



Northern Granville Middle School

7th & 8th Grade Band

Syllabus [2015-2016]

Welcome to a new school year! I am looking forward to working with you and your student in the coming year. Beyond learning about music and how to play an instrument, we teach your child to have self-discipline, responsibility, integrity, teamwork and perseverance.

If you ever have ANY questions, please do not hesitate to contact me. The best way to contact me is through email.

Sincerely,
Mr. Ashley Sample
919-693-1483
sampleta@gcs.k12.nc.us

Check out our new website!
<https://sites.google.com/a/gcs.k12.nc.us/ngmsmusic/>

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

The Advanced Band is the third full year of music instruction on their instruments. Ownership or rental of instruments is required. This intermediate band class continues to develop skills on a variety of woodwind, brass, and percussions instruments. Emphasis is given to providing a strong fundamental approach to their instrument. Rehearsal from the required Music Text [*Tradition of Excellence Book 1*] will be accomplished daily, as well as developmental music theory and ear training. As we progress through the school year, students will be required to purchase a second Music Text [*Tradition of Excellence Book 2*]. Performance outside of normal school hours are required as part of this course. Individual practice outside of class is necessary to be successful.

OBJECTIVES:

- The student will develop a working knowledge of the proper posture and technique necessary to play a wind/percussion instrument.
- The student will develop the ability to play a wind/percussion instrument from notation at the grade II & grade III levels.
- The student will experience the performance of musical literature at the grade I & grade II levels.
- The student will gain an understanding of the expressive concepts unique to musical performance by developing a working knowledge of proper posture, technique, and tone quality on wind/percussion instruments.

REQUIRED MATERIALS:

- Instrument [in proper working order]
- Accessories [valve oil, reeds, slide/cork grease, etc.]
- Music Book [*Tradition of Excellence Book 1*] & later [*Tradition of Excellence Book 2*]
- Music Folder [Provided by the school]
- pencil
- Some paper for taking notes, etc.

GRADING:

HOMEWORK & PARTICIPATION (Practice Logs & Daily Rehearsal Grade) 10%

Practice Logs: Practicing at home is the most important thing you can do to improve your musicianship. Through practice, you will gain confidence, learn the importance of self-discipline, eliminate weakness in your playing and improve embouchure development and technique. By Monday of each week, students

will be required to record the total number of practice minutes practiced the following week. A form will be available on the band website. A point is given for each minute practiced for a total of 100 minutes per week (This works out to be less than 15 minutes per day). Instruments are to be practiced at home. Practice time should be monitored by parents. Time spent with private instrument teachers may also go towards total minutes practiced. Missed practice records cannot be made up without making special arrangements with the director. Late practice records are accepted at reduced credit. This system is based on **integrity**; failure to perform adequately during playing tests may bring the validity of a practice log into question.

Participation: Each week you will receive a rehearsal grade that is based on the following:

- Are you prepared for class?
- Do you have your instrument, music, and a pencil?
- Do you participate appropriately [Pay attention, focus on the lesson & avoid talking during class]?

Within the Daily Participation grade, we will further break down the grading process to help you see the progress of your student. They will receive grades on Effort, Progress, Rehearsal Skills, and Technique. The breakdown of each category is as follows:

- **EFFORT:** The individual effort each student is giving in rehearsal and performance in exhibiting proper posture, horn carriage, tone production, and overall commitment to the success of the band.
- **PROGRESS:** The overall individual progress each student is making as it relates to the North Carolina Music Education Guidelines.
- **REHEARSAL SKILLS:** Each student will be graded on rehearsal skills such as proper entry into band room, and getting seated in a timely manner with instrument and music to be ready for rehearsal. Other factors include the student's ability to not speak while the director is talking and showing respect for other students' playing ability.
- **TECHNIQUE:** Each student will be graded on their individual technique on their instrument such as proper articulations and fingerings.

