



Phillips Middle School Band Syllabus [2021-2022]

Welcome to a new school year! I am looking forward to working with you over the coming year. Beyond learning about music and how to play an instrument, it is our goal to encourage you to build self-efficacy, nurture self-discipline, embrace personal responsibility, support teamwork and learn perseverance.

If you ever have ANY questions, please do not hesitate to contact me. The best way to contact me is through email.

Sincerely,

Mr. Sample / 919-929-2188 ext. 31264 / asample@chccs.k12.nc.us

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Band is an instrumental performance-based music course. Ownership or rental of instruments is required. ***If you are unable to afford an instrument, one will be provided for you.*** Band provides students with the opportunity to develop skills on a woodwind, brass, or percussion instrument of their choice. Emphasis is given to providing a strong fundamental approach to instrument performance. In addition to performance skills, students will learn to master aspects of music theory, ear training, improvisation and composition. Our primary text for the course is *Measures of Success*. Each student is required to purchase their own copy. **Be careful to purchase the correct *Measures of Success* method book for your instrument and grade level.** Blue is for 6th grade and orange is for 7th grade. 8th grade students may be asked to purchase *another book [TBD]*. **Concert performances outside of normal school hours are required as part of this course.** Concerts are only a few times a year and announced in advance. Individual practice outside of class is critical to the success of the individual and the class as a whole.

OBJECTIVES:

- The student will develop a working knowledge of the proper posture and technique necessary to play a wind/percussion instrument.
- The student will develop the ability to perform on a wind/percussion instrument while reading music notation at the grade I-IV levels.
- The student will utilize expressive concepts unique to music through concert band performances.

REQUIRED MATERIALS:

- Instrument [in proper working order]
- Accessories [valve oil, reeds, slide/cork grease, etc.]
- Method Book [6th: *Measures of Success* Bk. 1 (Blue) / 7th: *Measures of Success* Bk. 2 (Orange) / 8th grade text is *TBD*]
- Music Folder [provided by the director]
- **Pencils!** Required during every class!
- Paper for taking notes as necessary

GRADING:

MAJOR ASSESSMENTS: Concerts and Playing Assessments 60%

Concerts: Because band is a performance-based class, it is expected that all students participate in concerts throughout the school year. This is our chance to shine! All band members are expected to attend all performances. **Please be sure to mark your calendars with the concert dates listed below.** The only acceptable excuses for missing a concert ***with prior notice*** are a wedding or death of a close family member. The only acceptable excuse for missing a concert ***without prior notice*** is **severe** illness which must be accompanied by a doctor's note upon returning to school. Please note that athletic events, celebrations and other general events are **not** excused. I have done my best to avoid scheduling over other events and expect you to extend the same courtesy.

Pass-Off System [Playing Assessments]: Here at Phillips we use a system called the “pass-off” system. I have chosen a number of lines [songs] throughout the *Measures of Success* books that exemplify a fundamental musical concept or skill. **Each quarter, students will be given a certain number of pass-offs that they are expected to complete by the end of the quarter.** Students should complete pass-offs in order [see the pass-off sheet] and are not allowed to repeat pass-offs for credit. Pass-offs should be practiced, completed and submitted through Smartmusic. Students also have the opportunity to pass-off lines before school on Wednesdays and Fridays from 7:45 am until 8:15 am as well as during After School Band Academy [ASBA] on Tuesday afternoons from 3:30pm to 5:00pm. I may provide some pass-off time each week during class depending on how much material we cover each day. **Students will receive credit for the "pass-off" if the line is "A" quality [excellent rhythm, correct notes, exemplary tone, etc.].** If a student does not pass off a line, they can move to the next line, but they should ask for help as soon as possible.

Pass-off Values:

One line in the book = 1 pass-off

Audition for all-county/all-district honors band = 4 pass-offs**

Making all-county band = 4 pass-offs **

Making all-district/state band = 8 pass-offs**

**Honors band auditions and participation are primarily for 7th and 8th grade students. However, advanced 6th grade students may be asked to audition.

MINOR ASSESSMENTS: Quizzes, Projects & Assignments 30%

Vocabulary, Theory & Rhythm Quizzes: Quizzes will be held during class at the rate of about once every few weeks. Some quizzes may be “on the spot”, but quiz dates are usually given well in advance. Quizzes will cover musical terms, etiquette, musical notation, rhythmic notation, etc.

Projects: Students will be asked to complete one to two projects each semester. Example projects could include:

- presentations on a prominent composer and his/her music including historical and biographical information
- Creating a musical composition for a small ensemble or larger group
- Attending a live performance and writing a critique

Practice Journals & Participation: 10%

Practice Journals: Maintaining a log of your **home practice sessions** is the most important thing you can do to improve your musicianship. Through **practicing at home**, you will gain confidence, learn the importance of self-discipline, eliminate weakness in your playing, improve embouchure development and technique. **By Tuesday of each week**, students will be expected to turn in their home practice record from the prior week. Home Practice Journal will be available through google classroom. **Students should be practicing a minimum of 120 minutes each week.** Home practice time should be monitored by parents. In addition, **time spent with private instrument instructors, ASBA or before/after school with the director can go towards total minutes practiced.** Please follow the instructions on the practice journal to receive full credit. Missed practice journals cannot be made up without making arrangements with the director. Late practice records will be accepted for reduced credit. This system is based on **integrity**; failure to perform adequately during assessments may bring the validity of home practice journals into question.

