

CONCERT BAND SYLLABUS 2009-2010
MOUNTAIN BROOK JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL BAND

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PURPOSE OF THE COURSE

The purpose of this class is to provide a positive, effective, challenging, and engaging musical experience for band students enabling each student to reach his or her potential as an instrumentalist within the total band program at Mountain Brook.

REQUIRED MATERIALS

1. Each student is required to have his/her instrument-along with any necessary accessories (reeds, grease, oil, cleaning cloths, etc.), 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. The class method book is the Essential Elements 2000, Book 2, and the pass-off book is the Rubank Elementary Method. The percussion pass-off curriculum is currently being revised, so wait until further information is given before purchasing a pass-off book.
2. Each woodwind and brass player will need a lyre and flip folder for their instrument. These can either be purchased from the bandroom or from a music dealer. Prices for each instrument are published below.
3. Each percussionist needs a three ring binder with at least ten sheet protectors that can be purchased anywhere office supplies are sold.
4. Uniform-see below

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 only be used to store band instruments. No food or drinks may be kept in the band locker. All band locks must remain on the locker to which they are assigned, and any unauthorized locks will be destroyed.

GRADING PROCEDURES

1. **Class Participation (40%, 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 40% 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 one extra pass-off page.
2. **Pass-off Grade (20%, 100 points).** All students are expected to perform from their pass-off book for a band director or an adjunct teacher on campus hired by the band department. Students should strive to complete as many pages as possible each quarter in order to improve musicianship.
3. **Performance (20%, 100 points per performance).** Band performances provide an important societal function within the school and community, and should be considered a high priority event; therefore, 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 20 points being deducted from that performance grade.
4. **Smartmusic (20%, 100 points).** Each student will complete computer-based assignments using Smartmusic. This can be done either at home, provided that there is a purchased a copy of the software, at school during class, or outside of normal school hours when the bandroom is open. The Smartmusic grade will be determined cumulatively each quarter based on the number of assignments given, not to exceed 100 points or 20% of the grade.

CLASS RULES

1. There is to be no talking when a band director is talking.
2. Everyone should be on time for class with instrument and materials. Our class begins at the tardy bell. Students should get to class as quickly as possible, and begin the process of getting instruments ready for performance. Students are tardy if they arrive after the bell has sounded and 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 percussion instruments, no exceptions.

...A word about attendance at rehearsals: Please make every effort to not schedule doctor appointments during band class. It is very important for everyone to be at rehearsal since new material is covered daily.

UNIFORM

Pep Band Uniform-The band will be performing at 4 football games this year. We will all wear a band t-shirt which can be purchased from the band department for \$8.00. These shirts do not change from year to year, so the shirt from last year will work if it still fits.

Concert Band 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:

1. Solid Black Dress Pants
2. White Tuxedo Shirt
3. Black Dress Socks
4. Black Dress Shoes

-If the items ordered last year still fit, there is no need to re-order this year. 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. All students must wear the approved shoes for performances, no exceptions. We will order shoes this year at the same time we order pants/shirts. The shoes, socks, and shirts are the same ones required by the high school band, so they can be used for several years.

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 in band is directly related 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 each day after school in order to get your instrument, and the band directors will be available three afternoons most weeks starting in October for pass-offs as well as all-state help. You are welcomed to stay and practice on those days.

CALENDAR

The following is a list of known performances involving the concert band. Any future performances will be communicated to you as far in advance as possible.

Date	Call Time	Location	Event
August 27, 2009	5:30 pm	MBHS Bandroom	MBJH vs. Bumpus
September 1, 2009	6:00 pm	MBJH Bandroom	JH Band Parent Meeting and Smartmusic introduction
September 2, 2009	5:30 pm	MBHS Bandroom	MBJH vs. Thompson
September 24, 2009	5:30 pm	MBHS Bandroom	MBJH vs. Liberty Park
October 1, 2009	5:30 pm	MBHS Bandroom	MBJH vs. Clay
October 16, 2009	NA	NA	Last day for Smartmusic assignments to be completed for the 1 st quarter
December 10, 2009	6:30 pm	MBHS Choral Room	Holiday Concert featuring the elementary, junior and high school bands of Mtn. Brook
December 14, 2009	NA	NA	Last day for Smartmusic assignments to be completed for the 2 nd quarter
January 16, 2010	8:00 am	Hoover High School	All-state band auditions. Selected students only. Students must declare intent to audition no later than November 1 st and play their scales before they will be registered for the audition.
February, 2010	TBA	Each elementary school	Recruiting concerts at each of the elementary schools.
February 23, 2010	6:15 pm	MBJH Bandroom	Winter Concert in the MBJH Gym
March 5, 2010	NA	NA	Last day for Smartmusic assignments to be completed for the 3 rd quarter

March 10 or 11, 2010	TBA	TBA	Alabama Bandmasters Association Music Performance Assessment
April 15-17, 2010	TBA	Auburn, Alabama	All-State Band Festival for students who win a spot in the January 16 th Auditions
April 23-25, 2010	TBA	Gatlinburg, Tennessee	Spring Band Trip. More information to follow
Spring 2010	TBA	TBA	Solo and Ensemble-Still to be determined by the district
May 20, 2010	6:15 pm	MBJH Bandroom	Spring Concert featuring the JH and Elementary Bands in the JH Gym
May 24, 2010	NA	NA	Last day for Smartmusic assignments to be completed for the 4 th quarter

BAND SUPPLIES

Certain supplies including reeds, grease, oil, and other instrument maintenance accessories, are available for sale in the bandroom as a convenience for students and parents. Since prices vary, there is no way to publish a permanent price list, but every effort will be made to provide these items as cheaply as possible.

I look forward to a wonderful year Please feel free to call or email if I can be of assistance. Please return the attached sheets by Friday, August 21, 2009.

Supply Order Form

We will be wearing the same style t-shirt as last year. If your child needs a band t-shirt, please indicate the size below in adult sizes.

Please check any supplies that are needed below:

Clarinet Lyre	_____	\$7.00
Sax Lyre	_____	\$7.00
Trumpet Lyre	_____	\$7.00
Trombone Lyre	_____	\$10.00---Instrument Make:_____
Baritone/Tuba Lyre	_____	\$7.00
Flute Lyre w/Flip Folder	_____	\$12.00
Flip Folder (w/5 pages)	_____	\$7.00
Extra Flip Folder Pages	_____	\$.50/each
Essential Elements Book 2	_____	\$7.00
Rubank Pass-off Book	_____	\$7.00---Wind Players Only
Alfred Drum Method	_____	\$10.00 Percussionists Only TBA
Band T-Shirt	_____	\$8.00 ---Adult Size:_____

If you would like to pay for all the items your child needs with one check, compute the total and send a check made payable to Mountain Brook Junior High School

I have received and read the attached Concert Band Syllabus. Please return this form by Friday, August 21, 2009.

Student Name _____

Parent Signature _____

Date _____

Parent/Guardian name(s) _____

Address _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

Father Work: _____ Father Cell: _____

Mother Work: _____ Mother Cell: _____

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: _____

Email 3: _____