

Henderson Middle School Band Course Syllabus

Instrumental Music Grades: 6-8

Instructor: Mr. Derrick White

Textbook:

6th Grade: Essential Elements for Band 2000

7th and 8th Grade: KJOS Foundations For Superior Band

Course Description

The students will study class method books and appropriate Band literature, which is consistent with the musical ability of the group. We will work toward a gradual upgrading of musical selections.

National Standards for Music Education

1. Singing, alone and with others, a varied repertoire of music.
2. Performing on instruments, alone and with others, a varied repertoire of music.
3. Improvising melodies, variations, and accompaniments.
4. Composing and arranging music within specified guidelines.
5. Reading and notating music.
6. Listening to, analyzing, and describing music.
7. Evaluating music and music performances.
8. Understanding relationships between music, the other arts, and disciplines outside the arts.
9. Understanding music in relation to history and culture.

Grading Scale

100-90 A

89-80 B

79-75 C

74-70 D

69-0 F

Grading Procedures The grading procedures for Henderson Middle School Bands are designed to ensure that grades clearly and accurately reflect the performance quality of each

individual and ensures that the band experience is fair and equitable to all who participate. Students in each class will be graded on an individual basis, equally and fairly. Below is an explanation of the grading formula used for each quarter:

Formative Assessment (Pre-Assessment) – 0%

(SLO Pre-Test, SLO Post-Test)

Assessment During Learning–25%

(Class Spot Checks/Quizzes)

Guided, Independent, or Group Practice – 25%

(Pass-Offs, Class Participation)

Summative Assessment or Assessment of Learning–50%

(Concerts, Final Exam)

Policies / Regulations: It is the policy of the DeKalb County School System that students will receive a denotation of “I” (Incomplete) for any missing assignments until student work is completed. Student work must be completed within the prescribed time limit set by your school. The maximum point allotment will be 80%.

Zeros Are Not Permitted Policy: (ZAPP)- It is the expectation of this faculty that all assignments are completed for mastery. If an assignment is not submitted and/or does not meet standards, then the student must complete and/or re-do the assignment during one or more of the outlined Safety Nets. **Concerts cannot be made up.** So Please, do not miss any concerts!!!! We work so hard to have concerts so just remember that this is the sole purpose of the class.

Required Materials for Band

Most music stores will have all required band books and supplies.
All Students (Every Day!):

- Instrument with mouthpiece in great working condition
- Instrument Case with luggage tag identifying student/parent contact information This includes students using school owned instruments (Please don't use masking tape, etc.)

- ½" or 1" inch Black Binder with 30-40 EZ load document protectors
- Pencil (no pens, please), kept in your Binder
- Blank Notebook Paper in back of notebook
- Folding Music Stand (For Home Practice and for concerts if needed)
- Metronome, Digital Tuner-a must for musical improvement (useful, but optional)
- Books: Available at local music stores (don't forget to write your name in your book)

Woodwinds: Corks should not be worn or torn, keep screws and springs in place, treat with care at a minimum, students should have the following items for proper performance and maintenance: Clarinets and Saxes: Ligature (preferably Bonade or Rovner), Minimum of Four Size 3 or 3 1/2 Van-Doren working reeds, (Saxophones can consider Van-Doren Java) Reed Holder, Neck Strap, Cork grease, Cleaning Swab (preferably handkerchief-style), Tuning Rod

Brass: Instrument should be well lubricated at all times, treat with care at a minimum, students should have the following for proper performance and maintenance: All: Undamaged Mouthpiece, Valve Oil, Slide Grease, Mouthpiece Brush, Cleaning Snake, Hand Towel, Trombones: small spray bottle with water

Percussion: Stick/Mallet bag with name tag-keep your equipment in this bag at all times (Percussion students will only be allowed to play the instruments with the correct mallets. With proper care and storage these mallets will last through high school. Percussion students should not depend on other students to provide them with these materials. As you can imagine, these items are small and easily lost or stolen. You are responsible or caring for them). Snare Drum Sticks- Size 2B or 5B Medium-Hard Yarn Mallets- Used for xylophone, vibraphone, and suspended

cymbal Medium Hard Rubber Mallets- Used for xylophone (occasionally bells) Lexan Clear Plastic Mallets
Vic Firth General Timpani Mallets- used for timpani
Percussion students should have a snare drum and orchestra bell kit to practice at home in order to maintain adequate progress and successful performance. If you don't have these instruments to practice, you should attend morning practice in the band room from 8:00 –8:30am, Monday - Friday of each week.

