**Montford Middle School Beginning Band Syllabus 2020-2021**

**Luke McManus—Band Director**

Welcome to the Mustang Band! We have an exciting year ahead of us. Students will be learning how to play a new instrument and develop their musicianship skills as an individual and as a member of a group. In this syllabus, you will find important information about the class including materials needed, grading procedures, and important dates. Please read over the syllabus and let me know if you have any questions. Also, more detailed information about the band program can be found in the 2020-2021 BAND HANDBOOK on my website. I can be reached by email at mcmanusl@leonschools.net, on the Remind app, or by phone at (850) 412- 8900. Note that email and remind typically get a more immediate response.

**Course Description**: Students will learn to play an instrument and develop a characteristic tone. Students will broaden their knowledge of music theory and explore the role of instrumental music in history and culture.

**Learning Outcomes for the Course**: Students will become musically literate. Students will develop a characteristic tone. Students will perform assigned rhythms independently. Students will develop technical skills that enable them to play the following five scales: c, f, b flat, e flat and a flat. Students will perform a variety of developmentally appropriate musical literature.

**Course Outline:**

Unit 1: Skills, Techniques, and Processes Unit 2: Historical and Global Connections

Unit 3: Critical Thinking and Reflection Unit 4: Cultural Context

Unit 5: Growth through performance Unit 6: Styles and Structure of Music

Unit 7: Musical Improvisation Unit 8: Connecting Music to other Content Areas

Unit 9: Music Composition Unit 10: Music Technology

**Required Materials:** ALL Band students need the following things in class EVERYDAY!

• 1 inch 3-ring binder with student name on the front

• 10 sheet protectors (to hold copies of music and warm-ups)

• a PENCIL to be kept in the Binder

• 10-15 sheets of notebook paper

• Method book: Accent on Achievement for your instrument

o Woodwinds: You should ALWAYS have a few back up reeds in your case in case one breaks, cork grease, cleaning supplies

o Brass: Mouthpiece, slide grease, valve oil, cleaning supplies

 o Percussionists: You should always have drumsticks, mallets, and any other instruments ready for class at the beginning of class. You are ALL expected to help set-up and clean up before and after class.

**Grading Criteria**

70% Assessment based on Playing tests, Concerts and written tests.

30% Based on student work to include weekly practice records, class participation including bringing all required materials, and occasional in class assignments performed away from instruments

**Discipline Plan**

For all non-rehearsal based issues (example: being tardy to class, rough housing while entering or exiting classroom, chewing gum, etc.), the disciplinary procedure will be:

1st offense: student verbally warned, logged in FOCUS as “minor referral.”

2nd offense: student verbally warned, logged in FOCUS as “minor referral,” parents notified of behavior.

3rd offense: student verbally warned, logged in FOCUS as “referral.”

For rehearsal based behaviors (example: talking at inappropriate times, not being ready to play when called upon, etc.), students will be non-verbally counted down from 3. The first offense will receive 3 fingers, a subsequent one two fingers, and on the 1 finger warning, student will be asked to pack up their instrument and complete an alternate assignment. This assignment can be signed by a parent at home, in which case no further actions will be necessary. This will also be tabbed in FOCUS as a “minor referral.” On the third time this process becomes necessary, the offense will be logged as a “referral” in FOCUs.

**Important Dates**

-**August 24 4:30-6:30 PM MMS Band Room:** Playground Music Rental Night (you will come for a 15 minute appointment between these times, NOT the entire event).

-**August 26 4:30-6:30 PM MMS Band Room:** Music Masters Rental Night (same as parenthetical for Playground Music above, additionally, you need only attend EITHER Playground Music or Music Master’s event, NOT both)

-**September 10:** All Band Fees Due (consult with Mr. McManus if extension or partial payments are needed, we WILL make it work!)

-**November 16 6 PM:** Beginning Band Fall Concert. All students must attend for a grade!

-**April 19 6 PM:** Beginning Band Spring Concert and Awards Show

**Late Work/Missed Assignments**

* Students who have an EXCUSED absence from class will always be allowed to make up any missing assignments within a week of returning to class
* Students with instruments in the repair shop will be allowed to make up work
* All practice records will be recorded as “late” for two weeks, and at the end of the second late week, will become a permanent 0
* Students will always be given until the end of the 9 weeks to re-take any playing test that is lower than an A. It is the responsibility of the STUDENT to arrange for this re-take.
* Students will have two weeks to re-take any written test that scored lower than an A.

I am very excited to get to meet each of you, and looking forward to a GREAT year in the MMS beginning band! Please do not hesitate to reach out if there are any questions or concerns that you have!

**PLEASE SIGN AND DATE BELOW INDICATING THAT YOU HAVE READ AND UNDERSTAND THE COURSE EXPECTATIONS AND PROCEDURES FOR BAND CLASS. This form should be returned to Mr. McManus by FRIDAY August 13th**

Parent Signature:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Student Signature:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Date:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_