

Murrieta Valley Unified School District
Middle School Course Outline

Course Title: Symphonic Band

Grade Level(s): 7-8

Length of Course: 1 year

Description: This is the most advanced group at each site. Symphonic Band is a student's elective course. By this time, students have learned most of what they need to know to play in this band, so instruction moves away from the basic elements of music to concentrate on the more abstract concepts of musicianship. This is where students put all of the pieces of previously learned knowledge together to make great music. Students perform at school concerts, for the student body, community and at festivals. Only traditional band instruments are used in this course (flute, clarinets, saxophones, oboe, bassoon, trumpet, horn, trombone, baritone horn, euphonium, tuba, and concert percussion).

Objectives:

1. Each student will learn and apply proper concert etiquette during rehearsals and performances.
2. Each student will complete performance assignments involving scales, rhythms, articulations, dynamics, and other performance techniques due as assigned. These may be from the method books, concert music, or handouts.
3. Each student will understand proper breathing techniques for good tone quality and phrasing.
4. Each student will understand and be able to explain concert pitch, transposition, and clef identification as it applies to his/her instrument.
5. Each student will properly care for his/her instrument, music, folder, method books, storage room, and the rehearsal room.
6. Each student will practice outside of class time to ensure that all music and assignments are completed in a timely manner. Each student will sign a Practice Contract.
7. Each student will learn the basic Italian musical terms and their definitions as listed in the text.
8. Each student will understand the role that emotion plays in a piece of music.
9. Students will abide by the guidelines of the Band Contract at their school site.

Requirements:

1. Each student is required to bring his/her instrument and music/materials to all rehearsals and performances.
2. Attendance is mandatory at all rehearsals and performances outside school hours.
3. Attendance at festival is a mandatory part of this class experience.
4. Students are expected to practice a minimum of 150 minutes per week outside of group rehearsals.
5. Each student will acquire the required method book(s), as designated per school site.

Evaluation/Grading Criteria:

1. Attendance and preparedness at all rehearsals and performances.
2. Participation, collaboration, and teamwork.
3. Preparedness of music, scales, and playing fundamentals.
4. Instrument and materials inspections.
5. Written work including worksheets, handouts, practice logs and theory assignments.
6. Quizzes and tests, both written and performance.

(revised June, 2013)