



Northwestern Middle School
Subject: Band Syllabus 2019-2020
Grades: 6, 7, 8



1. **Teachers:** Christy Naughton, Steven Rushing
2. **Textbook(s):**
6th Grade Band: *Essential Elements for Band 2000*, Book 1 (all students)
7th Grade Band: *Essential Elements for Band 2000*, Book 2 (all students)
8th Grade Band: *Habits of a Successful Middle School Musician* (by Scott Rush) (all students)
3. **Course Description:** The purpose of the band program is to give students a solid foundation in the basics of music and to provide the opportunity to enhance this knowledge through performance. Northwestern has a history of excellence in its Fine Arts Programs and we are looking forward to continuing this successful tradition. We will focus on the 9 national Band standards:

*Singing alone and with others, a varied repertoire of music

*Performing on instruments, alone and with others, a varied repertoire of music

*Improvising melodies, variations, and accompaniments

*Composing and arranging music

*Reading and notating music

*Listening to, analyzing and describing music

*Evaluating music and music performances

*Understanding relationships between music and other disciplines

*Understanding music in relation to history and culture

4. **Course Outline:** The following topics will be covered as our skills develop throughout the year: proper posture, breathing techniques, characteristic tone quality, rhythmic studies, articulation, major scales, musical terms, music theory, music history and band literature. Our band literature study will revolve around our concert dates. Our calendar can be found on the last page of this syllabus.

5. **Teacher/Parent Communication:**

Email – is the most efficient way to contact teachers

Conferences – may be scheduled based on each student's needs

Interim Report Cards – come home every 4 ½ weeks

Infinite Campus – please check frequently for your child's progress

*Please ensure you are also registered for Infinite Campus so you can view your child's grades. Teachers will post grades in Infinite Campus within 2 weeks of test dates or project/assignment due dates.

Ms. Naughton's email is naughtonc@fultonschoools.org and she will use weekly email blasts to inform parents of upcoming work and due dates. Mr. Rushing's email is rushing@fultonschoools.org. Visit the performing arts website: nmsperforms.org.

6.

Grading:

Major Assignments: 60%:

* Performance Assessments and Written Tests: Students will be assessed on performance skills, music theory, music history and notation.

*Concert Performances and Projects: Public performance is an important aspect of the student's learning experience when participating in instrumental ensembles.

Members of various band organizations who do not attend and participate in the organization's performances are not receiving the full benefits of the total organization. In addition, the organization itself cannot perform at its highest level of quality when even one member is absent. All students are expected to be present at all performances. Serious situations such as illness, a death in the family or some other sudden emergency; however, may make it impossible for a student to attend a particular performance. Attendance at before-school rehearsals is strongly encouraged, though students' grades will not be affected if they are unable to attend due to extenuating circumstances. Please let us know if your child has to miss a rehearsal (via phone, email, or note) at least a day in advance whenever possible. Absences are classified into two categories: excused and unexcused. Excused absences are those regarded as necessary and unavoidable. Unexcused absences are those for which no prior notification was given and which could have been avoided with some advanced planning. Request for an excused absence must be in writing, either note or email from a parent **one week before the concert date**, except in case of illness. Those with excused absences will need to make an appointment with a director in order to play through all of their concert pieces for the concert grade. This must be taken care of within a week after the concert date. To earn full credit for a concert performance, students must be on time, dressed in the complete and correct uniform, exhibit appropriate concert etiquette during the entire performance, and stay for the entire performance.

Minor Assignments: 35%:

*Playing and Written Quizzes: Written and performing quizzes will occur about every 2-3 weeks.

*Classwork-performance prep checks: Due to the performance-based nature of our curriculum, having all required materials for class is essential for participation in learning. Students should have their instrument, book, sheet music and pencil in order to successfully achieve many of our music standards. If a student forgets their instrument at home and is unable to participate in class, an alternate assignment will be given.

Homework: 5%:

Students are expected to practice their instrument weekly outside of class time.

Fulton County Grading Scale:

A: 100-90

B: 89-80

C: 79-70

7. **Absence Make-Up Procedures (FCBOE Policy JBD):**
Upon returning to school following an absence, it is the student's responsibility to contact the teachers to request make-up work. Make-up work must be completed by the student within the time specified by the teacher. At NMS, students will be given the same amount of time to make up the work as the student was absent unless other arrangements are mutually agreed upon. The student will receive the actual grade on the make-up work if the absence was "excused."
8. **Help and/or Practice Sessions:** Students may come in to practice before school from 8:05-8:40 AM on designated days of the week. We call this our "Open Practice," where students may practice on an individual basis, work with band friends and/or receive help from the directors.
9. **Study Guides:**
Students will be provided a study guide to use when studying for assessments. This study guide will include key vocabulary and essential questions to be answered. This guide will be given at least a week prior to the test and answers will be provided in class.
11. **Plagiarism Policy:**
Academic honesty is very important at Northwestern Middle School. It is the responsibility of both the student and parent to be aware of what constitutes plagiarism consequences.

