Sixth Grade Beginning Band

Syllabus 2017-2018

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Director of Bands

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Middle school Band website: www.westmorelandtnbands.weebly.com

Course Description

The purpose of this course is to introduce and develop techniques of instrument playing, ensemble playing, and music reading.

Course Materials

Student provides:

a. Instrument, accessories (cleaning kit mouthpiece), method book - SEE ATTACHED SUPPLY LIST.

b. Name and Identification tags on instrument case. (Masking tape is not acceptable)

c. PENCIL – to be kept in the band folder

School provides:

a. Music folder

b. Sheet music

Students are graded on the following:

Performance participation at required performances

written work

playing tests

daily participation

Daily Grade

Students will be given a grade on how well they demonstrate proper rehearsal and playing techniques. Most of these techniques are taken from the NAFME National Music Education Standards. The techniques that will be evaluated include:

a. being on time to class and seat

b. having properly maintained instrument and materials (book, pencil, music, etc.)

c. refraining from chewing anything

d. remaining quiet while the director is talking or the group is playing

e. putting materials away at the end of class

f. demonstrating proper posture, instrument position, and hand position

g. being respectful to the teacher and other students

h. participation in class activities

i. demonstrating proper playing skills

Written/Playing Assignments

There will be numerous written and playing tests throughout the year. Some assignments will receive numerical grades and others will receive letter grades. Letter grades will be converted using the county’s grading scale. Late work may receive a reduced grade. An assignment that is not turned in will receive a “0.”

Evaluation/Practice Pass Cards

Practice Cards may be given some weeks to document the amount of time, and the content, that each student practices. Cards must be signed by a parent/ guardian. Late work may receive a reduced grade.

Performance Participation

Since band is a performing art, concerts and performances are the culmination of what we learn in class. Each student is expected to attend all required performances. A band is a large team in which the absence of one team member can hinder the success of the remaining members. To receive the full grade each student must remain for the duration of all groups performing on the concert, and must demonstrate proper audience and performance etiquette. To make up the grade for missing a performance excused (illness or prior approval from the director), the student must perform a solo in front of the grade (lunchtime performance). Cell phones are not permitted to be in the students’ possession during a concert. As our performances are a special event, we have a special “uniform” listed below. This is also a way to teach our students we dress certain ways for certain occasions.

Concert Attire

Band Polo

Black dress pants (NOT jeans, NOT yoga pants, NOT sweat pants)

Black socks

Black dress shoes (not Nike, etc. tennis shoes)

Discipline

Band is a team, and everyone’s mutual respect for the other team members is crucial to our success. As long as we respect each other equally, discipline problems will be minimal. Problems that begin to interfere with class progress will be handled with teacher-student conferences, parent contacts, and then office referrals.

\* \* Behavior that is belligerent or may threaten the safety of a student will result in an immediate referral to the appropriate grade level administrator.

School-wide Tardy Policy

We will follow the school-wide policy regarding tardies as outlined in the daily planner.

Teacher’s Philosophy

It is my belief that all children can experience success in music. I will operate our classroom in a positive and supportive manner focusing on the student at all times. I am excited to offer your child an opportunity that we hope will be one of the most memorable experiences of his/her middle school career. Please call at anytime with questions or concerns.

**Westmoreland Middle School Band**



Storage # \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Student’s Name \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**I have read the syllabus and understand the manner in which I/my child will be graded. I also understand the discipline procedure, have put performance dates on my calendar, and understand other practices and procedures outlined in the syllabus.**

Student’s Signature\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parent’s Signature \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Date\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parent’s Daytime Phone #(s)\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parent’s Email Address(es)\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

ALL 6TH GRADE STUDENTS MUST HAVE THEIR INSTRUMENTS AND MATERIALS FORM BY September 11th to participate in class activities and receive the full daily grade. If you have had a problem obtaining an instrument or materials by that time, please send a note or email letting me know. If I know what is going on I can **try** to make arrangements for your child to borrow materials.

***Due on the second day of class. Thank you!***