MOUNTAIN BROOK JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL BAND
DR. MARK FOSTER, DIRECTOR
205 OVERBROOK ROAD
MOUNTAIN BROOK, ALABAMA 35213
871-3516
fosterm@mtnbrook.k12.al.us

BEGINNING BAND SYLLABUS 2008-2009

PURPOSE OF THE COURSE

The purpose of this class is to provide a positive, challenging, and engaging musical experience for band students that enables each student to reach his or her potential as an instrumentalist.

REQUIRED MATERIALS

1. Each student is required to have his/her instrument, music, pass-off book and a pencil in class each day. Pass-off books can be obtained at either a local music store or they can be ordered from a music store at the bandroom. A Representative from a local music store will be visiting the school on a weekly basis to take care of any supply needs. The following books are required for each instrument.

Instrument	Class Method Book	Pass-off Book
Flute	Essential Elements 2000, Book 1 for Flute	Rubank Elementary Method for Flute
Oboe	Essential Elements 2000, Book 1 for Oboe	Rubank Elementary Method for Oboe
Bassoon	Essential Elements 2000, Book 1 for Bassoon	Rubank Elementary Method for Bassoon
Clarinet	Essential Elements 2000, Book 1 for Clarinet	Rubank Elementary Method for Clarinet
Saxophone	Essential Elements 2000, Book 1 for Saxophone	Rubank Elementary Method for Saxophone
Trumpet	Essential Elements 2000, Book 1 for Trumpet	Rubank Elementary Method for Trumpet
French Horn	Essential Elements 2000, Book 1 for French Horn	Rubank Elementary Method for French Horn
Trombone	Essential Elements 2000, Book 1 for Trombone	Rubank Elementary Method for Trombone/Baritone
Euphonium	Essential Elements 2000, Book 1 for Euphonium (Bass Clef)	Rubank Elementary Method for Trombone/Baritone
Tuba	Essential Elements 2000, Book 1 for Tuba	Rubank Elementary Method for BBb Bass
Percussion	Essential Elements 2000, Book 1 for Percussion	Alfred Drum Method, Book 1

GRADING PROCEDURES

1. **Class Participation (50%, 180 points).** Band is a participatory activity, therefore each person is expected to fully participate in all rehearsals and performances. This component of the grade will be worth 50% of the final grade. Each rehearsal attended with full participation will be worth 4 points. Each partially attended rehearsal in which the student is either late or checks in will be worth a maximum of 3 points. Each rehearsal attended without an instrument will be worth a maximum of zero (0) points. Zero (0) points will be earned when a student forgets to bring his or her instrument to school. Points can be made up by completing extra pass-off pages.

2. **Pass-off Grade (30%, 300 points).** All students are expected to perform from their pass-off book and complete at least three pages per grading period for a band director or adjunct assistant that is hired by the band department. Each page will be worth 100 points. Students may play more than the required 3 pages per grading period. If a student completes more than the required number of pass-off pages each quarter, the points can either be applied to the total grade which could be used to make up for any deficiencies in another grading caption, or they can be applied to the next grading period.

3. **Performances (20%, 100 points per performance).** Attendance is required at all performances. Students will only be excused in cases of extreme family emergency, illness, or prior arrangement with a director. All performances will be announced as far in advance as possible. Each performance will be worth 100 points with full points being awarded for full participation. Tardiness to a performance will result in 10 points being deducted from that performance grade.

CLASS RULES

1. There is to be no talking when a band director is talking.
2. Be on time for class with your instrument and materials. Students will receive detention after the 4th tardy.
3. There is to be no gum, food or drink in the band room. Bottled water with a lid is acceptable.
4. Raise your hand and wait to be recognized before speaking.
5. Treat each other with the respect and dignity that you would like to receive in return.
6. There is to be no playing of another person's instrument.
7. There is to be no unauthorized playing of band instruments.
8. There is to be no horseplay of any kind in the bandroom at any time.
9. All backpacks and school supplies must be placed in school lockers before band.
10. Only percussionists are allowed to play on percussion instruments, <u>no exceptions.</u>

LOCKERS

Each band student will be issued a band locker and a combination lock that is to be used to store the student's instrument during the school day. These lockers may not be used to store anything other than band instruments and music for class. No food or drinks may be kept in the band locker. All band locks must remain on the locker to which they are assigned.

UNIFORM

For our band concerts and contest performances, each student will be issued a band uniform jacket, cummerbund, bow tie, and uniform bag. Students must purchase the following items to complete the uniform: Solid Black Dress Pants, White Tuxedo Shirt, Black Dress Socks, and Black Dress Shoes. These items can be purchased from the school. Our representative from DeMoulin uniforms will come to the school to measure students for these items in October. I will send home more information about pricing and sizing at that time.

A word about practicing…

You should plan to practice at least 75 minutes per week outside of class. Band represents a significant long-term investment of time, energy, and money on the part of you, your parents, your teachers, and the Mountain Brook School System. In order to gain the most benefit from the band experience, you need to put some extra effort into the activity. I understand that there will be weeks where you can practice much more than 75 minutes, and there will be weeks where you will do good to practice at all. Please understand that your enjoyment is directly correlated to your ability as a musician; therefore, the more time you put into your instrument, the more you will gain. I do not require a weekly practice record, but I would like you to budget some time outside of class to practice whenever possible. The bandroom will be open Tuesday through Friday after school to get your instrument, and I will be available at least one afternoon per week for pass-offs as well as all-state help. You are welcomed to stay and practice on that day.

CALENDAR

The following is a list of known performances involving the beginning band. Any future performances will be communicated to you as far in advance as possible. The beginning band at the junior high moves very quickly due to the small number of students. As a result, the band will play with the Elementary Bands of Mountain Brook on the holiday concert, but will perform with the Jr. High Concert Band for all performances during the spring semester.

Date	**Call Time**	**Location**	**Event**
December 9, 2008	6:30 pm	MBHS Fine Arts Center	Holiday Concert featuring the elementary, junior and high school bands of Mtn. Brook
February 2009	TBA	Each elementary school	Recruiting concerts at each of the elementary schools.
March 3-5, 2009	TBA	UAB Stephens Center	ABDA Band Festival
April ?, 2009	TBA	TBA	Solo and Ensemble Festival. Open to all band students.
May 2, 2009	TBA	Atlanta, GA	Spring Performance trip
May 14, 2009	6:30 pm	MBJH Gym	Spring concert.

I look forward to a wonderful year and if I can be of assistance, please feel free to call or email. Please return the attached sheet by Friday, August 15, 2008.

I have received and read the attached Beginning Band Syllabus. Please return this form by Friday, August 15, 2008.

Student Name_____

Parent Signature_____

Date_____

Parent/Guardian name(s)_____

Address_____ Zip_____

Phone_____ Cell(s)_____

Please include one or more parent email addresses. I will send out band information via email several times throughout the year. You will only receive band-related email from me. I will not distribute your email address to anyone. Please write legibly.

Email 1:_____

Email 2:_____

Although the beginning band students do not wear band t-shirts for performances, some students have expressed an interest in having one. If your child would like a band t-shirt, please indicate the size below, and attach a check for $8.00 made payable to Mountain Brook Junior High School. These shirts are in adult sizes.

T-Shirt Size_____