

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS - INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC

Band and Orchestra

6th GRADE BAND

6th grade band is the beginning level band program for Mason City Schools. Band class takes place during the intervention time for each academic team. Students will leave their intervention class twice a week to come to the band room for instruction on the instrument they choose to play. The instrument each student selects will determine the days they will have band class. Please see below for the daily band rotation schedule:

MONDAY -	Woodwinds (flute, clarinet, saxophones)
TUESDAY -	Brass (trumpet, French horn, trombone, baritone)
WEDNESDAY -	Woodwinds again!
THURSDAY -	Brass again!
FRIDAY -	Brass & Woodwinds combines

* We will no longer be teaching percussion in 6th grade band. If you would like to become a percussionist, you will need to play a woodwind or brass instrument in 6th grade to learn to read music for mallet instruments, and learn to count rhythms for snare drum. At the beginning of 7th grade, students interested in percussion will go through an audition process to determine who will play percussion. Percussion instruction will begin in 7th grade band on mallet instruments and snare drum rudiments. Remember: Concert band percussion is NOT the same as playing drum set! Percussionists play in concert band, but drum set is for rock bands and jazz band. We do not teach rock or jazz band in 6th grade.

Students are to bring their instrument AND band folder to each band class. We will issue free folders to each student at the beginning of the year. Students should keep a pencil in their folders at all times in addition to their method book and any sheet music given to them during class.

Students only come to band twice a week so it is very important to do “homework” or practice at home. A minimum of 60 minutes a week is expected of each student in order to maintain and reinforce the techniques that are taught.

Beginning band topics include the fundamentals of posture, the proper way of holding the instrument, production of a characteristic sound, and how to perform. They will be taught how to read music in terms of identifying notes on the staff, understanding rhythm values, and manipulation of their instrument to produce the corresponding note. Students will be graded daily on music preparation, class participation (which includes having the necessary equipment in class), attitude, and completion of weekly practice logs.

Students will be graded on the following scale per the Mason City Schools definitions:

PLUS indicates the student *consistently demonstrates competency*.

CHECK MARK is the designation for a student who is *progressing*. Most students typically receive this grade in band.

MINUS is used when band performance appears to be an *area of concern* for the graded student.

Band is considered a performing group. There will be two concerts given each year, one in the winter and one in the spring. These concerts are equivalent to a major project in other classes. Attendance at the concerts is critical. Dates for these concerts will be sent home, posted on edline, and available at this website as they become scheduled.

6th GRADE ORCHESTRA

Orchestra (Strings Class):

Orchestra meets three times a week during intervention. Students will be informed of their assigned orchestra days during the first week of school. The first two classes of the week are designed to be smaller group sessions, allowing for more individualized instruction. All orchestra students from the team will attend orchestra on Fridays. This helps expose the students to the other instruments of the orchestra, while giving them the chance to play in a larger group setting.

Throughout the year, students will explore the basics of learning to play the stringed instrument of their choice. Students will be instructed on instrument care, proper posture, instrument hold, and the fundamentals of good tone. They will learn to read musical notation and play music in unison, as well as with independent parts.

Since orchestra is a performing group and the concert is the equivalent of a major project, attendance at concerts is crucial. Students will participate in two evening concerts, one in winter and one in spring. These dates will be provided in the orchestra handbook distributed during the first week of school.

Each class, students will be expected to bring their instrument, book, pencil, orchestra folder, and planner. Weekly homework grades consist of documenting home practice on a practice chart and acquiring a parent signature. Students are required to practice a minimum of 60 minutes a week. Practice charts are due each Friday.

Necessary Equipment for Orchestra:

The following is a list of equipment that will be necessary for Orchestra Class. Some of the equipment listed may come with a rental package:

- *Instrument, Bow, & Case
- *Name Tag (for your case)
- *Cleaning Cloth
- *Method Book: Essential Elements 2000 for Strings, Book 1
- *Rosin
- *Shoulder Rest (violins & violas)
- *Endpin Rest/Rockstop(cellos & basses)
- *Music Stand (to be kept at home)