

Beginning Band 2020-2021 Syllabus
OVMS Instrumental Music Department
Thomas Russell, Director
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www.ovband.org



Owen Valley
Patriot Band and Guard

Program Objectives

The Owen Valley Band program...

- provides students with high quality musical experiences.
- develops musicianship through performance both in and out of the classroom.
- educates and entertains our community with a wide variety of performances.
- instills in students a desire to continue to pursue music and musical experiences beyond their time with the Owen Valley program.

Course Objectives

By the end of their first year of instruction wind students should be able to...

- name the parts of their instrument.
- know how to properly put together, maintain, and take a part their instrument.
- demonstrate how to hold their instrument and show proper posture when playing it.
- describe and demonstrate the proper technique for producing characteristic tone on their instrument
- identify the clef of their instrument and recognize the notes that they learn on that clef.
- identify the following notes and rest: eighth notes, quarter notes, half notes, and whole notes.
- describe and demonstrate musical terms, dynamics, and articulations commonly used by first year students.
- perform with steady pulse alone and with others on varied selections.

Required Materials

Students must bring the following things to class each day to receive full credit for participating:

- Pencil
- Instrument (one may be provided through the school on a first come, first serve basis. There is a \$50 per year maintenance fee for the use of school instruments)
- Reeds, oils, swabs, and greases necessary for performing on and maintaining their instrument (Reed instrument players should have 3-4 spare good reeds available at all times. Reeds may be ordered through Paige's Music in Indianapolis and are typically delivered once per week.)

Students will also need:

- A combination lock for their band instrument locker (students bringing their own locks must give the combination to Mr. Russell/Cramer).
- Concert attire for performances (see next)

Concert Attire

For performances students will wear:

Gentlemen

-Band Polo

-Black Pants (slacks preferred)

-Black Belt

-Black Socks

-Black Shoes (dress shoes preferred)

Ladies

-Band Polo

-Black Pants, Capris, or Skirt (knee length or longer)

-Black Belt (if there are belt loops)

-Black socks/black or tan nylons (optional)

-Black Shoes (dress shoes preferred)

Classroom Expectations

1. Be prepared with all materials for class and enter the room by the designated time.
2. When someone addresses the class, stop talking or playing and listen.
3. Follow directions the first time they are given.
4. Keep hands, feet, and objects to yourself.
5. No profanity, teasing, name calling, or yelling.

Consequences

Individual consequences will be given when a classroom expectation is not being met. Individual consequences will reset each week, except in situations where students have a recurring offense. In that situation an individual student's consequences may be defined specific to that individual student and their behavior.

Individual

1. Verbal Warning
2. Lunch detention and parent contact
3. Referral (Further infractions result in additional referrals)

*Severe Clause - Any action deemed severe enough may result in an automatic referral

Grading Policy

Grading for this class will be based in the following categories. Sample point totals given.

Performances (Dress Rehearsal 25 points, Concerts 50 points)

Classroom Participation (Daily Participation 3 points)

Class Assignments (worksheets and quizzes have varying point totals)

Performance Assessments (playing tests have varying point totals)

Grading Category Descriptions

Performances

Student performances are the culmination of the work that the students put in at home and in the classroom and often mark the end of a class unit. The performances may include concerts, dress rehearsals, music festivals, contests, and other events that reinforce concepts taught in the classroom, broaden the musical experiences the student is exposed to, and allows them to develop skills that a student is not completely exposed to during classroom instruction (e.g. concert etiquette, overcoming performance anxiety, and evaluating performances).

After school performances and dress rehearsals are **required** as part of this course. The dates for these required events as well as optional performances are attached. The optional performances listed enhance the student's musical experience.

If a student is unable to make a performance, their absence will either be labeled as excused (performances points will not count for or against the student) or unexcused (performance points will result in a lower score or no points). A student may receive an excused absence from a performance when the student's absence:

1. Meets the criteria for a school approved absence as listed in the student handbook.
2. Is reported to Mr. Russell/Cramer prior to the absence by a parent or guardian via a written note, email, or phone message (829-2266 x330). As a courtesy, give this notice as soon as the conflict is known, and no later than 2 days prior to the performance, unless it is an emergency.

Members that miss one or more performances may be dismissed from the Beginning Band class.

Classroom Participation

A student's behavior and effort in class will be evaluated. Due to the performance based nature of the class it is necessary for students to work together to achieve class performance objectives. Students that participate fully are better prepared to meet classroom expectations and objectives and also provide a truer assessment of their own development and skills. A student will receive a participation score based on the criteria listed above under "classroom expectations".

Class Assignments

On a regular basis students will be given non-performance based assignments in class that will be used to reinforce concepts taught in class, to develop and use technical reading and writing skills within the performing arts curriculum, and to assess student achievement and comprehension of class concepts. Students may be asked to complete these assignments during class time or outside class time. Assignments that are assigned a due date must be turned in by the assigned date to receive full credit. Late assignments will be taken by Mr. Russell/Cramer on a case by case basis and may receive partial credit.

Performance Assessments

Students will receive assignments that they must perform in order to receive credit. Students will be asked to prepare and perform these assignments to assess student achievement and comprehension of class concepts.

Questions and Comments

Use the contact information listed at the beginning of this syllabus for any questions or comments that may occur. Also sign up for Remind (@ovbmsb) so that you receive updates about things that are happening in class. My preferred form of contact for comments and questions is via email.

Help Support the Band!

As a new or veteran band parent you can play an important role in aiding the band in providing the great musical opportunities that our children deserve. The Owen Valley Band and Guard Booster organization raises funds, manages and builds equipment and props, takes care of uniforms, chaperones trips and performances, volunteers at and attends Band and Guard events, and supports our members in many other ways. This is a great way to stay connected with your child and make their music experience special. Please take some opportunities this year to share your time and your talents with our organization, and check the box on the attached form to get more information about our Booster program.

Please detach this page and return within two weeks of receiving it, keep the rest of the document for your reference.

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My child and I have received the Beginning Band class syllabus. My child and I acknowledge that we are responsible for knowing and understanding the class requirements, including after school performances and the grading policy. If we have questions we may contact Mr. Russell or Mr. Cramer

Student's Signature

Date

Parent/Guardian's Signature

Contact Information:

Parent/Guardian's Name (Print) _____

Email _____ @ _____

Cell Phone _____ Best time to call _____

____ Please enroll parent name & cell phone above in the text based notification service (Remind) for Middle School Beginning Band and Band Boosters