**Syllabus**

**8th Grade Band**

Class Objective:

Students will learn the basics of instrumental music. Students will develop an understanding of the structure of music and its applications through music theory. By perfecting their skills on a single instrument, students will gain a deeper understanding of musical history and techniques as well as learn methods for problem solving, self-improvement, and group participation that is transferable to other subjects. Students will learn to perform at a high level in a group and individual environment supported by opportunities to audition and compete with other musical students in the area.

Materials

**Required:**

1. **Instrument**
   1. **Students and parents are encouraged to rent or buy their instrument from a music retailer**. Information about suggested locations is included with this packet. This allows students to have the best possible quality instrument, allows them to take their instrument home with them regularly, and ensures that they get to play their favorite instrument (we have very limited instruments that students can use from the school)
2. **Binder**-standard 3 ring binder used to store music and the music book. The Binder must be 1” size in order to fit in the band storage cabinet.
3. **Pencils-**needed for class every day!

**Suggested:** (These items will be used regularly in class. Students that obtain and regularly use these materials outside of class tend to advance more quickly)

1. **Metronome**\*-used to keep time while practicing.
2. **Tuner**\*-used to adjust pitch and train the student’s ability to recognize intonation.
3. **Stand**-used to hold music
4. **Smartmusic**-musical technology to assist student in performing and practicing.

\*available as applications on Ipad and other tablet/phone devices

Classroom Procedures

1. **Food**-no food is permitted in class unless it is in a sealed container; food must remain out of sight during class time
2. **Drinks**-only water is permitted in the classroom
3. **Pencils**-you must have a pencil for class every day!
4. **Instruments**-play only your own instrument (this prevents unnecessary repair fees)
5. **Questions**-If you have a question or comment, raise your hand! Show respect by not speaking out of turn.
6. **Ipads**-We will use Ipads frequently during class; however, you may only use them when instructed to do so.
7. **Bathroom**-Use will be limited to emergencies ONLY. Please use the scheduled bathroom breaks.
8. **Instrument/music storage**-Store your instrument/music where specified. It is your responsibility to keep track of your equipment
9. **Beginning class**-you have three (3) minutes from the time the bell rings to get your instrument and materials ready for class every day. Enter the classroom quietly and place your materials in the proper areas. (we will talk about this more in class!)
10. **Leaving your seat during class**-follow all procedures for moving around the classroom. (this varies by class; if you forget, just ask!)
11. **Ending class**-You will be given plenty of time at the end of class to put away your instrument and materials. All students must be seated before exiting the classroom

\*Some procedures change depending on which class section you are in! These questions will be reviewed in each class separately:

* Where do I put my instrument in the morning before school?
* How do pick up my instrument at the end of the day?
* Where do I put my backpack?
* Where does my Ipad go?
* When is it okay to leave my seat during class?

The keywords for how we handle ourselves and others in class:

**Respect**

Almost everything we do in band class can be guided through this one word.

* Respectfully talk to others (raising your hand)
* Respectful encouragement is required (support your classmates; avoid demeaning language)
* Respect classroom equipment (careful and cautious)
* Respect the group (stay on task; do not become a distraction)
* Respect yourself (it is okay to make mistakes!)

Give respect, then you will get some back.

Seek RESPECT, not attention. It lasts LONGER.

**Integrity**

Do what is right, not what is easy.

The supreme quality for a leader is unquestionably integrity

*Dwight D. Eisenhower*

a.k.a. How do I act when I think no one is looking?

And last but not least!

**Participation**

The game of life has two participants, spectators and players. Pick one.

*Unknown*

The secret of getting ahead is getting started

*Mark Twain*

You cannot fail without your consent. You cannot succeed without your participation.

*Rob Thomas*

The only way to get better in life is to try.

Homework

Good news! Homework in band is not like other classes. All you need to do is take you instrument home and PRACTICE!

Grades

We have a few different levels of grades in band. Band is a performance based class; this is why the performances are the highest portion of your grade. Make plans NOW to perform at scheduled concerts listed in the “Important Dates” section.

**Major**-50% performances and full band rehearsals

Performances-There will be at least two performances in the Fall and two in the Spring.

**Mid**-30% scales, quizzes, and in class performances

Assessments in this category will be short playing or written opportunities (30 seconds or less)

**Daily**-20% daily participation, practice, and homework

Daily Participation-lack of participation lowers your weekly participation grade by 20 points!

Materials check-do you have your book, pencil, music, folder, and anything else required for you instrument? (ex. Mallets, sticks, reeds, valve oil, neck strap, etc.)

Aynor Middle School Band Important Dates

The following dates are all the required events that students must attend throughout the year. Students will receive a Major Grade for their participation at each of these events. In the event that a student cannot attend due to illness or other circumstances, an alternate assignment will be supplied and must be turned in according to the Aynor Middle Handbook section on late assignments.

If there is a major conflict with any of these dates, please let me know soon so that we can plan accordingly.

December 16 Full Band Rehearsal 3:30-5:30 pm Aynor Middle Band Room

December 17 Winter Concert\* 7:30 pm Aynor High School Auditorium

March 16 Full Band Rehearsal 3:30-5:30 Aynor Middle Band Room

March 22, 23, or 24 Junior Concert Band TBD Florence, SC

Performance Assessment one-day field trip during school

May 18 Full Band Rehearsal 3:30-5:30 pm Aynor Middle Band Room

May 19 Spring Concert\* 7:30 pm Aynor High School Auditorium

\*note: The Winter and Spring concerts will contain ONLY Aynor Middle School bands. This differs from previous years where we shared our concerts with the Aynor High Bands.

The Seventh and Eighth grade bands will be playing together for all of our concerts. Each concert has a Full Band Rehearsal before the event. This is the ONLY day all students will get to play together before the concerts, so it is imperative that students attend these rehearsals.

**Information**

In order to improve communication, the Aynor Band Program requests that you provide updated information for our records. Please complete and return this form by Friday, August 28.

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian 1: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian 2: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Would you or a family member be interested in volunteering to chaperone at band events?

Yes No

Are you or a family member an approved chaperone with the Horry County School District?

Yes No

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parent(s)/Guardian(s): By signing this form, you acknowledge the understanding of the attendance and financial requirements of the Aynor Middle School Band Program. It is understood that the cost for using a school instrument is $20.00\* to cover the repair costs for gradual wear of the instrument. These costs may be paid in installments of two (2) $10.00 increments or all at once. All payments must be completed by Friday, September 18. If there is a financial hardship situation, please contact me personally.

\*the $20.00 instrument repair cost does not apply to students that have rented or purchased an instrument from a music retailer

If you have any questions, feel free to email or call me anytime!

Sincerely,

Matthew Krieger

[mkrieger@horrycountyschools.net](mailto:mkrieger@horrycountyschools.net) or 843-358-6000 ext. 3202