Examples of Plagiarism and Cheating

- ✗ Falsifying laboratory data (both copying and creating it)
- ✗ Copying others words, ideas, thoughts and images
- ✗ Modifying an image when the assignment requires original work
- ✗ Paraphrasing and summarizing without citing the source
- ✗ Providing another student with your work, even if you do not know they are going to use it as their own (includes sharing homework answers)
- ✗ Providing others with quiz/test answers either before, during, or after the quiz/test

How to prevent plagiarism

- ✓ Words/ideas: cite sources for information that is quoted, summarized, and paraphrased.
- ✓ Images: cite source of image.
- ✓ If an assignment calls for original images, this means they must be created from scratch and not taken/traced from books, magazines, internet, etc. Original work is also not a modification of images from books, magazines, internet, etc.
- ✓ Do not wait until the last minute to complete your work.
If you are unsure if you are plagiarizing, please consult your teacher.
- ✓ Grade entered will be a zero until the new assignment is received.

All plagiarizing will result in the following:

1. Parents will be notified
2. Students will re-do the assignment or an alternative assignment
3. Possible administrative referral

12. **Late Work:** The expectation is that all work should be completed and turned in on time. There is a point penalty of 2 points per day up to 10 points off for late work.
13. **Work not Turned In:** Students who do not turn in a major assessment are allowed to recover, but 10% per day is deducted for lateness. Any major assignment not turned in one week prior to the end of the 9 week quarter results in a failing grade due to 9 week Connections courses and report card grading deadlines.
14. **Classroom Procedures and Expectations:** Students are expected to bring their instrument, band book, sheet music and pencil every day. (Percussion will bring their stick bags and leave bells and drums at home.)

- *Respect your directors and fellow classmates.

- *Be prepared and have ALL materials for class every day.

- *Raise hand and be recognized before speaking and leaving your seat.

- *Gum, candy, food and drinks are not allowed.

- *Playing before class will not be tolerated.

- *Handling or playing other students' instruments is strictly prohibited.

- *Have permission to enter the band office, unless your instrument is stored in that space.

- *Follow all school-wide rules.



Northwestern Middle School Band Dates (2019-2020)

September:

- 3 – Deadline for 7th and 8th graders to sign up for Solo-Ensemble Festival (Optional)
- 13 – MUSICON, our only fundraiser for the year. (4:00-7:00 PM) We need YOU! (Optional)
- 13 – 8th Grade Night, with the Cambridge Marching Band at home football game (Optional)
- 16 – Deadline for 7th and 8th graders to sign up for auditioning for All-State Band (Optional)
- 27 – 8th Grade Night, with the Milton Marching Band at home football game (Optional)

October:

- 2 – 7th Grade Band, Fall Concert, Milton High School's auditorium, 6:30 PM
- 9- Atlanta Symphony Orchestra field trip (Optional)
- 29– 8th Grade Band performs Cluster Concert with Elkins Pt. MS Band and the Milton Wind Ensemble, Milton High School's auditorium, 6:30 PM

November:

- 9- Solo/Ensemble Festival (Optional for 7th and 8th grade students), Brown Middle School/time TBA

December:

- 5 – 6th/7th Grade Winter Concert, 7 PM, NMS Gym
- 7– 7th and 8th Graders: All-State Band auditions (1st cut), time: TBA, Hopewell MS (Optional)
- 12-14 Selected 8th Grade Band students attend the UGA Midfest Clinic (Optional)
- 16 – 8th Grade Band, with Chorus and Orchestra, Formal Winter Concert, NMS gym, 7:00 PM
- 17 – 8th Grade Band, with Chorus and Orchestra, Winter Concert during the day at school

January:

- 11 – All-State Auditions (2nd cut, if you passed the first audition), Union Grove MS, time TBA (Optional)
- 31 – February 1 - 7th and 8th Graders: GMEA District 5 Honor Band Weekend, North Atlanta HS (must audition for All-State Band in order to qualify for making District Honor Band)-(Optional)

February:

- January 31-February 1-7th and 8th Graders: GMEA District 5 Honor Band Weekend, North Atlanta HS (must audition for All-State Band in order to qualify for making District Honor Band)-(Optional)
- 11 – Atlanta Symphony Orchestra field trip (Optional).

