

# Band and Orchestra Syllabus

## Contact Information

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## Course Description

Band and Orchestra at JM Alexander Middle School is a performance-based class. Scholars will join together to form a musical ensemble in which they will play music, using their instruments, everyday. The class will perform twice within the school year at the Winter and Spring concerts.

## Course Objective

Scholars will develop and master the necessary skills to perform music with outstanding excellence. Scholars will learn to contribute to and function as a musical ensemble while following cues and gestures given by the conductor. Scholars will establish an appreciation in music through the study of performance, theory, history, and ear training.

## Necessary Materials

### Instrument

- Each scholar is expected to provide their own instrument for class.
- Most local music stores have “rent-to-own” programs. Some start around \$25 for the 1<sup>st</sup> 2 months and \$25/month afterwards.
- 6<sup>th</sup> grade BAND scholars may choose from the following instruments: flute, clarinet, trumpet, or trombone. Inform the director if you wish to play percussion (drums), but only a select few will be allowed to play percussion. Have a 2<sup>nd</sup> instrument choice in mind if the director does not allow you to play percussion.

### Book

- 6<sup>th</sup> grade Brass/Woodwind Methods scholars
  - “Essential Elements 2000 Book 1 (for instrument)”
  - “Foundations for a Superior Performance”
- 7<sup>th</sup> grade BAND scholars
  - “Essential Elements 2000 Book 1 (for instrument)”
  - “Foundations for a Superior Performance”
- 8<sup>th</sup> grade BAND scholars
  - “Essential Elements 2000 Book 1 (for instrument)”
  - “Foundations for a Superior Performance”
- 8<sup>th</sup> grade ORCHESTRA scholars
  - “Essential Elements 2000 Book 1 (for instrument)”
  - “Essential Elements 2000 Book 2 (for instrument)”

### Other Materials

- Paper
- Pencils

## EEi Online Subscription

- [www.EssentialElementsInteractive.com](http://www.EssentialElementsInteractive.com)
- FREE online subscription with the purchase of the book (that we use in class, see above)
- Scholars will need an account
- Parents are strongly recommended to have an account as well
- Scholars will submit their weekly "Practice Logs" through EEi
- Great for resources and practicing

## "Smart Music" subscription

- [www.smartmusic.com](http://www.smartmusic.com)
- Scholars will use Smart Music in class
- Scholars are required to complete "Practice Logs" each day and Smart Music makes practicing very fun and interactive!
- Scholars are required to send in (audio file) playing test recordings. Smart Music allows you to record yourself, retry multiple times, and fix these recordings before they are sent in and graded.
- Scholars are able to download multiple music books for FREE!
- \$36 per year (additional CMS discount available) for a full home subscription
- Strongly recommended, not mandatory

## Classroom Rules and Procedures

### General Rules

- Scholars are expected to be in their seat and ready to play at the start of class. Those who are not will be marked tardy, no exceptions.
- Scholars are to PARTICIPATE while in band/orchestra. Not participating will earn the scholar a 0 for participation that day and a phone call home will be made.
- Scholars must have all materials on their stands at all times during class. This includes folder with music, method book, instrument, and a PENCIL. Not having the necessary materials to participate will result in a 0 for the scholar's participation grade that day and a phone call home will be made.
- Scholars are to RESPECT all faculty and staff, other scholars and property, as well as the music itself while participating in band/orchestra.
- Continuous talking and/or playing after the director has stopped the group will NOT be tolerated. If you want to speak, raise your hand and wait to be called on.
- ALL SCHOLARS must ensure that the room is clean, organized, and ready for the next music class before they depart the room.
- Eating, drinking, or chewing gum is not allowed – no exceptions.

The following actions will be chosen from for scholars who choose not to follow the rules:

- Verbal Warning
- Loss of Participation and "zero" for the day
- Call or Email home to parents
- Silent Lunch and/or Paper Trash Pick-Up during HAC
- Referral and removal from class for that day (ISS)
- Parent Teacher Conference

### Beginning of Class Procedures

- Enter classroom quickly and on-time.
- Get instrument and music from locker.
- Setup instrument, arrange music on stand, and have a pencil ready.
  - Percussionists should setup all instruments needed for each piece.
- Sit quietly until the director is ready to begin. Work on daily warm-up.
- All procedures should be completed before director begins class, approximately 3 minutes after the start of the period.

## During Class

- When director is speaking, all scholars should be attentive and not talking or playing.
- To ask questions, scholars should raise their hand and wait to be called upon.
- When director stops conducting during rehearsal, scholars should immediately stop playing (do not talk) and wait for comments and directions.

