

6th Grade Band



Course Description

Bands meet everyday as part of the school curriculum. Chorus students will attend chorus one day and band the next, alternating between the two classes throughout the week.

Students will focus on music literacy: reading pitch and rhythm, knowledge of musical styles and related world and music history, and performance skills: technique, tone development, expression, and sight-reading. Most importantly, students will develop self-discipline and learn to work cooperatively. The most successful band students strive for "excellence" both as individuals and as an ensemble.

Ensemble (group) skills are pursued through classroom warm-ups, rehearsals & activities: balance, style, accuracy, and blend. Solo (individual) skills are strengthened through daily warm-ups, music theory, and history lessons, classroom participation, sight-reading, intonation (playing in tune), tone quality, and technique. These skills are further developed in small group band lessons.

Instructor:

Annaliese Siegel
Room 128
annaliese.siegel@central301.net
Phone: (847) 717-8128

Course Materials Required:

- Instrument
- Essential Elements Book 1 and 2 if they have finished the first book
- Instrument Supplies (reeds, valve oil, slide grease, swabs-dependant on instrument)
- Pencil
- Binder (1") they can use last year's binder if they still have it
- Divider tabs for their binder (Warm-ups/Technique, Concert Music, Handouts, Worksheets)
- Music that is passed out during class

Learning Activities

- Daily Rehearsal
- Small Group Lessons
- 3 Major Concert Performances

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- Concert Reflections
- Listening Journals

Learning Outcomes

- Students will be able to read and perform music from a wide variety of historical periods and cultures
- Students will be able to comprehend and perform rhythms from whole notes to sixteenth notes
- Students will be able to comprehend and perform all the notes for their instrument's clef in their usual range
- Students will be able to discuss and analyze music that they perform and listen to using music vocabulary
- Students will be able to perform using elements of expression such as dynamics and articulations

Course Outline

Unit	Approximate Dates	Topics	Student Activities
Music Performance	Year Long	Intonation Expression Timbre Concert Etiquette	Large ensemble rehearsal Small group lessons
Music Literacy	Year Long	Note Names Note Values/Rhythms Measures/Barlines/ Time Signatures Expression	Worksheets Online Practice Tools
Instrument Technique	Year Long	Key Signatures, Scales, Articulations Band Lessons	Small Group Band Lessons Individual Assessments

Major Course Assignments/Assessments

- Fall/Holiday Concert (November-December)
- Winter Concert (March)
- Spring Concert (May)
- Concert Reflections (After each concert)

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- Listening Journals (about 1 per month due the last week of the month)
- Band Lessons (Weekly lessons with target goals to be hit at the end of each quarter)

Grading Procedures:

- Most grades in this class are daily participation/classwork and band lessons. The assessments for this course are our evening performances about 3 times per year.

Grades will be determined by the following category weights:

Category	Percentage
Daily Participation and classwork	30%
Band Lessons	30%
Homework	10%
Concerts/ Assessments	30%

Grading Scale:

Letter Grade	Range
A	100-90
B	89.99-80
C	79.99-70
D	69.99-60
F	59.99-below

Absences/Make-up Work:

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Students who are absent from school will be allowed to make up work for equivalent academic credit. The time allowed to makeup work will generally be one school day for every school day missed, starting with the first day the student returns to school. In extenuating circumstances a student may ask his/her teacher for additional time to make up work. It is the responsibility of the student (and his/her parent/guardian), not the teachers, to get the assignments, complete them, and turn them in, and to arrange a time with the teacher to make up any missed quizzes or tests. Incomplete work or failure to do the work may result in a lowering of grades.

Timeframe for makeup work:

Students have 1 week to complete and submit work starting date student returns from absence.

Procedure to follow to receive and submit makeup work:

Students should see Ms. Siegel to receive information and/or work from any days absent. Absent work will be submitted the same as the original assignment.

Technology Policy

The District's electronic networks, including the Internet, are part of the District's instructional program and serve to promote educational excellence by facilitating resource sharing, innovation, and communication. Use of all electronic devices allowed as part of the District's Bring Your Own Device ("BYOD") program and the District issued Chromebook must be consistent with District policies and procedures. Such electronic devices may be used during instructional time only for educational purposes as approved by the Administration or teacher. Personal devices may be used by students during non-instructional time, such as during passing periods, lunch, and before or after school. Students may not place or receive phone calls during school day hours (6:20am to 2:46pm). Use is a privilege, not a right. Students and staff members have no expectation of privacy in any material that is stored, transmitted, accessed via the District's electronic networks. The District's rules for behavior and communications apply when using the electronic networks. Refer to the Chromebook Handbook issued by the district.

Specific assignments will be assigned through Chromebooks on Canvas and other online instructional tools. Students are expected to have their devices with them and charged for class.

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As each student is provided with a device to use for classwork, personal devices (such as cell phones) are not allowed in class. Exceptions may be made occasionally for school related activities but occur rarely. If a personal device is found being used during class, Ms. Siegel will hold it until the end of class.

Academic Integrity:

Students engaging in academic dishonesty, including cheating, intentionally plagiarizing, wrongfully giving or receiving help during an academic examination, altering report cards, and wrongfully obtaining test copies or scores may be subject to disciplinary consequences as outlined in the Student-Parent Handbook.

Resources:

Course Canvas Page

Sheet Music (Provided by teacher)

Online Method Book Resource: www.essentialelementsinteractive.com

Appendices:

Band Lessons

While our daily ensemble is a huge part of Band class, there are weekly small group lessons that students are expected to attend and prepare for. Lessons will be with either me or Mr. Piel. These lessons are throughout the school day on a rotating schedule so that students will not miss the same class more than a few times per quarter. Students will come down during their assigned time for more individualized instruction for their specific instrument. They will have exercises to prepare and check off with either Mr. Piel or I each week using an online tool called Essential Elements Interactive. They will need to bring their instrument, book, chromebook, and headphones to each of their lessons.

