

Milwee Beginning Band Syllabus

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This Syllabus is a brief summary of the FULL BAND HANDBOOK. As such, this Syllabus DOES NOT replace the handbook as your guide to all Milwee Band Policies and Procedures.

Please take 10 minutes to read the full handbook found at:

<http://www.milweeband.com/fileshandbook.html>

Course Description: The Milwee Middle School Beginning band is composed of students who are learning a band instrument for the first time. Members will study and perform beginning band literature and will be responsible for various assignments, concerts, and projects that will include time spent both inside and outside of normal school hours.

Materials, unless noted - required by September 1st.

- One 3-ring binder, black preferred
- Pencils, with eraser; Pencil Pouch strongly recommended
- 25 Plastic Sheet protectors
- Mirror 6"-8" - can fit on your music stand
- **2nd Quarter:** Instrument and proper accessories (we will go through the testing process in class, during the first two weeks of school) - **DON'T GET THIS YET! Wait until the end of the first quarter**
 - *Folding wire music stand*

Concert Dates and Attire:

- Fall Concert: No Fall Concert This year
- Winter Concert: TBD Virtually in December - Spring Concert: TBD in late April or early May
- No Official Band Uniform this school year at this time.
- Concert dress *might* include - Polo/Button Down Shirt, Black Dress Pants, Shoes, Socks

Classroom expectations, norms, and procedures: Please visit the band handbook for a complete list of student expectations, norms, and procedures: <http://www.milweeband.com/fileshandbook.html>

Grading: Milwee Band uses a "Pass/Fail" system, called "Pass Offs", for most graded performance assignments. Please visit the handbook under the section "Grading" for more details on how this system works.

Approximate Points System:

- Weekly Class Preparation (Having materials and Instrument, performing in class) - 10 points, about 80 points per quarter
- "Pass Off" Assignment - between 10-20 points, about 120 points per quarter
- Written Assignment/Worksheet - 10 points, about 50 points per quarter
- Fall, Winter, or Spring Concert Participation - 100 points per concert. About once per quarter.
- **PLUS** - Students whom *do not have* their instrument or materials in class 3 times in one quarter will receive a ONE FULL LETTER GRADE DROP in their overall Quarter Grade (example, A- drops to a B-). A notification will be emailed to parents each time a student does not bring their instrument or materials to class. There is NO PENALTY for first two times a student forgets their instrument during any quarter.

Please understand how PARAMOUNT it is for your student to have their instrument with them to class each day. It is also expected that students bring their instrument (or mouthpiece) home on days they do not have band class to practice. To keep up with the rigorous curriculum involved in beginning band, students are expected to practice for a MINIMUM of 1.5 hours outside of class.

Most successful students spend 2.5 hours per week of practice outside of class.

Milwee Beginning Band Course Outline:

FALL SEMESTER

- Instrument testing during weeks 3-7 - schedule appointment after school
- Instrument Families introduction
- Rhythm and Counting System Introduction
- Music Staff, notes, lines & spaces, basic notation symbols
- Mastering the Musical Alphabet in both treble and bass clef
- Establish breathing singing & posture, Music Reading & Terms Unit 1
- Establish characteristic tone, mouthpiece playing, First & Second Study, Rhythm Unit 1
- Articulation, Third Study, Song Set One, Music Terms & Worksheets Unit 2
- Preparation for Fall Concert. Rhythm Unit Two, Review of Third Study and Song Set One
- Fall Concert Week, Fourth Study, F Major Scale descending

SPRING SEMESTER:

- Review Fourth Study, F Major Scale descending (Week 10)
- Newer Note Study, 5th Study, Rhythm Unit 3 (Week 10)
- Song Set 2 & 3, Rhythm Unit 4, F Major Scale ascending, Music Reading & Terms Unit 3 (weeks 11 & 12)
- Song Set 4 & 5, Rhythm Unit 5, Preparation for Winter Concert (weeks 13 & 14)
- Chromatic Scale descending, Music Reading & Terms Unit 4, Review Rhythm Units (weeks 15 & 16)
- Beginning Chorales, Key Signatures, Bb Major Scale (weeks 17 & 18)
- Review F Major, Chromatic, Bb Major Scales, Review Semester 1 Music Terms
- Ab Major Scale, Rhythm Units 1-5 Review, Music Terms Unit 5
- Solo and Ensemble (*optional* student music festival) Preparation
- Eb Major Scale, Spring Concert Music, Solo and Ensemble Festival Preparation
- C Major Scale, Song Set 6, Rhythm Unit 6, Music Terms Unit 6
- Spring Concert Music, Review of Spring Semester (catch up week!)

Percussion Curriculum:

- *In addition* to the curriculum above, Percussionists will follow their own curriculum throughout the year that includes learning rudimentary snare drum, bass drum, and other percussive accessories.
- About 80% of beginning percussion practice time is spent on their mallet/keyboard percussion instruments, with 20% spent on snare, bass drum, and accessories.
- Percussion students will often be practicing on their own, in a practice room area of the band room on their own curriculum goals. Thus, *it is imperative that percussion students are hard working, focused, and independent students, capable of completing classwork without the help of a teacher.*
- Milwee band does hire a percussion instructor to coach percussion students throughout the year -- all ***beginning percussion students are required to enroll in private instruction, outside of class time to supplement their in class percussion coaching.***