



# 8th Grade Band Syllabus



## Course Description

8th Grade Band is the top performing group at SMS! We typically showcase our skills for the community with a variety of concerts, auditions, and trips. This year we will showcase our skills in some new ways including digital performance. We will learn responsibility through routines and a rigorous assessment schedule. We will demonstrate good rehearsal techniques and concert etiquette.

## Course Platforms

**Google Classroom** – Each student will be invited through email, Parents and Guardians will be invited to sign up for weekly reports of materials and student participation. *All assignments and resources for the year will be posted on Google Classroom.* Class Code: **3fdprrq**

**SmartMusic** – SmartMusic is a music performance and assessment platform that will be used often for student practice and playing tests. Your student will be invited to join through their school email, students who created an account last year will need to create a new account. All assignments will be listed on Google Classroom, but will be submitted through SmartMusic. A tutorial video will be posted on Google Classroom.

**FlipGrid** – FlipGrid is a video submission platform that will be used to submit performance assessments and demonstrations. Assignments will be posted on Google Classroom, but will be submitted through FlipGrid.

**Private Lesson Logs** – for fully virtual students, a private lesson log will be created for each individual student. This has a checklist of individual performance skills, Essential Elements Book numbers, and weekly individual practice assignments. Each family will have access to their individual lesson log through a custom URL.

**Parent and Student Portal** - Grades can be checked using our parent portal located at <https://scps.powerschool.com/public/home.html>. You can pick up your login information from the front office.

## Materials

**Instrument & Equipment** – A checklist of instrument-specific requirements is posted on Google Classroom. These materials should be acquired *before the start of the school year!* Two local music stores that we work with are listed below.

### **Shen Valley Band**

144 N Liberty St, Harrisonburg, VA 22802  
(540) 434-8546  
svband@verizon.net  
<https://www.shenvalleyband.com/>

### **Staunton Music LLC**

623 Greenville Ave, Staunton, VA 24401  
(540) 213-0564  
stauntonmusicllc@gmail.com  
<http://www.stauntonmusic.net/>

**Instrument Repair** – If your instrument is need of repair throughout the year, both of the instrument stores listed above do repairs. However, Shen Valley will come by Shelburne once a

week to pick up and drop off instruments, and they are the store that we use to repair our school instruments as their technicians do the repairs at their store.

**Tuner & Metronome** – All students are asked to purchase a tuner and metronome for at-home use this year. Students may use an app on their phone while they are at home, but not in class.

## **SOLs and Course Objectives**

8<sup>th</sup> Grade Band course objectives will be based on the 2020 revisions of the VA Instrumental Music Standards. Core tenants of the curriculum will be:

- Creative Process (MIAD.1 & MIAD.2)
- Critical Thinking and Communication (MIAD.3, MIAD.4, and MIAD.5)
- History, Culture, and Citizenship (MIAD.6, MIAD.7, and MIAD.8)
- Innovation in the Arts (MIAD.9, MIAD.10, MIAD.11)
- Technique and Application (MIAD.12, MIAD.13, MIAD.14, MIAD.15, & MIAD.16)

## **Grading Requirements**

### **Grade Breakdown**

40% At-Home Practice and Independent Work Time

30% Tests/Quizzes

30% Daily Class Grade or Video Lesson Grade

### **At-Home Practice and Independent Work Time**

In the past, we have not had specific requirements for how much to practice at home because we saw the kids for 45 minutes a day, 5 times a week. This year we will only be seeing students for 45 minutes twice a week. If students only play their instrument twice a week, they will not get better and their sound will not improve. It is absolutely imperative that students are practicing every day they are not physically in school! We will have regular at home playing and written assignments. This will take the place of concert attendance in our grade breakdown from previous years. If students do not turn in these assignments, their MAX class grade will be a 60%.

### **Tests and Quizzes**

These take a variety of forms. Sometimes the students will take a video of them playing something specific. Sometimes these are written or digital tests. Sometimes they are playing in person during class. Students are allowed to retake assessments as many times as they want before the grading period is over. We want every student to have the chance to get better. However, if a student doesn't practice the material and asks to retake it, we will tell them they cannot try again until they spend time practicing it.

### **Daily Grade or Lesson Breakdown**

30 points - Has all materials

20 points - Ready on time

50 points - Proper behavior and participation

**100 Points Total Per Day**

**Note:** For virtual students, if you need to reschedule your lesson, you must contact us ahead of time or you will lose all points that week.

## **Class Procedures**

### **Class Procedure for In-Person Learning**

1. Get a Clorox wipe and wipe down your chair and music stand
2. Get your Instrument + Binder then go to your seat
3. Assemble your instrument.
4. When the timer is zero, stand up with your instrument laying in your chair. Clarinet and Sax players must have their reeds on the instrument by this time. If you're not done assembling your instrument, you will be marked tardy!

