



2019-2020 Syllabus

Band Director: Mr. Berkeley Harner

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Course Title: 6th/7th/8th Grade Beginning Bands

Website: kcmsbands.weebly.com

Course Description:

Beginning 6th, 7th, and 8th grade bands are intended for students with zero years of traditional band experience. Students will demonstrate proper care of the instrument and become familiar with the technology of the instrument. Students will demonstrate basic positions, fingerings, and tone production. They will also count, read, and perform music on the Solo Literature Grade Levels 1 and 2 of the Virginia Band and Orchestra Directors Association (VBODA). Students will begin to describe, respond to, interpret, and evaluate works of music and create basic variations of simple melodies. In addition, students will be expected to have a basic knowledge of music theory. These items will be assessed through both performance and written quizzes and tests.

Required Materials:

Quality Instrument

Pencils!

1" Black Binder

1 (25) pack of clear plastic sheet protectors

1 set of 5 binder dividers

- Woodwind Instruments:

- Clarinets/Saxes – Box of 10 Reeds *Vandoren/Rico Brand* - Level 2 strength
 - Cork Grease (Sometimes included with new rentals)

- Brass Instruments:

- Trumpets/Baritones/Tubas – Small bottle of valve oil (Sometimes included with new rentals)
- French Horns - Small bottle of rotary oil (Sometimes included with new rentals)
- Trombones - Small bottle of slide oil (Sometimes included with new rentals)

Optional Supplies:

- Folding metal music stand to use at home.
- Additionally, it is recommended that students purchase a metronome and tuner.
If you have a smart phone, there are many free metronome and tuner apps available that are fantastic.

Replacement Materials and Supplies may be purchased at the following shops:

Shen-Valley Band Instrument 144 N Liberty St. Harrisonburg, VA 22802 (540) 434-8546	Staunton Music 623 Greenville Ave Staunton, VA 24401 (540) 213-0564
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School Instrument Rental/Repair Information:

The Kate Collins Band Program has a limited number of school-owned instruments that may be rented through the program. Our rentals are generally the very large instruments that cannot normally be rented at local stores (Examples - Bass Clarinet, Euphonium, Tuba, and Percussion). **The rental fee is \$80 for the year.**

Parents of students who are renting the instrument from the school are responsible for all major repairs needed to the instrument while in the student's possession.

In order for a student to rent from the school, the Instrument Rental Agreement Form should be completed, signed, and returned. The rental fee must be paid before the instrument can be released to the student.

Students will forfeit their use of a school-owned instrument for any of the following reasons:

- Negligent treatment of the instrument by the student.
- A failing grade in band for any grading period.

Classroom Management Plan:

A classroom management plan is a contract made between the teacher and students in which I promise to protect both *the student's right to learn and enjoy school without interference.*

Our plan has two purposes:

1. To state the expectations of the classroom
2. To state exactly what will happen if those expectations are not met.

Expectations:

1. Strive to be: safe and kind
 - a. This includes following all rules for safety
 - b. Treating teacher, self and classmates with respect
2. Listen to and follow directions given by the teacher. Allow the teacher to teach and your fellow peers to learn.
3. Raise your hand to get permission before speaking or leaving your seat.
4. Gum, Candy, or Food is not permitted in the band room. This is very dangerous while playing an instrument! If you have gum/candy when you enter the room, either throw it in the trash or chew it up.
5. Be on time for class and prepared to do your best daily.
6. Be respectful of others and their belongings. Only touch your instrument and materials. Keep your hands and feet to yourself.
7. Be positive and uplifting towards others.
8. Be respectful of school equipment. (ex. stands, chairs, doors, etc.) Put all belongings back where you found them. This includes your music and instrument too!
9. Do your best at **ALL** times. Even if you are ill, you are expected to sit up and participate to the best of your abilities, that means following along in the music while practicing the correct fingerings on your instrument.

Students will be given a verbal warning and may be asked to move or have an alternative assignment. This will be followed up with a conference with the student before or after class.

If the student continues to be disruptive after a warning has been given, the behavior will be recorded and a letter will be sent home. This letter will need to be signed and returned the next school day or the student will be issued a consequence such as a detention, silent lunch, etc...

In more severe cases, such as student action/behavior threatening the safety and learning process of entire class, I will send the student directly to the Office and the parent/guardian will be contacted.

Classroom Procedures:

1. Enter the band room quietly and immediately get your instruments and music out of your assigned cubby. (Large instrument cases should be put back in the storage room. Small cases can be stored under your chair.)
2. Prepare your instrument for playing (oil, reeds, etc.), return your case to your cubby, and begin warming up (low, slow, and long notes) at your seat.
3. Organize your materials so that you are prepared to start class according to the daily agenda.
4. Mr. Harner will begin class by standing on the podium in the front of the class. This is your cue to stop warming up and to begin rehearsing. While rehearsing, students are expected to be quiet and attentive whether your section is rehearsing or not.
5. Mr. Harner will release you with enough time to put your instruments and music away. Be sure you are swabbing your instrument out and putting your instruments away properly.

