



Middle Creek High School Band

PAGE NEWSOME – DIRECTOR OF BANDS

wnewsome@wcpss.net, 919-773-3838

Instrumental Music: Beginner, Intermediate, Proficient & Advanced Band

Course Syllabus

MCHS Band Mission & Core Values

Excellence - We strive for excellence in all we do both on and off the field/stage

Fun - We value having fun through collaboration, performance, and social events

Respect - We celebrate what everyone brings to the team, regardless of experience

Team - We are a team; we win, lose, succeed, fail, celebrate, grieve, and grow together

Essential Standards of Music:

1. Apply the elements of music and musical techniques in order to sing and play music with accuracy and expression.
2. Interpret the sound and symbol systems of music.
3. Create music using a variety of sound and notational sources.
4. Understand the interacting elements to respond to music and music performances.
5. Understand global, interdisciplinary, and 21st century connections with music.

Supplies:

- Instrument in good working condition
- All supplies related to instruments (Reeds, Valve Oil, Cork Grease etc.)
- Pencil
- Notebook, staff music paper
- Sheet music and music folder, or PDF's online

Mouthpieces/Equipment:

All equipment and instruments are expected to be of good quality and in excellent condition. It is the responsibility of the student to take care of his/her own equipment so that it remains in good playing condition. Students are encouraged to seek information from professionals about step-up instruments. Students are also responsible for providing their own mouthpieces and ligatures. MCHS owns a limited number of mouthpieces, so it is highly recommended that the students purchase their own. Following is a list of mouthpieces that are recommended.

Clarinet Vandoren 5RV Lyre

Bass Clarinet CM 344

Saxophone Rousseau

French Horn Holton Farkas MDC (medium-deep cup) or Yamaha 30C4

Trumpet Bach 5c or 3c

Euphonium Schilke 51d—check shank size

Trombone Schilke 51d, Bach 6 ½ AL or 5G (Advanced)—check shank size

Tuba Conn Hellberg, Schilke 66

Reed instrumentalists should purchase quality reeds and should always have *three playable reeds that they rotate daily*. Reeds should be put in a reed case between rehearsals. This extends the life of the reed. Vandoren reeds are recommended. Rico reeds are not acceptable.

Percussionists are responsible for providing:

- Stick bag
- Snare sticks (Vic Firth SD1 Generals)
- Yarn mallets (Mike Balter, rattan shaft preferred)
- Hard plastic bell mallets (Balter)
- Timpani mallets (Vic Firth T1 Generals) *optional

Concert Attire

Proper concert attire is required for all concert performances. Students and families are responsible for securing necessary materials. There are hyperlinks listed below to assist with your ordering the correct items.

3rd Period (WE) - [All black \(black button down, black dress pants, jacket, black tie or bowtie\)](#); or [all black formal dress](#); black dress shoes

4th Period (SB) - [All black \(black button down, black dress pants, black tie or bowtie\)](#), or [all black formal dress](#); black dress shoes

Additional options!

1. [Blouse](#) + choose a bottom
[pull on straight leg pants](#) (w/blouse)
[palazzo pants](#) (w/blouse)
[Skirt](#) (w/blouse)
2. [¾ sleeve blouse](#) + choose a bottom
[pull on straight leg pants](#) (w/ ¾ sleeve)
[palazzo pants](#) (w/ ¾ sleeve)
[skirt](#) (w/ ¾ sleeve)

Resources:

PowerSchool (online)

Google Classroom (our class site)

www.metronomeonline.com (metronome)

www.musictheory.net (for theory and ear training exercises)

<http://www.teoria.com/index.php> (for theory and ear training exercises)

<http://audacity.sourceforge.net/> (recording software)

The BrassBand, Sweeney Brass, Flying Squirrel, Music and Arts (for supplies and repairs)

Communication:

All email communication with Mr. Newsome should be done via his WCPSS email (wnesome@wcpss.net.) You may also call the school at (919) 773-3838. To meet in person, please schedule an appointment. At least two weeks' notice is required for missing a rehearsal or performance.

All email communication with students must be from the student's WCPSS email account.

Honors Band Clinics -

There are several Honors Band Clinics that are available to students by audition. Mr. Newsome will distribute information as he is made aware of the events. For students that are enrolled in Honors Band classes, there are multiple ways to satisfy your honor's requirements. In the fall semester, you may audition for Honor's (All District) Band and/or in the spring, you may perform in our Solo/Small Ensemble Concert. If the students are unable to perform in one or both of these performance opportunities, performance evaluation or research papers may be written instead. In this case, prior approval must be made by Mr. Newsome.