### **Class Procedure for Fully Virtual Learning**

We are starting the year with a good portion of students as 100% virtual learners. It's very possible that later this year, we will ALL be moved to virtual if Virginia moves back to Phase 2. For these students, we will be scheduling one 15-minute lesson a week over Zoom and giving playing/recording assignments for the week. The video lesson will take the place of the class grade. Students are expected to be on time and have all of the proper materials ready (meaning the instrument should be put together and ideally, you've warmed up). It is HIGHLY recommended to buy a music stand or playing will be very difficult.

### **Expectations for Online Lessons**

1. Be ON TIME. We may have back to back 15 minute lessons and won't be able to give you extra time if you are late.
2. Before your lesson starts, have your instrument assembled, your music on your music stand, and warm up on your instrument
3. Make sure you are in a distraction free zone, with proper dress code

Be sure that when you play, your hands are in view of the video and you are well lit

## **COVID-19 Specific Information**

### **Bell Covers are Mandatory**

- All wind player except for flute players will need a bell cover on their instrument.
- Cheap versions of this include putting a sock over a clarinet, beanie for sax/trumpet/trombone, or cinch bag for euphonium and tuba.
- You can also make or buy bell covers as well.
- If you want to use stretchy nylon fabric, you must use multiple layers of material.

### **Specific Procedures**

- Students will wear masks when they are not playing their instrument
- Students will be dismissed in small groups to get their instruments from storage rooms
- All brass players MUST have a small washcloth in their case for catching moisture from their instrument. *If a student doesn't have this, they will not be allowed to play (no trips to the trash can will be permitted for this purpose anymore).*
- Band chairs will be spaced at least 6 feet apart
- Clarinet/Sax players should not share reeds, even new ones
- Mr. Wilson and Mr. Nesmith are closely following several ongoing studies on band safety in a pandemic environment. As new research comes out, we may alter our class procedures.

## Concert Performance Schedule

In the past concert attendance were a requirement of the class. Due to this year's unique situation, we're not sure when and if we will be able to do a traditional performance. As such, any in-person event listed below is subject to change or cancellation. Our virtual performances will be similar to the one 7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> grade did last year of "Don't Worry, Be Happy".

**Note:** Our virtual concert videos will be made public via our website and YouTube. If you do not wish for your child's face to appear in the video, we can include their audio only in the final product but omit their face.

Date	Time	Who?	Event	Location
TBA	5:00 pm	Interested 7 <sup>th</sup> /8 <sup>th</sup> Graders	Valley Honor Band Auditions	Tentatively Wilson MS, possibly virtual
TBA	Flexible	Interested 7 <sup>th</sup> /8 <sup>th</sup> Graders	District Band Auditions	Tentatively East Rock HS, possibly virtual
Monday Dec. 14 <sup>th</sup>	TBA	All Bands	Virtual Winter Concert	Internet
Jan. 8 <sup>th</sup> /9 <sup>th</sup>	Field Trip	Selected 7 <sup>th</sup> /8 <sup>th</sup> Graders	Valley Honor Band Performance	Stuarts Draft HS
Feb. 5 <sup>th</sup> /6 <sup>th</sup>	Field Trip	Selected 7 <sup>th</sup> /8 <sup>th</sup> Graders	All District Band Performance	Staunton HS
March 11 <sup>th</sup> /12 <sup>th</sup>	TBA	7 <sup>th</sup> /8 <sup>th</sup> Grade Bands	Concert Assessment	Spotswood HS
March TBA	All day	7 <sup>th</sup> Grade Band	JMU Trip	JMU
March 15 <sup>th</sup>		Selected 7 <sup>th</sup> /8 <sup>th</sup> Graders	District Jazz Band	Bridgewater College
May 16 <sup>th</sup>	6:30 pm	7 <sup>th</sup> /8 <sup>th</sup> Grade Bands	Spring Concert	Staunton High School

# Band Syllabus Signature Page

I understand the following things.

1. At home practice will count for 40% of my grade. If I don't do work at home, I can only get a total of 60% in band.
2. Virtual students will have a 15 minute lesson once a week. If you need to reschedule your lesson, you must contact us ahead of time or you will lose all points that week
3. All wind players except flute need to have a bell cover to play their instrument
4. Students must wear a mask at all times that they are not playing.
5. Concert Dress is as follows (for in person concerts)
  - a. White button up shirt (short or long-sleeved
  - b. Black dress pants (NOT black jeans, jeggings, spandex, or capris)
  - c. Black Shoes and Socks (socks are optional for ladies)
  - d. Black skirts/dresses can be worn, but must be ankle length
6. I have read the COVID-19 specific procedures for band.

Student \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian \_\_\_\_\_