Instrument Policy:

1. All students must have their instrument for class.

*Failure to bring an instrument will result in a deduction of all daily points from your daily participation grade for that class.

***Loaner instruments *may* or *may not* be available for use.**

2. Instruments should be stored in the assigned cubby ONLY.
3. Do not ever touch or play anyone else's instruments, including school owned percussion.
4. If you are not a percussionist, you are not allowed to touch those instruments.
5. All instruments need to go home every single day for practice!

Instrument Storage:

Students may store large instruments in the storage closet in the band room immediately before school begins each day. Instruments should be placed neatly on the designated shelf. All cases must be clearly labeled with the band student's name, address, and phone number on the outside. **Instruments without labels are not allowed in the storage room at any time! This is for your own protection!** Students should take their instrument home from school each day.

Lost Or Stolen Instruments:

The band program, the school district, and the director are not responsible for student-owned or rented instruments and materials that are lost or stolen. Each parent and student is responsible for recording the instrument's serial number at home and each student is responsible for making sure his or her instrument is always taken home at the end of the school day. **Parents who rent their child's instrument from a music store or from the school instrument inventory are strongly encouraged to purchase insurance on that instrument.** Parents who purchase an instrument are recommended to check with their homeowner's insurance policy regarding potential loss or theft of that instrument during the school day.

If an instrument is lost or stolen:

1. Notify Mr. Harner immediately and provide the serial number of the instrument.
2. Determine where your child last saw the instrument.
3. Upon teacher request, file a police report.

Grading Policy:

- 45% - Participation (Based on 10 points per class earned – 5 pts for instrument, 4 pts for music/binder, 1 point for pencil).
20% - Performance and Written Assessments/Goal Assessments – Music theory/history written assignments, and progress on their instruments (Playing Tests).
35% - Concerts/Dress-Rehearsals

*** Since band is a scheduled performance based class requiring grades and attendance, if a concert is missed, make-up work is assigned to help your grade. It is not a punishment.**

Goal Assessments:

- Goal Assessment sheets are due at the beginning of the week – every 3 weeks.
- Goal Assessment sheets should be filled out entirely using correct grammar and paragraph writing rules.
- Consistent practicing at home will help you obtain your goals for class. ***Your effort at home directly impacts your grades at school!***

A Note on Practicing:

Practicing is one of the most important things you need to do to master a musical instrument. There are a lot of tiny little things that only you can feel, understand, manipulate, change, and learn through practicing. Your teacher can't see or feel your tongue when playing. Your teacher can't tell your fingers what keys to push down when you see a note on the page. Your mind has to figure all of these things out instantaneously, and if you are taking a lot of time comprehending rhythms, notes, fingerings, you will have a lot of difficulty playing the music in class with the ensemble. This means that you will not have much fun in Band, and we all want to have fun!

The weekly practice log used in class is for your benefit! The minimum amount of time you need to practice is 100 minutes every week. You will need to split this up into five 20-minute sessions. This is the **minimum** time it will take to master your instrument. Practicing small chunks over a long period of time is much more beneficial than one or two really long sessions. When practicing at home, think about the new concepts learned in class, or the new music/material learned and *master* those things at home. Start from the end of the piece and or the more difficult parts of your music. Don't keep practicing the parts you already feel confident with. If you ever are having difficulties please ask Mr. Harner for help.

FRUSTRATION and **FAILURE** will happen! This is natural. You will struggle with something, but if you persist and persevere through it, eventually you will *master* whatever it is you are struggling with. Music takes time to learn and master, so be patient. Don't let it get to you. Understand that it is better to fail early and fail often in order for you to grow.

Concert Information and Schedule

Contact Mr. Harner Immediately If There Is A Concert Conflict – Your Parent/Guardian Should Contact Me By Phone Or Email – Problems Can Be Worked Out! Transportation Issues Can Be Addressed!

Concert Attire

- Girls – White tops/blouse and black knee-length skirt, dress or dress pants, black dress shoes or sandals but no flip-flops. You will need to have your shoulders covered, (that means no strapless numbers or spaghetti straps!).
- Boys – White dress shirt, Tie, black dress pants (no jeans), black dress shoes (no sneakers)

Overview of VA SOLs for Music:

For more detailed information regarding SOLs, please visit the VA Department of Education Website:

www.doe.virginia.gov/testing/sol/standards_docs/fine_arts/index.shtml

Music Theory/Literacy

- MIAD.1 The student will read and notate music.
- MIAD.2 The student will read, perform, and compose rhythms and rhythmic patterns that include quarter-note triplets and corresponding rests.
- MIAD.3 The student will identify, read, and perform music in complex meters.
- MIAD.4 The student will identify and notate key signatures of scales and literature being performed.
- MIAD.5 The student will read, perform, and notate scales.
- MIAD.6 The student will identify and perform music written in theme-and-variations form.
- MIAD.7 The student will use music composition as a means of expression.
- MIAD.8 The student will define and consistently apply music terminology found in the music literature being studied.

