

6th Grade Band 🎵

Welcome to the Becker Middle School Band Program!!! I am very excited that you are participating in the fantastic tradition of the Becker Middle School Band. This syllabus will give you an outline of the important points that make our program what it is. If you have any questions, feel free to call or email me at any time.

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Objectives:

To be able to demonstrate proper instrument technique, possess knowledge of basic music symbols, perform literature from various periods and cultures, and meet performance expectations.

Materials:

Every student participating in band is required to come prepared with the materials they need to be successful. *Failure to have the following will impact the student's ability to participate in class and their grade.*

Instrument- students are required to have their instrument in class every day. Any student wishing to use a school instrument must pay the school maintenance fee: \$60 shared instrument, \$120 single use instrument. If you do not wish to rent from the school, there are music stores with rental programs that you are more than welcome to utilize. All maintenance money paid to the school is used in the upkeep of the instruments and replacement where needed.

Related Equipment: Having your instrument also means having your mouthpiece or reeds, neck straps, sticks or mallets, and any other items needed to properly play and participate in class. It does no good to have an instrument but no reeds!!

Music- All 6th grade band students will receive a copy of every piece of music that we play. Students must keep their music in a 3-ring binder or a folder. All students must have their own music in class every day – don't rely on the person sitting next to you! Students are responsible for their music, and it will be turned in after the performance.

Essential Elements 2000 Lesson Book 1: This is the book used in 5th grade band, so most students should already have it. We will use this regularly in class, and also during band lessons, so all students should have it in their folder or binder. As individuals or small groups finish this book, they will need to get Book 2.

Pencil- Every student will be required to have a pencil in their band folder or binder.

Classroom Procedures

1. Be on time every day.
2. Students must have their instruments, music, and pencil every day.
3. Gum, candy, food, and drinks are not allowed in the band room!
4. Raise your hand to be called on.
5. Be respectful of yourself and others.

Lessons/Tests

All students will have a small group band lesson weekly. Students will be grouped with other students of like instruments. Students will have playing tests in which they demonstrate their mastery of material covered in class. The tests will be done informally during band lessons. There may also be written tests covering topics related to a student's particular instrument and music theory.

Grading

The grading system is intentionally designed to allow any student, regardless of musical ability, to earn an "A" in class by their participation and effort. Conversely, a student who plays their instrument exceptionally well can receive a lower grade in band if they do not put forth adequate effort. Being in band is as much about personal growth and responsibility as it is about music, and the grading system is meant to reflect this.

Students will be graded on the following:

-Class participation- students will receive a weekly participation grade. Students whose instruments have to be taken to a store for repairs must bring a dated invoice to receive credit for those days.

-Playing and Written Tests- as discussed above

-Extra credit- will be given to students who attend outside instrumental music performances and turn a parent/guardian signed copy of the performance program.

Participation in outside groups and private lessons can also gain the student extra points.

Performances

All performances count as a test grade. All students are required to attend the performances. **Sporting events do not count as an acceptable absence from a concert!** Just as your team relies on you, a successful band concert requires that all the people that have been working together for months on a goal be present to make the best performance possible. It is suggested that if you find a conflict with your sporting schedule to contact your coach IMMEDIATELY as they can often reschedule. Your concerts were scheduled by your directors last year and cannot be changed to accommodate the many wonderful sporting opportunities available in Becker. This year's performances are on the following dates:

Thursday, December 17 (evening)

Thursday, March 11 (afternoon)

Tuesday, May 25 (evening)

Please refer to your sporting schedules right away to avoid any conflicts!

Instrument Storage

Each student will be assigned to a locker in the band room and is responsible for their lock. Students must not tell their combination to any other students especially since middle school students have a tendency to sometimes change friends throughout a school year. ☺

Please return this sheet to your instructor by Friday, September 11

Dear parents,

As a new year starts and multiple letters are sent home, I want to thank you for taking the time to read this syllabus for the 6th grade band program.

You will notice that there were a few important points in the preceding band syllabus. They are summarized as follows:

1. **Concerts-** Students have been doing a great job of arranging their schedules and planning ahead. Please help your student to check schedules right away. We simply do not have the ability to change concert dates. They are December 17, March 11, and May 25.
2. **Music and Reeds-** If the kids don't have these they can't play. When they don't play they get bored. When they are bored they tend to get into mischief. Enough said.
3. **Repair Invoices-** Anytime your student's instrument is repaired (unless it is sent in through the school) please send along a copy of the invoice or a note with a signature so they can receive credit for those missed days. We will also do all that we can to have a loaner instrument on hand when possible.
4. **Theft/ Vandalism-** Thankfully we have not had a lot of this to deal with, but we have had some. We will not tolerate students taking property of other students or of the school or vandalizing anything in the music area. The liaison officer will be contacted immediately if a student is involved in any of this behavior.

We hope this will be another fun and rewarding year. Please sign below and have your student detach and return this form no later than Friday, September 11.

Thanks,

Shelly Clemen

Parent/Guardian signature

Please **print** student's name here