

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, required by August 17th.

- One, 1", 3-ring binder, black preferred
- Pencils, with eraser; Pencil Pouch strongly recommended
- 25 Plastic Sheet protectors
- 8-12" Mirror (dollar store is great for this!)
- Strongly recommended PHONE APP: "TE TUNER" (aka Tonal Energy Tuner) - \$5 app on phone/tablet.
 - *There are also free tuners and metronome apps - as long as you have one, you're set!*
- Instrument - **you don't need to start school with an instrument.** We will test and select later.
 - Further information regarding instruments will be handed out at our **beginning band meeting on TUESDAY, AUGUST 11th at 7:00pm via WebEx Meeting Platform.**

Concert Dates and Attire:

- Fall Concert: Tuesday, Oct. 11th at 7:30pm in the Milwee Gym
- Winter Concert: TBD in December - Spring Concert: TBD in late April or early May
- Band Hunter Green Uniform T-Shirt (Bought from band boosters for \$10)
- Black Dress Pants, Shoes, Socks (Bought on your own)

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/Daily instrument performance - about 90 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.

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

Quarter 1:

- Instrument testing (weeks 1 & 2), Beginning Info Meeting on 8/20. All students w/ instruments by 8/26
- Establish breathing singing & posture, Music Reading & Terms Unit 1 (weeks 1 & 2)
- Establish characteristic tone, mouthpiece playing, First & Second Study, Rhythm Unit 1 (weeks 3 & 4)
- Articulation, Third Study, Song Set One, Music Terms & Worksheets Unit 2 (weeks 5 & 6)
- Preparation for Fall Concert. Rhythm Unit Two, Review of Third Study and Song Set One (weeks 7 & 8)
- Fall Concert Week, Fourth Study, F Major Scale descending (Week 9)

Quarter 2:

- 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)

SPRING SEMESTER:

Quarter 3:

- Review F Major, Chromatic, Bb Major Scales, Review Semester 1 Music Terms (weeks 1 & 2)
- Ab Major Scale, Rhythm Units 1-5 Review, Music Terms Unit 5 (weeks 3 & 4)
- Solo and Ensemble (*optional* student music festival) Preparation (weeks 3 & 4)
- Eb Major Scale, Spring Concert Music, Solo and Ensemble Festival (*optional*) Preparation (weeks 5 & 6)
- C Major Scale, Song Set 6, Rhythm Unit 6, Music Terms Unit 6 (weeks 7 & 8)
- Spring Concert Music, Review of 3rd Quarter (catch up week!) (week 9)

Quarter 4:

- Review 3rd Quarter Scales, Review Music Terms Unit 6 (week 10)
- Db Major, Song Set 7, Spring Concert Music, Rhythm Unit 7, Singletary Warm Ups (weeks 11 & 12)
- G Major, F Major 2 Octaves Spring Concert Music, Singletary Warm Ups, Chorales (weeks 13 & 14)
- Spring Concert, F Major 2 Octave, combine multiple scales in order (3 scales at a time) (weeks 15 & 16)
- Performance of all 7 major scales from memory, plus chromatic scale (weeks 17 & 18)

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.***