
MJHS BANDS SYLLABUS

2019-2020

DIRECTOR INFORMATION

Karen Bussean	Busseank@mokena159.org
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Department Website	www.mokenameteormusic159.org

MATERIALS

- Instrument
- Supplies (see instrument specific supplies below)
- Music Binder
- Sheet Protectors
- Pencil
- Method Books (notated by grade level below)

6th Grade- Measures of Success Book 2 and Habits of a Successful Middle School Musician

7th/8th Grade- Habits of a Successful Middle School Musician

Woodwind Supplies (flute, clarinet, oboe, saxophone, bassoon)

- Reeds (clarinet, oboe, saxophone, bassoon)
- Cleaning Cloth/Swab (all)
- Cork Grease (clarinet, oboe, saxophone, bassoon)

Brass Supplies (trumpet, french horn, baritone, euphonium, trombone, tuba)

- Mouthpiece Brush (all)
- Cleaning Snake (all)
- Valve Oil (trumpet, baritone, euphonium, tuba)
- Rotor Oil (french horn)
- Slide Oil (trombone)
- Slide Grease (all)

Percussion

- Drum Sticks
- Rubber Mallets

- ☐ Yarn Mallets (7th and 8th Graders only)
- ☐ Optional-Stick Bag

We recommend the following Innovative Percussion sticks and mallets (found at Quinlan and Fabish)

- ☐ Drum Sticks: ID-LD
- ☐ Rubber Mallets: F9
- ☐ Yarn Mallets: F3.5
- ☐ Stick Bag, Mallet, and Stick Package: FP-1

ATTENDANCE

Your attendance during class and at performances has a direct effect on your grade as band is a participation/performance based course. As each member of the group is valued and important, attendance at performances, rehearsals, and sectionals is mandatory unless otherwise noted. Please be aware of the concert dates, listed later in this syllabus, and plan accordingly. If you need to be absent please fill out an absence form online at least two school days prior to the event. (The form can be found on the department website; www.mokenameteormusic159.org)

Band at the junior high begins promptly at 7:00. Students who are not in their seat with their instruments ready will be marked tardy and will lose points and can potentially earn a detention if they receive more than 4 tardies in a quarter. (See Rubric below)

GRADING

The student's grade will be based on attendance at rehearsals, sectionals, and performances, performance assessments, written assignments, and practice logs.

The student's final grade will be comprised of the following:

- Band Attendance and Participation 20%
 - ☐ 100 points per week (see Rubric below)
 - ☐ Students will lose points for not bringing essential supplies (including a pencil!) or not having their instrument or music
 - ☐ Students may lose points for not remaining on task during rehearsals
- Sectional Attendance 15%
 - ☐ 100 points per sectional (see Rubric below)
 - ☐ Students will lose points for not bringing essential supplies (including a pencil!) or not having their instrument or music
 - ☐ Students are responsible for notifying their classroom teacher IN ADVANCE of their sectional time.
 - ☐ There are many opportunities to complete make up sectionals. A list of these times will be distributed to all students and is posted in the band room. It is the responsibility of the student to schedule a make-up sectional.
- Performance Attendance 25%
 - ☐ 100 points per performance (see Rubric below)
 - ☐ Student will earn all points if they are present and perform with their ensemble
 - ☐ All performances are MANDATORY. If a student cannot attend a performance, they must notify the director as soon as possible and complete the online absence form. Students must complete a make up assignment worth 80% of their performance grade

within one week after the event. Students should ask their director for this assignment. If they do not submit the assignment within one week of the missed performance, they will receive a 0.

- Performance Assessments 15%
 - Performance assessment will be conducted throughout the school year. Due dates and instructions will be given to the students and it is their responsibility to complete these performance assessments on time. Students will submit their assessments online per the instructions given.
 - Rubrics can be found at the end of this syllabus
- Written Assignments 15%
- Practice Logs 10%
 - 100 points per week. Students in 6/7/8 Grade are expected to practice for 100 minutes over the course of the week outside of rehearsal/sectional time. Students in 5th Grade are expected to practice for 75 minutes over the course of the week outside of rehearsal/sectional time. See below for an explanation of practice versus rehearsal.
 - Students will enter their practice logs using the Charms website. Instructions on entering practice time will be given to the students.

