**Jewell School District**

**Course Syllabus**

**SY: 2015-2016**

**Course Title:** 6th Grade Band

**Instructor’s Name:** Mr. Cory Pederson

**Room:** Stage (Multipurpose Room)

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**COURSE DESCRIPTIONS/OBJECTIVES:**

* Students who take this class will learn basic through intermediate music reading and will be able to perform level 1-2 music on their instruments (on a scale of 1-6, with 6 being the highest). They will go through at least one or two sequential method books and several music pieces. At the end of the year, the beginning band will face the challenge of attempting to perform some of the advanced band’s music (level 2--2 ½). This is in effort to get them closer to a upper middle school level of proficiency in one year. Students in this course are also obligated to observe some of the advanced band’s performances, will watch videos on marching bands, and will listen to professional and amateur band performances to evaluate and compare. (All students will receive the necessary supplies, including their main method books and mouthpieces/reeds/drum sticks).

**EXPECTATIONS OF THE CLASS:**

* This class is intended for students to learn how to play a band instrument and how to read notated music.
* Students will learn how to read basic to moderately difficult musical notation and how to apply them to a band instrument. Heavy emphasis is placed upon reading skills (rhythm, pitches, counting, upbeats vs. downbeats, etc.) and performance skills.
* Students will also observe the concert band’s (high school ensemble) performances to understand what to expect in a real concert situation.
* Students may need to be placed on certain instruments (modifications) if they are experiencing difficulty performing on their first choice of instruments. (i.e. Braces may impede success on brass instruments; Poor hand-eye coordination may impede success on percussion instruments).
* **Rehearsal attendance** – based on the number of rehearsals/classes attended. Show up at all the rehearsals (Full band, sectionals, and classes) prepared and on time, and make-up the rehearsals / classes you missed within one week. Students who miss more than three (3) full band rehearsals or teacher-led sectionals in a single quarter without a valid excuse may not be allowed to perform at any performances that quarter, resulting in a lowered grade.
* **Exams / Homework** – There will be periodic exams and homework assignments designed to expand your musical knowledge. Turn in assignments when asked. Tests / exams will vary between written knowledge and instrumental performance. Also, a weekly **100 minute PRACTICE SHEET** must be turned in by **everyone for credit.** (Ask for options in regards to places to practice, if home practice is not an option).
* **Performance ability** – A student must be able to perform at a certain degree of proficiency per grade level. Every week performance tests will be administered to ensure that students are practicing and improving on their instrument. **This accounts for the largest portion of your grade in this class, as it truly shows the work and effort being utilized to meet the standards set at the National and State level for requirements in music.**
* **Attitude / Participation** – Maintaining a positive attitude and participating in class is very important. Excessive talking, lack of participation or arriving to class unprepared will result in a lowered grade and student/teacher/parent discussions. \* Assignments missed due to excused absences may be made up within one week of the missed assignment. \*
* **\*\*\* Note: Attending performances is mandatory**. If you miss a performance (including Pep games, concerts, parades and other performances) **without prior approval** of the band director, **and** fail to make it up by the appointed deadline, the students’ grade will be lowered. An unexcused absence will cause their rank to be lowered by one whole letter grade. (see the “Performance Make Up Policy Sheet” for more information).\*\*

**Grading**

**The beginning band student’s grade is the result of an evaluation of the** **following:**

* The student’s grade for playing exams (40%) as assessed by the Jewell School Band Exam Rubric.
* The student’s Individual Contribution to the band (20%) as assessed by the Jewell School Band Individual Contribution Rubric.
* Ensemble Performance Grade. A student must be in attendance at a performance to get the ensemble grade points (30%). Excused absences must be made up. **\*\* Note: Attending performances is mandatory. An unexcused absence will cause their rank to be lowered by one whole letter grade. (see the bulleted point above “Grading” & “Performance Make Up Policy Sheet” for more information).\*\***
* Written Assignments (Worksheets—theory assignments-concert evaluations-reports) = (10%).
* Extra Credit

**SUPPLIES / MATERIALS:**

* Band Folder (will be provided, but brought to class everyday)
* #2 Pencils (NO PENS ALLOWED) **PLEASE HAVE THESE OUT AND READY TO USE EVERYDAY!!!**
* Lined Paper (Staff paper will be handed out to students if needed)
* Music / Method Book (Classroom music will be provided)
* Instrument (s) & Supplies (Most items will be supplied, but individual instrument “owning” is highly encouraged.
* **\*\*\* (Instrument rentals are available through Beacock Music all year long, which will ensure that they have their very OWN instrument to play on throughout the year, instead of possibly sharing with other students. Beacock Music – based out of Vancouver, WA -- makes weekly trips to the area to ensure coverage of needs are met in the Jewell School District).\*\*\***

**CLASSROOM GUIDELINES & RULES:**

* **Listen** carefully and **follow directions** the first time.
* No food or drinks allowed in the classroom. Water is alright.
* Show **respect** to teachers, peers, and anyone else addressing the group.
* Bring a **cooperative and positive attitude** to each rehearsal.
* Strive for **EXCELLENCE!**

**Further Classroom Rules:**

* Be in class **before** the tardy bell rings**. Walking in the door while the bell is ringing constitutes being tardy.**
* Each student is required to bring their music folders with pencils, and other necessary equipment to class each day. **Pencils must be placed on stands during the period.**
* No gum chewing, candy, or soda pop in the band room (Water is permitted).
* No cell phones, camera phones, electronic handheld games, etc will be permitted and must be surrendered when asked. They can be picked up by your parents or at the discretion of the teacher for retrieval.
* Observe all off-limit areas (Band director’s desk and cabinets).
* Do not play on the band instruments while in the Music Room unless directed to.
* Follow all State, Federal, and Jewell School Rules.
* When in doubt, ask the band director.

**ATTENDANCE:**

* Students are expected to attend class regularly. Eight excused one-half day absences in any four week period during which the school is in session shall be considered irregular attendance. Excused absences not to exceed five days in a term of three months.