



Liberty Middle School

281 Dock Murphy Drive, Madison, Alabama 35758

Beginner Band

Mrs. Rakoff and Mrs. Sims

Teacher Contact Information	Email: grakoff@madisoncity.k12.al.us ksims@madisoncity.k12.al.us Classroom Phone: 256-430-0001 ext. 83500 (Sims), or ext. 83501 (Rakoff)
Classroom Digital Platforms	Band Webpage Link: https://www.madisoncity.k12.al.us/domain/562 Schoology Link: https://madisoncity.schoology.com/home CHARMS platform Link: https://www.charmsoffice.com/ SmartMusic Link: https://www.smartmusic.com/login
Textbook Information	Tradition of Excellence, Book 1
Course Description	Beginner Band is a year-long class designed for the student who has not played a band instrument before. Membership is open to students in 6 th , 7 th , and 8 th grades. Fundamentals of playing a musical instrument and accurate reading of music are stressed. Instruments must be provided by each student. Students must attend an instrument screening where the band director will help guide your student through the instrument selection process and provide information for purchasing or renting an instrument. Students in band are expected to participate in three evening concerts each year for a major portion of their grade.
Course Objectives	Students in Beginner Band will learn to control and maintain a good characteristic tone on their instruments. They will be able to maintain a steady pulse within a musical meter, and will demonstrate accurate rhythmic values for both notes and rests. Students will develop appropriate instrument fundamentals including tone production, articulation, fingerings, phrasing, and dynamics. Students will develop correct playing posture and hand position. Students will also exhibit appropriate etiquette during rehearsals and performances.
Mandatory Events and Performances	Dec 5: After School Rehearsal for Winter Concert Dec 6: Liberty Middle School Bands Winter Concert Feb 15: After School Rehearsal for Dessert Concert Feb 16: Liberty Middle School Bands Dessert Concert Apr 1: Solo and Ensemble Festival May 9: After School Rehearsal for Spring Concert May 11: Liberty Middle School Bands Spring Concert
Classroom Expectations	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. When the bell rings, enter the band room, get your instrument from the storage room, and sit in your assigned chair. Do not play your instrument until instructed. 2. Students will be considered tardy when not seated at the downbeat of the warm-up. 3. Students must have all required equipment for every rehearsal: instrument, book, pencil, instrument accessories (ie. reeds, mouthpiece, neck strap, sticks/mallets, etc). 4. Respect your directors, your classmates, and yourself. 5. Listen and follow directions. Do not talk or be disruptive during rehearsals unless given permission. 6. Do not touch other student's instruments or equipment. Do not play other student's instruments. Do not trade instruments. 7. There is no food or drink (except water) allowed in the band room. Gum is never allowed in the band room. 8. Only band students are allowed to enter the band room. 9. The teacher dismisses the class, not the bell.

<p>Progressive Discipline (LMS Policy)</p>	<p>Step 1: Verbal warning Step 2: Student/teacher conference Step 3: Parent contact/conference Step 4: Detention and a parent contact Step 5: Office referral</p>
<p>Grading Policy (MCS Policy)</p>	<p>60% = Assessments (Playing Tests, Required Performances) 40% = Daily Grades (Music Checks, Quizzes, Homework) 70% = High School Credit Assessments 30% = High School Daily Grades</p>
<p>Late Work Policy</p>	<p>A student may make up missed assignments; however, they will lose points for work turned in late:</p> <p>Work that is less than 1 week past due (minus 10 points) Work that is between 1 & 2 weeks past due (minus 20 points) Work that is more than 2 weeks past due (minus 30 points) Work may NOT be submitted after the grading period ends</p>
<p>Make-up Work/Test Policy</p>	<p>Students with excused absences will be allowed to make-up all work within 1 week of returning to school without being penalized. It is the student's responsibility to ask for make-up work. Students can consult with a classmate or teacher for help. Work that is not made up will become a zero (including quizzes/tests).</p> <p>Please see the <i>LMS Band Handbook</i> for policies pertaining to missed playing assignments or missed performances due to excused absences.</p> <p>Students will not be allowed to make up work for unexcused absences as per Madison City Schools policy. Work missed in these instances will result in a zero.</p>
<p>Materials & Supplies</p>	<p>Tradition of Excellence, Book 1 (specific to each instrument) Required instrument accessories (i.e. reeds, neck straps, valve oil, slide grease, etc.) Appropriate instrument cleaning supplies (varies by instrument) Pencils Folding stand (recommended)</p>
<p>Homework</p>	<p>Students are expected to practice 10-15 minutes each day. Practice assignments will be given each day at the end of rehearsal.</p>
<p>Band Booster Organization</p>	<p>The LMS Band Boosters is a parent organization which supports the band by providing fund raising, chaperoning, and logistical assistance. The Boosters meet once each 9-weeks in the LMS Band room. Parents of students in all ensembles are encouraged to attend. The first meeting of the LMS Band Boosters will take place on Aug. 29 at 7:00pm. All other meeting dates can be found in the LMS Band yearly calendar of events.</p>
<p>Parent & Student Acknowledgment Form</p>	<p>Please read the <i>LMS Band Handbook</i> which is available on CHARMS, the Liberty Middle School Band website, and Mrs. Rakoff's and Mrs. Sims' teacher pages on the LMS website. Please also print and sign the <i>Parent and Student Acknowledgement Form</i> on the Liberty Middle School Band website. By signing the Signature Page, the student and parent acknowledge understanding and agreement of the policies, procedures, and expectations of the Liberty Middle School Band program outlined in the Band Handbook and Band Syllabus.</p>

This syllabus is subject to change.