

Band Course Syllabus

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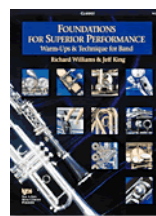
<http://suzanne.wvusd.k12.ca.us/apps/staff/>

Course Description

The three band classes offered at SMS are divided by grade level. 6th grade Cadet Band is designed to expand upon the music education provided at the elementary level. 7th grade Blue & White Band is an intermediate music course. 8th grade students are placed in Challenger Band, an advanced music course. Each student will acquire a broad based musical knowledge which includes music theory, music history, music appreciation, auditory skills, audition skills, and solo & ensemble performance. Students will complete this course with improved performance skills and musical knowledge. Students who do not meet performance expectations will be removed from the class and/or will not be recommended for the next level of instruction.

Class Materials

- ◇ SMS Binder Reminder
- ◇ Instrument in good working condition
- ◇ Instrument accessories (reeds, grease, valve oil, etc.)
- ◇ Electronic Tuner
- ◇ Sharpened pencil
- ◇ 1/2" Black binder
- ◇ Rhythm Workouts by Gary Scudder (school issued text)
- ◇ Accent on Achievement by O'Reilly & Williams (6th gr. Band – Book 1; 7th gr. Band – Book 2)
- ◇ Foundations for Superior Performance by Williams & King (8th gr. band)



Tardy Policy

Students are expected to be inside the classroom by the tardy bell. Furthermore, it is expected that students are in their seats with all necessary equipment and five minutes after the tardy bell. Students who do not comply with this policy will be sent to the office for a tardy slip.

Scholarship Grade

Band is treated academically like all other classes. It is not a “pull-out” program or an after school activity. Assignments are expected to be turned on time. 6th & 7th grade students may turn in their homework one day late for half credit. Late work is accepted from 8th graders but no credit will be given for that assignment. Students who are absent are expected to turn in work and/or make-up tests on the day they return.

Grades are based on the categories below:

- ◆ *Participation* – 30% of this course is graded on class participation inside as well as outside the regular school day. Students are expected to bring their instrument to every rehearsal and to be musically prepared. Students are required to participate in all rehearsals and performances throughout the semester. Any absence from a performance (excused or unexcused) will have a negative effect on the final grade.

Concert Attire is what you wear at all concert performances.

- ♫ Cadet Band = Navy blue Music t-shirt, tan pants, & shoes.
- ♫ Blue & White and Challenger Boys = White long-sleeved dress shirt; a long, SOLID BLACK tie; black pants; black socks; and black dress shoes.
- ♫ Blue & White and Challenger Girls = All black dress clothes and black, closed-toe dress shoes (dress or skirt must fall below the knee when seated; tops must have sleeves).

Instrument Doubling

Bands are in need of balanced instrumentation. It is essential that some students learn secondary instruments (a.k.a. doubling). There is an application form available to download which explains what is required. Look for the form on the website. A limited supply of school-owned instruments is available. These include: oboe, bassoon, bass clarinet, tenor saxophone, baritone saxophone, French horn, trombone, euphonium, and tuba.

Percussion

Only those students who demonstrate self-discipline and responsibility will be allowed to participate in the percussion section. Students who cannot show the qualities needed to be successful percussionists will be offered instruction on another instrument which will be determined by the needs of the program. A permission slip explaining what helps create a successful percussionist is given to interested students.

Private Lessons

Suzanne’s music classes are so large, students cannot get the individual attention they desperately need and deserve. Often a student may have an instrument which is not working properly, an embouchure which needs to be corrected, wrong tongue placement, and incorrect use of air and breath support (the list goes on.) The teacher is able to catch some of these problems in class, but is not able to follow up with individual instruction and attention. Private lessons are the best answer to address the needs of the student. Often, parents say they will have to wait to see if their child is “serious” about band before they will pay for lessons. On the contrary, many students drop out because of problems which could be solved with individual attention. The fundamentals of playing an instrument are the most important part of learning. Lessons can provide a student with a sense of confidence and pride.

Commitment to Band

Students and families are expected to commit to band for the entire year. Students may experience a wide variety of emotions regarding the class throughout the year. These feelings can range from periods of intense joy to complete frustration which may result in wanting to quit band. These are normal and expected emotions which can be dealt with by encouraging your child to realize their potential to succeed and supporting them to do so. Committing to band will ensure that students learn to set and achieve goals.

For your convenience, KYR Music will be on campus Thursday, 9/1, during Back to School Night to sell books and instrument accessories! The owner, Rich Firman, is a former Suzanne M.S. and Walnut H.S. band student.

Parents – please sign, date, & return bottom portion by Thursday, August 25.

2011 SYLLABUS SLIP - I have read and understand the policies and expectations for the music class.

Print Student Name

Period & Teacher

Student Signature

Parent Signature & Date

