



Tucker Middle School Band Syllabus 2017-2018

tuckermiddleband.com

Ms. Min J. Kang – Director of Bands
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TMS 2017-2018 Connections Schedule:

PERIODS	CONNECTIONS
Planning	8:25am-9:40am (75 minutes)
2 nd period- 8 th Grade Band	9:45am-10:30am (45 minutes)
3 rd period- 8 th Grade Band	10:40am-11:30am (50 minutes)
Lunch	11:35am-12:05pm (30 minutes)
4 th period- 7 th Grade Band	12:10pm-1:00pm (50 minutes)
5 th period- 7 th Grade Band	1:05pm-1:55pm (50 minutes)
6 th period- 6 th Grade Band	2:05pm- 2:55pm (50 minutes)
7 th period- 6 th Grade Band	3:00pm-4:00pm (60 minutes)

Objectives:

- (1) To develop performance skills in the areas of tone, intonation, balance, technique, and interpretation.
- (2) To develop comprehensive musicianship relating to tone, melody, rhythm, harmony, tonality, timbre, texture and form.

Goals:

Students will exhibit an understanding of basic music theory fundamentals through written, oral, and performance evaluation.

- (1) Students will exhibit proper instrument technique, hand position, posture, and embouchure.
- (2) Students will exhibit proper concert etiquette in concerts as well as in class.
- (3) Students will be exposed to many different musical opportunities and experiences.
- (4) Students will perform music of various styles and skill levels.
- (5) Students will obtain a sense of pride, self-respect, and self confidence through membership in the **Tucker Middle School Band Program.**

Description of Standards:

National Standards for Grades 5-8

1. Content Standard: Singing, alone and with others, a varied repertoire of music.
2. Content Standard: Performing on instruments, alone and with others, a varied repertoire of music.
3. Content Standard: Improvising melodies, variations, and accompaniments.
4. Content Standard: Composing and arranging music within specified guidelines.
5. Content Standard: Reading and notating music.
6. Content Standard: Listening to, analyzing, and describing music.
7. Content Standard: Evaluating music and music performances.
8. Content Standard: Understanding relationships between music, the other arts, and disciplines outside the arts.
9. Content Standard: Understanding music in relation to history and culture.

Materials:

All Band members who have fulfilled his/her Band dues of **\$90.00** will be provided with a Band binder with 20 sheet protectors.

Flute

- Cleaning Cloth with Rod (for inside of flute)
- A combination lock (for band locker)
- Music Stand (for home practice)

Clarinet and Bass Clarinet

- Vandoren Reeds- 2 strength for beginners, 2 ½ or 3 strength for intermediate/advanced players
- Yamaha Mouthpiece CL 4C
- Rovner Ligature or Bonade Inverted Ligature
- Plastic Reed Holder (holds 4 reeds)
- Cork Grease
- Silk Swab
- Mouthpiece Patches
- A combination lock (for band locker)
- Music Stand (for home practice)

Alto Saxophone, Tenor Saxophone, and Baritone Saxophone

- Vandoren Reeds- 2 strength for beginners, 2 ½ or 3 strength for intermediate/advanced players
- Rovner Ligature
- Cork Grease
- Mouthpiece Patches
- Neck strap
- A combination lock (for band locker)
- Music Stand (for home practice)

Trumpet

- Bach 5C Mouthpiece
- Valve Oil
- Small Black Towel
- A combination lock (for band locker)
- Music Stand (for home practice)

French Horn

- Holton Farkas Mouthpiece
- Valve Oil
- Small Black Towel
- A combination lock (for band locker)
- Music Stand (for home practice)

Trombone

- Bach 6 ½ AL Mouthpiece
- Slide Oil
- Small Black Towel
- A combination lock (for band locker)
- Music Stand (for home practice)

Baritone and Euphonium

- Bach 6 ½ AL Mouthpiece
- Valve Oil
- A combination lock (for band locker)
- Music Stand (for home practice)

Tuba

- Helleberg 120 S Mouthpiece
- Music Stand (for home practice)

Percussion- Required for ALL percussionists!

