

# 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, & 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Band

## COURSE SYLLABUS 2023-2024

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**Teacher: Autumn Smith**

**Band Website:** [www.ammsband.org](http://www.ammsband.org)

**E-Mail:** [smitha7@fultonschools.org](mailto:smitha7@fultonschools.org)

**Instagram:** ammsbands

**Teacher Office House: Monday – Friday by appt. (8:00 – 8:25AM / 4:10 – 4:45PM)**

### **Rehearsals:**

**8:00AM – 8:45AM As Scheduled Full Band Rehearsals**

**8:00AM – 8:45AM Thursdays Jazz Band**

Opportunities for ensembles, solos, and special events will be announced and posted to our AMMS Band Calendar. Announcements of changes will be made in advance.

### **METHOD BOOK: \*\*\*All books can be purchased through the school.**

6<sup>th</sup> grade Band\*: *Habits of a Successful Beginning Band Musician (Rush and Moon) \*\*\* (Green Cover)*

-To be purchased **AFTER** instrument testing\*\*\*

7<sup>th</sup> grade Band\*: *Habits of a Successful Middle School Musician (Rush and Moon) (Yellow Cover)*

8<sup>th</sup> grade Band\*: *Habits of a Successful Middle School Musician (Rush and Moon) (Yellow Cover)*

\*Various musical selections in the form of sheet music and warm-up/technique books.

### **SUPPLIES:**

Supplies are needed daily and include items such as instrument, black binder, method book, music, pencil, agenda, school device, etc. Please see [supply list](#) in Band Handbook for a full description of necessary and specific classroom supplies and fees for each grade level and instrument.

More information about supplies will be provided during the first couple of weeks of class. Physical method books (orders will be placed) as well as digital resources (Band website and/or TEAMS / One Note Notebook) will be used.

**Technology:** Laptop, Smartmusic, Breezin' Thru Theory, Tonal Energy, YouTube, and other online resources will be used.

### **COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

This is a performance-oriented class. Each student works on the development of general music skills and specific technical aspects of his/her instrument through a variety of varied, quality music selections based on the level of difficulty for each grade level. Skills such as sight-reading, breathing techniques, tone, articulation, and posture will also be stressed. This class, along with rehearsals outside of school, helps prepare each student and the class for concerts and performance evaluations. Students will be challenged to progress as an individual on their instrument mastering skills and techniques throughout the course.

This course is a year-long class that meets daily. If changes need to be made to a schedule, those changes may only be made at the end of the year after conference with the director. When students are joining Band, he/she is joining and committing to the entire school year – August 2023 to May 2024. Schedule changes will not be made during the year.

### **COURSE OUTLINE:**

*"Accommodations and modifications will be made according to the student's needs."*

Classes will be structured using the *Fulton County Standards Mastery Framework Curriculum and Georgia Performance Standards for Music* as our focus:

1. Singing alone, and with others, a varied repertoire of music.
2. Performing on instruments, alone and with others, a varied repertoire of music.
3. Improvising melodies, variations, and accompaniments.
4. Composing and arranging music within specified guidelines.
5. Reading and notating music.
6. Listening to, analyzing, and describing music.
7. Evaluating music and music performances.
8. Understanding relationships between music, the other arts, and disciplines outside the arts.
9. Understanding music in relation to history and culture.

*\*The Fulton County Standards Mastery Framework Curriculum also supports the Common Core Georgia Performance Standards.*

This course is further designed to support statewide literacy standards and challenge students to become more effective communicators and consumers of information by applying skills and vocabulary learned to other subject areas and real-life scenarios.

### **OBJECTIVES:**

\*Exhibit a thorough knowledge of performance practices by showing continuing improvement in tone production, intonation, balance and blend, articulation, techniques, interpretation, scales, and scale patterns, as well as ensemble awareness (both musically and socially).

### **ELIGIBILITY:**

All participants must meet pre-requisite, local, county, and state eligibility requirements to participate. Any student not meeting these requirements may not be able to participate.

**GRADING PROCEDURE:**

<b>Grading Scale</b>	A – 90 and Above	<b>Codes in Infinite Campus:</b>	
	B – 80-89	W – Withdrawn	NG – No Grade
	C – 70-79	I – Incomplete	M - Missing
	F – 69 and below		

Grades are weighted based on the assignment type/category:

<b>MAJOR : (minimum of 2 per 9 weeks)</b> An assignment that is cumulative in nature, representing multiple standards and skills. Assignments in this category may include Large Group Performance Evaluation, Performance-Based Assessments (PBAs), concerts, tests, and projects that allow for demonstration of mastery of priority standards/skills.	<b>6<sup>th</sup> &amp; 7<sup>th</sup> Grades</b>	<b>8<sup>th</sup> Grade (HS Course)</b>
	<b>50%</b>	<b>55%</b>
<b>MINOR: (minimum of 2 / 3-8<sup>th</sup> gr. per 9 weeks)</b> An assignment that measures mastery of a single skill or learning target. Assignments in this category may include Performance-Based Assessments focused on one skill or learning target, rhythmic dictation, music theory, short individual or group demonstrations, and quizzes.	<b>40%</b>	<b>35%</b>
<b>PRACTICE: (minimum of 2 / 3-8<sup>th</sup> gr. per 9 weeks)</b> An assignment that is intended to allow students to make mistakes as they practice skills recently learned in class. Assignments in this category may include progress checks, class participation, skill builders, and exit tickets.	<b>10%</b>	<b>10%</b>

**LATE WORK:**

Students are expected to turn in all work on time. Assignments not turned in will be entered as a zero and “Missing” until the assignment is completed and turned in. Assignments turned in late are subject to point deductions up to 25 points.

