



Objectives:

Each student will gain an understanding of the elements necessary for successful performance in an instrumental ensemble. This includes elements of rhythm, notation, melody, tuning and ensemble technique. Each student will be encouraged to develop individually as an independent musician. In addition, students will be exposed to a rich variety of different kinds of music in an effort to teach them about different styles and perceptions in music from around the world. The art of listening (which is *at least* as important as playing) will be taught and nurtured throughout the year.

Required Materials:

Each student will be expected to have the following at every rehearsal:

- Instrument, in working order
- All necessary accessories (reeds, mallets, mouthpieces, etc)
- A pencil!!
- Music folder with all music and method books

Class Rules and Expectations:

I have only one rule: RESPECT. However, this covers a lot..... me, other students, all equipment & instruments, time, space, the music, etc. There is an assumption that by respecting the music, kids will come to class prepared and with all materials (including a pencil).

Grade Breakdown:

Attendance/Participation: 10 points/day	50% of final grade
Concerts/Performances	25% of final grade
Quizzes/Playing Tests	25% of final grade

Extra credit may be granted to students based on specific extra credit projects and for attendance at outside concerts.

Attendance/Tardy Policy:

Students receive 10 points per day for proper preparation and participation. Any student arriving late to class (unless excused by a parent or another teacher) will have 5 points deducted. After 10 minutes (according to school policy), that student will be marked “unexcused” and the loss of all 10 points cannot be made up.

Absence Make-up Policy:

Students will be allowed to make up 3 excused absences per quarter. Unexcused absences may not be made up. Dr. Gregg and the student will work together to find an appropriate make-up assignment, usually consisting of a 1-page paper on a musical topic of Dr. Gregg's choosing. Make-up opportunities for excused absences numbering more than 3 per quarter will only be considered on a case-by-case basis.

Concert Procedures and Expectations:

Concert Attendance:

Attendance is required at all performances! Concert schedules are listed on the bandroom calendar and on the school calendar. I will also distribute schedules to all students at school and on "Back to School Night". Attendance at all concerts is required to get (at minimum) a grade of "C" in the class. Please see me by the end of the third week of the semester if you have any conflicts. Attached to this packet is a written agreement that I am asking both parents and students to sign and return to me, so that I can be assured that everyone has the concerts in their yearly schedule.

Performance Expectations:

To make every performance as successful as possible, the following expectations should be noted:

1. Be early for all concerts! I will always tell students exactly when they need to be here.
2. Be appropriately dressed (see "Concert Dress").
3. Make sure you have all necessary materials. Don't forget your reeds, music, mutes, or mallets.
4. Be proud! Performances are fun and exciting, so bring lots of friends and family to each concert!

Concert Dress for ALL Middle School Band Students:

Boys: Black pants (no jeans!) with a belt, black loafers, black socks

White shirt (button-up or polo). Absolutely no tee-shirts.

Girls: Black skirt or pants. Skirts must be below the knee. Black shoes or sandals.

White blouse or button-up shirt, must have sleeves. No tee-shirts.

Percussionists:

All percussionists are required to own their own stick bag containing the following items:

- Timpani mallets
- Concert snare sticks
- Marimba/vibes mallets
- Xylophone mallets

I will gladly order these items for you at a discount. Please let me know if you need assistance obtaining these items.

A note about..... PRACTICING!!!

Please know that I expect ALL students - all grades - to be practicing regularly at home. I'm not asking much: 3-4 practice sessions per week at 20 minutes each is enough to cause dramatic improvement. Students will not be graded on how often they practice, but they WILL be graded on how well they play their assigned music. So please help your student make sure they know their music and that they schedule practice time accordingly.

SmartMusic

This year I will be using an online program called "SmartMusic" to record all playing tests and assessments (this replaces our old, broken tape-recorder!). This is also an outstanding practice tool for musicians of any age. The program has a tuner, a metronome, and a play-along program that includes all of our method book music as well as the majority of the sheet music we will use in class. Students who have SmartMusic at home will be able to record all of their playing tests at home and email them to me for grading. This is an outstanding investment and is easy to purchase & download at home – cost for the school year is \$36 (the cost of a tuner/metronome!!).

I am currently negotiating a group-discount opportunity with the company and will email everyone with the registration (and discount) details by the first week of September.

Facebook users:

Although my main forum for communication is through email, I have created a private site on Facebook where I will post reminders and updates. I will also add a link for the handbook form so that it is easier to access. Request to join "Lyons Middle Senior Bands".

Handbook Understanding and Agreement Form 2010-2011

Please fill out the Handbook Form online and submit no later than September 1, 2010. This will count as each student's first test grade. If you do not have access to the internet, please let me know and I will provide you with a paper copy.

This form can be found on the school website <http://lms.hs.stvrain.k12.co.us> under "forms". Look for "Band Handbook", click on the link and it will take you to the agreement form. It will also be posted on the "Lyons Middle Senior Bands" Facebook page.

****Before submitting the form, please make sure you have ALL concert dates written down!****

**Lyons Middle School Band
Concert Calendar
2011-2012**

****All events are required unless otherwise noted!!**

October

19 Band Concert – 7pm

December

5 Band Concert – 7pm

March

7 Band Concert – 7pm

April

24 Possible Advanced Band Performance at Silver Creek Large Group Contest

May

14/15 Fine Arts Concert – 7pm (please reserve both dates, more info to come)

26 Graduation – 10am (required for all 8th-11th graders)

****Make sure these dates are on your calendar before you submit the online handbook agreement form!****

<http://lms.hs.stvrain.k12.co.us>