- Percussion Learning Kit (includes snare and bells)
- Drum Sticks
- Bell Mallets (acrylic or hard rubber mallets)
- Stick Bag

***** Please mark all of your snare, bell kit, sticks, and mallets for identification. *****

***** Most percussion items can be purchased at your local music store or online at steveweissmusic.com, lonestarpercussion.com, and columbuspercussion.com *****

Books:

6th Grade Band:

Essential Elements Interactive, Book 1 by Tim Lautzenheiser (Percussion Book \$16.99/Others \$9.99)

7th/8th Grade Advanced Band:

Symphonic Band Technique by Rhodes & Donald Bierschenk (\$10.95)

**** Please note that 7th/8th grade percussionists must purchase *Symphonic Band Technique for Percussion* (\$10.95) and *Mallet Percussion* (\$10.95). *Timpani Book* (\$10.95 will be provided). ****

**** All materials must be obtained by August 21st, 2017. If a student is unable to obtain his/her equipment/materials by this date, then parents must communicate with Ms. Kang via email or note so that we can rectify the situation as soon as possible. ****

Band Dues:

Band Dues are **\$90.00** for new and returning members. Dues include a tuxedo shirt, TMS Band hoodie, TMS Band T-shirt. All new members who have fulfilled his/her Band dues of \$90 will receive all three shirts at the beginning of school year. If any returning students need to replace his/her shirts, then the cost is as follow: tuxedo shirt is \$20, TMS Band hoodie is \$20, and TMS Band T-shirt is \$15.00. **Band dues are non-refundable and are not transferable to other organizations.** Band dues are necessary for students to participate in any band related activities such as football games, Winter Concert, Large Group Performance Evaluations, Atlanta Symphony Orchestra Field Trip, Spring Concert, etc. In addition, Band dues help cover expenses for sheet music, new instruments, equipment, instrument repairs, cummerbunds, bow ties and end of the year awards. **If you wish to add the price of the Band method books to the Band dues when you pay, the director will order the books for you and deliver them to you in class.**

6th Grade Band:

Students should have their instruments in class by **Monday, August 21st, 2017**. Students will **NOT** be allowed to play on their instruments until they have passed a written music theory exam with a passing score of 90% or above. Ms. Kang will assess each student individually on instruments to determine the one they will experience the most success with. **Due to the large number of students showing interest in percussion section (especially snare drum), we will conduct a brief audition process for any prospective 6th Grade percussionists.** Please note that there will be six to eight percussionists selected per 6th Grade Band class. If you were not successful with your audition, then you must select woodwind or brass instrument to play.

Purchasing New Instruments:

As a student's interest and commitment to Band program intensifies, parents often seek to purchase a higher quality instrument. There are three basic "grades" of musical instruments available for purchase. Beginner, Intermediate, and Professional grades of musical instruments. Please feel free to contact Ms. Kang when considering to purchase a new instrument.

School-Owned Instruments:

Students who are switched to another instrument or who have expressed financial need may have access to a school-owned instrument (based on availability). Instruments are assigned at the discretion of the director. Students and the parents of students who use school-owned instruments must sign a liability/loan contract. School instruments will **NOT** be released until this contract is completed and returned with **the instrumental maintenance fee of \$100** to cover regular and routine maintenance. In the event of loss or major damages inflicted upon the instrument (major scratches, dents, dented valves, broken piping, curled bells, etc.) the student/parent is financially responsible for replacement or repair. If student/parent decides not to continue TMS Band for any reasons, the instrument must be returned to the director immediately. Please note that these instruments are very expensive and are purchased on a very limited budget. Students are responsible for cleaning instruments and maintaining regular upkeep duties, such as oiling valves, greasing slides, and applying cork grease where needed. Please be sure to keep cases latched and dusted.

Switching Instruments:

Some students may be asked to change instruments so that our TMS Band can have balanced instrumentation. This is the perfect opportunity for selected students to learn to play a new instrument. Typically, switches will remain within instrument families (example: clarinet to bassoon or trumpet to baritone). Of course, there are some exceptions to this rule. Please note that students may **NOT** switch to percussion instruments unless TMS Band is in **DIRE** need of more percussion players. All instrument changes must be approved by Ms. Kang. Instrument changes are based on ensemble need, as well as the availability of school-owned instruments.

