



# 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.

## 2024-2025 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
Fri., Sept. 27 <sup>th</sup>	6:00 pm	8 <sup>th</sup> Grade Band	8th Grade Band Night	Gypsy Hill Park Football Stadium
Sun., Oct. 27 <sup>th</sup>	<b>6:30 pm</b>	<b>7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> Grade Bands</b>	<b>Fall Concert</b>	<b>Staunton HS</b>
Wed, Oct. 30 <sup>th</sup>	5:00 pm	Interested 7 <sup>th</sup> /8 <sup>th</sup> Graders	Valley Honor Band Auditions	Wilson MS
Sat., Dec. 7 <sup>th</sup>	8:00 am	Interested 7 <sup>th</sup> /8 <sup>th</sup> Graders	District Band Auditions	Waynesboro HS
<b>TBD – December</b>	Field Trip	Woodwind Ensemble	Woodwind Ensemble Trip	SCS Elem Schools
Sun., Dec. 8 <sup>th</sup>	<b>6:30 pm</b>	<b>7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> Grade Bands</b> WW Ens.	<b>Winter Concert</b>	<b>Staunton HS</b>
Wed, Dec. 11 <sup>th</sup>	5:30 pm	6 <sup>th</sup> /7 <sup>th</sup> /8 <sup>th</sup> Grade Bands	Winter Concert Snow Date	Staunton HS
Jan. 10 <sup>th</sup> /11 <sup>th</sup> Fri/ Sat	All Day	Selected 7 <sup>th</sup> /8 <sup>th</sup> Graders	Valley Honor Band Event	Stuarts Draft HS
Jan. 31 <sup>st</sup> /Feb. 1 <sup>st</sup> Fri /Sat	All Day	Selected 7 <sup>th</sup> /8 <sup>th</sup> Graders	All-District Band Event	TBD
March 5 <sup>th</sup> /6 <sup>th</sup> Wed./ Thurs.	<b>TBA</b>	<b>7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> Grade Bands</b>	<b>State Assessment</b>	<b>TBD</b>
Mon, March 17 <sup>th</sup>	All Day	Selected 7 <sup>th</sup> /8 <sup>th</sup> Graders	All District Jazz Band	Bridgewater College
April TBD	Field Trip	Jazz Band	Jazz Band Field Trip	Bridgewater College
Sun., April 27 <sup>th</sup>	<b>6:30 pm</b>	<b>7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> Grade Bands</b>	<b>Spring Concert</b>	<b>Staunton HS</b>
Sun., May 4 <sup>th</sup>	Afternoon	All SCS Bands & Choirs	Party in the Park!	Gypsy Hill Park Rain: Staunton HS
Sat., May 10 <sup>th</sup>	All Day	8th Grade Band	Kings Dominion Field Trip	Kings Dominion

## **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: **jvycctgq**

**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.

## **After School Opportunities**

- **Woodwind Ensemble** – This group is available to 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade woodwinds and French Horns. It will practice after school one day a week from October 2<sup>nd</sup> through December 11<sup>th</sup>. The group will then take a performance field trip to all the elementary schools and City Hall on December 12<sup>th</sup>.
- **Jazz Band** – The Jazz Band is available to all 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade instruments, and rehearses very challenging music in various jazz styles. We will rehearse in the spring this year. We will take a field trip to Bridgewater College, perform at the Spring Concert, and possibly travel to the elementary schools as well.
- **After School Private Lessons** – By appointment with one of the band directors

## **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](mailto: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**

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)

## **Parent/Guardian Role**

There are many things that parents can do to further their child's success in the band. The biggest one is to keep encouraging the student. Playing an instrument can be very frustrating at times, but with hard work and persistence, success can be achieved, and the rewards are plentiful! Just remember that every great player on the planet sounded like a beginning band student at one time.

Parents/Guardians can also help by encouraging students to practice and perform outside of school. Have them give a short recital for grandparents or other relatives or encourage them to play for their religious services.

### **Approved Volunteers**

We will need help at times throughout the school year (setting up for concerts, chaperoning field trips, transporting equipment...). If you think you will be willing to assist, please consider becoming a Staunton City Schools Approved Volunteer. This process only takes two forms a few minutes; search for the *Volunteer Agreement Application* and *Student Privacy Statement* on the Staunton City Schools Website. Mrs. Greer-Young can provide copies of these forms on request if you wish.

Staunton City Schools "Approved Volunteer" status lasts for one school year, and applies to *all* SCPS activities (athletics, fine arts, PTA events...).

## **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**

8<sup>th</sup> 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



# 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Pass-Offs 2024-2025



Passed?	What?	When?	How?	
	<u>Two Octave Scale Test</u> Scales 1-4 Memorized Snares: Interm. Rudiments 1-4	August	Recorded	1 <sup>st</sup> 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 <sup>nd</sup> 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 <sup>rd</sup> 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 <sup>th</sup> 9 Weeks
	<u>Note Naming Test</u> Mad minute	May	Written	

# 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Band Syllabus Signature Page

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 27<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm** – Fall Concert
  - b. **Sunday, December 8<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm**- Winter Concert
  - c. **March 5<sup>th</sup> or 6<sup>th</sup>**– State Assessment Field Trip
  - d. **Sunday, April 27<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm** – Spring Concert
  
2. Concert Dress is as follows:
  - a. Black dress shirt (short or long-sleeved)
  - b. Black dress pants (NOT black jeans, jeggings, spandex, or capris)
  - c. Black Shoes and Crew Socks
  - d. Calf-length Black skirts/dresses (must cover knees when seated)

Student \_\_\_\_\_

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