MAKE-UP WORK

If a student misses a sectional, they are responsible for communicating with one of the directors and setting up a time for them to complete a make-up sectional. The student is also responsible for completing the work they missed in sectionals (i.e. a written assessment or playing assessment) and they have 2 school days to complete the assignment.

If a student has an excused absence from a performance they may complete an assignment for up to 80% of their performance grade for the missed performance.

Any make-up work or assessments related to an absence due to extended illness will be handled on a case by case basis.

BAND PLACEMENT

All 6th, 7th and 8th grade students will be placed into either Concert Band or Symphonic Band based on their abilities. Students will be required to submit a video of a short scale excerpt and a short etude excerpt based on the 2019-2020 ILMEA District Band Audition music. Once the directors receive the video submissions, they will be given to outside, impartial judges to assess and rate the students based on their performance. If a student does not submit a video, they will automatically be placed in Concert Band.

Students may choose to perform another assessment for the director after Winter Break to attempt to move from Concert Band to Symphonic Band.

Students may be moved to either band at the directors' discretion. Tardiness, attendance and preparedness will play into this decision as will student's performance ability. Performance ability will be assessed on a case by case basis during Sectional time. Parent will be notified early in the process of the decision to move their child.

BAND REHEARSALS

The band rehearsal schedule will be as follows:

Concert and Symphonic Band 7:00am - 7:30am

Students should be dropped off **NO EARLIER** than 6:40. The exterior doors of the buildings will be locked until those times. As there is no supervision before those times, students are not permitted to wander the buildings.

INDIVIDUAL PRACTICE OUTSIDE OF REHEARSAL

Students are expected to practice outside of the band rehearsal time. Practice is what is done individually. It is the work that prepares the student for a rehearsal. It is used to improve technique, musicianship skills, and ability to perform certain pieces of music. Practicing is better done as an individual because parts can be isolated and carefully examined. Rehearsal is what occurs in a group setting - for the band to improve tonal balance, timing with each other and learn material in an ensemble setting. Rehearsals are strategic in nature because of their wider effect. In other words, it is not the place for a band member to get their individual practicing done.

It is very important that students practice outside of the band rehearsal time. Students will enter their individual practice time into the Charms program weekly. Students should view outside practice like homework for any other class. A few minutes a day will make a huge difference.

SECTIONALS

Band sectionals will be taught during the school day by either Mrs. Bussean or Ms. Beekman. Students will be separated into small groups according to instrument and ensemble and will be assigned a time slot up to thirty-minutes on a rotating basis. Students will come at their assigned time for specific instrument skill instruction. Students will be rescheduled for sectionals if they are going to miss a test, quiz, or some other major instructional activity. The schedule of sectionals will rotate.

Sectionals **ARE NOT OPTIONAL** and will be a part of the student's band grade (see above). Students will be graded on their performance, attendance, participation and other curricular measures within the whole band lesson and during sectionals. Students will be responsible for notifying their classroom teacher **AHEAD OF TIME** and coming to their scheduled sectional - no announcement or bell will be given. Students will also be responsible for scheduling a make-up sectional if they miss their regularly scheduled sectional.

Sectionals will be scheduled on the following days:

Monday - 8th Grade

Wednesday - 7th Grade

Friday - 6th Grade

All band students will receive a sectional schedule by semester from their band director. **AGAIN, IT IS THE STUDENT'S RESPONSIBILITY TO NOTIFY THEIR CLASSROOM TEACHER *IN ADVANCE* OF THEIR SECTIONAL TIME.**

CONCERT ATTIRE

Students in Cadet, Concert and Symphonic Band will wear black dress pants, black crew length socks, all black shoes and a Green Meteor Music polo shirt to all concerts. Black denim or leggings are not appropriate or acceptable. Shoes that have any color other than black are not acceptable. When marching in a parade, students should wear the above clothing replacing the polo with the marching shirt provided by the Boosters.

