

# Sleepy Hollow Middle School

## Concert Band

2009-2010

### Course Guidelines

**Mr. Sprague, Director**  
MSprague@TUFSD.org

#### Welcome

Welcome to the Concert Band! We are about to embark on a very exciting school year. Not only will this be the first full year in our new facility, but it is also the first year that the sixth grade will join the Middle School Band. I am very happy that Mr. Spitzer will be joining the Middle School Faculty to teach woodwind lessons.

In order to continue the high level of performance of the Concert Band we need to follow some guidelines and keep our expectations high at all times. This packet will help ensure that everyone is on the same page. Please sign and return the last page to acknowledge your receipt. I am looking forward to working with everyone and making some wonderful music this year!

#### Course Outline

##### **Band Rehearsals-**

Band will rehearse as indicated in the class schedule. Every rehearsal is required. Students must arrive on time and prepared with the following:

1. **Instrument in good working condition**
2. **Case labeled with their name**
3. **Band Music**
4. **A Pencil**
5. **Woodwinds- six good reeds      Percussionists- Sticks**

##### **Weekly Lessons-**

All students will be assigned a small lesson group. They will meet once a week. Because the school operates on a six day cycle and lessons on a five day cycle, the student will only miss the same class about once every 10 weeks. The lesson groups will be split between Mr. Spitzer and Mr. Sprague. The schedule will be distributed at the beginning of every quarter. Students who miss a scheduled lesson may earn lesson credit through one of the following ways: completing 3 scale masters, scheduling a make up time with Mr. Sprague or Mr. Spitzer, or completing a "Smart Music" assignment. It is most beneficial to schedule a make-up time.

##### **Performances-** Mark these dates on the calendar!

Two concerts

Monday, December 14th    snow date: 12/16

Monday, May 10th

Band Trip  
Friday, May 28th  
8<sup>th</sup> Grade Recognition Night  
Wednesday, June 23rd  
SHHS Graduation  
Thursday, June 24th

### **Band Trip-**

This trip is one of the highlights of our year. It is always a great way to get feedback about our playing and have a great time together as a group in the process! It is not graded; it is a privilege for all members of the band to go. More information will follow.

### Expectations

In order to help every student be successful and achieve the highest-level possible, we must all try and achieve the following Expectations. This policy is designed with goal achievement in mind. If a behavior is not aiding the achievement of our goals it must be identified and corrected. We will develop our goals together and post them on the board with these guidelines as a reminder throughout the year.

1. **Be Here.**  
Arrive on time for Rehearsals, Lessons, and Performances. Due to the set-up time required for band, students should plan on arriving at **7:40 AM**.
2. **Be Prepared**  
Students need to always have the following: a pencil, music, and their instrument in good working order. Performances require a dress code be followed as well. Chewing gum, eating food, or drinking anything except water are also considered being unprepared.
3. **Be Respectful**  
Give attention to whoever is on the podium. The main goal of band is to play. Eliminate any activity that keeps us from doing so (i.e. talking, homework, studying). Respect yourself by showing respect for others. It is never appropriate to criticize another person in a negative way.
4. **Be Positive**  
There has never been a “perfect” musical performance. The only way to be successful musically is to give your best effort and believe that you can do it!

### Consequences for not correcting behavior

These consequences are designed to help every student act in a way that helps the group attain the goals agreed upon. Actions that don't lead toward goal achievement must be corrected so that the group can be successful!

1. Verbal Warning
2. Behavior Modification Plan (Dependent on incorrect behavior)
3. Detention and call to Parents
5. Conference with the Principal

In the unlikely event a band member purposefully causes a serious classroom disruption and/or threatens the well being of any other member, the student will immediately be taken to the Principal's office (and will serve the fourth consequence).

### Band Student of the Month

Each month a student will be selected that represents the ideal qualities of a Middle School Band Student. The student will receive a gift certificate and have their name displayed on the student of the month bulletin board.

### Attendance Policy

*Be a part of the Band "team" where each individual musician is an important ingredient. Good attendance is one way of showing that you care enough to contribute your skills for the good of the band in each musical experience that we encounter.*

### Rehearsals

Attendance at band rehearsal by every individual member is crucial to the success of our group. Since we meet every other day, each rehearsal is twice as important for our band to grow and improve.

#### **Attendance is Mandatory**

#### **Procedures for Absence**

1. If a student misses a band rehearsal for any reason, they should produce a parental note at the main office. **Students who arrive in school after first period must sign-in at the attendance office.**
2. Every unexcused absence from band will deduct five points from the students overall rehearsal grade.

