

**Highlands Middle School
Instrumental Music
2007-2008 Course Syllabus**

Instructor: Lori Hopkins

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Grade: 6-8

Credit: 1

Description

Instrumental music is a course that explores the performing arts. The performing ensemble consists of woodwind, brass, and percussive instrumentalists. Emphasis is placed on the playing of notes and rhythms, musicality, and the understanding of the music. Students will gain a better appreciation for music by studying and performing various works.

Comment

The main goal of this class is to introduce the performing arts to individuals who wish to expand their knowledge of music. Students will be expected to read, comprehend, and interpret musical ideas through ensemble performance. This class will broaden individuals' ability to perform and prepare the student for the music section assessed through the discipline of arts and humanities.

Course Standards

Students will

- develop an appreciation for the basic elements of music and for the performing arts
- gain an understanding of rhythmic values, note names, and basic musical interpretation of any work; this concept will be illustrated through scales, etudes, musical excerpts, and compositions
- develop a repertoire of musical terms and concepts that can be applied to any work
- express creativity and expression through performing
- increase awareness of listening within an ensemble
- develop their abilities as a performer individually and within an ensemble
- evaluate both individual and group performances using musical vocabulary and ideals of achievement

Required Materials

Instrument, Pencil

Text: Standard of Excellence

Grade 6 – Book 1; Grade 7 – Book 2; Grade 8 – Book 3

Bach and Before for Band (seventh and eighth grades only)

Grading

Students will be evaluated on assignments and activities based on the following:

- Weekly Performance Evaluations – 30%
 - Written Tests and Performance Assessments – 10%
- Performance Assessments Include:
Selections from Standard of Excellence
- Written assessment – 10%
 - Concerts – 30%
 - Practice Logs – 20%

Practice Logs

Students are expected to keep a weekly log of the number of minutes that they practice. Students should think of practicing as their homework assignment for band. Students are encouraged to practice at least 75 minutes each week for the first quarter. We will increase this amount during the second quarter. Students may want to divide this into 5 nights/15 minutes per night. Students that take their instruments home only on the weekends may practice their 75 minute block between Saturday and Sunday. Students that are unable to carry their instrument home may use the band room after school for practicing.

Participation and Attendance

Students will be expected to be on time and prepared for band with all of the required materials. Attendance is a vital part to the students' progress and to the ensemble. Students with excused absences will be able to make up any written or performance assessments. The teacher will arrange make-up dates. Students will be encouraged to perform in an ensemble outside of the regular scheduled class and/or audition for one of the ensembles listed below. Private lessons are available outside of the school day for all students. Students wanting to take lessons should see Mrs. Hopkins. There is an additional fee for lessons.

Course Content/ Calendar

Class introduction	One week
Music Elements:	All year
Analyzing, creating, and performing rhythm, melody, dynamics, tempo, harmony, form, and timbre	
Cultures:	2 nd Quarter
6 th grade: Latin American and Asian	
7 th grade: classical Greece	
8 th grade: European and African influences	
Periods in music and influential composers:	3 rd Quarter
6 th grade: Baroque, Classical, Romantic	
7 th grade: Medieval	
8 th grade: Early American through Civil War	
Styles:	3 rd /4 th Quarters
broadway, gospel, musicals, ballads, blues, marches	
Performance Content:	
Posture and playing positions	All year
Embouchure	All year
Instrumental performance techniques	All year
Scales:	
Major and minor	All year
Chorales, etudes, and sight-reading	All year
Winter program repertoire	August – January
Concert band festival repertoire	August - March
Spring program repertoire	January - May
Mandatory Performances:	
Winter Concert ~ Greaves Hall (N.K.U.)	December 9, 2007 6:00 p.m.
Northern Kentucky concert band festival (7 th and 8 th grades only)	March 11, 2008

Kings Island music festival (7th and 8th grades only)

T.B.A.

Spring Concert

May 4, 2008
2:00 p.m.

Additional Performance opportunities (7th and 8th grades only):

Northern Kentucky Select Band Auditions

January 12, 2008

Northern Kentucky Select Band Rehearsals and Concert

March 6-8, 2008

Solo and Ensemble Festival

May 10, 2008