

6th Grade and 7th/8th Grade Concert Bands

Course Syllabus 2023-2024

Teacher: Mr. Clewell, tclewell@shcsd.org

Course Description

The Middle School Concert Bands are intended for instrumental musicians in grades 6-8. Each middle school concert band is an extension of the previously offered band course. In this course you will be challenged to improve your technique and musicality while performing a more challenging repertoire. Seventh and eighth grade band will rehearse on A, C, and E days period 8. The sixth grade band will rehearse on B, D, and F days period 9. Performance opportunities include a winter and spring concert, county band (7-8) and sixth grade band fest (6).

Required Materials

- Instrument.
- Music folder that contains your warmups and concert music.
- Sound Innovations book (6th grade band members will use their blue books from 5th grade).
- Accessories (reeds, valve oil, etc.)
- Pencil.

Method books that are property of SHCSD will be provided to you to use throughout the school year. You will return the books at the end of the year. Please use a pencil to mark things in your book. The method books are used in addition to the concert repertoire.

All music is to be respected and cared for while in the student's possession. Please mark your music in pencil. Music is expected to be returned in good condition at the end of the concert season. Please keep music neatly in your folders so that it doesn't crinkle or get ripped. Music is very expensive, let's take care of it!

The following items are available in the band room at no cost to you; reeds, valve oil, slide oil, slide grease, cork grease, and various cleaning supplies.

Practice

Individual practice is an important element of our success. Practice is when the students spend time working on their music outside of the rehearsal time. The rehearsal is when we learn how all of the parts fit together. An average of 20-30 minutes of daily individual practice should be the goal of every band student. It is much better to practice a little every day to build skills and techniques rather than trying to squeeze it all into one long practice session. While practicing at home is strongly encouraged, students must remember to bring their instruments and music to school to be prepared for class.

General Course Topics

Throughout the year, we will discuss the following topics (this is not an all-inclusive list): posture, playing position, breathing, tone quality, intonation, articulation, style, fingerings, scales, key signatures, rhythm, rhythmic precision, syncopation, dynamics, balance and blend, phrasing, and instrument care.

Performances

Students are required to attend all scheduled performances. Performances for middle school band include a Christmas concert and a Spring concert. In addition, I encourage students to perform often for parents, grandparents, church, scout groups, etc. The more you perform, the better you become. Only you can determine your limits.

Christmas Concert: Thursday, December 14, 2023 at 7 PM.

Spring Concert: Wednesday, May 1, 2024 at 7 PM.

Festival Opportunities

Each year the students have an opportunity to perform outside of school in county and PMEA level festivals. Junior High County Band is a non-competitive event open to students in grades 7-9. It is held annually at one

of the county high schools. PMEA 6th Grade Band Fest is open to 6th grade band students. It is held at one of the schools within PMEA District 4. Students who are showing advanced proficiency on their instrument may be selected to participate in this festival. All festivals are held in the spring semester.

Middle School Band Lessons

Middle school band students will have small group lessons once per letter day cycle outside of the regular rehearsal time. All students are expected to attend their band lesson. A student may make arrangements with Mr. Clewell to miss a band lesson before the scheduled lesson time to take a test or make up assignments. Students should be prepared to actively participate in their lessons with their instrument and band folder. The purpose of the lesson time is to continue nurturing the skills of the developing instrumentalist. Lessons will be scheduled during 7th, 8th, and 9th periods this year.

Grades

Please refer to the attached pages about grading in band.

The Christmas and Spring concerts are a part of the band grade in the 2nd and 4th marking periods. Each concert is worth 100 points. Playing tests may be held throughout the year to test scales, musical passages, rhythm, etc. Written worksheets and assessments may be assigned periodically throughout the year, too. All grades will be reported on a points scale system.

Procedures

- 1) Enter the room in an orderly fashion and begin setting up for the day. Personal belongings may be kept at your seat or on the counter. Large instrument cases should be stored in your instrument slot during class.
- 2) Once you are set up, begin warming up on your own. Long tones, scales, exercises in the method book, and portions of your concert repertoire are all acceptable. Loud playing or seeing how high you can play will not be tolerated.
- 3) We will begin playing as an ensemble within 3 minutes of the final bell. Be ready to start when the cut off is given.
- 4) When class is over, put all materials away. Failure to comply will result in a loss of participation points.

Expectations

- 1) Report to class on time. Three (3) times tardy will result in an office discipline referral.
 - **BE READY TO PLAY OR BE MARKED TARDY.**
- 2) Be prepared with your instrument, folder, supplies, and a positive attitude.
- 3) Be actively engaged in class. Your attention is essential!
- 4) Show kindness and respect to others! Be a good listener!
- 5) **CELL PHONE USE IS NOT PERMITTED DURING CLASS! Cell phones are to be put away for the duration of the class period. Failure to cooperate will result in an office discipline referral.**
- 6) Be respectful of the band room and yourself! Instruments are a costly investment to your family. Never touch an instrument that is not yours. If you cause damage to another person's instrument, you will be held financially responsible.

Behavior Procedure

For students engaging in disruptive or inappropriate behavior, the following steps will be followed.

1. Conference with the student to discuss behavior concerns.
2. Email or phone call with the parents/guardians.
3. Discipline referral to the HS/MS principal.

Google Classroom & Online Instruction

Google Classroom will be utilized throughout the 2023-2024 school year. Students are expected to check Google Classroom for new assignments or class announcements regularly. All assignments, whether online or in-person, are a requirement of the course. Assignments are expected to be completed by the due date. Points will be deducted for assignments that are turned in late.

I am looking forward to a great year with the SHC Middle School Concert Bands!