During the first full week of class, students will be given a lesson schedule and their lesson group assignment. These should be looked at before the beginning of each week so students are prepared. Students must let their classroom teachers know if they are going to be missing class for a lesson at least 24 hours in advance. 7th graders have their lessons on Mondays and Wednesdays. 6th graders have their lessons on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

Fridays are for make up lessons in case of a quiz/test in the class of the original lesson time for that week. If a student is unable to come to a band lesson due to a quiz/test during the assigned lesson time, I or Mr. Piel need to be notified at least 24 hours in

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advance. It is then the responsibility of the student to schedule a make-up lesson with the music teacher who has your lesson that week.

If a student is sick/absent or forgets crucial materials/to attend his or her lesson, they can make up the points by recording and submitting his or her assigned book exercises on Essential Elements Interactive. I will then grade the recordings for their lesson grade.

Classroom Expectations

1. Be on time – in the room when the bell rings and in your seat ready to play with your instrument/binder/music/pencil within 3 minutes after the bell so I can start class.
2. Come prepared for class every day. Every day for class you will need your instrument, music in a binder, a pencil, and your student ID. There will be occasional materials checks throughout the week resulting in a loss of points if not prepared.
3. Be respectful of everyone and everything around you. This includes listening when someone else is speaking, whether it is the teacher or a classmate. It also includes respect for materials – take care of your instrument, sheet music and music binders!
4. Do not start packing up or moving around to leave when rehearsal time is almost up. I will not make you stay late but I will be the one to dismiss you, not the clock!
5. NO GUM/FOOD/DRINKS in the band room. Eat it or throw it out before you come to rehearsal. You may bring water and keep it by your chair during rehearsal. If you ate something just before class, be sure to rinse your mouth out with water. Instrument interiors and keys can get sticky or erode due to food residue.
6. No personal devices. You may use your Chromebook when working on assignments, but personal devices are not allowed. Such devices must be kept in cubbies during rehearsal.

Tardy Policy

It is critical for students to be on time to band to ensure that we make the best use of our limited rehearsal time. The disciplinary guidelines for students who are consistently tardy to class within 1 week are as follows:

1st and 2nd Tardy: Loss of daily participation points

3rd Tardy: Lunch detention with Ms. Siegel

Task

Students are expected to be present and participating in band and chorus every day as they get class credit. Students will not be allowed to visit other teachers or complete other assignments on these days.

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The only exception to this policy will be if a student has a quiz or test that was started earlier that day that they need to finish. Their teacher must e-mail Ms. Siegel or Mr. Piel before the student will be allowed to leave class or send the student down with a pass stating they are leaving for a quiz or test.

If students have other work that needs to be completed, whether it is individual or group work, it is up to the student and/or the teacher to make arrangements to complete their assignments outside of Task time.

Attendance

Band is a performing art form that relies on many individuals to make a quality artistic product. For a performance or rehearsal to be successful, it is important that every member be present.

- o **Performances** (Concerts, Contests, Festivals, etc.) – Illness, family emergencies, or a death in the family are among the few permitted excuses for these **mandatory** performances.
 - If a student knows ahead of time that they must be absent, they must have his or her parents notify Ms. Siegel at least 2 weeks before the performance with the reason for missing the performance.
 - Any performance missed due to a family vacation or other non-excused absence will be made up through a performance-based assessment

Performances are mandatory because:

- Performing for an audience is the primary focus of this class. We are a performance-based class and concerts provide an experience unable to be replicated in the classroom.
- Performances are where the skills learned in class are evaluated.
- Ensemble performance is a group effort. The performance is weakened by every missing member.

Sheet Music/Binders

Music is expensive! Each student will have a band binder **they are responsible for bringing to class every day**. Each member is responsible for his or her own band materials and music. Loss of, or damage to, school owned materials (including music) must be replaced.

Concert Make-Ups

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Students who miss concerts, whether it's excused or unexcused will be required to schedule a time to meet with Ms. Siegel and play excerpts of all of their concert pieces to show their mastery of the concepts worked on in class.

Choral Instrumental Students

Students may be in both band and choir. Students are responsible for keeping up with the work and assignments in both classes. Time will be split equally allowing students to participate in both ensembles. As concerts near, teachers may alter schedules slightly to prepare for performances.

Concert Attire

Looking your best at a performance actually makes you sound better, and shows our audience that we are a team.. Therefore, the dress code for all choir concerts is as follows:

- PKMS Music Polo*
- Black dress pants
- Black socks
- Black dress shoes (no gym shoes!)/Closed-toe flats

- Music Polo

Each music student will be required to purchase a music polo to be worn at all concerts and music functions. This polo will be worn in both sixth and seventh grade, so please take sizing into consideration.

We understand that this is an additional cost to families, and if there are any concerns please contact Mr. Piel or Ms Siegel.

Personal Devices

With each student being given a device that will be used for class work, personal devices will not be allowed in band. They must be kept in cubbies during class. Exceptions may be made if students are using their personal device for school related activities, but these will be rare cases. If a student is found using a personal device during class it will be held by Ms. Siegel until the end of the school day.

Adds/Drops

Students will be able to add band to their schedule at two times throughout the school year: The beginning of the school year, and the beginning of the second semester. Students will have one week to add band to their schedule.

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Students who sign up for band are expected to commit for one full year. Drops will only be permitted during the first week of school.

To add or drop band, students must obtain and fill out an Add/Drop form from Ms. Siegel.