
Varsity Band

5th & 6th Grade Band CB0220-2

Overview

Varsity Band is a performance based ensemble class consisting of fifth and sixth grade students with at least one year of experience on their instrument and surpassing pg. 24 in the *Standard of Excellence* method book. Varsity Band is a yearlong course that focuses on the development of individual and ensemble musicianship. Note reading, rehearsal/practice techniques, tone development and technical facility will be established through rehearsals and concert performances. A solid musical foundation will be accomplished through the study of quality grade-level literature.

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, Eb and F.
- Play a chromatic scale
- Perform in duple, triple meters
- 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, 7, 9, 17 stroke rolls, read, tune and perform on timpani and mallets.
- Read and accurately perform music (with a level of difficulty of 1.5 on a scale of 1 to 6, including some solos performed from memory) with accurate intonation, expression, articulation and musical style.
- Identify music form as well as significant musical passages and describe/discuss music using proper musical vocabulary.
- Read and accurately perform grade 1 music @ first sight.
- Transcribe (write down & perform) simple melodies by ear.
- Identify solo and groups of instruments by sound (timbre) and describe their role in the piece and ensemble.
- Identifying pitch as in-tune or not, match pitch on instrument, tune own instrument visually (with a tuner) and by ear (matching pitch).

Expectations

Students are expected to practice 30 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 Gold-Day elective classes, twice per month. 5th grade students will attend a weekly small group lesson.

Be on time.

Be attentive.

Be Kind.

Be your best.

2013-2014

M-F, 10:46-11:41 (3rd hour) B-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.

December 19 – 7pm

Showcase Concert

March 25

Chamber Ensemble Festival - Folwell.

May 8

Spring Band Concerts - Folwell.

Evaluation

- In-Class Performance 50%
- Home Practice & Smartmusic 20%
- Written Homework & Classwork 10%
- Performances 20%

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	Practice Journals / Smart Music In-Class Performances Scale Worksheet Call & Response	1-Artistic Foundations
October	Foundations for Performance B \flat Major Scale, Intonation - Aural Skills Practice vs. Playing	Tuning note Practice Journals/ Smart Music - Play-a-thon	3-Artistic Process: Perform or Present 4-Artistic Process: Respond or Critique
November	Foundations for Performance E \flat Major Scale, Intonation, Composition	In-Class Performances Pitch Matching / Intonation Graph Transcribing/Arranging/Student Compositions	2-Artistic Process: Create or Make
December	Creating Performing and Responding E \flat Major Scale Solos	In-Class Performances Winter Concerts 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. All Flat Scales Score Study Historical/Cultural Study	Theme Concert Evaluations	1-Artistic Foundations 3-Artistic Process: Perform or Present 4-Artistic Process: Respond or Critique
February	Creating Performing and Responding F 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 Transcriptions-Aural Skills	In-Class Performances Evaluations	3-Artistic Process: Perform or Present
May	Becoming an Artist Spring Concerts	Showcase Concert 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 30 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 6, 2013

Mr. Needleman, Room 009

COURSE AGREEMENT

- We have read the syllabus and understand the Varsity 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): _____