

7 & 8 Grade Middle School Instrumental Music Course Outline

Mr. Cole Instrumental Music Teacher

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The expectations for this course have three components: The ensemble, the weekly lesson and performances. Through active experience in each component, students will continue to develop their performance skills while learning about basic music theory and history, and further expand their appreciation of music through the performance of appropriate repertoire in ensemble and weekly lessons.

Classroom Procedures

1. Be there or be square!
 - We meet every day Third Period. When the bell rings you should be in the band hall, getting your instrument from your locker. Rehearsal begins 2 minutes after the bell; you should be in your seat, quiet and ready to go. At this time, the teacher will signal for class to begin.
 - Lessons will be once a week in assigned rotating groups. Be sure to check the lesson schedule for the lesson start time.
2. Participation is key!
 - Every member of the Haverling Middle School Band is important to the success of the ensemble. We need everyone to give 100%
3. A good musician is a good listener!
 - One person talks at a time. Everyone else needs to listen!
4. Stay clean!
 - No gum, food, or drinks in the band areas. Please leave rehearsal rooms neater than you found them!

Follow the **Three R's.....Respect → Responsibility → Results.**

Classroom Expectations

1. **Respect others and their Instrument**
2. **Be on Time**
3. **Be RESPONSIBLE and PREPARED**
4. **Only ONE person talks at a time**
5. **Pay attention**
6. **Everyone must participate at 100%**

Consequences

1. **Verbal Warning**
2. **Reduction in participation grade**
3. **Teacher Detention/phone call home**
4. **Administrative Detention**

Grading Procedure

In the Haverling Middle School Instrumental program grades are *earned*. Grades are based on your effort, skill and participation in rehearsals, lessons, and performances. The breakdown of your instrumental grade is as follows:

Rehearsal- 30%
Lesson Attendance-30%
Performances-20%
Reading Music-10%
Playing Music-10%

Ensemble Rehearsals

It is no accident that a professional sounding ensemble also has a professional approach to rehearsals. Any quality ensemble is developed only through many hours of hard work in the rehearsal room. An atmosphere of order and discipline and a sense of purpose are of primary importance for rehearsal efficiency. Group discipline is engendered by student respect for the group, the director and the job to be done. An attitude of serious musical interest is also necessary. A group which displays the above qualities is on the way to becoming a fine musical organization.

This is the basic rehearsal routine:

1. **Pre-rehearsal** - Each musician should have everything he/she is going to need at every rehearsal, including having already used the restroom or water fountain. Obtaining a new reed, valve oil, mute, using the restroom, etc. are not valid reasons for leaving your seat during rehearsal.
2. **Unpacking the instrument** - Students should get their instrument and be in their seats, ready to play, by the downbeat. (2 minutes from the bell)
3. **Board** - Important announcements as well as the daily rehearsal objectives are posted on the board. Students should check the board when they enter the classroom.

4. **Warm-Up and Tune-Up** - This period is extremely important. Each group will have their own ritual warm up procedure. Be prepared to give your undivided attention. The purposes of the warm-up period are to perfect details of:
 - Intonation
 - Tone Quality
 - Balance
5. **The Rehearsal Atmosphere** – Music starts from silence. Any undercurrent of sound such as talking, moving about, etc. results in musical confusion and makes it difficult to listen critically. Maintaining silence during the rehearsal requires self-discipline.
6. **Attendance** - Rehearsal begins 2 minutes after the bell rings. Each member should be seated and ready to play at this time. Those not ready at this time will be considered tardy. If you are late to class you must have a signed pass. Students who are temporarily unable to play are to sit with the ensemble during the rehearsal. Much value can be derived from rehearsal even though you may not be able to play. Any student who is temporarily unable to play for whatever reason must bring a note from home. The note should state the reason for not playing and the length of time. All notes should be given to the director at the beginning of the day.
7. **Cellphones** are not allowed in school and therefore are not allowed in this class room. An infraction of this rule will result in a “0” for the day and the cell phone will be confiscated.
8. **You are expected to come to band with your parts learned.** (Rehearsal is a time to hear how all of the parts in the band fit together)

Ensemble Performances

Students are expected to attend all scheduled performances for the school year. Performances are the culmination of the work that has been done within the ensemble to that point. As other content areas make the learning in the classroom public via state assessment results, this is our means of making the learning within our content area public. Consequently, it is imperative that students attend all scheduled performances.

*****Please refer to the Haverling Music Department performance schedule*****

Weekly Lessons

You are expected to come to lessons with your lesson assignment prepared.

(Preparedness promotes progress).

Students are expected to attend scheduled instrument lessons. Lessons are a full period, once a week. The lesson schedule rotates to avoid missing the same class on a regular basis. Missed lessons can be made up provided that the student contacts their teacher to schedule a make-up time.

*****Be sure to make contact with the appropriate teacher prior to coming to the lesson*****

Lesson Requirements

- Scales/ Rudiments: All students in grades 7-8 are expected to “pass off” a scale/rudiment requirement.
Grade 7- Seven Major scales and 1 one octave Chromatic Scale
Grade 8- 10 Major Scales and 1 one octave Chromatic Scale
*Battery percussion refer to the rudiment requirement sheet
 - Solo/Etude video performance: Each student in the Haverling band program will prepare and perform a solo or an etude as approved and graded by their teacher. Students may opt to perform a solo at the NYSSMA or Steuben All-County solo festival. Those who take this option will be graded by the judge on festival day for the grade. All others will perform the solo/etude for a grade in lessons with their lesson teacher. All performances will be video recorded and self-assessed.
 - Lesson content: Students are responsible for their weekly lesson assignments. Daily practice is essential, and improvement should be demonstrated with each successive lesson.
 - Classroom rules: Students are expected adhere to all classroom rules and maintain proper care of the instrument.
 - Please be sure to make up any missed lessons.
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Confirmation/Information Form

2015-2016 School Year

(student's full name)

(primary instrument)

(parent/guardian name)

I have read and understand the 2015-2016 Haverling Middle School Instrumental Music course outline.

(student signature)

(date)

I have read and understand the 2015-2016 Haverling Middle School Instrumental Music course outline. I further understand that my son or daughter will be audio and video recorded for in-class assessment purposes only.

(parent/guardian signature)

(date)