Performance

- MIAD.9 The student will independently demonstrate preparatory playing procedures.
- MIAD.10 The student will demonstrate proper instrumental techniques.
- MIAD.11 The student will demonstrate ensemble skills at an advanced level.
- MIAD.12 The student will read and interpret standard music notation while performing music of varying styles and levels of difficulty, in accordance with VBODA Levels 2–4.
- MIAD.13 The student will consistently use articulations, dynamic contrasts, and phrasing as means of expression.
- MIAD.14 The student will perform increasingly complex rhythmic and melodic examples in call-and-response styles.
- MIAD.15 The student will create, through playing and writing, rhythmic and melodic variations of selections taken from folk songs, exercises, or etudes, incorporating a variety of expressive elements.
- MIAD.16 The student will demonstrate musicianship and personal engagement.
- MIAD.17 The student will sight-read music of varying styles and levels of difficulty, in accordance with VBODA Levels 1–3.

Music History and Cultural Context

- MIAD.18 The student will explore historical and cultural aspects of music.

Analysis, Evaluation, and Critique

- MIAD.19 The student will analyze and evaluate music.

Aesthetics

- MIAD.20 The student will investigate aesthetic concepts related to music.

2019-2020 KCMS Middle School Band Calendar

<u>Day & Date:</u>	<u>Event:</u>	<u>Location & Time:</u>	<u>Information:</u>
Tuesday, August 27, 2019	KCMS Jazz Band Auditions	KCMS Band Room 3:15-4:00 PM	See Mr. Harner for audition materials 7th & 8th graders only
Friday, September 6, 2019	8 th Grade Band Night Waynesboro HS	Waynesboro HS Times TBA	This is a special event for 8th graders only to team up with the high school band for a football game. More info will be sent out soon.
Tuesday, October 22, 2019	Valley Showcase of Bands	Buffalo Gap HS 6:30 PM	This is a showcase of the local area marching bands. You are welcome to attend this event; however, this is not mandatory. \$5 entry fee.
Saturday, September 21, 2019	Blast in the Draft Marching Band Competition	Stuarts Draft HS 10:00 AM	This is a local marching band competition at SDHS. You are welcome to attend this event; however, this is not mandatory.
Thursday, October 24, 2019	Halloween Concert	KCMS Auditorium	Student Call Time – 6:00 PM Concert Begins at 7:00 PM 7th & 8th graders only
Monday, November 4, 2019	Valley Honor Band Auditions	Stuarts Draft MS Stuarts Draft, VA	Registration starts at 4:15 PM Auditions start at 5:00 PM 7th & 8th graders only
Saturday, December 7, 2019	Waynesboro Christmas Parade	Waynesboro, VA	TBA Parade start time is 6 PM 8th graders only
Saturday, December 7, 2019	District V Band Auditions	East Rockingham HS Elkton, VA	Registration starts at 8:00 AM 7th & 8th graders only
Thursday, December 12, 2019	KCMS Band Winter Concert	KCMS Auditorium	Student Call Time – 6:00 PM Concert Begins at 7:00 PM
January, 2020	District Jazz Band Auditions Due	KCMS Band Room	TBA Jazz Band Members Only
Friday & Saturday, January 10-11, 2020	Valley Honor Band Event	Wilson Memorial HS Fishersville, VA	Concert – Saturday @ 3:00 PM
Friday & Saturday, January 31-February 1, 2020	District Band Event	Harrisonburg HS Harrisonburg, VA	Concert – Saturday Times to be announced
Tuesday, March 17, 2020	Celebration of the Arts Concert	Spilman Auditorium Waynesboro HS	Concert at 6:30 PM Jazz Band Members Only
Monday, March 16, 2020	District Jazz Honor Band Event	Bridgewater College	TBA Jazz Band Members Only
Thursday, May 7, 2020	KCMS Band Spring Concert	KCMS Auditorium	Student Call Time – 6:00 PM Concert Begins at 7:00 PM

All Dates/Times are subject to change.

Syllabus Agreement Form:

THIS IS WORTH 5 POINTS TOWARDS YOUR SON/DAUGHTER'S GRADE!!

RETURN THIS AGREEMENT FORM TO MR. HARNER BY FRIDAY, AUGUST 13TH, 2019.

Please initial each of the following:

_____ We understand that band is a regularly scheduled performance based class with concert requirements!

_____ We will call if we have questions.

_____ We understand that band concerts do not interfere with choral concerts.

Student's Homeroom Teacher _____ Grade: _____

Home Phone: _____ Best Hours to Call: _____

Work Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

_____ Please check if you are willing to help out with band events throughout the year.

Medical Concerns/Instructions:

**Please make sure the school nurse has your child's Info Snap on file and all of the medications required at school!
It helps when there is a field trip planned!**

Parent Agreement:

Parent/Guardian Name: _____

I have read and understand the policies, expectations, and grading policy of the Kate Collins Middle School Band Program. I agree to support my child in their participation in this performance based course according to the policies set forth in the syllabus.

Parent Signature: _____

Date: _____

Student Agreement:

Student Name: _____

I have read and understand the policies, expectations, and grading policy of the Kate Collins Middle School Band Program. I agree to abide by the policies set forth in the syllabus.

Student Signature: _____

Date: _____