
Firebird Band

5th & 6th Grade Band CB0220-1

Overview

Firebird Band is a performance-based beginning band class consisting of fifth and sixth grade students. Firebird Band is a yearlong foundational course that focuses on the development of individual and ensemble musicianship. Basic note reading, rehearsal/practice techniques, and tone development will be established through class rehearsals and lessons. Students showing determined effort and consistent progress toward mastery of their instruments, completing through pg 24 in the method book will be invited to continue in Varsity Band.

Learning Targets

5th grade students work toward common performance and technical goals as 6th graders; students successfully completing this course will be able to:

- Compose & perform a major scale on concert: Bb.
- Perform in duple, meter
- Perform with a full and focused tone and demonstrate proper playing technique (posture, hand position and embouchure).
- Percussion: demonstrate matched grip and proper drumstick technique. Play 5, 9, 17 stroke rolls, read, tune and perform on timpani and mallets.
- Read and accurately perform music (with a level of difficulty of 1 on a scale of 1 to 6, including some solos performed from memory).
- Identify music form and describe music using proper musical vocabulary.
- Read and accurately perform grade .5 music @ first sight.
- Perform simple melodies learned by ear.
- Identify solo and groups of instruments by sound (timbre).

Expectations

First quarter, instruments will remain at school. Beginning second quarter, students are expected to practice 25 min. per day; daily practice is essential to build the necessary skills and technique used in playing a band instrument.

6th grade students are expected to attend small group lessons on during their B-Day elective classes, twice per month. 5th grade students will attend a weekly small group lesson.

Be on time. Pay close attention. Honor one another. Try your best.

2012-2013

M-F, 10:46-11:41 (3rd hour A-Days)

Instructor: Corey Needleman

E-Mail: corey.needleman@mpls.k12.mn.us

Phone: o (612) 668-4550 /c (612) 234-5379

Office: B009

Office Hours: 8:40-9:40 or by apt.

Web: <http://folwell.mpls.k12.mn.us/band>

Materials

These items are needed daily. Be prepared.

- Instrument
- Pencil
- Standard of Excellence, Bk 1 (red)
- Flute – Rod & soft cloth
- Clarinet & Sax - 2 working reeds (Rico 2.5), reed-guard, swab, soft cloth
- Brass – Soft Cloth

Performances

Attending all performances is mandatory and essential to the integrity of the band.

Performance dates will be added to the list below; a complete list of performances is available on the web.

Oct. 31 & Nov. 1

Spotlight in-class “informance”

March 27 & 28

Spotlight in-class “informance”

May 30 & 31

Spotlight in-class “informance”

Evaluation

- Performance 70%
- Home Practice & Smartmusic 20%
- Written Homework & Classwork 10%

Effort Creates Ability

Month	Unit & Concepts	Assessment(s)	MN Standard(s)
September	Foundations for Performance Rehearsal Routines, B \flat Major Scale, ♪ ♯ ♭ - ○ - rhythms Conducting in 2/4 Aural Skills	In-Class Performances Call & Response	1-Artistic Foundations
October	Foundations for Performance First Notes Practice vs. Playing	In-Class Performances Call & Response Homework	1-Artistic Foundations
November	Foundations for Performance B \flat Major Penta-Scale, Aural Skills Note Reading Practice vs. Playing Improvisation	In-Class Performances Note Reading	1-Artistic Foundations
December	Creating Performing and Responding B \flat Major Penta-Scale, Playing alone & with group	In-Class Performances Evaluations	3-Artistic Process: Perform or Present 4-Artistic Process: Respond or Critique
January	Performances from my own and other cultures, from different styles of the past and present. Historical/Cultural Study	In-Class Performances Evaluations	1-Artistic Foundations 4-Artistic Process: Respond or Critique
February	Creating Performing and Responding B \flat Major Scale Improvisation	In-Class Performances Evaluations	2-Artistic Process: Create or Make 3-Artistic Process: Perform or Present
March	Creating Performing and Responding Chamber Ensembles	Smart Music Chamber Ens. & Solos Recital Evaluations	3-Artistic Process: Perform or Present 4-Artistic Process: Respond or Critique
April	Becoming an Artist Playing as a band	In-Class Performances Evaluations	1-Artistic Foundations 3-Artistic Process: Perform or Present
May	Becoming an Artist Spring Concerts	Spotlight Concerts Evaluations	3-Artistic Process: Perform or Present 4-Artistic Process: Respond or Critique

SUGGESTIONS

1. Practice regularly (see expectations in syllabus) – it is best to practice at least 25 minutes each day, rather than trying to “cram” all your minutes into a couple of days. Find a place where you can practice without interruption. Mr. Needleman will provide weekly exercises for practice in addition to your band music), and leave the Computer, TV & iPod off! Practice with Smart Music!
2. Rest every few minutes when you practice. The first few weeks of practice will be difficult as your muscles learn to do new things.
3. Take care of your instrument. If you have any problems with it, or if it becomes damaged, tell Mr. Needleman right away.
4. Keep your instrument clean, and keep your pads dry. Swab it out or empty water after each use. Wash the mouthpiece at least once a week in warm water with mild soap and a brush. Use a soft polish cloth to clean off dust and fingerprints. Never use brass cleaner or polish on your instrument.
5. Keep your instrument safe! Never let anyone else play your instrument. Make sure your instrument is stored properly in its case when not being used.
6. Do not expose your instrument to extreme temperatures for long periods of time (i.e. do not leave your instrument in the car overnight, or put it next to the radiator to warm it up).
7. Come to your lessons on time, according to the schedule. Be prepared; bring your instrument, your music, a pencil, and other accessories (valve/slide oil) to each lesson or rehearsal.
8. Play your instrument for other members of your family. It is really important for you to demonstrate your new talents! Being a member of the band is something to be very proud of!

----- RETURN PORTION BELOW -----

return by September 7, 2012

Mr. Needleman, Room

COURSE AGREEMENT

- We have read the syllabus and understand the Firebird Band expectations.
- As a **student** I agree to follow the preceding guidelines and all other instructions given in class.
- As a **parent** I agree to support my student as a learner and to contact Mr. Needleman should any questions or concerns arise.

Student Name (Print): _____

Student Signature: _____ Date: _____

Parent/Guardian Name(s): _____

Parent/Guardian Signature(s): _____

Parent/Guardian Contact Number(s): _____

Parent/Guardian Email(s): _____