

**Fairview Middle School
Instrumental Music Syllabus
2023-2024**

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Objective

The purpose of instrumental music education is to teach students how to create, perform, and respond to music. We also connect our musical understanding to other disciplines.

Course Descriptions

White Band: This beginning band class teaches the basics of musicianship, musical literacy, and performance skills.

Red Band: This intermediate band class refines individual and ensemble performance skills, encourages creativity, and engages critical thinking.

Blue Band: This advanced band class continues to refine individual and ensemble performance skills with an emphasis on artistic expression and cross-curricular connections.

Class Expectations

Think: Students will think about music and many topics that connect to music. Students will respectfully contemplate new concepts and think critically as they expand their musical knowledge.

Feel: Students will consider the feelings expressed by music. Students will learn to perform with emotion and communicate feelings to listeners. Students will care for the classroom and respect the learning environment. Students will demonstrate compassion for others in their words and deeds.

Do: Students will actively participate in learning. Practice your instrument with purpose. Put your best judgement into practice. Work hard; play hard. Take responsibility for yourself. Do that which is helpful, just, and honorable. Knowing the right thing is never enough; one must do the right thing.

Student Behavior

Classroom discipline will be handled according to the Fairview Middle School Discipline Plan & Procedures. **Make note of school policies on food/drink in the classroom, cell phones, tardiness, and academic dishonesty.** These policies will be enforced.

Band class works differently from many other classes. The following behaviors will help students to have a safe, supportive, and productive class:

How to do band:

1. **One band, one sound.**
2. **Fail forward! Mistakes are expected and encouraged.**
3. **Be patient. The skills we learn are not equally challenging for everyone.**
4. **Encourage one another. Shuffling is a good way to do this.**
5. **Never be off-task. Practice your instrument silently when it is not your turn to play.**
6. **Do not play with equipment belonging to others. This includes percussion instruments.**
7. **Try to solve problems yourself.**
8. **Take your time. The ensemble will not wait for you, and that's a good thing!**
9. **Do not waste time. If you are consistently unprepared, then there is a bigger problem.**
10. **Address individual or private concerns outside of ensemble time. Email is usually best.**

Band is not about you or me; band is about us.

Competency-based Grading

Most assignments are worth 1 point. Students must competently perform the objectives of the assignment to earn credit. There is no partial credit. **Not-competent or missing assessments may be re-submitted an unlimited number of times until 11:59pm on the last official day of the 9-weeks.** Every student has the opportunity to earn an A. Keep trying — you can do it!

Students will earn the following grades on assessments:

- **1** for **competent, on-time** work. On-time means that the **first attempt** was properly submitted by the due date.
- **0.75** for **competent, late** work. Late means that the **first attempt** was properly submitted after the due date.
- **0** for **not-competent** work that should be re-submitted by the student.

Assessments (70% of grade)

Playing assessments: Playing assessments will be required most weeks. These will be submitted outside of class by recorded video.

Proper submission of videos: All videos must show the student's face, hands, and instrument, and the performance must be clearly audible for the video to be accepted as submitted.

Feedback for resubmission: If a student receives a grade of not-competent (0) on any assessment, the student will receive written feedback for improvement via Canvas. There is no limit to the number of re-submissions. The final deadline for re-submissions is 11:59pm on the last official day of the 9-weeks.

Written quizzes: Quizzes that count as assessments may likewise be re-submitted until competency is attained. Dr. Douty will provide feedback for all not-competent assessments.

Performances: Performances count for a double assessment grade (2 points). Students will be graded based on their positive contribution to the performance, helping with set-up before the concert, helping with clean-up after the concert, and wearing proper concert attire. Improper participation before, during, or after the concert may result in a student losing credit for the performance grade.

End-of-semester exams: Mid-term and final exams will count for a double assessment grade (2 points).

Class Participation/Homework (20% of grade)

Competent Class Participation means that students are ready to begin learning on-time, actively participate, and work diligently throughout the class period or rehearsal. **One point is earned for each day of class.** Homework or in-class written assignments may also factor into this grade. There will be no resubmissions or make-up assignments for this category.

Approaches to Learning (10% of grade)

Competent Approaches to Learning means that students have all necessary materials for class and have attended to the business of course participation. **One point is earned for each week of class.** Approaches to Learning may also include parent signatures, forms submitted, borrowed items returned, etc. There will be no resubmissions or make-up assignments for this category.

Instruments and Materials

Students should have the following with them for every class:

- Instrument
- All required materials for that instrument (reeds, valve oil, mallets, etc.)
- Pencil
- Music folder, including all handouts provided to the student
- Lesson Book(s)
- Tuner/metronome (except for White Band wind instrument players)
- Earbud headphones (wired only)
- Chromebook

A detailed list of required materials for each instrument will be provided by Dr. Douty.

Each family provides the instrument and equipment for their child. Students take pride in having their own instrument. An instrument is an investment that will last for many years and provide countless opportunities for entertainment, joy, learning, and growth.

We strongly recommend our two local vendors for musical instruments and equipment: Playground Music (850-320-6463) and Music Masters (850-224-6158). They provide excellent service and reasonable terms for rental or purchase of an instrument. Check with them first.

If you desire to purchase an instrument from a different vendor, PLEASE check with Dr. Douty before you buy. There are many inferior quality instruments available on the internet that will break easily,

sound bad, and will cause frustration for you and your student. Dr. Douty will help you in your search so that you are able to make an informed, quality purchase.

If the cost of an instrument will make it difficult for any student to participate in band, contact Dr. Douty. You may be able rent an instrument from the school. These instruments are for families facing financial difficulty. A maintenance fee is requested to pay for the upkeep of the school instrument. We ask that each family contribute what they can reasonably afford.

