



September 2, 2016

Dear Parents and Guardians:

The first week of school has been a great opportunity to get to know your child and begin working with them as their new music teacher. This year at Wilby, your student will be working with me as a member of the growing Wilby band and drumming program. If your child is not in a band or drumming class, they will be learning to play the piano or enjoying vocal music with me, singing a wide variety of songs.

I am new to Wilby this year, but have been teaching music in urban schools in Connecticut and Massachusetts for eight years. Over the previous six years, I built a band and general music program in Hartford. The shining light of that program was a drum line that performed many times in the greater Hartford area as a part of local events such as the Samba Fest, the Greater Hartford Puerto Rican Day Parade, and the annual fundraiser for the CT MS Society.

I am very excited to begin this new journey teaching music at Wilby and am truly enjoying the opportunity to make music with your child. Please take the time to read the attached syllabus detailing the grading for your child's music class and ensure that they understand how to be a successful musician at Wilby this year. If you have any questions, please email me right away at ebrummitt@waterbury.k12.ct.us

Sincerely,

Dr. Eric Brummitt

Wilby High School
568 Bucks Hill Road
Waterbury, CT 06704

Phone: 203.574.8100

Music Syllabus 2016-2017

Dr. Eric Brummitt
Wilby High School

The following grading policies will be in place for all music classes led by Dr. Brummitt:

Grading:

Assessments	60%
Classwork	20%
Disposition toward Learning	10%
Homework	10%

Assessments will include formal performances (e.g. concerts, parades, etc.), written quizzes, and daily/weekly performance tasks. Music is a performing arts discipline; therefore a high value is placed on public performance in the grading scale. For the Digital Music class, all student performances will take place within the classroom since the class is a lab-based piano course. Attendance at all performances is required. Exceptions will be made only on a case by case basis, and only for extreme circumstances such as a death in the family or severe illness. Students who must miss a performance due to extreme circumstances will complete an alternative assignment.

Classwork includes any daily musical exercises completed in class, such as warm-ups, music technique studies, and/or rehearsals for performances.

Disposition toward Learning refers to the active engagement of students in music classes. On a daily basis, this is tracked as part of all students' Professionalism points. Students who are present, on time to class, participating appropriately in class, and following classroom rules and procedures will earn three points toward their daily Professionalism score. Lapses in Professionalism will negatively impact this grading category.

Homework will include occasional tasks for students to complete at home in preparation for learning during the following day's lesson, or as part of ongoing learning objectives.

All school policies will be enforced in the music classroom. Additionally, regular attendance is a crucial component of success in school. All students should attend classes on a regular basis in order to gain the best results from their learning.