



Meadow Brook Intermediate 6th Grade Band Course Syllabus

Beginning Band students at Meadow Brook will receive a full course of instruction in beginning level instrumental music.

1. Using the “Tradition of Excellence” beginning band method book 1, students will begin by learning the fundamentals of instrument assembly and care, proper handling of the band equipment, and rudimentary sound production using mouthpieces and supplemental materials.
2. The students will progress through the levels of playing as presented in the method books. Step-by-step instruction of every element of new learning will be provided by instructors trained in each specialty area. A strong foundation in the basic elements of playing including embouchure, hand position, breathing, tone production, articulation, and musicianship will be established.
3. Beginning band students will master at least one octave of notes, learn rhythms through the 16th note and rest, and discover basic elements of harmony, dynamics, music theory, and music history.
4. Mastery of assigned skills will be measured by weekly assessments. Students will perform an assigned selection of music for their instructor during class, in an informal, positive setting. It is a grade requirement for all students to attempt the assessment. If a student chooses not to perform the assigned assessment, they will receive a “zero.” If this does occur, the band director will call the parent to inform them. Assessments will make up 40% of the students’ final band grade.
5. Students will receive a maximum of 10 daily points. Students will be expected to have their instrument, book, folder, pencil, and supplemental supplies (reeds, valve oil, etc.) Having all of these supplies is essential to success in band class. Students will earn 5 points each day for being properly prepared for class, and an additional 5 points for actively and positively participating during the instructional period. The students’ daily grades will make up 40% of their final band grade.
6. Students will have opportunities to earn extra credit during the semester. Parents are encouraged to log onto their student’s account in Powerschool to check on all elements of the band grading system.
7. Performances outside of the school day, which are an important element of the students’ musical education, will be required. There will be a minimum of one public performance per semester. The First Semester concert will take place in the Cafeteria at Meadow Brook, and the Second Semester concert will be held at the Mustang High School Event Center. In addition, during the Spring Semester the band will participate in the Deer Creek Music Festival, where the students will have a chance to work with highly acclaimed clinicians in a group setting. Though held in a clinic-type setting, the performance will be open to the public. Parents, families, and friends are highly encouraged to attend all three concerts. To reflect these performances’ importance to the students’ music education, performances will make up 20% of a student’s total grade.
8. With expensive instruments in play, it is important to maintain a strict atmosphere of classroom behavior; however, all effort will be made to keep the atmosphere in our band rooms positive, happy, and encouraging.

9. With new facilities, we resolve to maintain our inventory and our rooms. Students will be encouraged to learn to pick up after themselves and do minor services in the band room, including picking up after themselves, racking chairs and stands, and organizing storage areas.

10. Mustang Public Schools does not provide beginner level band instruments. Students and their parents will be required to rent or purchase a band instrument. Band method books and other instrument supplies and will also be needed in class daily. Information to help parents make the wisest decisions possible will be distributed.

11. Please be advised that band is a full year course. Students are expected to participate in band for both semesters in order to maximize their band experience.

12. There will be fundraising activities throughout the year. The Band-A-Palooza fundraiser will be conducted in September and will fund the Meadow Brook Band activity account for the rest of the year. Students are highly encouraged to participate.



Meadow Brook Intermediate School Band Behavior Expectations

Behavior expectations ensure that the Meadow Brook Intermediate School Band will establish and maintain a culture of excellence as well as protect students and equipment.

We Are Responsible:

1. We will refrain from having gum, candy, food, or drinks in the band room (other than water).
2. Students are only to touch or handle any equipment or instrument that they are assigned to play by the school.
3. Students should leave non-band materials in a designated area as they enter the band room (backpacks, etc.).

We Are Respectful:

4. There will be high expectations for behavior in band so that all students have the best opportunity to learn.
5. Treat all peers, directors, and guest clinicians with respect.

We Are Ready to Learn:

6. All required materials are to be brought to class each day.

We Reach for Success:

7. Always be ready to try your best!

Procedures

1. Students should not leave their instrument unattended unless it is in its proper storage location.
2. Keep your eyes on the director when he/she is speaking.

3. Instruments may be stored in their assigned band locker during the school day. Cases must be clearly labeled with the student's name. Other school materials are not allowed in the instrument storage areas.
4. Students should enter the room in a quiet and orderly manner.
5. Percussion instruments are only to be touched by percussion students
6. As a security precaution, only band students are allowed in the band room.
7. You are expected to take your instrument home every day. The band room is always available before and after school.
8. All students will assist in keeping our facilities neat and clean.
9. Please try to take care of individual instrument needs by visiting the local music store.
10. If you have a question, please raise your hand. All questions should be directed to the teacher on the podium. If you raise your hand and are patient, you will be called on and an answer will be given.
11. Restroom needs should be handled outside of class. Students are encouraged to use the restroom before class and will be given extra time to do so.

Band directors:

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