Morning Practice

Morning Practices will be in the morning from 8:00- 8:40.
Days will be announced.

Scheduled Performances

Winter Concert:	Dec 6, 2016
Large Group Performances:	March 16-18, 2017
Spring Concert:	May 9, 2017

There will be other performances throughout the year. Those will be announced.

Preparation/Participation

Grades will be taken daily for class preparation/participation. All music and instruments are required on a daily basis for class preparation/participation. Points will be deducted from the preparation/participation grade for students not prepared with their instrument, music, pencil, reeds, or any other equipment needed for class. Ensemble discipline is the prime factor in the determination of the class preparation/participation grade. Performances outside of school hours are considered an extension of the classroom and will be graded as 50% of the

grade. All students are expected to play each day in Band class. Class participation is a portion of each student's quarter grade.

Homework Policy

This policy consists of written assignments that will be assigned by the instructor and practicing your instrument at home.

Taking Your Instrument Home

Students are required to take their instruments home each evening for practice. The school's insurance does not cover the loss or damage to student property. Students who leave their instruments in the school overnight, weekends, and over holidays do so at their own risk. I strongly recommend that you add your child's instrument to your homeowner's or renter's insurance policy.

After-School Rehearsals

After school rehearsals are required for performances. The students will be informed in advance about rehearsals after-school. Parents need to pick up their child at the designated times, which will be announced. Information will be given at a later time.

Make Up and Extra Credit Policy

Students may make up work missed in class only by extenuating circumstances such as death in the family, illness, family crisis, DeKalb County Schools approved field trips, etc. Parents need to send a note stating the circumstance to Mr. White and make up work will be assigned on a case-by-case basis. If you play sports, please let your coach know that performances are mandatory.

School-Owned Instruments

Our school has a limited inventory of instruments, which include oboes, bassoons, bass clarinets, tenor and baritone saxophones, horns, euphoniums, tubas and all percussion equipment. These instruments are assigned at the discretion of the director. When a school instrument is used, a contract must be completed per DeKalb County policy. The student is responsible for any damage to the instrument or loss of the instrument. When a school instrument needs repair, the director must take it to a shop approved by the school system. The county will pay for all routine maintenance of the instrument. Anyone assigned a school owned instrument must have a completed and signed Instrument Loan Agreement on file with Mr. White. This form will be passed out the first week of school. Instruments that are school owned will be rented to the student at the cost of \$25 per year. Students will be responsible for the purchasing of their own mouthpieces. Other required items include: Three ring notebook, paper, pencil and the textbook. The textbooks are purchased at the music store.

Bus Overcrowding

Some buses are crowded due to the growing student population here at Henderson. Bus drivers may request that students leave larger instruments at school. If this occurs, be polite, follow their instructions, and see me the next day. These situations will be handled on an individual basis with the administration. Students will always have the opportunity to participate in morning practice every morning from 8:00-8:30, when Mr. White is available (with the exception of days I'm attending faculty meetings, etc.)

Band Activity Fee

The band activity fee is a vital part of sustaining the HMS band program. The fee contributes toward the acquisition of all

instruments, music, uniforms, and supplies needed for the program to operate. The band fee also covers the cost of items that your student may need to borrow during class such as valve oil or cork grease, and minor repairs on student instruments. Even the band t-shirt, etudes, and professional musicians who come in and work with our students are included in this fee! **The ACTIVITY FEE for the 2016-17 SCHOOL YEAR for EVERYONE will be \$70.** If you cannot afford the activity fee, please let me know and we can work with you.

CHECKS: Payable to HENDERSON MIDDLE SCHOOL BAND. CASH OK. (RECEIPTS GIVEN)