



RIVERSIDE MIDDLE SCHOOL BANDS

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VIKING BAND SYLLABUS

Instructor:

Mrs. Robin Silveira, Director of Bands

Meeting Time and Place:

See Band Handbook.

Required Texts:

“Essential Elements 2000,” Book 1 (non-percussion students only)

“Basics in Rhythm” - Garwood Whaley

“Mallet Percussion for the Young Beginner” - Randy Eyles (percussion students only)

“Resource Notebook.” - This Resource Notebook and should contain ONLY items that apply to Band. (i.e. no materials from Science, Math, English, etc.) You will keep this notebook until you graduate from Riverside Middle School.

The Resource Notebook will be evaluated and graded by Mrs. Silveira at least once every quarter (sometimes more often), so be sure to keep it neat and organized. You should check your notebook periodically to be sure that it contains all of the required items, and that they are organized in the same order as your Table of Contents.

Mrs. Silveira reserves the right to add items to this Table of Contents at any time, so be sure to purchase a 1 1/2 to 2-inch binder.

Purpose:

This class is open to all students interested in playing a band instrument. No experience is necessary. The group meets once a week as a full band (see section in RMS Band Handbook on rehearsal schedules) and every other day in small instrument groups (see section in RMS Band Handbook on class schedules). Major focus points are posture, breathing, reading rhythms accurately, reading musical notation and developing listening skills. Upon successful completion of this course, students may be promoted to Concert Band. Performances may include school assemblies, two evening concerts and one band festival.

General Observations:

All work must be completed by the dates specified in class unless other arrangements have been made with me well in advance. Work should be turned in during regular class time. Do not turn in your work to the main office. Make a copy of your projects before turning them in. Although I do take great care of your graded materials, accidents do happen; take the time to make a copy. For your own protection, keep a copy of all your graded work. **Note that assignments turned in late or incomplete will not be accepted, and be graded as a zero.** The grade of “incomplete” is given only when a serious medical or personal problem makes it impossible for the student to complete the required assignments by the specified times. If you feel that an incomplete is appropriate in your case, you will need to discuss this with me well in advance, and you will also need to provide all of the paperwork with all the details accurately filled out.

VIKING BAND SYLLABUS CONTINUED

Attendance:

It is expected that you will attend every class and performance event throughout the year. If you must, for some compelling reason (severe sickness) miss class, you will need to provide documentation explaining your absence. According to school policy, work may not be made up without a signed note from your parent/guardian and/or doctor. Work that is not made up will be recorded as a zero. Absences will severely hinder your progress in this class as it will result in a zero (F) for your class participation grade for that day. Tardiness will result in reducing your class participation grade to a 60 (D) for that day. Students are responsible for all material covered in class whether they were present or not. Find a friend today, and get that individual's phone number and/or e-mail address so that you can discuss classes that you may have missed. I will not use my time to review material presented in class. It is your responsibility to attend every class period.

Course Requirements:

There will be a number of exams scheduled throughout the course of the year. Exams will always be announced, however, quizzes may not. Students will normally not be allowed to make-up exams unless a valid excuse is provided with documentation (sickness, family death, etc.). Furthermore, written homework will be regularly assigned in this class. This homework is in addition to your regularly scheduled practice time.

Exam/Quiz Format:

Exams will consist mostly of playing material (via SmartMusic®) with some written components. Binder, folder, and case/stick bag tests will not be announced, and will be given periodically throughout the year. Please see your resource notebook for more detailed information.

It is important to remember that **Band is, in fact, a “real class” and a full year commitment**. Students will have to earn grades, and the grades count toward the honor roll.

Grade Base:

As the RMS Band Handbook states, “Students will receive progress reports in the middle of each quarter. The reports include my thoughts on the student’s progress, and there is also a place for the parent and young musician to assess the student’s practice habits and perhaps set new goals where needed.”

The following is a breakdown of how each student will be graded in Band:

Exams	10%
At Home Preparation/Homework	15%
Rehearsals/Performances	35%
Classroom Skills	40%

Class Format:

Tests will be based on material presented in class, and on assigned readings. Class will be supplemented with aural examples and other pertinent items. Questions and related discussion are encouraged; however, socializing and insubordination are unacceptable. It is expected that every student adhere to the conduct policies set forth in the band handbook. Remember that we are a professional musical ensemble, and we must behave as such.

Your growth as a musician depends upon how you apply yourself to learning and knowing. There are no shortcuts to learning music--especially in the development of technique, endurance, and aural skills. You must work at it **every day**. You must be able to recall and recognize key signatures, scales, rhythms, etc. instantly and automatically. These are the tools you need to continue to work at to succeed throughout the year.