Participation: Band is a performance-based course. In other words, we learn by doing.

- Please make every effort to bring all materials [pencils, assigned music] and your instrument daily.
- Be actively engaged in the process of making music. We have to collaborate and work together to be successful.
- Come to class with your music prepared [i.e. please practice your music at home]. Class time is rehearsal time. This is where we work on ensemble skills such as balance, blend, rubato & intonation. The majority of notes and rhythms should be worked out during home practice. The more you prepare, the more we can accomplish.

IMPORTANT DATES:***

August 16-20	Teacher Workdays
August 23	First Day of School
September 6 [holiday]	Labor Day
September 16	Teacher Workday
October 14	Fall 7th & 8th grade Concert
October 29	End of 1st Quarter
November 1 - 2	Teacher Workday
November 11 [Holiday]	Veterans Day
November 24	Teacher Workday
November 25-26 [Holiday]	Thanksgiving
December 2	8th grade Concert @ ECHHS
December 9	6th grade & Jazz Band Concert
December 20 - 31 [Holiday]	Winter Break
January 8	All-District Honors Band Auditions
January 17 [Holiday]	MLK jr Day
January 21	End of 2nd Quarter
January 28 - 29	All-District Honors Band Clinic
January 24	Teacher Workday
February 14	Teacher Workday
February 22	6th grade & Jazz Band Concert
February 24	7th & 8th grade Pre-MPA Concert
February 25 [TBD]	Elon Jazz Festival
March 5 [TBD]	All-State Honors Band Auditions
March 13	Teacher Workday
March 24	End of 3rd Quarter
March 25	Teacher Workday
March 28 - 31 [Holiday]	Spring Break
April 1	District Holiday
April 15	Teacher Workday
May 10	6th grade & Jazz Band EoY Concert

May 12	7th & 8th grade Band EoY Concert
May 21	8th grade: Carowinds Performance
May 30 [Holiday]	Memorial Day
June 9	Last Day of School

*All Concerts begin at 7:30 pm unless otherwise posted.

Every attempt possible will be made to adhere to this schedule. Families will be notified well in advance of any changes made.

CONCERT ATTIRE: *Dress up! Concerts are a formal event!*

Pants: Black long pants with a belt / Black Capris / Black skirt / Black Dress

Shirt: White Shirt with a collar must be tucked in.

Shoes & socks: Black shoes with black socks / hosiery

*all dresses and skirts should be knee-length when seated. Dress and or skirts may have some white, but please try to avoid any other colors.

CLASSROOM PROCEDURES AND EXPECTATIONS

In order to facilitate the best daily classroom experience for the amount of students that we have in large classes such as band, the students will learn how to enter and setup properly for class. This will be accomplished during the first several days of school through practicing daily classroom procedures and drills.

DAILY CLASSROOM RULES

- Be seated in your chair with materials and your instrument in the ready position when class is ready to begin.
- No gum, candy, food, or drinks in the band room, during rehearsal, or during performance. This is a strict policy due to the choking hazard.
- Do not play your instrument unless you are asked to do so.
- Stay off equipment not assigned to you.
- Raise your hand to ask questions, please.
- Manners are expected ALL THE TIME! Rude behavior will not be accepted!

CONSEQUENCES

1. Verbal warning[s]
2. Silent Lunch / Contact parent
3. Contact parent/guardian & Silent Lunch
4. In order to maximize our short time together every day, students must commit to providing an atmosphere that is conducive to learning. If a student is blatantly disrupting the class and is disrespectful to students or the teacher, the student may be removed from the classroom until their behavior has improved.

HELPFUL WAYS TO PRACTICE:

In order for students to be successful in band, they should be practicing at home **at least** 5 days per week [minimum 120 minutes].

PRACTICE FOR MASTERY [The following is a list of guidelines that students can follow to ensure that they are getting the most out of each practice session]:

1. Write in the counting underneath the rhythms.
2. Clap and count all rhythms while keeping time with your toe. [use a metronome to keep a steady pulse]
3. Name notes and use the proper fingering of each note as you go along.
4. Use the fingerings/positions in the proper rhythm. [we call this fingering or sliding along with the music]
5. "Tizzle" the piece. (you should still be fingering or sliding along in rhythm).
6. Slow it down. Play the measure, section or song at a slower tempo and then speed it up gradually.
7. Play difficult measures or sections individually and then begin to combine them together.
8. Look for and mark all important markings (dynamics, style, articulations, tempos...). *Use pencils and highlighters!*
9. Continue to combine measures and sections together until you can play the entire piece.

*Another important key to successful practicing is to make sure that students are in a quiet/secluded room with a chair, music stand, and metronome/tuner while they practice. Effective practice can only be done when they are focused on the task at hand!

****Parents: the more you encourage your child to practice, the more habitual their practice efforts will become. Show them that you are interested in their progress and listen to their end results weekly if possible.**

PLEASE SIGN, DETACH AND RETURN THE BOTTOM PORTION OF THIS PAGE. *Keep the remainder of the syllabus to use as a reference!*

*I have carefully read the Phillips Middle School Band Program Syllabus and agree to abide by these terms.

Parent Signature _____ Date _____

Student Signature _____ Date _____