



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. We will learn responsibility through routines and a rigorous assessment schedule. We will demonstrate good rehearsal techniques and concert etiquette.

2023-2024 Performance Schedule

Please note that concerts in **BOLD** are required and part of the class grade. Also, if more than one band is playing on a concert, students must stay to the end of the concert.

Date	Time	Who?	Event	Location
Monday, Sept. 18 th	9:00 am	8 th Grade Band	Conference Program Photoshoot	Staunton HS
Friday, Sept. 29 th	6:00 pm	8 th Grade Band	8 th Grade Band Night	Gypsy Hill Park Football Stadium
Sunday, Oct. 29th	6:30 pm	7th/8th Grade Bands	Fall Concert	Staunton HS
Wed, Nov. 1 st	5:00 pm	Interested 7 th /8 th Graders	Valley Honor Band Auditions	Wilson MS
Tuesday, Nov. 7th	12:00pm	8th Grade Band	Conference Preview Concert	Staunton HS
Thurs., Nov. 16th	1:30 pm	8th Grade Band	VMEA Conference Performance	Richmond, VA
Saturday, Dec. 2 nd	8:00 am	Interested 7 th /8 th Graders	District Band Auditions	Waynesboro HS
TBD	Field Trip	Woodwind Ensemble	Woodwind Ensemble Trip	SCS Elem Schools
Jan. 5 th /6 th	All Day	Selected 7 th /8 th Graders	Valley Honor Band Event	Stuarts Draft HS
Feb. 2 nd /3 rd	All Day	Selected 7 th /8 th Graders	All-District Band Event	Staunton HS
March 6th/7th	TBA	7th/8th Grade Bands	State Assessment	Spotswood HS
Mon, March 18 th	All Day	Selected 7 th /8 th Graders	All District Jazz Band	Bridgewater College
April TBD	Field Trip	Jazz Band	Jazz Band Field Trip	Bridgewater College
Sunday, April 14th	6:30 pm	7th/8th Grade Bands	Spring Concert	Staunton HS
Saturday, Apr. 20 th	All Day	8 th Grade Band	Kings Dominion Field Trip	Kings Dominion
Sunday, May 5 th	TBD Afternoon	All SCS Bands & Choirs	Party in the Park!	Gypsy Hill Park Rain: Staunton HS

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: **52zytko**

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/>

Music & Arts (Through Heifetz Institute)

107 E Beverley St, Staunton, VA 24401
<https://www.musicarts.com/>
Gregory.Brown@musicarts.com

Instrument Repair – If you own your instrument, we recommend sending it to Shen-Valley for repair. You can either take the instrument to their Harrisonburg store for repair or students can leave it in the repair box in the Band Room and Shen-Valley will pick it up on Tuesdays.

If you rent your instrument through Shen-Valley, you can either take it to their Harrisonburg store for repair or they can leave it in the repair box in the Shelburne band room and Shen-Valley will pick it up on Tuesdays.

If you rent your instrument through Music and Arts, they can pickup by request at Shelburne or you can take it to the Heifetz storefront on Beverly street.

Note: Shen-Valley is very fast (most repairs take a week) however it should be noted that due to the volume of repairs that they do, they can't call every single person that sends in an instrument before they repair it. Their policy is that if you send them an instrument and the repair is less than 50 dollars, they will go ahead and do it, then bill you for it. If the repair is more than 50 dollars, they will call you before doing anything.

SOLs and Course Objectives

8th 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

34% Classwork & Daily Class Grade

33% Assessments

33% Concert Attendance

Classwork & Daily Class Grade

Band is a team activity; we succeed as a group, not as individuals. As such, students' full participation in every activity in rehearsals is critical to the success of the group. Students will receive a 10-point **Daily Class Grade** for participation in rehearsal (5 points), having all required materials (3 points), and being ready on time (2 points). Additionally, any activities we complete in class will fall in the **Classwork** category.

Assessments

All assessments are opportunities for students to demonstrate mastery of a targeted skill, and will take different forms depending on the skill being assessed. One assessment may be recording a video of playing something specific, or a written or digital test, or 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.

Concert Attendance

8th Grade Band Students have four required performances: the Fall Concert, Winter Concert, State Assessment Performance, and Spring Concert. Please reference the calendar on page 1 for specific dates, times, and locations. Students are expected to support their peers and stay for the entire concert. Absence will only be excused for the same reasons that SCS excuses absences from school. If you think that you will be absent, please contact the directors as soon as possible! If the absence is excused, a makeup assignment will be given. If the absence is unexcused, no makeup assignment will be provided.

Homework

Specific homework will not be assigned, however students are expected to practice at home to prepare for their playing tests and upcoming performances. It is recommended that students practice playing in front of their family to prepare for the "nervous feeling" that typically comes with a playing test!

Class Procedure

Class Procedure

1. Get your Instrument + Binder then go to your seat
2. Assemble your instrument.
3. 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!

Assessment Calendar



8th Grade Pass-Offs 2023-2024



Passed?	What?	When?	How?	
	<u>Two Octave Scale Test</u> Scales 1-4 Memorized Snares: Interm. Rudiments 1-4	August	Recorded	1 st 9 Weeks
	<u>Note Naming Test</u> High Range Mad Minute	August	Written	
	<u>Two Octave Scale Test</u> Scales 5-7 With Music Snares: Interm. Rudiments 5-7	September	Recorded	

	<u>Chromatic Test</u> Chromatic Study 10 Memorized Percussion: Snare & Mallets	October	Recorded	2 nd 9 Weeks
	<u>Fall Concert Pass-Off</u> TBD from Concert Rep	October	Individual	
	<u>Note Naming Test</u> Low Range Mad Minute	December	Written	

Passed?	What?	When?	How?	
	<u>Rhythm Test</u> 6/8 Time Signature	Jan/Feb	Written	3 rd 9 Weeks
	<u>Assessment Pass Off</u> TBD from Assessment Rep	February	Class	

	<u>Spring Concert Pass-Off</u> Spring Concert Music	April	Recorded	4 th 9 Weeks
	<u>Note Naming Test</u> Mad minute	May	Written	

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I understand the following things.

1. My student is required to attend the following 5 concerts, and the dates are written in my calendar:
 - a. **Sunday, October 29th at 6:30pm** – Fall Concert
 - b. **Tuesday, November 7th at 12:00pm** – Conference Preview Concert
 - c. **Thursday, November 16th at 1:30pm** – VMEA Conference Performance
 - d. **March 6th or 7th** – State Assessment Field Trip
 - e. **Sunday, April 14th at 6:30pm** – Spring Concert
2. Concert Dress is as follows:
 - 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
 - d. Black skirts/dresses can be worn, but must be ankle length

Student _____

Parent/Guardian _____