

6th Grade Beginning Band Syllabus 2018-2019

6th and 7th period

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www.wmsband.org

Welcome to the Whitewater Middle School Band! The band is a special organization that allows students to become a part of a band family upon entering WMS. Not only does this course teach teamwork but it is also designed to give each student a love and understanding of all types of music by learning to perform the best of the available band literature. The benefits of a music education are far reaching. Learning a musical instrument has been linked to higher academic achievement, higher self-esteem, increased coordination, development in creative thinking, and increased emotional development. Learning a musical instrument is also fun!

Classroom Rules

1. **Follow all directions.**
2. **Be on time** for all classes, rehearsals, and performances. Students are responsible for knowing all the dates on the band calendar. Missing a concert, rehearsal or event because they did not check the calendar or did not listen in class is considered unexcused.
3. **Be prepared.** Have all equipment and supplies each day. Turn in assignments and permission forms when they are due.
4. **Be respectful.** Respect your fellow classmates, adults, and band room equipment. Do not have gum, candy, food or drink in the band room.

Grades

Daily Class Work/ Participation:

60%

Students will be given points based on preparation for class.

Bringing their instrument, music and pencil will figure into the overall grade. Points are not taken off for behavior, however, if behavioral issues result in a student packing up for the day, then the participation grade will be affected as the student cannot participate after packing up.

Playing and Written Tests / Pass offs:

30%

Band Homework/ Practice Records:

10%

Practice records are submitted online.

A link to a Google Questionnaire will be posted on the band website (www.wmsband.org) every Thursday and the practice records are due the following Thursday. Students and parents will fill out the minutes practiced together and submit electronically each week.

Classroom Behavior and Expectations

Performing groups by nature require cooperation by all members to be successful. A system of progressive consequences has been developed to deal with offenses that are in nature a nuisance rather than a serious problem. These progressive consequences include:

Step Consequence

1. Verbal Warning
2. Parent Phone Call
3. Teacher Detention
4. Office Referral

***These steps are for one semester. The steps will start over the second semester.*

Performances

The 6th Grade Band will play at various concerts throughout the year. Parents should clear all commitments on days of concerts. **All students are required to attend the performances.** All performances count as a test grade. The 6th Grade Band will have an occasional rehearsal afterschool. Please check the band calendar (found on the website) and your email for updates and reminders.

Private Lessons

Private lessons are the best way for students to enhance their individual playing habits. They are also the best means of developing the refined, mature playing habits that help students compete for honors such as: top band membership, District Honor Band, first chair positions, and All-State Band membership. Most All-State Band members begin private instruction at an early age and study and practice diligently to achieve that honor. We encourage each middle school band member to study privately, and we have had excellent response in this area in the past. I want to encourage all parents to consider this very important advantage for your child. We are fortunate to have many fine teachers in our area. A "fundamentals oriented" teacher, one who has a proven record of successful teaching, is recommended. There is a list of recommended private lesson teachers in our area on the band website. I caution parents about signing up for lessons with a teacher about whom you know very little. Private lessons are not mandatory to participate in the school band program, but are highly recommended. Please let me know if you would like contact information for private lessons teachers.

Instrument and Music Storage

1. The band room has shelves that can be used to store instruments during the day. Since the shelves do not have locking doors, it is a good idea to put some type of locking device on the case. This will help in providing maximum security.
2. 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. Luggage tags work well for identifying this if your instrument did not come with a tag. It is also wise to document the serial number on the instrument for your records.
3. Percussionists will have individual lockers with combination locks to store sticks and stick bag. The stick bags and books are the **ONLY** items to be stored in the lockers.

