

Murrieta Valley Unified School District
Middle School Course Outline

Course Title: Beginning Band

Grade Level(s): 6-8

Length of Course: 1 year

Description: This is the class for students who have never played a band instrument or have less than 9 months experience. Beginning Band is a student's elective course. Major focus points are posture, breathing, reading rhythms accurately, reading musical notation and developing listening skills. Other music for performances is passed out during the course of the year. Beginning Band performs mostly at school concerts. Only traditional band instruments are used in this course (flute, clarinets, alto saxophone, oboe, bassoon, trumpet, horn, trombone, baritone horn, euphonium, tuba, and concert percussion).

Objectives:

1. Each student will learn and apply proper concert etiquette during rehearsals and performances.
2. Each student will complete performance assignments involving scales, rhythms, articulations, dynamics, and other performance techniques due as assigned. These may be from the method books, concert music, or handouts.
3. Each student will understand proper breathing techniques for good tone quality and phrasing.
4. Each student will understand and be able to explain concert pitch, transposition, and clef identification as it applies to his/her instrument.
5. Each student will properly care for his/her instrument, music, folder, method books, storage room, and the rehearsal room.
6. Each student will practice outside of class time to ensure that all music and assignments are completed in a timely manner.
7. Each student will learn the basic Italian musical terms and their definitions as listed in the text.
8. Students will abide by the guidelines of the Band Contract at their school site.

Requirements:

1. Each student is required to bring his/her instrument and music/materials to all rehearsals and performances.
2. Attendance is mandatory at all rehearsals and performances outside school hours.
3. Students are expected to practice a minimum of 150 minutes per week outside of group rehearsals.
4. Each student will acquire the required method book(s), as designated per school site.

Evaluation/Grading Criteria:

1. Attendance and preparedness at all rehearsals and performances.
2. Participation, collaboration, and teamwork.
3. Preparedness of music, scales, and playing fundamentals.
4. Instrument and materials inspections.
5. Written work including worksheets, handouts, practice logs and theory assignments.
6. Quizzes and tests, both written and performance.

(revised June, 2013)