



# Helena Middle School Band 2020-21



## CONCERT DATES

**-All traditional concerts have been postponed indefinitely until further notice. There will be new and creative ways for us to present student work throughout the year. Please stay tuned for more information on special presentation days.**

Welcome to a new school year of fun and excitement in the band program! This syllabus has been assembled to explain to students and parents the details of our program and its expectations. Although our school situation is different this year due to COVID-19, we will still be focusing on developing our instrumental performance skills. Please review this syllabus, discuss the information it contains, and ask questions if any arise.

## Goals

1. To learn and develop the basic skills necessary to play a musical instrument.
2. To read and understand written music.
3. To have the opportunity to play in an ensemble.
4. To have an enjoyable experience while becoming a musician

## Basic BAND Classroom Rules

1. **Be** prepared for class with instrument, music, and pencil. Students are to be ready five minutes after the scheduled starting time. **Assemble and properly warm up instruments. Blasting/banging on instruments will not be tolerated.**
2. **Always** respect others-students, teachers, instruments, room, and equipment, using the Montana Behavioral Institute Guidelines.
3. **No** gum, food or drink (except bottled water) is permitted in the classroom.
4. **Director** gets every student's complete, undivided attention during class. **All warm-up playing and talking stops when director steps onto the podium (RULE #1).**

## Specific Responsibilities of a Band Member

1. Follow all school rules in the band room.
2. Be to class on time with your instrument, music, and pencil.
3. Enter the room quietly and calmly, take instrument to your seat, and put your music in order for the day's class.
4. Do not touch or play another student's instrument.
5. Stop talking when class begins.
6. Raise your hand if you have a question or a problem.
7. Do not bring food, gum, or drinks into the band room.
8. Label your instrument case with a nametag. All folders and books must also have the student's name clearly written on them.
9. Keep feet off chairs and other equipment.
10. Let the director know if you forgot your instrument and/or music or if your instrument is at the repair shop. This should be done before class begins. Students without instruments are expected to follow along with the class.
11. Have at least two good reeds at all times if you play clarinet and saxophone.
12. Be careful with music stands. They are not to be used as desks, played with, or leaned on. Music stands damage easily and are expensive to replace

### Consequences

1. Verbal warning
2. Removal from regular seat/ Conference with student.
3. Call home to parent.
4. Conference with student and parent.
5. Conference with student, parent, and principal.

**\*All Negative Consequences Result in Loss of Daily Points\***

### Disciplinary Action

One of the most unpleasant tasks of any teacher is the necessity to take disciplinary action against a student. The HMS Band Program operates on a tradition of excellence and much pride. There are very few rules as we try to operate on the idea that everyone will do their best at all times. When working with a large number of students it is necessary to have certain responsibilities and rules. Each member is expected to uphold and follow these responsibilities and rules. It is the director's responsibility to insure fairness in the classroom and to act if the criteria for proper class behavior is not followed.

### Grading Policy

#### Classroom Participation/Preparation

**10 points** are awarded each day to students who:

- Arrive in the classroom before the tardy bell rings
- Are Attentive during class and NOT Disruptive
- Have their music, instrument, and pencil out and ready to use within five minutes of the class starting time
- Participate in class (play, listen, or wait quietly whenever requested)

**-If a student forgets his/her instrument a two times during the quarter, it will result in a loss of points and after school detention for which they will need to bring their instrument and music to practice.**

**-In the case of an absence from class or forgotten instrument, the student should complete a makeup form (available in the band room) to receive participation points for that day.**

#### Performance Skills

Performance assessment throughout the semester

Total = Point value will depend on number of playing quizzes.

#### Other Assignments

Will vary depending on daily activities

Total = Point value will depend on assignments.

#### Extra Credit

Will be available throughout the year for participation in selected voluntary activities and certain classroom activities.

#### Final Grade:

**Earned Points / Total Points = Final Grade**

100-90	A
89-80	B
79-70	C
69-60	D
59-Below	F

### Practicing

The single most important factor to insure success on an instrument is REGULAR DAILY PRACTICE. The goal of practice is the development of the muscles in the mouth, arms, hands and the chest, the improvement of hand and eye coordination, and the development of basic reading skills. Even if someone can "play" every note, real musical growth will only come about with much repetition to gain strength and endurance. The exception should be a missed day of practice, not the other way around.

A student needs a good place to practice. A chair and music stand are essential. Sitting on the edge of a bed or putting music on the piano or desk top will not develop proper playing habits. When practicing stay away from the TV or any other distracting noises.

Students are assigned material at every class; this is what should be practiced first. **I recommend a minimum of 20 minutes daily for adequate development and to prepare assignments. This is band "Homework"!!**

## Materials and Supplies

Every student needs the materials described in the supply list specific to their instrument. Purchasing those supplies is recommended, but the school owns a limited quantity of supplies that can be rented or borrowed depending on individual circumstances. The following guidelines are intended to protect school and student possessions, but they are subject to change when necessary.

### Student owned materials

Instrument cases, neck straps, folders and books should be clearly labeled with the student's full name whenever they are brought to school.

1. All students in band will need to purchase their class book *Essential Elements for Band* for their respective instrument and respective grade.
  - A. 6<sup>th</sup> Grade: *Essential Elements for Band Book 1*
  - B. 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Grade: *Essential Elements for Band Book 2*
2. **Woodwind Instrument**
  - A. An instrument of good playing quality and in good playing condition.
  - B. Reeds (No plastic, colored or flavored), reed case, swab, and cork grease (except flutes).
3. **Brass Instrument**
  - A. An instrument of good playing quality and in good playing condition.
  - B. Mouthpiece, valve or slide oil, and a mouthpiece brush.
4. **Percussion**
  - A. One pair Vic Firth 5A Snare sticks.
  - B. One pair hard bell mallets.
  - C. Practice Pad (or Snare Drum) and Bell Kit for at home practice.
  - D. In addition, there is a required \$45 equipment usage fee payable to HMS Band. This fee is used to maintain the wide range of school percussion instruments, which the students will be using including, snare drum, bass drum, bells, xylophone, timpani, and a wide variety of smaller percussion instruments.

### School owned materials

Anything a student rents or borrows from the school must be returned in reasonable condition. Pencil marks should be erased from books, instruments should be wiped clean, and sticks or mallets returned promptly. Damage to school materials, or failure to return school materials, may lead to a fine at the end of the school year.