

Jefferson County Middle School Band

Location: Room 206, The Band Room

Director of Bands: Mr. Craig Sheehan

Office Hours: 11:40 am - 1:25 pm

Contact: sheehanc@jefferson.k12.ga.us *

You can email me at any time, please allow at least 24 hours for me to respond. I will be the most available during my office hours.

Course Description

This performance-based class focuses on basic instrumental skill development and music reading. The goal of this class is to teach students the proper way to hold and play a brass, percussion, or woodwind instrument with the characteristic tone quality of the instrument. Students will have many opportunities to perform in public for the community and their parents. In addition to large group ensembles, students are encouraged to participate in solo and ensemble festivals, district honor bands, and private lessons.

Covid-19 Safety

In order to keep all students, faculty, and staff safe and healthy everyone will be **required** to wear a mask at all times while they are in the band room. While students are playing their instruments they will use their masks to cover their noses in order to decrease the amount of airborne particles entering their respiratory system. Brass players must have their own mouthpiece for their instrument. If needed the school will provide the student with this, and it will be their responsibility to take care of. All school owned instruments have been sanitized and cleaned to the guidelines set by the National Association for Music Education. For more information on the steps to prevent the spread of Covid-19 in the Band classroom use the link provided below to view the results of a scientific study.

<https://www.nfhs.org/media/4029971/preliminary-recommendations-from-international-performing-arts-aerosol-study.pdf>

Materials for Class

Students are expected to have these materials everyday in class, not having any of these materials will take off points on their daily participation grade.

- Pencil/Pen
- Band Folder/Music/BAnd Book
- Facemask
- Mouthpieces/Reeds/Drum sticks
- Instruments

Instruments

New students should not purchase or rent any instruments until they have been fitted for an instrument by the band director. Everyone's face is shaped differently, so in order to get students making excellent sounds quickly they are fitted to the instrument that best suits their face shape. In class each student will make a list of 3-4 instruments that they would like to try out, and the teacher will fit them and help them make the best decision for their own success.

Once students have been fitted to an instrument we will hold an instrument rental night (date TBD) at the school for students who would like to rent instruments from companies that give premium rates for students and parents who are just joining band in middle school. Renting an instrument is not required, but students who use school owned instruments may have to share instruments with other students throughout the day. Students who are fitted to larger instruments such as the tuba, euphonium, or baritone do not need to rent an instrument. Students that are placed in the percussion section must own a pair of Vic Firth SD1 General Drumsticks in order to help prevent the spread of any bacteria.

Grading

Band is a performance based class so many of the grades that occur are based on how the student performs different exercises from their books or the music they are learning in class. However, students will be graded daily on their participation in class, and they will be graded on their attendance to their band concerts. All grades will be weighted using the following scale:

- 3s: Concert Attendance/Concert Makeup assignments
- 2s: Playing Assignments (In Class or recorded and submitted digitally)
- 1s: Daily Participation Grade

Grading Scale

- 100-90: A
- 89-80: B
- 79-75: C
- 74-70: D
- 69 and Below: F

Concert Attendance

All Concerts are mandatory for every student to attend. This is due to the fact that band is a group activity, and if one person does not attend it could change the sound of the ensemble completely, which could make performing more difficult for the students in the ensemble. If a student cannot attend the concert they must notify Mr. Sheehan within **48 hours of the concert** in order to receive full credit.

Concert Attire

We want our students to look as good as they sound. Concert dress is dress black. Gentlemen will wear a black dress shirt, black slacks, black socks and black shoes. Ladies will wear a black dress (at least knee length) and black shoes or a black dress shirt, black slacks, black socks and black shoes. All items must follow the school dress code (no holes in pants/shirts, no spaghetti strap or low-cut dresses, etc.) **Students who come to the concert performance under-dressed or unprepared may not be permitted to perform.**

Classroom Policies

- No Gum or Candy
- No Food or Drinks- Students are allowed to have water in the classroom
- Be Prepared with all materials required for the class everyday.
- Be Respectful- This applies to all students, staff, faculty, and instruments. Do not do things that you would not like done to you or your belongings.
- Have a positive attitude, and be ready to learn
- Only touch the instrument that is assigned to you

Classroom Routine

At the beginning of every class period students will enter the Band room quietly in order to start getting focused and ready. The teacher will place a 4 minute timer on the board, during this time students will retrieve their instrument from the closet, bring their case to their seats, unpack their instruments and other belongings, and be seated quietly waiting for instructions from the teacher. Students who are not unpacked when the timer goes off will lose points on their daily participation grade. **The teacher reserves the right to have the entire class enter the classroom again if students are entering inappropriately.**

During class students should be attentive and focused on making music within the ensemble. Talking should be at a minimum level, and students should be ready to play their instrument as much as possible during the class period. Classes are only 40 minutes long, so the teacher will keep a fast pace in order to make class exciting and educational for all students.

At the end of class students will first pack up their instruments at their seat, and then the teacher will have students bring their instruments to the storage room one section at a time. Students will then return to their seats, and wait for everyone else to put their instruments away. **The teacher will wait for the room to be quiet before dismissing any student to their next class.**