PLAYING & WRITTEN TESTS 60%

Playing & Written Tests: Playing tests will be held during class at the rate of about once per week and will be graded using a Rubric system. Some playing tests may be "on the spot", but test dates are usually given well in advance. Written tests cover musical terms, and musical notation.

PERFORMANCES 30%

Performances: Because band is primarily a performance-based class, it is expected that all students participate in concerts throughout the school year. This is their chance to shine! All band members are expected to attend performances. **Please be sure to mark your calendars with the concert dates below.** The only acceptable excuses for missing a concert *with prior notice* are a wedding or death of a close family member. The only acceptable excuse for missing a concert *without prior notice* is severe illness which must be accompanied by a doctor's note upon returning to school. Please note that athletic events, celebrations and other general events are *not* excused. I will do my best to avoid scheduling over other events and expect you to extend the same courtesy.

PERFORMANCE DATES***

This year the Advanced Band will perform three to four public concerts in the Northern Granville Auditorium. All concerts will begin at 7:00 pm. Students are to be in their seats to warm-up (or in the audience waiting to perform) no later than 6:30pm for concerts. (To be early is to be on time.....)

Tuesday, October 13th* – 7:00pm – Northern Granville MS Auditorium [tentative]

*This date depends on the current proficiency level of returning students.

Thursday, December 10th – 7:00pm – Northern Granville MS Auditorium [definite]

Tuesday, March 8th* – 7:00pm – Northern Granville MS Auditorium [definite]

*I need to have a concert the week prior to the MPA event & Thursday is an early release.

Tuesday, May 17th – 7:00pm – Northern Granville MS Auditorium [definite]

Every attempt possible will be made to adhere to this schedule. Students will be notified well in advance of any changes made.

CONCERT DRESS:

Boys:

Pant: Black long pants, no denim

Shirt: White Shirt with a collar must be tucked in.

Shoes: Black, with black socks

Girls:

Pant or Skirt: Black pants, Capri or Skirt.

Shirt: Black

Shoes: Black

[All dresses and skirts should be knee length while seated.]

REQUIRED TEXTS: ***Tradition of Excellence Book 1 & Book 2****

Our textbook for band is what we use every day in class and for at home in practice. Each student is required to have the book for their respective instrument. Make sure you have the one written specifically for your instrument. *We will also be using book 2 later this year [TBA].

CLASSROOM PROCEDURES AND EXPECTATIONS

In order to facilitate the best daily classroom experience for the amount of students that we have in large classes such as band, the students will learn how to enter and setup properly for class. This will be accomplished during the first several days of school through practicing daily classroom procedures and drills.

DAILY CLASSROOM RULES

- Be quiet in your chair with materials and your instrument in the ready position when class is ready to begin.
- No gum, candy, food, or drinks in the band room, during rehearsal, or during performance. This is a strict policy due to the choking hazard.
- Do not play your instrument unless you are asked to do so.
- Stay off equipment not assigned to you.
- Raise your hand to ask questions, please.
- Manners are expected ALL THE TIME! Rude behavior will not be accepted!

CONSEQUENCES

1. Verbal warning[s]
2. Silent Lunch
3. In order to maximize our short time together every day, students must commit to provide an atmosphere that is conducive to learning. If a student is blatantly disrupting the class and is disrespectful to students or the teacher, the student will be removed from the classroom until their behavior has improved.

SCHOOL INSTRUMENT RENTAL:

To help with the success of our program, Granville County provides some larger and more expensive instruments for student use. ***We do not rent out flutes, clarinets, trumpets or trombones!*** Students will only be assigned to school instruments starting their second semester of band following a trial period, performance evaluation and approval of the student's parents. In order to use an instrument provided by the school system, students will have to provide an annual rental fee of \$20.00. This fee will go into the school band account to help pay for minor repairs and the privilege of having the instrument assigned to your child. Any major damages while a student is assigned to a specific instrument will be the responsibility of the student's parents. Make all checks payable to Northern Granville Middle School. When writing a check, please include your phone number, driver's license number and clearly print the student's name on the memo line.