**Eighth Grade Symphonic Band Syllabus**

**2015-2016**

Instructor: Dr. Jason Rummel

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Course Overview – In this class the student will learn about instrumental music, music history, and music theory through home practice, rehearsal and performance.

Goals:

1. Students will learn to identify and perform a variety of styles.
2. Students will learn the elements of music as they apply to solo and ensemble performance.
3. Students will perform in scheduled concerts, which represent the skills and knowledge gained through lesson attendance and ensemble rehearsals.
4. Students will learn the importance of civic responsibility as related to public performances.

Attire:

1. Concert attire for brass and woodwinds is black and white. This typically means black trousers and a white shirt/tie for men (sport coat opt.) and a black or black and white ensemble for ladies.
2. Concert attire for percussion is all black.

Required Materials:

1. Instrument and all necessary accessories (reeds, oil, grease, etc.)
2. Pencil and eraser.
3. Folder with all music.

Classroom Procedures:

1. **Be in the band room by the time the bell rings.**
2. Get instruments and folders in a timely manner.
3. Warm-up is an important part of the band rehearsal. Use this time to focus on proper technique, learning scales, etc.
4. Listen attentively through the entire rehearsal.
5. **Mark your music in pencil as necessary during rehearsal**.
6. **Leave the instrument storage room and band room as if you were never there.**
7. Wait inside the band room until the dismissal bell rings.

Consequences: Warning; Student/Teacher Conference; Parental Contact; Detention; Office Referral

Assessments: During the quarter the students will receive up to 10 points per week based on in-class participation. They will also receive 10 points for lesson attendance. There will also be other skill assessments, assignments, or quizzes as necessitated by the quarter’s coursework. During quarters when there is a performance students will be graded on their concert attendance as well (see *Public Performance* below). Bonus will be given to students who attend approved performances (like a concert at IUP), usher for school performances etc.

Lessons: Every student will be scheduled for a small group lesson. This rotation is set up so that you will miss a minimum of classes to attend. Lessons are an extension of the band rehearsals. Lesson attendance is a required part of the band class (students may be exempt from the rotating lessons if they take a regularly scheduled weekly lesson with a private teacher). If students must miss a lesson for academic or other reasons they should set up a make-up lesson with Dr. Rummel during another period or after school. Large group make up lessons will be offered as time permits.

Home Practice: Students are asked to practice their band instrument 15 minutes per day or 105 minutes per week. This will be done on the honor system.

Public Performance: Participation in concerts is part of the course expectation. Please take note of all events, activities, etc. on the school calendar. Exceptions to this are student illness or family emergency. Missing a performance for a sporting event is not acceptable.

Instrument Repairs: Please let Dr. Rummel know at an appropriate time when your instrument is not properly working. You are responsible for the timely repair of any instrument that is not school owned. You may take your instrument to the repair facility of your choice or you may let Dr. Rummel send it to one of the repair vendors that regularly service the school and repair school instruments.

Percussionists: The percussion section is different than the other sections of the band in that it presents several unique logistical challenges. You are responsible for keeping the percussion section (including music folders) in a neat, orderly manner. This is a group effort and should not fall on the shoulders of any one individual.

**2015-2016 Eighth Grade Symphonic Band Performances**

**Tuesday, January 12, 2016 Mid-Winter Band Concert 7:30 PM in JH Auditorium**

**Tuesday, May 10, 2016 Spring Band Concert 7:30 PM in JH Auditorium**