

# Gardner Newman Middle School Band

## 2019-2020 Syllabus

### Grading

The grading is divided into two categories:

1.) Performance Evaluations (60% of Total Grade)

Performance evaluations will consist of oral test, written test, and playing test. Oral test and written test will consist of basic music theory questions that are reviewed on a daily basis throughout the school year. These are the basic fundamentals of reading and understanding music. Every student must know the basic fundamentals of reading music in order to play an instrument. Playing test will be given periodically in order to ensure that the student is utilizing this knowledge of music theory in playing his/her instrument correctly. (It's important to know that's as long as the student makes a genuine effort throughout the entire playing test, he/she will do much better than those who give up and do not try, even if he/she misses every single note).

2.) Rehearsal/ Performance Etiquette *aka RPE* (40% of Total Grade)

Proper rehearsal and performance etiquette is essential to having a successful band program. If a band does not rehearse well, then it definitely will not perform well. Following the proper procedures during rehearsals is just as important as practicing an instrument at home. Every student's RPE grade starts as a 100 at the beginning of each grading period. Consider this as a free extra credit just for following proper rehearsal procedures. This is an excellent way to boost one's grade. For example, if your Performance Evaluation grade (all of your oral, written, and playing test) averaged out to a 67, but your RPE grade was still a 100, your final grade would be an 80. Deductions will be made from the RPE grade for certain infractions. Once the grade drops, it will not come back up until the next grading period begins, when it automatically goes back up to a 100. The following is a list of infractions and the number of points that will be deducted for each incident:

- 2 Talking during Rehearsal
- 2 Playing instrument out of turn
- 2 Disruptive Behavior
- 2 Not having your music
- 10 Not having an instrument (or reed/mouthpiece)
- 50 missing a performance (without being cleared through teacher)

## **PERFORMANCES**

Band is a performance based class. Everything that we do is preparation for performance. Attendance at all performances is absolutely mandatory. (Certain situations will be excused in cases of extreme emergency.) It would be silly for basketball player to attend all of the team practices and not show up for the games. The same applies to being a member of the band. Every player is vital to the team. We rehearse together in order to prepare to perform together. Plenty of notice will be given before all performances. The sixth graders will have anywhere from two to three performances for the entire year. The seventh graders will have three to four and the eighth graders will have five or six. If for some reason, you have an unavoidable conflict with a scheduled event, please contact me as soon as possible so that we can work out a resolution to the issue.

## **TRIPS**

The 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> grade bands will have multiple trips this year. Both groups will perform for the Georgia Music Educators' *Large Group Performance Evaluation*. This is the most important performance of the entire school year where we are evaluated according to state guidelines. This is the band world equivalent of a standardized test.

As this is a state based performance I will give more details as soon as they are given to me!

## **ADVANCEMENT TO NEXT GRADE LEVEL IN BAND**

All grade levels: Must demonstrate sufficient mastery of playing your instrument at your grade level. RPE grade must average out to an 80 or higher at the end of the school. Must maintain satisfactory academic progress in all other classes outside of band.

In order to advance to 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Band: In addition to requirements listed above, must be able to successfully recite and play two scales with arpeggios (director's choice) from memory. All clarinet players must be able to play successfully across break during the performance of a scale.

In order to advance to 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Band: In addition to requirements listed above, must be able to successfully recite and play Concerts F, B-flat, E-flat, and A-flat scales and arpeggios from memory according to the GMEA guidelines for Middle School Band found at [gmea.org](http://gmea.org).

These scales will be taught and we will review each scale in great detail as a part of our daily warm up so the students are set up for as much success as possible.

Looking forward to working with everyone this year! If you have any questions please do not hesitate to email me or call.

Dylan R. Burch  
GNMS Band Director  
[burchdr@troup.org](mailto:burchdr@troup.org)  
470-699-5766

