

Eighth Grade Band Syllabus

In this class you will:

- 1. Apply the elements of music and musical techniques in order to sing and play music with accuracy and expression.**
- 2. Interpret the sound and symbol systems of music.**
- 3. Create music using a variety of sound and notational sources.**
- 4. Understand the interacting elements to respond to music and music performances.**
- 5. Understand global, interdisciplinary, and 21st century connections with music.**

The class will achieve these objectives by learning instrumental music and progressing on the levels corresponding to your musical experience and understanding.

In eighth grade band we will be using Essential Elements Interactive for Band, Book Two. I sometimes refer to this book as “The Red Book.” The Essential Elements Interactive book provides each student online access to the Essential Elements Interactive website. This website provides students with access to more band tools and materials. The EEI website also provides a platform for students to submit playing tests. I will provide each student with a school code and a student ID to gain access to the EEI Princeton website.

CLASS RULES

- 1. Follow all school rules.****
- 2. Keep your instrument and yourself silent during rehearsal unless instructed otherwise.
(No distracting or disruptive talking or playing of an instrument during class or rehearsal.)**
- 3. Respect and help maintain all facilities and equipment in band class or during a rehearsal.)**

CONSEQUENCES

- 1. Warning from director**
- 2. Student will be asked to sit out of the rehearsal.
(If a student is asked to sit out of a rehearsal he/she is expected to sit quietly where instructed by the director. At the end of class it is the student’s responsibility to discuss in the appropriate manner with the director the reason for being sent away from the rehearsal. Failure to handle the situation in this manner will result in consequence #3.)**
- 3. Contact with parent or guardian to further develop a plan to change the undesired behavior.**
- 4. Referral to “choices or administration”.**

****Cell phones can be a useful tool in band. Cell phones can also be a huge distraction in class. Your cell phone needs to stay in your book bag. Do not have your cell phone out in class. There will be times that we may use our cell phones for different activities in class. However, taking calls, texting, surfing, playing games on your cell phone, taking pictures or video, or any other “non class related” function will result in having your cell phone taken away by the teacher.**

****Chewing gum, eating, or drinking while in the band room is forbidden under regular circumstances. The consequences for ignoring these rules are the same as refusing to follow any other band rule.**

In band we must work together as a team. Webster’s dictionary defines the word band as, “a group of people joined together for a common purpose.” All of the preceding rules are common sense. We will have a good band only if we all attend all performances, follow the rules of the class, represent Princeton with the utmost respect, and work together.

**PRINCETON EIGHTH GRADE BAND GRADING SYSTEM
2019-2020**

The following items show how the various responsibilities of each band student are incorporated into the Princeton Middle High School Band nine weeks grade.

TESTS: 20: Tests may include playing, performance, or written tests. Playing tests will be scored according to the JCS All-County Band scoring sheet, or a similar rubric, or computer assessment. Individual playing tests will sometimes be recorded onto a digital recorder or a computer based assessment such as SMARTMUSIC or Essential Elements Interactive. All playing tests will be graded on a 100 point scale.

CLASSWORK GRADE: 25% :

Each student is responsible for having all supplies and fully completing all assigned tasks in band class.

Each student is responsible for keeping all equipment in proper working condition as determined by the director.

Each student is responsible for storing his/her equipment including uniforms properly as determined by the director.

Classwork grades assess band students on such class activities as written assignments, group assignments, instrumental performance, sight reading, listening, evaluating, analyzing, and moving to music.

Classwork grades will be posted to powerschool once a week.

PRACTICE GRADE: 20%

Each student is responsible for practicing at least four 20 minute sessions each week. (That means for each nine weeks 36 practice sessions are required.) Practice charts will be submitted through the Essential Elements Interactive website.

PERFORMANCES: 35%:

A student receives a grade of 100 for each performance satisfactorily completed. If a student is excused from a performance, that student may be recorded and be graded on a performance using the JCS All-County Band scoring rubric, or a similar rubric, or online assessment. No points are received for an unexcused absence from a performance.

*****The Christmas and Spring Concerts count 35 points of your grade for the nine weeks in which they are held.*****

How Mr. Heller Grades a Playing Test

In band class I need to listen to how you play. The way I do this is by a “performance assessment” or playing test. Sometimes we do these in class. Sometimes we do these at home and submit them online. Sometimes I assess a small group or section together or even an entire ensemble. Assessments are a way for me to know how I can better help you, the student. I always use basically the same process.

When I assess a student’s playing performance I assign that performance one of the following adjectives on my performance rubric: (The entire rubric with detailed explanations of the assessment levels as far as musicality including tone, pitch, rhythm, articulation, dynamics, phrasing, tempo, and intonation is concerned can be found on the band website)

Superior/ Excellent/ Good/ Fair/ Poor

**Each of the adjectives is assigned to a number of points on a 5 point scale.
Superior=5 points earned/ Excellent=4points earned/ Good=3 points earned
Fair=2 points earned/ Poor= 1 point earned**

To translate the 5 point rubric into a number grade based on a 100 point system I use a predetermined multiplier and multiply 5 by that number to determine the maximum number of earned points. I then subtract the maximum number of earned points from 100 and add the points earned by the student to determine the students grade.

For example, many times I use a multiplier of 5. The maximum number of earned points would be 25. 100-25 is 75. A student earning a superior would make 100. A student earning an excellent would make a 95. A student earning a good would make a 90. A student earning a fair would make an 85. A student earning a poor would make an 80.

I do this to continue to encourage the students to try. Using the band rubric in this way allows the process of trying to be a part of the grade. In band trying is vital to the students success. The way I grade a performance assessment in band is designed to encourage the students to try, allow them to realize where they can improve, and not penalize them as they grow and develop as musicians.

Please always feel free to contact me at robertheller@johnston.k12.nc.us if you have any questions about your student and band at Princeton Middle High School.