March:

- 3 – Pre-LGPE Concert, 7th and 8th Grade Bands, NMS Gym, 7:00 PM
- 5-7- All-State Band weekend, Athens, GA (Optional)
- 24-26 – Large Group Performance Evaluation, for 7th and 8th Grade Bands, Westlake HS

April:

- 24 – Jazz Band, Music Under the Moon concert at Cambridge HS with CHS Jazz Bands, 6 PM

May:

- 9 – (6th Graders who completed all of their Pass-Offs), 7th/8th Graders: Southern Star Music Festival and Six Flags (Optional)
- 13 – 6th, 7th and 8th Grade Bands, Spring Band Concerts, NMS:
6th Grade Concert: 6:30 PM
7th Grade Concert: 7:15 PM
8th Grade Concert: 8:00 PM

*Note: The above dates and times are subject to change. You will be notified of any changes.

Strongly Suggested Instrument Care and Accessory Items:

Flutes

Cleaning rod
Polishing cloth
Handkerchief

Oboes

Three working reeds at all times:
Hand-made is preferred.
Plastic Reed Case – (holds 3 or 4 reeds)
Cork Grease, Cleaning Swab & Cleaning Cloth
1 empty 35 mm film case

Clarinets and Bass Clarinets

*Three working reeds at all times:
*Rico Reeds, 2 ½ strength (6th grade beginners ONLY)
*Vandoren Reeds, 2 ½ strength or 3 strength
*Rovner Ligature
Vandoren B45 (both) or Vandoren *5RV Lyre (clarinet) mouthpieces
*Plastic reed holder (holds 4 reeds)
Cork grease
Clear mouthpiece patches

Saxophones

*Three working reeds at all times:
*Rico Reeds, 2 ½ strength (6th grade beginners ONLY)
*Vandoren Reeds, 2 ½ or 3 strength
Selmer C* mouthpiece (CStar mouthpiece)
*Rovner Ligature

*Plastic reed holder (holds 4 reeds)
Cork grease
Clear mouthpiece patches

Trumpets

*Bach 7C mouthpiece (6th grade beginners ONLY)
*Bach 5C or 3C mouthpiece (7th graders/8th graders)
*Valve oil/Slide creme

French Horns

King H2 or Conn H2 mouthpiece
Rotary oil
Slide creme

Trombones

*Bach 12C mouthpiece (6th grade beginners ONLY)
*Bach 6 ½ AL mouthpiece
*Slide-O-Mix (for slide lubrication)
Small (trial-sized) spray bottle for water
Baritones/Euphoniums
*Bach 12C mouthpiece (6th grade beginners only)
*Bach 6 ½ AL mouthpiece
Valve oil
Slide creme

Tubas

*Bach 18 or Bach 24AW or Conn Helleberg 7B mouthpiece
Valve oil
Slide creme

All Percussionists will be required to have their own sticks and mallets. We included a detailed equipment list that each percussionist should have. Each list is sorted by grade level. It is ideal and recommended for percussionists to build a collection of sticks and mallets as they begin to perform on more diverse percussion instruments at the middle school level. Try one of the online vendors listed below if you have no luck at the stores. The items in bold are highly recommended. (steveweissmusic.com, lonestarpercussion.com and columbuspercussion.com)

6th Grade

The Innovative Education Pack (contains sticks and mallets)
Bell Set Kit (includes bells and practice pad) for at home practice

7th Grade

All of the 6th Grade list plus:
Innovative IP240 Marimba Mallets/turquoise color – around \$30.00

8th Grade

All of the 6th and 7th Grade lists.
1. Bells/Xylo sticks: Innovative Percussion James Ross 902 (red)
2. Snare sticks: Innovative Percussion LD or Innovative Percussion 1
3. Timpani sticks: Innovative Percussion GT-3 (medium)
(another GREAT item....pitch pipe (red master key) for tuning timpani)

Please sign and return by Wednesday, August 28th. Keep the Band syllabus for your own records. The syllabus may also be accessed through the Fine Arts website: www.nmsperforms.org.

I have read and I understand the Band syllabus.

Student name (printed):

Student Signature:

Parent Signature:

*My child's picture may go on the music website and/or newspaper articles in the community.

___ YES ___ NO