

JC BOOTH MIDDLE SCHOOL 7th GRADE ADVANCED BAND SYLLABUS

- **Objective:** To engage in the performance of contrasting styles of instrumental music. Also, to gain an acceptable level of proficiency on your chosen musical instrument. The main objective of this class however is to create great music, working together as a band, and to have FUN!! We are not separate individuals, WE are a TEAM, working for a common goal-to not only to become the best musicians we can be, but also the best *people* we can be.
- **Prerequisites**
Participation in this course is open to all students who took band in the 6th grade. The student must pass all the objectives and pass a proficiency test in order to be in the 7th grade advanced band. It is the philosophy of this program that all young students deserve a chance to participate in a school band regardless of their musical aptitude.
- **Materials** *It is the student's responsibility to have the following in class everyday. Failure to have these will impact the student's ability to participate in class and their grade.*
 - Instrument** - the student will be required to have an instrument as assigned by the director. Some students may be assigned to school instrument during the year. These students will be charged a maintenance fee to help with the costs of the upkeep of these instruments.
 - Related equipment**- this includes reeds, oil, mouthpieces, neck straps, and any other items needed to properly play and participate in class.
 - Foundations for Superior Performance** – These books are the required text for this class. Students are required to purchase this text and have it with them in class everyday.
 - Assigned Music** - each student will be given a copy of the music the band is preparing for performance. The student is required to keep and have this music in class everyday. It is the responsibility of the student to replace any lost music by paying to have an extra copy made.
 - Smartmusic** – Smartmusic is a “Practice / Assessment” software package that will be used with students this year. Students will be required to do some of their test work with this software. This software package is available online at www.smartmusic.com. Subscription rates per year are \$25.50. Students will be able to use the school computer before school and on Friday afternoons on a limited basis. Students who do purchase the software for home use will be allowed to test at home and email results to the director.
 - Pencil** - a pencil is essential to successful participation in band class. Each student is required to have a pencil at their seat every day in class.
 - Notebook** – Each student will need a black ½ clear view notebook and 10 sheet protectors. The band is buying all of this at a discount, which the students can buy during the first week of school.
 - JC Booth Agenda** - In an effort to improve communication and instill responsibility in our students, all JC Booth students are encouraged to use the planners provided by our PTA and to share these assignments with parents on a daily basis.

- **Classroom Procedure**

1. Be on time to every class and rehearsal
2. Raise your hand to be recognized.
3. Gum, candy, food or drinks are not allowed in the bandroom.
4. Students must have their instrument, music folder, reeds and valve oil, etc. for every class.
5. Have daily personal planner at your stand each day.

General Instructions

1. Students are responsible for the music and instruments that are checked out to them. They will be responsible for replacing lost music.
2. All forms and permission forms need to be turned in on time.
3. Students should help keep the bandroom clean at all times.
4. All percussion players must have their own percussion sticks. The school will provide mallets for the different keyboard instruments.

Tests

Students will have playing tests in which they demonstrate their mastery of material covered in class. There may also be written tests covering topics related to a student's particular instrument and music theory.

Grading

The grading system is intentionally designed to allow any student, regardless of musical ability, to earn an "A" in class by their participation and effort. Conversely, a very talented student who plays their instrument exceptionally well can receive a lower grade in band if they do not put forth adequate effort. Being in band is as much about personal growth and responsibility as it is about music, and the grading system is meant to reflect this. Students will receive grades in the following areas:

- Practice Records- students who turn in their practice times and will receive a weekly practice grade. One Hundred and Twenty minutes a week are required for each student. This will be included in their "Homework" grade which is 10% of their overall grade.
- Participation- students will receive a participation grade for each 9 weeks. Student's whose instruments have to be taken to a store for repairs must bring a dated invoice to receive credit for those days. Their participation grade will be 60% of their overall grade.
- Playing & Written Tests- given as discussed above. This will account for 30% of the student's overall grade.

Participation Points

Each student will start each 9 weeks with 100 points. Points will be taken away for talking in class (after sufficient warnings), playing out of turn and not having materials needed for the class (i.e. music, reeds, mouthpiece, sticks, or horn). Negative points can be erased passing off extra lesson lines or other pieces of music approved by the director.

Rewards

Students who demonstrate the correct classroom behavior, participate in class, and show a good positive attitude will be rewarded with extra time on their practice record, extra points, demerits being erased, etc.

Performances:

All performances count as a test grade. The 7TH Grade Advanced will play at various concerts throughout the year. All students are required to attend the performances. The 7TH Grade

Advanced will rehearse on Thursdays about 4 to 5 weeks out in front of a given concert. This will be only when the 7th and 8th Grade Advanced is combining for a concert. Sectionals times and dates will be announced at a later date if they are needed.

Instrument and Music Storage

The band room has lockers that can be used to store the wind instruments during the day. These lockers have combination padlocks to help in providing maximum security. These lockers are rented for a fee of \$5.00 per year. All instrument cases and books must be clearly identified with the student's name at all times.

Course Content

This course will cover the following topics:

- Advancing techniques for playing an instrument
- Intermediate music reading skills
- Rehearsal and practice techniques
- Pitch recognition and intonation adjustment
- Etiquette for public performance and competition
- Miscellaneous music history relating to composers and musical styles

The academic misconduct policy of the school will be followed in this course. Band is not a part of the required student curriculum and students may be permanently removed from the course for repeated misbehavior. Acts of theft or vandalism may result in immediate removal from the band without prior warning.

The attendance policy of the school will be followed for this course and for after school rehearsals.

Any student who receives failing grades during this course is urged to discuss this with the teacher.

Statement of Obligations and Contract for Band Membership

I, _____, desire to be a member of the JC Booth Middle School Band. My signature below signifies that I will to the very best of my ability meet the obligations below.

.. I will CONDUCT myself in an orderly and responsible manner during all classes, rehearsals, programs, and performances.

.. I will PRACTICE my assigned parts diligently and work to be a positive contribution to the group.

.. I accept the obligation to ATTEND all rehearsals and performances unless I am legitimately ill or have a serious, unavoidable conflict which cannot be resolved.

.. I agree to have my ABSENCE from any band function thoroughly explained in writing by my parent.

.. I agree to POST the performance and rehearsal dates given to me at the beginning of the year on my home calendar and work to avoid conflicts throughout the year.

.. I agree to properly wear the uniform as agreed upon by the students, parents and director.

Student's Signature _____

Date _____

I have read the JC Booth Middle School Band Handbook and will support my child in meeting these obligations to the band.

Parent's Signature _____

Date _____

****Please fill out this contract and return it to Mr. Burton no later than August 12th.**