

FRANK BLACK MIDDLE SCHOOL BEGINNING BAND **COURSE OBJECTIVES AND GRADING PROCEDURES**

Aesthetic experiences are a vital part of student growth. Band, as a musical organization, provides one medium of aesthetic expression for students. Our department goal, therefore, is that each student be able to express the aesthetic values of music through performance skills and theory comprehension.

There are three different classes for beginners that meet every other day during the school year. Classes are made up of like family instruments (woodwind, brass, and percussion) to enhance more uniform instruction. The Frank Black Beginning Band performs at 4 concerts: **Beginning Band Recital (November 18, 2016 @ 6:30pm/ Rehearsal: November 17 3:30 – 5:00pm)**, **Winter Concert (December 14/ Rehearsal: December 12 3:30 – 5:00pm)**, **Spring Concert (April 28)**, in the **Frank Black Auditorium and M.C. Williams Beginning Band Festival (May 6 @ M.C. Williams Middle School/Rehearsal: May 5 3:30 – 5:00pm)**. Since each beginning class meets separately during the school day, we can only prepare the **whole band** by having after-school rehearsals, which are **curricular** and therefore **graded activities**. These rehearsals are mandatory and necessary for every beginning student, as they have never participated in these types of concerts and have never played in a full band before. All students should wear the following for all concerts: **Band T-shirt (tucked in), Black Slacks, long black socks/hosiery, black dress shoes (close toed), Black belt** --- *jeans, shorts, flip flops or sneakers will not be allowed*. Letters, emails, and/or website postings will be sent with the student in advance regarding specific times and other important details about each concert.

TEACHING OBJECTIVES FOR BEGINNING BAND STUDENTS

- To learn and use good posture while performing
- To learn the correct method of breathing (wind instruments)
- To learn and use correct embouchure while performing (wind instruments)
- To learn and use correct hand position
- To learn and use the correct technique for percussion playing (percussion only)
- To learn the proper concept of tone production and tone quality
- To know the various articulation markings such as slur, staccato, legato, etc.
- To be able to clap and count rhythmically
- To learn and understand the musical terms necessary for the Concert Band and Honors Band
- To develop discriminatory listening skills
- To develop good home practice routines
- To promote social development through large group interaction
- To develop personal and self-discipline
- To prepare students to advance to the Concert Band and Honors Band after their beginning year

GRADING PROCEDURES

50% - of the six weeks grade will be based on daily grades including class work and participation.

30% - of the six weeks grade will be based on major tests including playing tests and written exams

15% - of the six weeks grade will be based on major quizzes

5% - of the six weeks grade will be based on the amount of daily home practice. Students are required to practice at least 30 minutes a day (3 and ½ hours per week) in order to receive a 100% on their practice sheet that week. If a student cannot practice at all on a given day due to an

unavoidable conflict, the practice time must be made up on another day within that practice week. We **strongly** encourage equally – distributed practice time in order to promote musical success. **Points will be appropriately deducted if a student turns in less than the required time. Likewise, extra credit will be given to students who practice more than the weekly requirement. Parents will sign the student’s practice sheet each week to verify the amount of home practice in ink, No initials.** Practice sheets will be checked the **first day their class meets**, and in the case of a holiday, teacher in-service day, etc., practice sheets will still be checked on the first day their class meets. Short writing assignments will be given to students not having their practice sheets filled out and signed on the first day their class meets. In addition, 10 points will be deducted per day regardless of when the class meets.

PARENT SIGNATURE: _____