The Mokena Public School Dress Code applies to all band events.

2019-2020 CALENDAR

Mokena Junior High Band Students:

Saturday, August 24, 2019	LWMB Marching Band Step-Up Night (All 6/7/8 Grade Band Students)
Sunday, September 1, 2019	Frankfort Fall Festival Parade (All 6/7/8 Grade Band Students)
Saturday, September 28, 2019	ILMEA Auditions (Optional)
Saturday, October 12, 2019	LW Marching Band Comp. (Marching Meteors Only)
Tuesday, October 22, 2019	Fall Music Concert @ MJH at 7:30 pm
Saturday, November 9, 2019	ILMEA Festival (by audition)
Saturday, November 16, 2019	ILMEA Jazz Festival (by audition)
Saturday, November 23, 2019	Festival of Lights Parade (All 6/7/8 Grade Band Students)
Tuesday, December 10, 2019	Winter Music Concert @ MJH at 7:30
pm Saturday, January 25, 2020 (optional)	Solo/Ensemble Pre-Contest
Saturday February 8, 2020	Potential Solo/Ensemble Contest (optional)
Saturday, February 15, 2020	Potential Solo/Ensemble Contest (optional)
Thursday, March 12, 2020	March Melodies Concert @ MJH at 7:30 pm
TBD	IGSMA Band Org. Contest (All Symphonic Band Students)
Wednesday, May 13, 2020	Recruitment Assembly at MIS (during school) (All Symphonic Band Students)
Wednesday, May 13, 2020	Spring Fine Arts Concert @ MJH at 7:30 pm
Monday, May 18, 2020	8 th Grade Recognition Night
Monday, May 25, 2020	Memorial Day Parade (All 6/7/8 Grade Band Students)

****dates may be added or changed throughout the year -
notification of date changes will be communicated
to the students and the parents***

PLAYING ASSESSMENT RUBRIC

	1	2	3	4
Note Accuracy	Intonation and pitch is always accurate with correct fingerings	Intonation and pitch is mostly accurate with correct fingerings	Intonation and pitch is sometimes accurate with correct fingerings	Intonation and pitch is seldom accurate with correct fingerings
Tone Quality	Tone quality is always warm, resonant, and clear with focus and consistency of sound	Tone quality is mostly warm, resonant, and clear with focus and consistency of sound	Tone quality is sometimes warm, resonant, and clear with focus and consistency of sound	Tone quality is seldom warm, resonant, and clear with focus and consistency of sound
Interpretation & Musicianship	Appropriate phrasing, tempo, style, expression, and emotional involvement is always prevalent	Appropriate phrasing, tempo, style, expression, and emotional involvement is mostly prevalent	Appropriate phrasing, tempo, style, expression, and emotional involvement is sometimes prevalent	Appropriate phrasing, tempo, style, expression, and emotional involvement is seldom prevalent
Dynamics	There is always obvious attention to volume levels indicated accurately and consistently	There is mostly obvious attention to volume levels indicated accurately and consistently	There is sometimes obvious attention to volume levels indicated accurately and consistently	There is seldom obvious attention to volume levels indicated accurately and consistently
Fluency of Technique	There is always fluency in the attacks and releases of notes, control of range, mechanical skill, and the articulation and/or sticking	There is mostly fluency in the attacks and releases of notes, control of range, mechanical skill, and the articulation and/or sticking	There is sometimes fluency in the attacks and releases of notes, control of range, mechanical skill, and the articulation and/or sticking	There is seldom fluency in the attacks and releases of notes, control of range, mechanical skill, and the articulation and/or sticking
Rhythmic Accuracy	Accuracy of note and rest values, duration, steadiness of pulse and accuracy of meter is always handled with precision	Accuracy of note and rest values, duration, steadiness of pulse and accuracy of meter is handled mostly with precision	Accuracy of note and rest values, duration, steadiness of pulse and accuracy of meter is sometimes handled with precision	Accuracy of note and rest values, duration, steadiness of pulse and accuracy of meter is seldom handled with precision
Stage Presentation	Posture and instrument/hand position is always correct.	Posture and instrument/hand position is mostly correct.	Posture and instrument/hand position is sometimes correct.	Posture and instrument/hand position is seldom correct.

