You are required to practice 20 minutes each day. The amount of time you put into practicing will directly affect your musical growth. There are no shortcuts to learning to play an instrument!! Daily practice, dedication, and commitment are the key foundational blocks in learning to play a musical instrument successfully.

Weekly Playing Tests: 25 Points per test

There will be weekly playing tests and there will be periodic chair placement tests (tryouts) over prepared musical exercises. Tone production, posture, hand position, counting skills, and other basic fundamentals will be graded each time.

Written Tests: 25 Points per test

There will be periodic written tests over major and minor key signatures, music terminology, counting, and other musical areas.

Performances: 100 Points per Performance

Attendance at all performances is required since they cannot be made up. These dates are listed far in advance of the actual event so no absences will be excused.

Percentages:

- 60% - Playing tests and performances
- 30% - Daily grade – class preparation, attitude, effort, musical growth
- 10% - Daily practice time

2014 – 2015 Eighth Grade Band Calendar

| | | | |
|------------------------------------|-----------------|---------|-------------------|
| HS Football Game | September 19 | 7:00 PM | HS Football Field |
| Honors Band Auditions* | October 27 | 4:00 PM | Holman MS |
| Winter Concert | December 15 | 7:00 PM | C.H. Jones Aud. |
| 8 th Grade Parent Mtng. | January 8 | 7:00 PM | Holt Band Room |
| Pageant of Bands | March 1 | 2:30 PM | Holt Gymnasium |
| 8 th Grade Band Contest | March 3, 4 or 5 | All Day | TBA |
| Band Parent Meeting | April 8 | 7:00 PM | C.H. Jones Aud. |
| SLSMEA Solo/Ens* | April 11 | All Day | Holman MS |
| Spring Concert | May 14 | 7:00 PM | C.H. Jones Aud. |

* Optional for all students

Practice Guide

1. **Find somewhere quiet.** Distraction is your enemy. Turn your phone off (unless you're using a productive app, see #3), ask your siblings to leave you alone and get focused.
2. **Have your supplies nearby.** Keep a pencil sharpener and a very clean eraser within arm's reach, along with a pencil to mark up your music.
3. **Technology can be an amazing aid.** Three free or low-cost apps to use on your phone or tablet: a metronome, a tuner and a timer, which are all essential tools for practicing. **USE THE IPS SOFTWARE THAT COMES WITH YOUR BOOK!**
4. **Begin with the end in mind:** Have a goal for each practice session before you start playing. Just playing through your music isn't the same thing as practicing. Before you start, think: What do I want to accomplish today?
5. **Map a practice session out like a workout.** Warm-up first by doing a few breathing exercises, scales and lip slurs or technique studies. Just like stretching in a work-out; the warm up is hugely important.
6. **Practice smarter, not necessarily longer.** 20 minutes of dedicated, focused and goal-centered practice is much better than 60 minutes of distracted, random practice. Use time wisely and you have more of it!

Using the Interactive Practice Studio and DVD

The text we use in band is full of great resources that you need to use to maximize your practice time at home. You can either install the program on your computer or use the DVD with your TV.

Installing the software

- Go to www.kjos.com/ips
- Click on the link that best describes you
- Insert your serial number, located on the back cover of your book.
- Install the program
- Sign in and go

Using the Software

- The software gives you:
 - A digital version of your book
 - Recordings of each song with your part and the accompaniment
 - Videos to help you develop great technique
 - Recording abilities to help you assess your performance and improve

Using the DVD

- Insert the DVD into your DVD player
- Find the appropriate menu that corresponds to the page we are on in the book
- Listen to or watch the videos that go along with the tunes we are working on

Looking Ahead to Next Summer (2015)

This section is to inform you of what to look forward to and initial expectations of entering the High School Band program.

Band Camp:

The end of July is the beginning of our busy marching season.

Attendance at Band Camp is mandatory so plan vacations accordingly.

The importance of camp cannot be emphasized enough. Some of the many things covered at camp include:

1. Learning marching fundamentals
2. Marching tryouts (we use alternates)
3. Learning and memorizing show music
4. Learning drill
5. Uniform distribution
6. Learning the National Anthem and fight song

Band Camp dates for the 2015 marching season are as follows:

| | |
|-----------------------|--|
| June & July | Guard & Percussion (Percussion generally meets one time per week and color guard times will be announced prior to the end of the school year). |
| July 16 | Playing Rehearsal – 6:00 PM – 7:30 PM |
| July 17 th | Freshman Band Camp - Required |
| July 20 – 24 | Full Band Camp Grades 9 – 12 |
| July 27 – 31 | Full Band Camp Grades 9 – 12 (Both weeks required of all students and runs from 8:00 AM to 3:00 PM) |

You might also want to note that all fall sports begin practices on Aug. 3, 2015

Please mark your calendars now with these dates to help avoid any conflicts once camps begin.

Dear Parent,

We would like to ask you to read this Seventh Grade Band syllabus and let us know if you have any questions or comments concerning its content. Feel free to make your suggestions and concerns known.

We are assuming the responsibility of doing our best to instruct your child in the latest and most accepted methods and techniques in instrumental music, and to provide experiences that will challenge him or her in this area. We are seeking your support and cooperation in this endeavor and are hoping that you will encourage your child to participate in our band to the fullest extent of his or her ability.

We would appreciate it if you would sign your name below indicating your knowledge of the content and intent of this syllabus.

Thank you for your cooperation and for your continued interest in and support of our instrumental music program.

Signature of Parent or Guardian

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Dear Band Member,

Please read this syllabus thoroughly and carefully. You are responsible for its content. If you have any questions regarding its content, please let us know. Otherwise, we will assume that you understand it and are willing to abide by it.

“By signing my name below, I am indicating that I have read the Seventh Grade Band Syllabus and will do my best to comply with it. I will act as a responsible band member and student of Wentzville Middle School when representing our community to others.”

Signature of Band Member

THIS FORM MUST BE SIGNED BY BOTH THE PARENT AND STUDENT AND RETURNED BY AUGUST 21st (A Day) or August 22nd (B Day).

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AND RETURNED BY AUGUST 23rd.**