

Course Description

Eighth grade band is a year long course designed to build on musical skills learned previously. It is designed to offer students an opportunity to learn to read and appreciate music through playing a band instrument. Eighth grade band students will learn to play chromatic, minor and all major scales. Band students will develop the ability to play different musical elements such as compound meter, articulations and advanced rhythms while extending their range on their instruments. Students will perform different musical styles through full band literature. There will be performances and rehearsals outside of the school day, which is required as part of the student's grade.

Essential Understandings

- ★ Students will perform major scales and use correct fingerings and sticking patterns within the keys of Bb, Eb and F.
- ★ Students will demonstrate proper posture and playing position.
- ★ Students will demonstrate proper breath support, intonation and characteristic tone production.
- ★ Students will differentiate and demonstrate slurring and tonguing styles.
- ★ Students will perform music in various time signatures demonstrating rhythmic and counting accuracy.
- ★ Students will interpret musical symbols and terms.
- ★ Students will display proper style, tempo, phrasing and dynamics.

Guidelines for Success

- Be responsible.
- Always try.
- Do your best.
- Cooperate with others.
- Treat everyone with respect (including yourself).

Rules

- Arrive on time with instrument, music/book, pencil, and agenda.
- Keep hands, feet, and objects to yourself.
- Follow directions the first time they are given.
- Stay focused and on task...work hard.

Consequences

- Warning
- Conference with student and teacher to develop a plan for solving the problem.
- Consequence appropriate to the behavior or action in question and contact parents.
- Referral to principal.

Homework

While there may be written assignments given in band, most homework will be given as practice assignments. It is very important for band students to play their instrument daily...even on days with no band class. This is true for first year band members, second and third year band members, high schoolers, college students, and even professionals. To get better in band, play every day.

SmartMusic

SmartMusic provides an awesome and fun way to practice your music. You will get more details about it soon, but here are the highlights:

- It is computer software that makes practicing more fun and efficient.
- You see your music on the computer screen.
- Instead of practicing alone, you can hear the rest of the band's parts through recording.
- You play into a microphone and the computer listens to you.
- SmartMusic tells you when you miss a note or rhythm.

- It can even give you fingerings for your notes.
- SmartMusic is perfect for practice assignments and playing tests.
- SmartMusic is really cool. You'll get to see it for yourself very soon.

RPEMS Grading Policy

Students are expected to complete all assignments on time and submit on the date they are due. Homework is given as practice and to assure that students are building the necessary skills to master course objectives. We believe that meaningful work should be completed prior to taking any assessment. Our ultimate goal is to ensure that all students are reaching the desired academic standards that have been established for each course. Each department will determine whether or not homework will be included when calculating grades. If homework is factored into the final grade, homework shall constitute no more than 10% of a child's grade at RPEMS. The remaining 90% will include in-class work and evaluative measures such as quizzes, unit/chapter tests and common assessments.

Procedures for work acceptance and grading:

- Students are expected to complete all assignments on time and submit on the date they are due.
- Assignments that are completed beyond the teacher's assigned deadline will be expected to be turned in and it will be expected that the student works with the teacher to coordinate a time when the assignment will be turned in. Missing assignments will be entered into the gradebook as "missing" which will be calculated as a zero until changed.
- When homework is assigned as additional practice, it is the expectation that students complete the assignment prior to the next class. While homework will account for no more than 10% of the student's final grade, students who regularly fail to complete homework are more likely to struggle with mastery of course objectives as measured by class assessments and projects. The amount of homework assigned will vary by department. In addition, the amount of homework or practice needed may vary from student to student based on his/her individual learning progression.

Grading System

A = 100-93	B = 87-83	C = 77-73	D = 67-63
A- = 92-90	B- = 82-80	C- = 72-70	D- = 62-60
B+ = 89-88	C+ = 79-78	D+ = 69-68	F = 59-50

What will be Graded?

- **Essential Understandings** - Take a close look at the list of essential understandings at the top of the syllabus. These are the skills and concepts which you will demonstrate for a grade.

These understandings can be demonstrated in many situations:

- **Playing Tests** - Show off your hard work and earn credit for it. You will have playing tests regularly throughout the year over specific measures of sheet music and lines in the book.
- **Scales Quiz** - It's like learning the alphabet so you can spell words. Learning scales lets you play more music.
- **Classroom Rehearsal** - How you rehearse during class demonstrates your willingness to improve and influences the quality of a concert performance.
- **Performances** - Performances may happen in school or outside of school - both are required parts of the band class. Performances happen after a lot of time, hard work, playing tests, and practice assignments. They are defining moments in time where we are at our absolute best.

Upcoming Performances

- * Monday, December 12 - 7th & 8th Grade Band Concert @ EMS Large Gym
- * Friday, December 16 - Band/Choir Tour @ Eagle Glen/Bridle Ridge (during school)
- * Thursday, December 22 - Music Assembly (during school)
- * Tuesday, February 28 - 8th Grade Band Concert @ High School Theater
- * Thursday, May 10 - Band Extravaganza! @ High School

Other Opportunities

- ▶ UMKC Honor Band (limited opportunities)
- ▶ Middle School District Band (limited opportunities)
- ▶ Solo & Small Group Festival (for everyone!)