#### **Tardiness Policies**

##### ***Band students need to arrive by 7:40 A.M. for first period.***

The challenges of rehearsing in the cafeteria while we await the completion of the new Music Wing will be greatly diminished by all members arriving on time. On time for a musician means 10 to 15 minutes early due to the set-up time required.

1. Students must be seated and prepared to play by 7:48 AM at which time attendance will be taken.
2. If students arrive late to Band due to a family commitment, or a family transportation problem, they must produce a parental note.
3. Each unexcused Tardy will deduct two points from the students overall rehearsal grade.

### Concerts

Concerts are the culmination of our work and dedication in band. The high quality of our performances is ensured by every member being present and ready to perform. **Attendance is Mandatory**

## Grading Rubrics

The Student's Grade will consist of the average of the following scores per marking period. There will also be a midterm and final playing exam. Every student is treated equitably. Grades are based on the individual's ability, effort, and improvement.

<b>Lesson Grade</b>	<b>20%</b>
<b>Rehearsal Grade</b>	<b>40%</b>
<b>Performance Grade</b>	<b>40%</b>

### Rehearsal Grade

Works to best ability, Behaves Positively, Improves the Band	95-100
Performs to musical expectations, Behaves Positively	90-94
Deficient in behavior expectations, does not perform to musical expectations	80-89
Achieves no behavior expectations, detracts from the Band	65-79
Non-Participation (Cut, unexcused Tardiness)	0

### Lesson Grade - The lesson will be graded in 5 areas

Being Prepared- lesson book, <b>lesson assignment written in agenda book</b> , instrument, pencil, name on case, arriving on time	20 Points
Scales- based on Scale Masters Program	10 Points
Prepared Lesson Material	30 Points
Prepared Band Music	20 Points
Participation- effort, attitude, improvement	20 Points

### Performance

Behaves Positively, is fully prepared according to requirements for the performance	95-100
Unprepared, poor participation	75-90
Unexcused Absence	0

## Other Information

### **Homework**

In Band homework is always implied... Practice! The only way to maximize achievement is through good consistent practice. It is best for 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students to strive for 20 minutes a day, but 30 minutes is optimal. It is always better to have numerous shorter practice sessions than one marathon. Lesson material will be assigned weekly for practice at home. I will make any accommodation possible to facilitate practice at home!

**Mr. Sprague's Practice Guarantee-** If you practice well, consistently, you will see improvement and feel good about your playing, no matter what level you are!

### **Private Lessons**

Private Lessons are a great way to enhance and maximize ability. If you need help finding a private instructor or have questions about how it works... Please ask.

### **Band Officers**

Band officers will have a one-year term at the discretion of the Director. Band officers will receive credit for any extra time donated to the group.

#### **President**

- The Band President will be elected by the band.

#### **Vice President**

- The Vice President will be elected by the band.

#### **Secretaries**

- There will be two secretaries for the band.
- They will be chosen by the band director from a pool of volunteers.

#### **Section Leaders**

- The first seat player in each section will be the section leader.
- The SL will be responsible for organizing their section at all times.

### **Scale Masters**

This is a program designed to develop student's ability to play scales, which are the basis for most music they will perform. The five students with the most stars at the end of each semester (half year term) will receive a reward. To be in the top five the student must have added at least 6 stars in the semester.

### **Seating**

Seating at the beginning of the year will be determined by two factors: previous year's placement and seniority. After three lesson periods, Mr. Sprague will reseal the students based on Seniority, Ability, Effort, Attitude, and Interpersonal Relationships. This seating will remain until after the first concert and be reassessed at the Mid-Term Performance Evaluation.

### **“Smart Music”**

“Smart Music” is a wonderful tool. Information will be distributed separately about its benefits and how to order. This program opens a new world to students at home and in school for participation in music. It provides opportunities for individualized progress and assessment that have not traditionally been available in school music programs.

### **“Mentoring”**

With Special permission from Mr. Sprague, a band student may participate in the Middle School Mentoring Program. The student will work with an assigned high school band student on a weekly basis to help them improve their playing.

# Acknowledgement

## *Middle School*

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Student's Name

Sign below to acknowledge receipt of this material. I am looking forward to a great year. Please feel free to contact me at any time with questions, concerns, or just to say hello. Return this page at the second rehearsal.

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Parent/Guardian Signature

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Date

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Student Signature

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Date

If you would like to receive Middle School Band news by e-mail, please write your e-mail address below.

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