

Creekside Middle School
6th Grade Band Syllabus
2021-2022

Class Procedure and Rules

1. Check the board or screen for daily announcements, class objectives, and assignments. Get out all necessary materials (instrument, accessories, music stand, music, PENCIL).
2. Remember to raise your hand if you wish to have the attention of the class. Please do not talk out or distract from other's education.
3. The only things found on your music stand should be: your music, book and pencil. The stands were not designed to hold binders or textbooks. (Or instruments and people!)
4. Only the percussionists may touch the percussion equipment.
5. You may play the piano after receiving permission from the teacher.
6. Lost music will cost \$.50 per page.
7. The instrument room is a storage facility where many instruments are kept. Nobody is allowed to touch an instrument that does not belong to them in any way. There is zero tolerance for those who break this rule.
8. This class may not be recorded in any way without the prior permission of the instructor.
are to remain under your chair unless we are using them.
9. Chromebooks must remain under your chair unless we are using them in class.
10. If we switch to remote learning, students must keep cameras on in order to get credit for the class.

Enrollment

Due to its unique nature, enrollment in band at Creekside Middle School is a year-long commitment. Please understand the skills necessary to be successful in band are developmental and each student progresses at his or her own rate. Practice and study usually dictate that rate. It is not unusual for even the most talented student to become frustrated at times. We believe it is then that the student's diligence will most often lead to the greatest understanding.

School equipment

The band department is able to loan large instruments for student use. These instruments are very valuable and are extremely expensive to replace. All students who are issued a school instrument will be asked to provide a \$75.00 rental fee. This fee will cover common repairs that are a result of everyday maintenance, however, the fee does not cover any damage that is the result of misuse or neglect. Instrument contracts will be mailed home later in the year, no money needs to be collected right now.

- ❖ Reeds can be purchased in the band office. Clarinet = \$2, Saxophone = \$3

Fundraising

Fundraising events are becoming increasingly necessary to fund school programs. Students' involvement is twofold. It increases understanding of being a team player and provides materials that benefit them directly. Fundraising events are optional but participation is encouraged. More information will be handed out the last week of September.

Grading

Classroom participation, class work and practice records 20% of your grade

Students will earn FIVE participation points a day. Students who do not have their instrument will receive a zero and students who are missing music or their band book will get partial credit. Habitual missing items will result in an SRC plan. Parents should send a note when the instrument is in the shop so that there are no misunderstandings. Students who display behavioral disruptions more than once in a class, will lose their participation points for that day.

We will have worksheets and other work done in class. Practice is your homework in band. In order for you to improve, and for all students in the group to have a positive experience, it is necessary for you to practice. The ideal situation is that you practice at least 20 minutes five days a week. A new practice record will be issued at the beginning of every month. If you are ill, please write “sick” on the practice record so you do not lose credit.

GRADING PER WEEK:

*100+ minutes = A+ (10 points + 3 E.C. points)

*80-99 minutes = A (9 points)

*60-79 minutes = B (8 points)

*40-59 minutes = C (7 points)

20-39 minutes = D (6 points)

1-19 minutes = F (2 points)

* Students who take lessons on Piano may use their piano practicing twice a week on their practice record for band.

Written and Playing tests 40% of your grade

Students have several assessment opportunities throughout the semester. We will have written assessments to make sure students understand how to read music and count rhythm and playing assessments so that I can hear each student’s playing ability. Some playing tests will be live but most will be recorded on the iPads. All tests, whether written or playing may be redone if a student feels they could improve their score.

Performance attendance 40% of your grade

All required performances are mandatory for every band student. Excused absences from performances include:

Illness with parent/guardian contact

Family emergency with parent/guardian contact

Notification of absence at least 2 weeks prior to the performance date by a parent/guardian (family vacation/activity)

If you are excused from the performance, you will need to write an essay and perform a playing test to receive full credit for the absence. It is your responsibility to communicate to the director and your responsibility to arrange make-up work.

