



McLEAN BAND

Beginning Band (1st Period) Syllabus

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Course Description

The McLean Middle School Beginning Band is the one class offered for students who would like to start playing a band instrument in 7th or 8th grade. They will try out and select an instrument from the options offered this class period (french horn, trombone, oboe or bassoon), and develop fundamental skills on their chosen instrument. The beginning band students will be required to participate in the Beginner Band Winter Concert, FWISD Band Benchmark Contest, Solo Contest and Spring Concert. It is the responsibility of the student and parent to check the band calendar and incorporate the scheduled events into their family calendar. Beginning Band students will need to practice daily. It is also recommended that students participate in the private lesson program.

Course Objectives

- Student will model correct posture and body balance
- Student will understand and use the Eastman counting system along with beat and pulse
- Student will develop proficient music literacy skills (notes and rhythms)
- Student will understand music terminology (dynamic, style, tempo markings)
- Student will have a knowledge of selected instrument pedagogy
- Student will develop excellent audience etiquette
- Student will leave with a preparedness for intermediate and advanced performing groups
- Students will prepare for possible roles and careers in music
- Students will be able to identify musical aspects of a live performance as well as be able to self assess their own performance.
- Students will learn to maintain excellence in band and core content courses

Grading

It is important to realize that high expectations go hand-in-hand with a fine performing organization and students who do the necessary work to be a contributing member will receive a high grade. In determining the band grade there are two major areas involved, participation and performance, but will also include homework and in-class tests:

1. Participation (40%) – This includes rehearsal attendance and in-class participation. Class participation is based on having an instrument, equipment, and supplies (such as a pencil) each day in class. Sectional attendance is based on timeliness and preparedness.
2. Performance (30%) – This includes all performances/rehearsals for full ensembles, small ensembles, and solos.
3. Homework (10%)- This includes any outside of class assignments to be completed, including, but not limited to, pass off recordings, in person pass offs, or written assignments. This will also include practice cards to be turned in each week, and objective sheets to be turned in once per 6 weeks.
4. Tests (20%)- These are formative assessments that will happen in class. Students will be allowed to prepare ahead of time and will be graded on their performance in class.

Supplies

After your instrument is selected, you will be required to purchase the necessary equipment. Some materials are

provided by the directors, others will be supplied by the students and parents.

Please see our online supply list on our website: mcleanmsband.com > Supplies for a detailed supply list for each individual instrument. You may purchase supplies online, and they will be delivered to the school free of charge within 1 week (if in stock). You may also contact our music store, Tarpley Music at 817-736-1633. They have all of the McLean supply lists and can guide you to make the best decision on supplies possible.

ALL STUDENTS:

- Band binder/music (provided)
- Essential Elements Book 1
- Pencil
- Metronome & tuner
- Flip folder

Woodwind students:

- 3-4 working reeds
- Swab

Brass students:

- Valve oil/rotor oil/slide grease
- Polishing cloth

Performances

All band students must attend the entire concert. Learning to be a good audience member and supporting the other performers is an important part of the curriculum. Concerts are the equivalent of an exam and students will have their grade lowered if they do not attend the entire concert. Absences from performances are excused only in the event of sickness or family emergency and must be approved in advance (when possible) by the director.

Pass Offs

All Concert Band students will be expected to pass off their solo, ensemble, and Benchmark music either in person or via recording. Failure to do so may result in the student being withheld from performing with the band in competition. Pass offs are completed on Music First, which may be downloaded as an app OR accessed on Chromebook on Google Classroom.

User ID: Student ID number

Password: band

Private Lessons

The single most important factor in the development of a quality band program is the development of the individual player. There are many opportunities in the metroplex area for student musicians to study privately with professionals. There will also be private teaching specialists, on as many instruments as possible, teaching at McLean School. Private lesson instructors will teach as many students as possible. Lessons are 25 minutes once a week and cost the student \$20.00 per lesson. All students are encouraged to take private lessons and can find information on our website: www.mcleanmsband.com/private-lessons-instructors. **WE OFFER SCHOLARSHIPS!!!** Please contact Mrs. Martien if you would like to apply for a scholarship.

Tutoring Hours

Directors are available by appointment for tutorials.

Contests

The contests the Beginning Band students are expected to participate in are: Solo Contest, FWISD Benchmark Contest, and Ensemble Contest. Please see the most up to date calendar on our website at mcleanmsband.com > Calendar

The skills learned in these types of musical performances will carry over into the full band experience, and will help to improve the quality of the bands overall performance. The students' successful participation in these activities will be

weighed heavily when the directors consider each student for promotion to other band classes or high school band placement at the year's end.

Communication

Email: If you do not currently receive our emails, please contact Mrs. Martien to be added to our Charms email list

Website: www.mcleanmsband.com

Facebook: McLean Bands

Instagram/Twitter: @mcleanbands

Band App:

