

TEMPLE MIDDLE SCHOOL BAND

275 Rainey Road, Temple, GA 30179
(770) 562-6001, ext. 1117, (770) 562-6002 (fax)

Patti Martin, Director

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Band Syllabus/Handbook 2021-2022

A Note from the Band Director:

Welcome to the TMS band for the '21-'22 school year! The purpose of this syllabus/handbook is to help you better understand the expectations and activities involved with our band program. Please take a minute to go over all the information in this syllabus/handbook and complete the accompanying form for our records so that I can better serve you and your student. Please return this form, signed, by August 13, 2021.

I am extremely proud of the students and band program here at TMS and realize that it takes an intentional effort on the part of the students and families to maintain the pride and dedication needed for a truly outstanding band program. Due to the dedication of both our families and students, the TMS band has enjoyed a tradition of excellence that we will strive to uphold this year. I look forward to an exciting year, and with your student's dedication and your continued support, this year should be nothing less than great! Please do not hesitate to call or email me if you ever have any questions or concerns. I'm here to help in any way that I can.

Sincerely,

Ms. Martin

I. Course Outcome:

During the student's three years in our band program at TMS, it is the goal of our program that each student become a proficient and independent musician, fully prepared for a high school ensemble.

This is accomplished by adhering to the state standards set forth for bands that include the study of posture, playing position, breathing techniques, tone quality, intonation, articulation, style, fingerings/slide positions, rhythmic development, precision, dynamics, blend, balance, and phrasing. Students will have regular music performance assessments as well as vocabulary and music theory lessons to check for mastery of these concepts throughout their three years with our band..

II. Required Textbooks:

1. 6th Grade students will purchase the Essential Elements method book at the same time they get their instruments.
2. 7th and 8th Grade students will not have to purchase an additional book and will use the books owned by the TMS band.
3. All other music will be from the TMS band music library.

III. Timeline:

6th Grade will tentatively begin using instruments September 2, 2021.

7th and 8th Grade will tentatively begin playing on August 5, 2021..

IV. Scheduled Help Sessions

Students may get extra one on one help from Ms. Martin before or after school. Any student who would like to access this assistance just needs to let Ms. Martin know and a specific time that works with both schedules will be set.

V. Classroom Rules and Expectations:

TMS band students will adhere to the three B's of our school:

1. **Be Responsible**
2. **Be Respectful**
3. **Be Safe**

Rules specific to the band room:

1. Respect yourself and others AND their property
2. Keep hands and feet to yourself at all times
3. Be prompt and prepared for class (Instrument, Music, and Pencil, music practiced).
4. No food, candy, gum, or anything that resembles gum is allowed in the band room. These items cause instrument issues and attract bugs to our cases. Eww.
5. Talk only at appropriate times
6. Be attentive and on task
7. Do not run in any area of the band room
8. Do not throw any objects.
9. **CELL PHONES ARE NOT ALLOWED DURING REHEARSALS!** Not on stands, not under your leg, not in your hoodie pocket! Leave them in your case or bookbag if you have them in the bandroom.

Expectations:

1. Have your instrument and materials present and playable for EVERY class. This includes playable reeds for the woodwinds. Failure to have items in class will result in a reduction of the student's weekly participation grade. Chronic problems with this could ultimately result in disciplinary action.
2. Take care of ALL equipment in the band room. All of the equipment is expensive. We do not want broken instruments. Any broken instrument detracts from the success we could achieve until the equipment can be repaired.
3. Enter the room in an orderly and purposeful fashion. Be seated with your instrument, music, and pencil ready to play within 3 minutes after the start of class. If you are not in your seat by the 3 minute mark, you are tardy. If you have been detained by another teacher, you must have a pass to avoid being marked tardy.
4. Rehearsal etiquette is a non-negotiable in a rehearsal. Our entire focus depends on what we can hear. If students are making extraneous noises by talking, playing out of turn, or any other disruptive sound, then way too much of our rehearsal time is spent on these issues

that should be spent playing. Playing beautiful music is way more fun and rewarding than these behaviors. Infractions of rehearsal etiquette will result in the lowering of a student's weekly participation grade and/or citations will be issued..