Unexcused absences from performances include:

Illness without parent/guardian contact

Family Emergency without parent/guardian contact

Notification of absence less than 2 weeks prior to the performance

Sports obligations (we can usually work these conflicts out)

Disinterest

Any unexcused absence cannot be made up and will result in a zero for the performance grade.

Instrument Switching

Some students will switch to a new instrument after the Winter Concert. Saxophone, French horn, oboe, bassoon, baritone and tuba are examples of instruments that come from our starting instruments. Who will switch is based on desire, ability, and effort in band. If you think you would like to switch to one of the extension instruments, please make sure to work hard on your current instrument. You should aspire to do well on quizzes, practice and turn in your practice records, as well as be an active member of class with little disruptions.

Website: creeksideband.com

Please visit creeksideband.com, our official Creekside Band Website where you can find important information, assignments, concert dates and much more! If parents or grandparents are ever unable to attend a concert, the concert recording will be posted to the site so that everybody can enjoy the experience. Feel free to bookmark creeksideband.com for easy recall. Extra practice records are available under the “practice record” tab.

Uniform

In order to make the ZPS Bands look as uniform as possible, we ask all students to follow the dress code below to the best of their ability. Parents, we especially ask you to be involved in helping your child dress properly for performances. *If you need assistance with purchasing any part of the uniform, we would be happy to help, but please give us plenty of notice.* Students who do not come to the performance in uniform will not receive full credit for their performance grade.

6th Grade Members

CMS Green band t-shirt (\$10) **THESE SHIRTS HAVE A NEW DESIGN THIS YEAR**

Black Slacks – solid black

Black shoes with black socks – Girls – bare feet tops are not an option. If you wear slip on shoes you will need black socks or tights on your feet.

***consider that you will be marching in these shoes for the Memorial Day Parade –
avoid sandals and shoes without backs or ‘slip-ons’ for marching**

Please avoid these clothing articles when shopping for uniform parts:

1. Tennis shoes that are not **solid** black – white or red stripes are our biggest enemy!
2. Platform shoes, heels, backless sandals, flip flops or other shoes that are difficult in which to walk (marching).
3. Pants should be full length, no capris, or shorts.
4. Pants that are anything but solid black – again no stripes, please. If you wear black jeans please make them very dark so that they don’t look faded.

Performance Dates (These dates are subject to change due to COVID)

Winter Concert 12/8/21 7:00 P.M. @ DeWitt Auditorium

*Spring Concert 3/29/22 @ 7:00 P.M. in DeWitt Auditorium Please **DON'T LEAVE EARLY** for Spring Break*

5th Graders Demonstration Concert: End of March during school

Memorial Day Parade 5/30/22 @ 9:00 A.M. in Downtown Zeeland

Please put these on your family calendar soon. About two weeks before each performance I will send home a letter explaining the specific information for each concert.

Many important documents will come home through “parent portal” otherwise known as Infinite Campus. Please make sure that you have a current email address with that system so that you receive the communications. Also, if you change email addresses during the year, please contact the main office at Creekside to verify that your email in I.C. is correct.

Commitment Sheet

I have read the goals and expectations and agree to follow the rules and abide by the expectations of the class.

Student Signature

Date

Student Name (printed)

I have read the goals and expectations and understand his/her commitment.

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

Please sign and return by Friday, September 8th.

We are looking forward to starting this year. We know this packet has a lot of rules and regulations, but we want everybody to understand the expectations up front so that there are no surprises later. Feel free to contact us if you have any questions or concerns. We would be happy to help.

Best wishes,

Mrs. Bier
nbier@zps.org
748-3319

Mr. Keur
lkeur@zps.org
748-3130

SHIRT ORDER FORM

6th Grade t-shirt: (\$10)

Yth L Yth XL Adult S Adult M Adult L Adult XL Adult XXL

Cash or checks made out to Creekside Band are accepted. Siblings may turn in one form and/or one check. Please put the payment and this form in an envelope with the child's first and last name on the front. Form and money are due by September, 8th.

Student Name (if detached from above) _____