## End of Class

- Put away instrument and music in locker.
  - Percussionists should put away all instruments and mallets back into the percussion cabinets.
- All scholars must ensure that the room is clean, organized, and ready for the next music class before they depart the room.
- Scholars may not wait outside until the bell rings.

## General Music Room Rules (Applicable During and Outside of Class Times)

- No food or drink is allowed in the music room without the director's permission. This includes before school, lunch time, and after school.
- Non-percussionists are never allowed in the percussion section and should never touch percussion instruments or equipment. Percussionists should treat all instruments with care. No items of any kind should ever be placed on timpani, mallet instruments, or drums.
- Scholars should never open lockers not belonging to them. Scholars should never touch instruments or equipment not belonging to them.
- Scholars should never use the whiteboard, computers, or any other school equipment without the permission of the director.

## Homework, Quizzes, Tests, and Concerts

### Homework

- Weekly Practice Logs
  - Band/Orchestra is a performance-based class. In order to develop the musical ability to perform with mastery, scholars must practice every day
  - Scholars are required to practice 15 minutes a day for 5 days each week
  - Logs are due on Friday of each week, submitted online through [EssentialElementsInteractive.com](https://www.essential-elements.com)
    - LATE PRACTICE LOGS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED

### Quizzes

- Paper Quizzes
  - These quizzes will require the scholar to retain information relating to music reading and notation, vocabulary, theory, history, ear training, and descriptive response
  - All scholars will be given this information before the quiz date

### Tests

- Playing Tests
  - Since band/orchestra is a performance-based class, scholars will be asked to perform Playing Tests in order to ensure continuous progress in musical ability
  - May be performed in class. May be recorded outside of class (scholar must send to director's EEi account)
  - The Playing Test material, as well as a rubric, will be given to each scholar well in advance to performing the test

## Concerts

- Winter and Spring concerts
  - Scholars must plan to attend both concerts (dates coming soon)
  - Concerts are mandatory
  - This is a great opportunity to show family and community what scholars have been working on
  - The director will send out an “Information Sheet” before each concert with specific details
  - Concert Attire
    - Men
      - Black dress pants (no jeans)
      - White button-up long-sleeve shirt (no t-shirts) with a black tie
    - Ladies
      - Black dress that comes below the knees

## Grading

CMS grading guidelines will be followed for grading in Band and Orchestra.

- 65% Formal
- 35% Informal

## Private Lessons

Scholars are strongly encouraged to take private lessons, especially if they are playing a new instrument! This helps the scholar progress faster on their instrument and increases the enjoyment of performing in Band/Orchestra. Private lessons allow scholars to learn instrument-specific techniques from a specialist, and give scholars more musical opportunities (like honor bands, recitals, etc). Private lessons are usually provided by the local music stores.

## Parent Help

It is impossible to run and coordinate a successful music program without the continuing efforts and support of parents. It is the parents who help establish a fluid music program at any school. This year at JMA, we are asking parents to become more involved. Parents can help the music program in 3 specific ways.

- Winter/Spring Concerts Volunteers and Chaperones
  - Will still be able to watch your child perform on stage
- Fundraiser Volunteers and Chaperones
- Financially funding some small (to medium) musical expenses

If you are able and willing to help the music program by volunteering, chaperoning, or funding some musical expenses, please email Mr. Robison at [stevend.robison@cms.k12.nc.us](mailto:stevend.robison@cms.k12.nc.us). Your help is appreciated!

## JMA Band and Orchestra Website

Visit <http://www.jmabandandorchestra.cmswiki.wikispaces.net> to view assignments, print Practice Logs, view scholar work, and much more. This website is designed to keep parents informed of what scholars are doing in music class. The website is also used as a place where scholars can find important documents (like Practice Logs) to download/save them, print them, and complete them to turn in for a grade.

*Please sign and return to Mr. Robison*

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I, \_\_\_\_\_, acknowledge that my child, \_\_\_\_\_, and I have read and understand the contents of this syllabus, and I know what is expected of my child and I. If I have any questions, I can reach Mr. Robison at [stevend.robison@cms.k12.nc.us](mailto:stevend.robison@cms.k12.nc.us).

PRINT Parent Name \_\_\_\_\_ Parent Signature \_\_\_\_\_

I, \_\_\_\_\_, have read and understand the class syllabus. I understand what is expected from me as a music scholar at JMA. I will follow all rules and procedures. I will respect everyone whom I interact with while in the band/orchestra. I will also plan to participate to my fullest extent, everyday. I understand that if I have any questions, I may speak to Mr. Robison.

PRINT Scholar Name \_\_\_\_\_ Scholar Signature \_\_\_\_\_