All-District Band: All-District Band auditions are in January. Honors Level Band students will be required to either audition for All District Band or write 2 evaluation papers. All District Band is a great way for students to showcase their individual talent and hard work through a competitive audition and selection process. Students are also representing the MCHS Band Program. As such, proper preparation and director's approval is required. Students must complete the following requirements:

- All 8 major scales + chromatic scale checked off with Mr. Newsome
- An 'A' on Playing Tests 3 and 4 (based on the All-District solo)
- Play entire solo for Mr. Newsome
- Perform at least once for class

Students who do not complete the above requirements will not be allowed to audition.

Instrumental Music: Band - Class Grading:

60% Process

Rehearsal procedure, ensemble skills, classwork, playing quizzes, written work

40% Product

Final recordings of concert music, performance evaluation papers, individual/group projects

Rehearsal Procedure/Ensemble Skills -

Regular (daily) practice is expected. Students should not merely strive to master the notes and rhythms of the music from class. Students should constantly work toward mastery of their instrument, and they should take the initiative to find etudes or solos outside of the normal class curriculum to master and perform. Consistently working on material inside and outside of class will improve each student as an individual musician as well as improving our ensemble sound.

Before class, students should make their way through the instrument storage room in an organized fashion. Instruments should be taken out of the cases, cases left on the shelves, and book bags and other items left in the instrument storage room on the shelving units. Students will store their cell phone in an assigned cubby at the beginning of class. There will be a 5 minute brain break in the middle of each class for students to check their phones if need be, otherwise phones are expected to be stored in an assigned cubby at the front of the room during class instruction unless instructed otherwise.

During rehearsal, students are to be actively engaged at all times and perform their best effort. Students will sign a participation contract outlining specific expectations.

After rehearsal, all percussion equipment should be put away in proper places, covered, etc. Instruments should be put in cases in their proper storage areas. Chairs and stands should be left neat and orderly.

Personal items, non-band items, and trash should not be left in the band area (including storage areas). There should never be food, drinks (except bottled water), gum, candy, etc. in the band area.

Playing Tests -

Evaluations will be made regularly on a student's playing ability. Students should make every attempt at a high-quality performance, focusing on improving every time that they play. Students will perform/record their playing tests on their device as a video file (this is preferred--.mp3, .wav, .m4a, .mov format).

Smartphones are another method to record your playing test. Use the appropriate app, email it to yourself (so you can save it to your computer), and send it via Google Drive. Do not email your playing test as an attachment directly to Mr. Newsome. Please share a link via google drive.

Students are expected to perform for their own playing test. Record as many times as necessary in order to get an excellent recording. The final file should not be edited in any way. Stops and starts in the recording should only be done at "obvious" section breaks (multi-measure rests, between movements, et.

Quarter projects may include performance-based evaluations and/or written evaluations (written assignments or tests). Students will get at least one month to prepare for the assignment. Examples of past projects include:

Written Project

Self- and Peer-Evaluation Projects

Movie Projects

Chamber Project (performances in class in February)

Honors Portfolio* (Wind Ensemble)

*Members of *Wind Ensemble* may complete an Honors Portfolio. At the end of each quarter, a folder will be submitted by the student with a completed Honors rubric and all required evidence of completion (see Honors rubric).

Performances evaluation papers -

Performances are a large part of our class. This includes concerts, dress rehearsals and music adjudication (MPA.) The day after each performance, the class will engage in a reflective discussion regarding the performance. The students will then submit an evaluation paper based upon their performance and reflection of the performance. A rubric will be supplied to each student that outlines the format of the evaluation paper. This rubric is included at the end of this syllabus. For students that were unable to attend our performance, an alternate written assignment will be given. This alternate assignment will be at the discretion of Mr. Newsome.

If at any point a student or parent finds it impossible to attend a required event, the director should be contacted immediately. Excuses will only be given for illness, death in the immediate family, court or administrative proceedings, religious observances, or school-related activities that in the director's opinion take precedence. *Work, transportation issues, or studying for a test or completing homework are not excused absences.* A make-up assignment will be given for excused absences.