Care of instruments and equipment is the responsibility of each student. Neither Dr. Douty nor Fairview Middle School is responsible for damage or loss of instruments or equipment in the student's use or care. If a school-owned instrument is damaged or lost by a student, repair or replacement costs will be billed to the student's family.

Concert Policies

Attire: Students must wear a white dress shirt, black dress slacks or skirt, all-black shoes, black socks or tights, all-black belt (optional), and all-black tie (optional). Skirts must be 3/4 or full length (no visible knees). Jewelry should be kept to a tasteful minimum. No bare legs, torn jeans, sandals, or athletic wear. If you will have financial difficulty acquiring this attire, contact Dr. Douty several weeks in advance of the concert. Assistance is available!

Concert etiquette: It is important that everyone is able to enjoy the concert without distraction. Guests and students in the audience should be quiet and still during each performance, should prevent distractions with electronics, and should applaud enthusiastically after each piece. **All students should remain for the duration of the concert** and be polite and encouraging to their peers.

Emergencies: In case of an emergency that will prevent a student from attending a performance, please contact the school office and Dr. Douty as soon as possible. A doctor's note may be required. A make-up assessment will be assigned that includes all performance music. **Unexcused absences from performances will not be eligible for a make-up assessment.**

Fees (Recommended Donations)

All fees/donations are non-refundable and should be submitted as soon as possible each school year. **Checks should be made out to FMS Band.**

Band Fee/Donation: \$30. This money will be spent on instructional and performance needs (music, books, instruments, instrument supplies, guest instructors, technology, transportation, event fees, etc.). Students who submit at least \$10 by the end of the first nine-weeks will receive a band t-shirt!

School Instrument Rental: \$100. A limited number of school instruments are available for students who are motivated to participate but do not have the means to rent an instrument from a music store. This rental fee will cover routine maintenance for the instrument resulting from proper use. **Loss or damage that exceeds normal wear will be billed to the student.**

No student will be denied participation in band due to financial difficulty. See Dr. Douty for assistance or to pay by installments.

Communication

Band business should be communicated via email (**doutym@leonschools.net**) or the **Remind** texting system (see separate sheet for details). In the event of an emergency, call the school office.

Fairview Band Advisory Board

This organization coordinates volunteers for band events and provides advisory feedback to Dr. Douty for future initiatives. Parents of all band students are strongly encouraged to get involved! For additional details, please contact David Thayer: dthayer1@gmail.com

Performances and Events

Performances listed below in bold count for a double assessment grade. Notification will be provided if any dates/times change or performances are added.

Aug 24, 6pm: Band Parent Meeting in FMS cafeteria (strongly encouraged for all students and parents, fees may be submitted at this time)

Aug 31, 4:30-6:30pm: Instrument Rental Night in FMS band room (strongly encouraged for new students/parents)

Sept 9, individual times: All-State Band auditions at Leon HS (for participants only)

Oct 3, 6pm: First Concert in FMS cafeteria (required for White Band)

Oct 10, 6pm: Fall Concert in FMS cafeteria (required for Red Band, Blue Band, and Jazz Band)

Oct 21, details TBA: Perform Star Spangled Banner at Marching MPA (for participants only)

Nov 4, individual times: District Band auditions at Lincoln HS (for participants only)

Nov 9, 6pm: District Band Reading Rehearsal in FMS band room (for participants only)

Nov 13-15, 5-9pm: District Jazz Band at Leon HS (for participants only)

Dec 9, details TBA: Southwood Winter Fest (Jazz Band)

Dec 12, details TBA: Performance for Women's Club of Tallahassee (Blue Band and Jazz Band)

Dec 14, 6pm: Winter Concert in FMS cafeteria (required for all)

Dec 19, 4pm-midnight: Band-A-Thon rehearsal (Blue Band)

Jan 10-13: All-State Band in Tampa, FL (for participants only)

Jan 18, 6pm: District Band Reading Rehearsal in FMS band room (for participants only)

Jan 25–27: District Band at Chiles HS (for participants only)

Feb 4, individual times: Solo & Ensemble practice at John Wesley UMC (for participants only)

Feb 6, 7, or 8, details TBA: Pre-MPA at FSU (required for Red Band and Blue Band)

Feb 15, details TBA: Jazz Band MPA at Rickards HS (required for Jazz Band)

Feb 16 or 17, individual times: Band Solo & Ensemble at Montford MS (for participants only)

Feb 29, Mar 1, or 2, details TBA: Concert Band MPA at Leon HS (required for Red Band and Blue Band)

Mar 6, during lunch: Beginning Band concert in FMS cafeteria (graded for Beginning Band)

Apr 30, details TBA: Joint Concert with Rickards HS Band (required for Red Band and Blue Band)

May 2, 6pm: Spring Concert in FMS cafeteria (required for Beginning Band and Jazz Band)

May 4, details TBA: Jazz in the Park at Cascades Park (required for Jazz Band)

May 11, details TBA: Band Spring Trip (qualifying members of Red Band and Blue Band)

Parent/Guardian Agreement and Digital Signature

For any student to participate in band, a parent or legal guardian must digitally sign the syllabus to indicate that they have read, understood, and agree to support the expectations, policies, and procedures outlined in this syllabus for the upcoming school year. Signing the syllabus counts for an Approaches to Learning grade.

Parents/guardians, please **digitally sign this syllabus by completing both steps:**

1. **Join the Remind text messaging service, using this year's course code for your child's class (provided on a separate sheet of paper).** You must do this again every school year, or you will not receive updates about band events this year.
2. **Send a message via Remind that includes the full name of your student, and the name of the parent/guardian who reviewed the syllabus.**

If you are unable to digitally sign the syllabus using the Remind system, please contact Dr. Douty by phone or email to arrange an alternative method.