5. Instruments and folders, as well as stands and chairs, are to be put where they belong at the end of each class period. This leaves the band room in a neat and orderly fashion for the next class.
6. Finally, students are expected to be prepared for class doing all necessary practicing at home in order to be a contributing member at the next rehearsal. Students need to plan to take their instruments home at a minimum on Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday. Unannounced quiz grades will be given for adhering to these days.
7. A band's success depends on every single member contributing in a positive way. Please leave any unpleasantness between people and poor attitudes at the door. We do not want to spend our rehearsal time on these items. If however you need Ms. Martin's help with a situation, please bring this up, in private if needed, either before or after class.
8. **CELL PHONES ARE NOT ALLOWED DURING REHEARSALS!** Not on stands, not under your leg, not in your hoodie pocket! Leave them in your case or bookbag if you have them in the bandroom. Just in case you didn't see it above.

VI. Performance/Concert Uniforms:

The TMS band wears Black pants , a solid black, long-sleeved, button down dress shirt, black dress shoes and socks, if socks are needed. **Black Khaki pants are fine, but no black jeans or leggings, please.** Black, long-sleeved T-Shirts are not permitted.

Dress shoes only and no tennis shoes, please. Ladies that want to wear black boots may do so as long as the pants can fit easily over the boots. Carroll County Schools built a truly premier performing arts center for our bands to perform in at no charge to the bands. This is a unique and wonderful opportunity for our students. We must look professional when we perform in this grand hall. We are not permitted to allow students to perform who are not in the prescribed uniform.

VII. Other Performing Opportunities

In addition to the regular band classes, our students have the opportunity to audition for and participate in a number of other honor band events.

1. District Honor Band (DHB) is an honor band that our band students have found much success in. It is an audition that takes dedication and practice to earn a seat, but students always enjoy the event if they do earn a seat in this prestigious group. We offer a DHB class for those students who would like to audition. These students will have a band class twice a day during the first semester of school. This class and audition is open to any 7th and 8th grade band member. Students who are not in the DHB class may audition, but it is strongly recommended that they join the class so that they have access to daily help preparing the audition materials. Students who wish to audition and are not in the class will need to speak to Ms. Martin individually.
2. Carroll County Honor Band is a local honor band event held at our Performing Arts Center. The last year (the year before COVID), 33 of our students were able to secure a seat in this band. It is always an enjoyable event for our students that also provides a great learning

opportunity. It is another way Carroll County Schools supports our students involved in music. This band is open for 7th and 8th grade students to audition.

3. District Clinic Band is open to first and second year players, so 6th and 7th graders may audition for this event. It is a one day event also held at our Performing Arts Center and is open to students from our entire music district which runs from the Heard County Line to the top of the state just this side of Chattanooga. It has been a great event that students have learned much and had a great time. It also is a wonderful introduction into the setting of an honor band.
4. Lastly, if students who audition for DHB earn a high enough score, they are recommended by the judges to go on and audition for All State. This is the highest level a middle school band student can achieve. It is highly competitive but holds a great amount of prestige to even be chosen to audition for All State, and even more if one is able to earn a seat in this incredible band.

VIII. Fundraisers

School band equipment is very expensive. Our band provides the most costly instruments for our students to play. These instruments include: tuba, baritone/euphonium, bass clarinet, tenor saxophone, baritone saxophone, and french horns. Carroll County Schools does a wonderful job at providing funding to our bands through programs like SPLOST, but we still need to raise money to purchase enough good quality instruments for our students. We cannot produce a champion band with inferior quality equipment. We will be participating in at least one fund-raiser this year to try to offset some of that expense. All students need to participate to limit the number of fund-raisers that we need to do.