Performance Evaluation Guidelines

All written assignments should be double-spaced and Times New Roman size 12 font. You should use 1-inch margins on all four sides of the paper and it should fill all pages required by the assignment (ex. a two-page assignment should fill up two full pages). Your paper should include a Works

Cited page (not included in the page count) that lists all references from the paper. As a general rule, you should attempt to diversify your sources (in other words, do not get all of your information from one website). Wikipedia should *not* be your only accepted source.

Plagiarism is “the act of taking ideas, writings, etc. from another and offering them as one’s own” (*Webster’s New World Dictionary*). Any non-quoted material in your writing assignment should be cited properly on the Works Cited page. This will be checked and strictly enforced, and an assignment with any sign of plagiarism will receive a grade of a zero and be turned in to administration.

Middle Creek High School Honor Code

Middle Creek High School is a school community that is committed to integrity and excellence in academics and in personal accountability. Because of this commitment, it is imperative that all members of the Middle Creek High School community embody personal honor, personal integrity, and personal responsibility. Therefore, it is expected that each person at Middle Creek High School will uphold the honor code including but not limited to the following:

Plagiarism and copying, cheating, discussions of material, lying and fraudulent behavior, veracity and integrity of work, etc...

Infractions for Breaking the Honor Code:

1st Infraction

- Student gets a zero with an opportunity to take an alternate assignment that they must complete within two days of the offer. The student will be given 60% credit for the alternate assignment.

2nd Infraction

- Student gets a zero with an opportunity to take an alternate assignment that must be completed within two days of the offer. The student will be given 50% credit for the alternate assignment.

3rd Infraction

- The student will receive a zero for the assignment.
Note: Infractions are added up for each individual student over ALL his/her classes, NOT for each individual class.

Classwork/Quizzes -

Band quizzes will be given in class on a variety of topics. These topics include and are not limited to: rhythm, sight reading, music theory, music history, dictation etc. Students will be responsible for maintaining a band notebook that we will add to each day of class. Journal entries include concepts relating to music history and theory and are crucial to the comprehension of the curriculum material. Written assessments will be derived primarily from notebook entries. Students may also be asked to complete online music theory assignments.

Students are expected to make up all missed work, *including daily journal entries*. *Students must initiate completion of make-up work on the first day that the student returns after being absent*. If possible, students should see the teacher before absence regarding assignments.

Additional Opportunities to Demonstrate Mastery

Students may receive supplemental points by redoing an assignment on which they received a low grade.

Middle Creek High School Band Testing Rubric - Our Testing Rubric that Mr. Newsome uses for playing tests will be posted on Google Classroom. This includes, Winds scales, Winds solo’s, Timpani, Mallet Percussion, Snare using rolls, and Snare using Rudiments.

Fall Semester REQUIRED Dates:

Sat October 1	(HOST) Mustang Classic Competition - Sign up to volunteer throughout the day This is a huge fundraiser that goes to benefit the entire band program. Funds raised help to lower the cost of spring trips, maintain our current instruments, and invest in new equipment. Everyone is needed and expected to lend a hand that day as we host 17 bands and close to 2,500 spectators throughout the day. “All-Hands-On-Deck” Meeting Wed 9/28 at 6pm (parent volunteers only)
Tuesday November 1	<i>Tentative</i> - Combined Dress Rehearsal 3-5pm
Thursday November 3	Fall Concert - 7pm in Auditorium - free admission
Tuesday December 13	<i>Tentative</i> - Combined Dress Rehearsal 3-5pm
Thursday December 15	Winter Concert - 7pm in Auditorium - free admission

**Concert Band Class (Wind Ensemble, Symphonic Band)
Fair Share for 2022-2023
\$100**

What does this \$100 fee pay for?

We receive limited funds from the county to repair instruments and to use as instructional funds. Fair share allows us to bring in guest clinicians, purchase new sheet music, instruments and equipment. Lastly, this will cover administrative costs associated with MPA performances and transportation, and annual instrument cleaning and maintenance. Students in marching band have a separate fair share, but this is included in that cost. This amount is able to be fundraised easily to help avoid any out of pocket expenses. If you're in need of a payment plan, please let us know - wnewsome@wcpss.net, mchsbandpresident@gmail.com, and mchsbandtreasurer@gmail.com

This will be reflected in Charmsoffice.com - we'll be in touch soon with login information if this is your first year in the band program.