Syllabus

**Modern Band**

**2024-2025**

Teacher: Thomas Baty

He/Him/His

Course Description

Students will put together a band(s), arrange music of all styles, write and perform their own music, and play performances...No Experience Necessary!!!  All that is needed is a positive attitude and a willingness to learn and act within a team environment.

Instructional Goals

By the end of this course you will be able to:

* Show basic playing proficiency on the following instruments: Guitar (acoustic and electric), Keyboard, Bass guitar, Drum set, Vocalization (singing, rapping, etc.)
* Read a variety of music notation styles
* Run a music rehearsal
* Set up instruments and sound equipment for a music concert
* Write a song from scratch
* Create arrangements from existing songs and recordings

Class Materials

* Instruments will be provided on which you may learn. If you have an instrument at home that you would like to bring and play (guitar, ukulele, bass guitar, etc.) then you are more than welcome to bring your own instrument(s).
* You will need to keep track of the songs you are working on. It would be best to use a dedicated folder or binder to avoid misplacing your sheet music.

Grading

You will be graded on:

* Your ability to learn each instrument
* The quality of your contribution to your small group and large group bands
* Various skills related to daily instrument maintenance/repair, setup, and clean-up
* Performance attendance

Every grade **(with one categorical exception)** that goes into PowerSchool can be made up, and each proficiency quiz and skills assessment can be re-done until you are satisfied with your work. Assessments will be done in class. If you wish to do an assessment over again, a separate time will need to be arranged with Mr. Baty.

**The exception** to this “standards-based” approach is the *weekly practice grade*. This is a grade of 4 points that is given every week as a measure of your diligence. These 4 points can be lost for off-task behavior, absences, tardies, and poor cooperation with classmates. The following table outlines this grading rubric.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Weekly Practice** |  |
| **4** | **Student is always** on task; observed practicing and contributing; focused and non-disruptive; present in class (at least 4-5 days). |
| **3** | **Student is usually** on task; contributing, but is observed occasionally on their phone or working on other homework; non-disruptive, but occasionally "noodles" instead of listening; present in class (they may have missed 2 days). |
| **2** | **Student is sometimes** on task; (about 50%) practicing and contributing; disruptive or disrespectful; "noodling" distractingly during instruction; present in class (they may have missed 3 days). |
| **1** | **Student is rarely** on task; practicing or contributing in class activities; focused, and frequently disruptive and/or disrespectful; present in class (they may have missed 4-5 days). |

Other considerations

We will have a number of performances during the school year. Students are expected to attend and participate in the performances as part of their grade. Plenty of notice will be given for students to mark their schedules. Grades will be impacted accordingly for lack of attendance and/or preparation.

Equipment is not cheap, and our budget is not large. Please keep this in mind when making use of our classroom instruments and equipment. You will be held financially responsible for damages to school property.

Fundraising will be an important part of this school year so we can continue to maintain and improve our equipment needs.

Required Performances

***Lunchtime performances –*** Oct. 2, Nov. 20, Feb. 19, Apr. 16

***Special Performances (during school day)***

* Dec. 20 – Holiday Assembly
* Mar. 13-14

***Evening Performances (after the school day)***

* May 8 – Final Modern Band Concert
* May 19 – Choir Pop Concert

*\*This list is not exhaustive. There may be additions or cancellations of performances as the year progresses. In the event that there are changes, I will strive to provide as much advanced notice as possible.*