

Matthew J. Kuss Middle School Band and Orchestra

Nicole Laprise, Orchestra Director

Jay Treloar, Band Director

Syllabus 2017-2018

OVERVIEW

As we start a new school year we look forward to many enjoyable and educational experiences in the instrumental music program. Instrumental music instruction fosters creative and analytical thinking as students work cooperatively in a group setting. Performance activities create opportunities for personal growth and exploration of self in a safe and positive learning environment. In order to ensure progress for both the student and the entire ensemble, there are expectations and responsibilities for each student.

STUDENT EXPECTATIONS

- **Be on time and prepared** for rehearsals with instruments, pencil, music folder and book at each class.
- **Practice at home.** It is the student's responsibility to take what they've learned in class and master it at home.
- **Demonstrate exemplary behavior** during rehearsals
- **No instrument is to be left in school lockers over the weekend.**
- **Participation in all school concerts.** Instrumentalists are part of a special team, and are expected to make a commitment to the group. This includes participation in all performances, most of which occur in the evening or outside of the normal school day. **Performances include the Winter Concert in December (date TBD), All-City Concerts, and the Spring Concert in June. The final performance of the year will be at the Grade 8 Commencement ceremony in June, where 8th grade Band & Orchestra students perform and sit with the ensemble throughout the ceremony.**

Classroom Rules

1. The band room and all of its contents are to be treated with respect
2. When you arrive, get instrument and music ready immediately and begin warming up
3. No gum chewing, food or drinks in the band room
4. Put all instruments, **music**, equipment and accessories away in their proper place before leaving the rehearsal area

REHEARSAL SCHEDULE

In addition to one weekly full band rehearsal during the Extended Learning Time double period, every student will be scheduled into a small group class where specialized and individualized instruction will take place. Students will be excused from one of their other academic classes to attend these group classes. **It is the responsibility of each student to maintain their academic standing in the classes they come out of to attend the small group classes, and to make up any work that may have been missed.** Classroom teachers will be consulted on a regular basis to ensure that all students are keeping up with their academic

responsibilities in those classes.

GRADING POLICY

Students will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

	Term 1	Terms 2,3,4
Weekly Rehearsal Evaluations	35%	25%
Weekly performance evaluations (small group class)	35%	25%
Preparedness	15%	10%
Participation and Attitude	15%	10%
Concert Performances	X	30%

Extra credit can be earned through:

- Participation in the Jr. District Auditions and Festival (December and March - Gr. 7 & 8)
- Participation in the SEMSBA Auditions and Festival (February and May - Gr. 7 & 8)
- Participation in the Solo Festival (May - Gr. 6, 7 & 8)

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact us via email.

Nicole Laprise, *Orchestra Director* nlaprise@fallriverschools.org
Jay Treloar, *Band Director* jtreloar@fallriverschools.org

I have read the Band/Orchestra syllabus and I understand the expectations of this class.

Student Signature_____ Date_____

Parent/Guardian Signature_____

Parent Email Address (for contact database)_____

Date_____