

**Middle School Standards**

**Band**

**Course Overview:** Middle school band is an instrumental ensemble comprised of sixth through eighth grade students. Middle school band meets two to three times a week. In this ensemble students will focus on performing in large groups, small groups, composing, learning music theory and history. This class also includes a lesson component in which each student receives a weekly or biweekly lesson.

**Unit 1: Chamber Music (4 weeks)**

**Description:** In this unit students will learn, rehearse and perform music arranged for a solo or small ensemble setting. Students will focus on self/ small group analysis and improvement.

**Standards**

1. The students will perform a solo on their instrument with good tone quality. MUS.B.8.8
2. The students will perform a solo on their instrument with appropriate stick control. (Percussion) MUS.B.8.8
3. The students will perform a solo on their instrument using good posture and proper playing position. MUS.B.8.8
4. The students will perform a solo on their instrument using proper breath control to enable good tone. (Winds) MUS.B.8.8
5. The students will perform a solo on their instrument using proper sticking techniques. (Percussion) MUS.B.8.8
6. The students will perform a solo on their instrument with proper intonation. (Winds) MUS.B.8.8
7. The students will perform a solo on their instrument at the proper tempo. MUS.B.8.8
8. The students will play rudiments correctly in their solo. (Percussion) MUS.B.8.8
9. The student will perform a solo on their instrument using proper rolls. (Percussion) MUS.B.8.8
10. The students will perform a solo on their instrument while keeping a steady pulse throughout. MUS.B.8.8
11. The students will play the correct notes while performing a solo on their instrument. MUS.B.8.8
12. The student will perform a solo on their instrument using accurate articulations. MUS.B.8.8
13. The students will perform a solo on their instrument using correct rhythm. MUS.B.8.9
14. The student will perform a solo on their instrument using proper expression and style. MUS.B.8.9
15. The student will perform a solo on their instrument using appropriate phrasing. MUS.B.8.9
16. The student will perform a solo on their instrument using appropriate interpretation, while being aware of the intent of the composer. MUS.B.8.10

**Unit 2: Large Group Performance (18 weeks)**

**Description:** In this unit students will focus on learning, rehearsing and performing music in a full concert band setting.

**Standards**

1. The students will play their instrument with open, mature, resonant sound in large group performances. MUS.B.8.8
2. The students will play their instrument using proper embouchure and air support to create an open, mature, and resonant sound while playing with the full band. MUS.B.8.8
3. The students will play their instrument using good posture. MUS.B.8.8
4. The students will play their instrument with accurate intonation, understand the pitch tendencies of my instrument and how to properly adjust. MUS.B.8.8
5. The students will play their instruments while maintaining proper blend and balance throughout the ensemble. MUS.B.8.8
6. The students will use their knowledge of pitch and rhythm to play notes and rhythms accurately. MUS.B.8.8
7. The students will play their instruments using accurate articulations. MUS.B.8.9
8. The students will understand different styles of music will play their instruments in the appropriate style of the piece. MUS.B.8.10
9. The students will understand and use dynamics to shape musical phrases and display expression. MUS.B.8.9
10. The students will understand the purpose of the conductor and be able to follow the conductor’s cues in music. MUS.B.8.9
11. The students will be able to sing warm-ups using proper breath control, expression accuracy. MUS.A.8.9, MUS.A.8.10, MUS.A.8.11

**Unit 3: Composition Project (4 weeks)**

**Description:** In this unit students will use the skills learned in other units to compose pieces either missing a few notes (for first year students) or missing measures (for students in their second or third year).

**Standards**

1. The students will understand the structure of a chord, its quality, and its function in a piece. MUS.E.8.9, MUS.E.8.11, MUS.E.8.12
2. The students will draw notes and rests correctly. MUS.E.8.12
3. The students will compose a piece of music using the above-mentioned expectations. MUS.D.8.8, MUS.D.8.9, MUS.D.8.10

**Unit 4: Theory/ History (18 Weeks)**

**Description:** In this unit students will study the background and specific compositional details of the pieces we work on. This includes an array of warm-ups, exercises, worksheets, etc.

**Standards**

1. The students will know the composer and arranger of the pieces we play in band. MUS.I.8.7, MUS.I.8.8
2. The students will be able to identify historical information about selected composers and arrangers. MUS.I.8.7, MUS.I.8.8
3. The students will be able to identify sections of the music being played and make educated statements as to why the composer would choose to write it that way. MUS.I.8.7, MUS.I.8.8
4. The students will understand the terms and techniques used in the pieces they are playing, and be able to apply them to future pieces. MUS.F.8.10, MUS.I.8.7
5. The students will know and understand the historical and/or cultural background of a piece. MUS.I.8.7, MUS.I.8.9

**Unit 5: Lessons (1 weekly or biweekly, depending on years of band experience)**

**Description:** Lessons are the individual time students have with the teacher to learn and refine skills for their specific instrument.

**Standards**

1. The students will learn and refine skills for their specific instruments. Any of the music standards can be applied here depending on what the student is working on.