If you know of individuals or businesses that would like to donate to our band, please let me know and I will be glad to talk with them to work that out.

IX. Important Dates:

August 5, 2021- 7th and 8th grade students begin playing in class. Instruments, music, and pencils in class beginning this date.

TBA- Section Leader training after school. First 3 chairs from each section in 7th and 8th grades. Ms. Martin, Mr. Weinstein and section leaders from the high school will be instructing.

August 23, 2021- 6th grade will need to have their instruments ordered to be sure they are delivered in time for our first day to play. More information on this will be sent out. Watch the TMS Facebook page and Google Classroom for information. Students will also bring home paper copies.

September 2, 2021- 6th grade band begins playing in class. Instrument, book, pencils in class beginning this date.

TBA- 6th grade Saturday camp for beginning instruction 10:00-12:00.

12/4/21- District Honor Band Auditions

TBA- Christmas concert date TBA (The PAC will assign our date at a later time)

1/8/22- **Projected** All State Audition (for students who earned the audition at DHB- 7th and 8th grades)

2/10/22-2/12/22- District Honor Band event in Ringgold, GA

TBA- Carroll County Honor Band (7th and 8th Grade)

TBA- All State Event in Athens. (7th and 8th grades only)

3/15/21-3/17/21- LGPE for the competitive band. Specific date will be announced at a later date when the official schedule is published. (7th and 8th Grade only).

TBA- District Clinic Band Event at the Carroll County Schools PAC

5/12/22- Spring Concert date (tentative)

5/17/22- Chamber Music Recital (tentative)

X. Grading

Grades will be calculated based upon three categories:

1. **Participation**- Students have the opportunity to earn 20 participation points per day. Points are deducted for infractions of our classroom and rehearsal guidelines. Failure to bring your instrument to school results in forfeiture of all 20 points for the day.
2. **Playing/Written Exams**- All performance based (playing) tests and written tests and quizzes will belong to this category.
3. **Performances**- All concerts and performances are required. Band is a performance based class and each student contributes to the overall sound of the band. Performances may only be excused for emergency circumstances. If a student is prohibited from performing due to being in ISS, the grade cannot be made up. If there is an excusable absence (such as death in the family, sickness, etc.), a note is required from the parent and the student will be given an alternate assignment to make up this grade. Failure to complete the assignment will result in a zero for that performance.

We are going to have a great year in the Temple Middle School Band! We are a family, and we rely on everyone to make us great. Let's all be sure we are giving your best for our continued success of our band program.

It's a GREAT year to be a Tiger!!

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PLEASE SIGN AND RETURN THIS FORM TO MS. MARTIN BY AUGUST __, 2020

We have read the TMS Syllabus/Handbook and are aware of the high expectations and behavioral standards established for participation in our band program. We are also aware of the grading policy and requirements for band, and although an elective, band is a full year commitment.

Parent/Guardian Signature _____ Date _____

Student Signature _____ Date _____

Print Student's Name _____

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SCHOOL INSTRUMENT CONTRACT

If you are using an instrument that is provided by TMS, please fill out this form. If you are unsure if your instrument is from TMS, please contact Ms. Martin directly for clarification.

Student Name _____

Type of Instrument (Tuba, Saxophone, etc.) _____

Instrument Serial Number _____

(Ms. Martin will help you locate this at school if you aren't sure)

By signing below, I agree that the instrument that is being issued to me/my child is in good working condition and any issues regarding instrument quality have been brought to Ms. Martin's attention prior to signing this contract. Furthermore, I agree to pay for the cost of any necessary repairs IF my child's carelessness results in damage to the instrument. Regular maintenance and repairs not due to carelessness of the student will be covered by the TMS band.

Parent/Guardian Signature _____ **Date** _____

Student Signature _____ **Date** _____

Print Student's Name _____