

Robert Louis Stevenson Middle School **Stevenson Beginning Bands Syllabus**

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Room(s): Periods 5, 6, 7 Beginning - Room 500 (Bandroom)

Course Objectives

Students in the Beginning bands are either in their first year of playing their instrument. Students in these classes will learn basic rhythm and note reading skills and will be introduced to playing their instruments. The overall goal will be to eventually play altogether as the beginning band.

Online Platform Information: (Google Meets/Webex Google Classroom and Flipgrid)

Google Meets will be our primary video conferencing platform where we will have online class everyday. IF for some reason Webex goes down or doesn't work we will switch to **Webex**.

In this class we will be using **Google Classroom** as the online learning platform. Please check Google Classroom daily for assignments, due dates, discussions, and announcements.

Flipgrid is a free online software platform where students will post short video excerpts of themselves playing an assigned section of music and will receive feedback from other students. Students and parents will receive a lesson from the instructor on how to post and operate from the online platform. If for any reason the student is unable to post to the platform he or she has to communicate this to the instructor **at least 2 days** before the due date of the video post and an alternate format will be worked out for the particular assignment.

Expectations (in-person & Online Meetings)

Note: Attendance will be taken based on the RLSMS bell Schedule

In person: Band Rules

- 1) Respect - yourself, peers, equipment
- 2) Responsibility
- 3) Music from the Heart - Always have purpose and pride in what you do and play.

4) Yay! – Positive attitude & actions

Online Meetings (Netiquitee)

- Be on time - Be on time and prepared with your device charged. Close material and tabs from other classes. Make sure all tech works 5-10 minutes before the meeting.
- Mute yourself - Mute yourself right away to eliminate background noise.
- Presentation - Consider your surroundings and attire. Find a good spot in the home with few distractions and make sure you're wearing something appropriate for the day.
- Headphones - Use headphones if you have them. If your headphones or earbuds have a microphone, even better.
- Signals - Use hand signals:
 - Thumbs up = Yes/Thumbs down = No
 - Hand by ear = Can't hear
 - Raise hand = Have a comment
- Be Respectful - Follow the agreements of the group.
- Adhere to TRUF for appropriate use of technology

Failure to follow band rules will result in the following:

Note: The goal of this class is to provide an environment in which everyone can learn and grow in a safe environment. Disruptive behavior will be dealt with in the following manner (depending on the severity of the offense some steps may be skipped).

- 1) Verbal Warning
- 2) Individual Counseling – teacher & counselor
- 3) Parent/Student/Teacher meeting and contract
- 4) Parents notified/ Referral to counselor and/or Vice Principal.
- 5) Removal from Band

Supplies Needed:

- An in depth supply list will be released in a parent newsletter shortly after the first few days of school once I find out what instrument each student plays.
- Please do have a computer with appropriate wifi access
- headphones or earbuds.

Grades

- | | |
|--|-----|
| Performance Tests - Playing & Written | 35% |
| - Fingering Test/Instrument assignment | 15% |

Weekly Practice Minute Goals Forms	30%	
Weekly Performance Post and Commenting via Flipgrid		10%
Class Participation/Behavior/Internet Netiquette		<u>10%</u>
	Total	100%

Guidelines for Assignments:

Assignments are done legibly and with reasonable care/effort.

Students are expected to participate in all projects and discussions.

Assignments must be complete and on time, unless a parent note is submitted with reason.

Grades will be updated every 2nd and 4th Wednesday of each month.

All assignments will be submitted by 2:15pm on their due dates.

Absence work policy: Students are responsible for acquiring make-up work and submitting it as soon as possible. For long-term absences, parents may request work by calling the school and picking it up at the office.

Performance Tests – 35%

Beginning students will perform weekly on selected excerpts either coming from one of their method books or literature that we are currently working on.

Instrument assignments/Fingering Test - 15%

Before the fingering tests, students will be given instrument assignments based on their instrument to help familiarize them with the instruments they are playing and to better their understanding as musicians.

Closer to the end of 2nd, 3rd, and 4th quarter a fingering test appropriate for the instrument of the particular student will be administered.

Ample time will be given to study for these fingering tests. Students will be allowed to use their instruments as a guide, but will not be allowed to use their method books during the test. In the online format the test will be given in a Google form format and monitored by the instructor during one class with webcams on. In the classroom format students will be given a sheet test equal to that of the Google Form test for the online students, but pertinent to their own particular instrument. (I.e. Clarinet test for the clarinet player.)

Weekly Practice Minute Goals Forms and – PMGF Program 30%

Beginning Band Students are required 90 minutes of practice a week

*Something different with these is that the students will also learn how to establish proper “goals” in what they want to accomplish while practicing and write them on

their sheet and have it approved every **MONDAY** before the start of the new practice sheet rotation. Each student will turn in their sheet every **MONDAY** signed.

Due to the nature of “full distance learning” students will take a picture of the form signed by their parent or guardian and filled out and turn it into the Google Classroom page.

Students may practice in school (before school, recess, lunch, after-school) or at home. Class time does not count towards PMF credit.

7	Weekly Practice Forms turned in	A
6	Weekly Practice Forms turned in	B
5	Weekly Practice Forms turned in	C
4	Weekly Practice Forms turned in	D
3	Weekly Practice Forms turned in	F
2-1	Weekly Practice Forms turned in	0

Subject to change based on the amount of weeks in the quarter

Concert Participation

It deeply saddens my heart to say, but due to the unpredictable nature of this semester and COVID 19, I cannot guarantee that we will have live or pre-recorded concerts. However in the event that we do, by participating in the performing band (including mandatory after school rehearsals again if they occur) – students will receive an A grade for their weekly PMGF obligation for each quarter.

Weekly Performance Post and Commenting to Flipgrid - 10%

As stated above **Flipgrid** is a free online platform where students will post short videos of themselves playing a certain excerpt and practice commenting and positively evaluating themselves as well as their peers. If for any reason the student is unable to post to the platform he or she has to communicate this to the instructor **at least 2 days** before the due date of the video post and an alternate format will be worked out for the particular assignment.

Classroom Participation/Behavior/Netiquette – 10%

Classroom participation (have required supplies & playing your instrument daily in class) & following classroom rules both in person and online will result in an A.

Parent Contact

Please update your contact information on Infinite Campus and the School Emergency Card.

Check Infinite campus regularly and contact me with any questions or concerns!

Troubleshooting Online Platforms:

As we take our journey through distance learning, we can expect some tech glitches or difficulties. Should this occur, please remain calm and send me an email (if possible) to let me know what happened. We will figure it out together.

If for any reason Google Meets is down please look for an email from me saying to switch to Webex.

Or please use the Ohana Help Desk: <https://sites.google.com/k12.hi.us/ohana-help-desk-portal/>

Fill out this [GOOGLE FORM \(linked here\)](#) to let me know that you read this syllabus. This will count as the **first assignment of the quarter!**

Please also be sure to fill out the Student profile on your Google Classroom ASAP! It will help me to get your info and instruments out to you MUCH SOONER! Thanks! Let's have a great year! :)