Band Music Supplies/ Band Shirt Needed For Class:

The Band Fee is \$30.00. Cash must be in a sealed envelope with band member name clearly printed on outside. Checks may be made out to Whitewater Middle School Band. The fee includes:

1. Band Polo – to be worn at all performances
2. Band Binder
3. Music Fee (for ordering music for class and concerts)

You must also purchase the following method books: *(these can be found online or at a local music store)*

Essential Elements for Band, Book 1 – Hal Leonard Corporation

****You cannot purchase this book until you know what instrument your child is playing.*

Winning Rhythms – A Winning Approach to Rhythm Skills Development – Edward Ayola

Because WMS Band Parents manage WMS football game concessions, we ask that each student also donate one of the following cases of Coca-Cola products:

Case of either: Coca-Cola, Diet Coke, Sprite. **SOFT DRINKS MUST BE CANS, NO BOTTLES.**

Dasani Water

**Please write your child's name on the case of drinks so credit may be received.

Getting Started on a Band Instrument

1. We will start playing on the instruments as a group in school on August 27. It is important that your child have an instrument at school August 27th.
2. During the 1st full week of school we will demonstrate all the band instruments.
3. After the demonstrations the students will be placed on an instrument based on the following criteria:
 - a. The student gives us a list of 4 instruments they would like to play in priority order.
 - b. The student is given the opportunity to play those instruments to see which one they would be the most successful on (August 15).
 - c. If a student plays an instrument that the Whitewater MS Band is in great need of, the student would possibly have a higher chance of advancement in the 7th and 8th grade band.
 - d. We must consider balancing the band. The band is made up of all the instruments in proper proportion. The band cannot have 15 percussionists and 1 trombone. Some instruments will have limited spots available. This insures that we have a balance well sounding group and can sound our very best at concerts and performances.

We do our best to place each child on the instrument that we feel is best for them, though we like to tell students to not be disappointed if they do not get placed with their first instrument choice.

Communication: We will contact parents primarily through email. If you are not receiving emails, then we do not have the correct email or the email address was not readable. Please contact us if you are not receiving emails.

Charms Office

Brand new for the WMS Bands this year! The Whitewater Middle School Bands are using Charms Office as our primary source of communication with parents. A separate page will be sent to you via email (and is also in this packet) that explains what Charms is and how it works. Your child will be given their Charms ID/ Login the first week of school. Until then, you can familiarize yourself with the website by logging in with just the school ID. Email correspondence will be sent through Infinite Campus until all students are registered into Charms. At that point, all communication from Ms. Haynes will be through Charms (this should hopefully be by the second week of school.)

Beginning Band Schedule

August 10- Syllabus Agreement Form Due to Ms. Haynes.

August 7-14: Demonstration of band instruments

August 14: Students give Ms. Haynes their top 4 choices for instruments.

August 15: Music and Arts does mouthpiece test on the students' choice of instruments during beginning band classes.

August 17: Beginning Band meeting for parents and students. 6:00p.m. in the Whitewater Middle School cafeteria. Local music stores will be here for you to rent /purchase instruments.

August 20: Bring beginning band method books to school. No instruments at school until August 27.

Saturday, August 25: Beginning Band Kick Off Day. 9:00-10:30a.m. or 10:30-12:00 in the WMS Band Room, depending on which instrument you are assigned. Students will learn from specialists on their instrument how to assemble and make first pitch on instrument. While not required, this will be extremely beneficial in the establishing of a good technique and tone on their instrument. Time will depend on the instrument.

August 27: First day with instruments at school. Students MUST have an ID tag on the instrument. Luggage tags work well for this.

September 5: Band fee due to Ms. Haynes. Cash must be in a sealed envelope with your child's name clearly printed on the outside, or you may write a check, payable to Whitewater Middle School Band.

After school rehearsals will begin in November. I will send out more information closer to the date and all dates will be posted on the band website.

2018-2019 Beginning Band Syllabus Acceptance Form

Turn this page in to Ms. Haynes with your case of drinks no later than
Friday, August 10.

Please indicate that you have read and understood the following:

_____ Beginning Band Rules, Grading Policy, and Expectations

_____ \$30.00 Band Fee (Due no later than September 5) and Drink Donation

_____ Band Calendar (and how to access online)

_____ Required Method Books (to be used in class beginning August 20)

_____ Charms Office. I understand that Charms will be the way I can volunteer to help, how I can keep up with what is going on, and that Charms is how I will receive the weekly updates for all things WMS Band.

Student Name: _____

Class Period (circle): 6th 7th

Student Signature: _____

Parent/Guardian Name: _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____

Parent/Guardian Email: _____