Instrument Storage:

Individual instrument lockers are available in the Band room. Due to the large number of instrumentalists in our TMS Band program, we may have to share lockers with classmates. With the exception of percussionists, students must provide their own **COMBINATION LOCK**. **In case of emergency, students must record his/her name, instrument, instrument serial number, locker number, and locker combination number on the locker assignment sheet.** Please note that DeKalb County School System assumes no liability for stolen instruments. It is suggested that parents place instruments on their homeowners' insurance policy. Please attach a name tag to the case of each instrument brought to school. Parents should also keep a record of the instrument serial number, make and model of the instrument.

Instrument Repair:

Students and/or parents must notify Ms. Kang **PRIOR** to taking any instruments to the repair shop. Ms. Kang will determine if repairs can be made on premises or if the instrument needs professional repair. This will eliminate lack of classroom participation as it relates to the student's grade in Band class.

Concert Attendance:

As a member of the TMS Band program, concert attendance is expected at all Band events and performances. **In the event you arrive late, leave early, or miss an event or performance, Ms. Kang must receive a reason in writing from the parent at least two weeks prior to the event in order to be excused.** Performances are very important in your development as a musician. Everyone needs to be in concert attendance. Students who do not attend concerts for any reason will be given an alternate written assignment. It must be made up before the end of the 9 week grading period. Failure to perform may result in suspension from the ensemble.

Concert Attire:

Appearance is a major part of performing and we often be judged on the way we look as a group. TMS Band strives to look as classy, professional, and uniform as possible. There are two types of TMS Band Uniforms:

- **Formal** – All young ladies must have a white tuxedo shirt, solid black knee-length or longer skirt with black stockings, and black dress shoes (no open-toe shoes). Please feel free to wear black dress pants if you do not wish to wear skirt. All young men must have a white tuxedo shirt, black dress pants, black socks, and black dress shoes (no tennis shoes). TMS Band Boosters will furnish cummerbunds and bow ties.
- **Informal** – TMS Band T-shirt; khaki shorts, white socks, and white tennis shoes for pep band members.

Practice Logs:

Practice Logs will be due every two weeks (Thursdays before 4:45pm). Practice Logs will be counted as 45% of Band grade. First Practice Log is due on **Thursday, August 31st, 2017**. You will need to practice in order to be a learning and contributing member of TMS Band. Practicing with a goal usually results in significant progress and gives the student a great sense of accomplishment. Students who do not practice usually fall behind their classmates, resulting in frustration and embarrassment when asked to perform in class. **It is the responsibility of the student to remember to turn in his/her Practice Logs on time. Practice Logs must be placed in the Practice Log folder in Ms. Kang's office.** Please note that morning rehearsals, after-school rehearsals, private lessons, and performances can be credited towards your Practice Logs.

Morning Rehearsals:

Morning rehearsals will be held in the Band room from 8:00am to 8:30am. Please note that students receive 60 minutes towards their Practice Logs for attending any morning rehearsals. It is the responsibility of the student to arrive to their class on time. **Students must leave morning rehearsal at 8:35am promptly to ensure on time arrival to their first period class. Passes will NOT be issued to any students that do not follow these guidelines.**

After-School Rehearsals:

There will be after-school rehearsals prior to Fall Concert, Winter Concert, GMEA Large Group Performance Evaluations, and Spring Concert. Students are expected to attend after-school rehearsals in order to produce successful performances. Please note that students receive 180 minutes towards their Practice Logs for attending any after-school rehearsals. 7th/8th Grade Band members are scheduled to begin their after-school rehearsals starting **Tuesday, August 22nd, 2017**. After-school rehearsals are held on Tuesdays. Please refer to the monthly calendar starting September for more information.

Weighted Averages:

Skills Assessment (Warm-Up), Quizzes (Written or Playing Evaluation), Projects	25%
Classwork, Homework, Notebook Check	45%
Formal Post-Assessment Test, Performances, Final Exam	30%

Assessments During Learning (25%):

Assessments During Learning may include skills assessment (Playing Tests and Written Tests), quizzes, and projects. Students will be given regular Playing Tests and Written Tests to determine mastery of various performance concepts learned in class.