**1 day late: -10 pts.                      2 days late: -20 pts.                      3+ days late: -25 pts.**

Students who are absent will have an equal number of days as they were out to turn in late assignments.

**RECOVERY POLICY:**

- Students may recover their grade on any **MAJOR** assignment for which they made below a 75%.
- Recovery of a major assessment should occur before the next major is given. A replacement grade on a recovery will be no higher than 75%.
- Recovery is a “gradeable” experience that allows a student to demonstrate mastery of standards to “recover” his/her grade.

**NON-ACADEMIC SKILLS:**

This year, each student will receive feedback in the 4 areas below:

- **Self-Direction** – *Is the student on task during independent work time?*
  - The student follows directions and procedures, sustains attention during class, and/or resists distractions.
- **Collaboration** – *Is the student fulfilling their role in the ensemble?*
  - The student works well with others, asks for help when needs it, and/or shares ideas.
- **Problem-Solving** – *Does the student attempt to find solutions when they are stuck?*
  - The student can describe a problem, finds more than one way to solve a problem, and/or is aware that all actions have outcomes.
- **Work Habits** – *Does the student consistently turn in work on time and submit work that reflects their best effort?*
  - The student comes prepared for class , manages time and materials, and/or stays on task.

Non-academic skills will be reported in a separate section from academic performance. Feedback will be given to students and parents/guardians every 9 weeks on the progress report/report card.

Fulton County Schools will use the following key to report non-academic skills critical to student success.

- Consistently demonstrates
- Often demonstrates
- Sometimes demonstrate
- Rarely demonstrates

### **ABSENCES:**

If a student is absent, it is his/her responsibility to get the information missed. Attendance will be taken daily during each class period. Absences and/or being unprepared will affect a student's performance and overall grade.

### **ACADEMIC INTEGRITY:**

- Cheating and plagiarism will not be tolerated in school. Incidences of cheating and/or plagiarism will have either academic or behavioral consequences as determined by the teacher in conjunction with administration, up to and including OSS for repeated offenses.
- **Cheating examples** – Submitting a PBA recording that does not reflect the student's performance (e.g., submitting another student's recording); Sharing test, quiz, or homework answers or content with other students; Putting one's name on another's work as your own, among others.

### **HOMEWORK EXPECTATIONS:**

Homework occurs daily for Band. It is expected that students practice his/her instrument each night to build embouchure, endurance, demonstrate individual responsibility of music and ensemble skills, and demonstrate mastery of concepts learned in class. Performance assessments (written and playing) and concerts will occur on a regular basis and extra practice time may be needed. Band students should expect a minimum of 20 minutes of homework every night – practice, practice, practice, therefore; instruments should always be with students. Students are expected to take instruments home every day. There will also be occasional studying for tests or written assignments/projects, and these should be noted in the students' agenda.

### **BASIC CLASSROOM PROCEDURES AND EXPECTATIONS:**

\*\*\*SEE HANDBOOK FOR FURTHER PROCEDURES AND EXPECTATIONS\*\*\*

**Prompt - Prepared - Polite - Present – Positive**

**RIGOR -RELEVANCE-RELATIONSHIPS-RESPECTFUL-RESPONSIBLE**

1. Bring agendas, pencils, instruments, music, laptop, and supplies to class daily.
2. Participate in all classroom activities and attend all before and after school rehearsals and concerts.
3. Maintain an open, positive attitude about all types of band literature and learning activities.
4. Be on time to class, rehearsals, events, and performances.
5. Strict adherence to all rules as they appear in the student and band handbook.
6. Be an active participant in your section and class.
7. Do your own work, your best quality work, be thorough, and turn it in on time and complete.
8. Show respect to your fellow classmates, band director, and band materials/instruments/equipment.
9. Proper concert attire must be worn during a performance.

### **REHEARSALS AND PERFORMANCES:**

Students are expected to practice at home. Practice is necessary for improvement on their instrument and in completing class assignments/performances to the best of their abilities and to the standards required to demonstrate mastery. Performance events and activities will be published on the AMMS Band Calendar and as opportunities arise.

### **SPECIAL OPPORTUNITIES/ASSIGNMENTS:**

Opportunities for participation in honor ensembles, solo/ensemble festival, and other such activities are encouraged and supported by the director and are often rewarded with medals, plaques, or trophies. (See band handbook for more information.) These opportunities can occur at the school, district, or state levels. These opportunities will be announced as available.

### **DISCIPLINE GUIDELINES:**

To maintain an environment conducive to learning, students must follow behavior guidelines. At AMMS students are expected to adhere the Fulton County Code of Conduct, the schoolwide PBIS expectations and online/technology expectations. Should a student not follow these expectations/rules, teachers will use the school-wide classroom discipline cycle. As situations arise, parents and designated school personnel may be used to resolve the situation. (Guidance counselor, administrator, social worker, etc.)

### **ADDITIONAL BAND RELATED HANDOUTS:**

\*Additional important band related documents will be made available on the AMMS Band website ([www.ammsband.org](http://www.ammsband.org)) or through email/newsletters/handouts. Please read all information in its entirety and return any required forms according to the due dates as indicated on the documents.

Order forms for band student band kits (books/supplies) and instrument rentals will be made available in the first few weeks.

A parent/student confirmation form will also be shared.

The Music Connection Band Newsletter will also contain important announcements and information regarding Band Classes. These will be sent by email through contacts listed in Infinite Campus. Please make sure the school has your correct contact information so you can receive important school information.