REHEARSAL RUBRIC (100 POINTS PER WEEK)

	0	10	15	20
Attendance	Student does not attend rehearsal (cannot be made up)	Student is more than ten minutes late for rehearsal	Student is not in their seat with their instrument at 7:00	Student is at rehearsal in their seat with their instrument ready at 7:00
Participation	Student does not attend rehearsal (cannot be made up)	Student does not participate in rehearsal or is disruptive during rehearsal	Student is off task less than 5% of the rehearsal	Student is on task during rehearsal more than 95% of the time
Instrument	Student does not attend rehearsal (cannot be made up)	Student does not have their instrument at rehearsal	Student does not have a part of their instrument at rehearsal (ie mouthpiece, neckstrap, etc).	Student has their instrument at rehearsal
Instrument Supplies	Student does not attend rehearsal (cannot be made up)	Student does not have both their instrument supplies (reeds, valve oil, etc), their binder/page protectors and a pencil at rehearsal	Student is missing either their instrument supplies (reeds, valve oil, etc), binder/page protectors or their pencil at rehearsal	Student has their instrument supplies (reeds, valve oil, etc) , music in a binder in page protectors and has a pencil at rehearsal

SECTIONAL RUBRIC (100 POINTS PER SECTIONAL)

	0	15	20	25
Attendance	Student does not attend rehearsal (cannot be made up)	Student is more than ten minutes late for rehearsal	Student is not in their seat with their instrument at 7:00	Student is at rehearsal in their seat with their instrument ready at 7:00
Participation	Student does not attend rehearsal (cannot be made up)	Student does not participate in rehearsal or is disruptive during rehearsal	Student is off task less than 5% of the rehearsal	Student is on task during rehearsal more than 95% of the time
Instrument	Student does not attend rehearsal (cannot be made up)	Student does not have their instrument at rehearsal	Student does not have a part of their instrument at rehearsal (ie mouthpiece, neckstrap, etc).	Student has their instrument at rehearsal
Instrument Supplies	Student does not attend rehearsal (cannot be made up)	Student does not have both their instrument supplies (reeds, valve oil, etc), their binder/page protectors and a pencil at rehearsal	Student is missing either their instrument supplies (reeds, valve oil, etc), binder/page protectors or their pencil at rehearsal	Student has their instrument supplies (reeds, valve oil, etc) , music in a binder in page protectors and has a pencil at rehearsal

PERFORMANCE RUBRIC (100 POINTS)

	0	25
Attendance	Student does not attend Performance (cannot be made up)	Student attends Performance
Concert Attire	Student does not have the appropriate attire for the performance	Student has the appropriate attire for the performance
Instrument	Student does not attend performance (cannot be made up)	Student has their instrument at the performance
Instrument Supplies	Student does not attend performance (cannot be made up)	Student has their instrument supplies (reeds, valve oil, etc), music at performance

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I have read the course syllabus for the Mokena Bands, and understand the expectations and guidelines of the class. I am also aware of the scheduled concert dates throughout the school year.

Parent/Guardian Name: _____
(please print)

Parent /Guardian Signature: _____

Date: _____

Student Name: _____
(please print)

Student Signature: _____

Date: _____

Please only turn this page into the mailbox. Keep the remainder of the syllabus for your reference.