Guided, Independent, or Group Practice (45%):

Guided, Independent, or Group Practice may include classwork, daily participation, rehearsals, and homework. After-school rehearsals will be scheduled in preparation for performances. Students are expected to participate in all scheduled rehearsals. 7th/8th Grade Symphonic Band rehearsals will be held on **Tuesdays from 4:15pm to 5:45pm**. 6th Grade Cadet Band will have two or three after-school rehearsals prior to the Winter Concert, Large Group Performance Evaluations, and Spring Concert. Homework assignments/Practice Logs should be meaningful and should be an application or adaptation of a classroom experience. Homework/Practice Log is at all times an extension of the teaching/learning experience. It should be considered the possession of the student and should be collected, evaluated and returned to the students.

Summative Assessments (30%):

Summative Assessments or Assessments of Learning may include formal Post-Assessment Test, Performance, and Final Exam. Performances are a vital part of the Band curriculum. Students are expected to participate in all scheduled performances.

Grading Scale:

100-90	A
80-89	B
71-79	C
70	D
Below 70	F

Student Progress:

Semester progress reports will be issued as 4 ½ week, 9 week, 13 ½ week, and 18 week into each semester. The progress of students will be evaluated frequently and plans will be generated to remediate deficiencies as they are discovered. Plans will include appropriate interventions designed to meet the needs of the students.

Academic Integrity:

Students will not engage in an act of academic dishonesty including, but not limited to, cheating, providing false information, falsifying school records, forging signatures, or using an unauthorized computer user ID or password. Please refer to the Student Handbook.

Make-Up Work Due To Absences:

When a student is absent because of a legal reason as defined by Georgia law or when the absence is apparently beyond the control of the student, the student will be given an opportunity to earn grade(s) for those days absent. Make-up work must be completed within the designated time allotted.

Use of Videos/DVDs, Movies, and other Audiovisual Materials:

DVD #1: Wynton Marsalis on Music- *“Why Toes Tap”*

“Why Toes Tap” explains why rhythm is the most fundamental element of music and helps us to hear the variety of rhythmic play in Tchaikovsky’s Nutcracker Suite and Duke Ellington’s jazz arrangement of it.

DVD #2: Wynton Marsalis on Music- *“Tackling the Monster”*

“Tackling the Monster” offers Wynton’s ways to practice- guidelines for learning music that can be applied by young people and others to endeavors in every walk of life.

DVD #3: Wynton Marsalis on Music- *“Listening for Clues”*

“Listening for Clues” demystifies the concept of musical form, showing students how to follow sonata form, theme and variations, thirty-two bar song form, and blues form, and how to hear connections between them through the music of Prokofiev, Gershwin, Ives, and Ellington.

Private Lessons:

One of the most valuable investments a parent can make for a Band student is in a good private lesson instructor. There is nothing like the instruction of a musician who has dedicated his/her life to studying and perfecting the art of one instrument. **Private lessons are encouraged, but not required.** They are for all students- beginners, those that are struggling, and advanced students. Anyone can benefit from a private instructor. Please note that students receive credits towards their Practice Logs for taking private lessons. Lessons are also a great idea for students auditioning for Middle School Honor Band and All-State Band. A list of recommended private instructors will be provided upon request.

Guest Clinicians

Professional musicians, university conductors and recording artists may be invited at different times throughout the year to come and share their talents with the bands, specific section and/or individuals. Please try to be flexible concerning the future scheduling of these clinics.

Classroom Expectations:

Students must adhere to the DCSS Student Code of Conduct, as well as specific class rules.

1. Be on time.
2. Come to class prepared (with instrument, Band binder, Band method book, pencil, and rehearsed).
3. Do **NOT** bring food, gum, candy, and flavored drinks to class.
4. Respect others. No name calling, teasing, talking, or playing out of turn.
5. Personal grooming is **NOT** allowed in the Band room.
6. Follow instructions the first time given.
7. Raise your hand and wait to be recognized before speaking.
8. Do **NOT** leave your seat without permission.



Acknowledgement of Tucker Middle School Band Syllabus 2017-2018

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We have read and thoroughly understand the requirements and procedures in the Tucker Middle School Band Syllabus.

_____ **Tucker MS Band Member's Name (PRINT)**

_____ **Date**

_____ **Tucker MS Band Member's Signature**

_____ **Date**

_____ **Tucker MS Band Parent/Guardian's Name (PRINT)**

_____ **Date**

_____ **Tucker MS Band Parent/Guardian's Signature**

_____ **Date**

*****Please return the Acknowledgement of TMS Band Syllabus by August 31st to receive a homework grade.*****