

# **JC BOOTH MIDDLE SCHOOL 7<sup>th</sup> 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 6<sup>th</sup> grade. The student must pass all the objectives and pass a proficiency test in order to be in the 7<sup>th</sup> 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 and 150 Original Exercises** – These books are the required text for this class. Students are required to purchase this text and have it with them in class everyday. These books can be purchased at either the local music store or through the director.
  - 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.
  - 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.
- Class Participation- students will receive a weekly participation grade. Student's whose instruments have to be taken to a store for repairs must bring a dated invoice to receive credit for those days.
- Playing & Written Tests- given as discussed above.

### **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). These infractions will be "coded" in the grade book and a report will be given to the parents on the progress reports. 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 7<sup>TH</sup> Grade Advanced will play at various concerts throughout the year. All students are required to attend the performances. The 7<sup>TH</sup> Grade Advanced will rehearse on Tuesday about 4 to 5 weeks out in front of a given concert. This will be only when the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Advanced is combining for a concert. Sectionals will 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. The completion of this will be used in the grading process. *Students will also have opportunities to earn extra credit. These will include attendance of special performances, written reports, or special projects approved by the director.*

**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.

**Please detach and return the following**

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Please sign below to indicate that you understand and accept the above terms for participation in the JC Booth 7<sup>TH</sup> Grade Advanced for the 2008-2009 academic year.

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**Student Signature**

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**Parent Signature**