

Course Syllabus

Dana Middle School

Band / Orchestra

Room: 250

Instructor: Mr. Joseph Nelson

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Course Description

The Dana Middle School Instrumental Program offers students the opportunity to learn cooperation, responsibility and self-discipline through musical expression in a group activity. In addition, the music programs at Dana challenge students in areas of personal growth as they achieve musical appreciation that will last a lifetime. In class, students first review fundamental knowledge of instruments and music, and then study and perform music of all styles. Festivals, programs, and tours are a large part of the course and participation is a requirement. In addition, commitment to extra rehearsals and outside of school hour performances are occasionally required.

Course Goals

Students enrolled in music classes at Dana Middle School learn and review fundamental knowledge of musical instruments. Students will also learn to advance rudimentary skills in ensemble playing through focus on tone production, note reading, balance, blend, intonation, rhythm, articulation, improvisation, and study of music literature. Also included are opportunities for public performance, school service, and the encouragement for students to attend community cultural events.

Grading

25% Assignments & Projects

- Students may be required to complete written assignments throughout any given 6-week grading period. Students are responsible for bringing the necessary supplies needed to complete these assignments including computers, instruments, and music (as needed).

50% Daily Participation

- Students' daily efforts and participation are pivotal to the success of this course. Because much of the content is cumulative, daily investment is a means of assessing mastery.

25% Performance Tests

- Students are required to perform tests on music literature being studied. Tests are issued either in class, through the SmartMusic system, or through Google Classroom and assess their level of playing ability and understanding of the content being studied.

Late Work and Retake Policies

- Late work is not penalized. However, if an assignment is past due, it will be marked in the gradebook as a "0" until the student completes the work.
- Smartmusic allows students to retake assignments and quizzes until they get a score they are happy with. Students should plan to retake work and get at least an 80% before they submit.

Fall 2022 Grading Scale for Dana - all departments Conversion from Traditional to Standards Based Grading System

4 = Student work exceeds Grade Level Standards / Student is working above grade level

(Corresponds to 88-100% in traditional grade scale / shows as A in PowerSchool)

3 = Student work meets grade level standards / Student is consistently working independently at grade level.

(Corresponds to 67-87% in traditional grade scale / shows as B in PowerSchool)

2 = Student is approaching mastery of standards / Student is generally working at grade level, but may require teacher support for some tasks.

(Corresponds to 46-66% in traditional grade scale / shows as C in PowerSchool)

1 = Student is beginning to make progress toward meeting standards.

(Corresponds to 25-45% in traditional grade scale / shows as D in PowerSchool)

0 = There is insufficient evidence to determine student mastery of the standard.

Student Responsibilities

1. Class Supplies: Students are responsible for bringing their music binder (a 1-inch, 3-ring binder with optional plastic sheet protectors), their instrument, necessary instrument supplies (see next page), a pencil, and any forms requiring a parent signature to class every day. Daily participation points are given and deducted if items are missing. Students are supplied with one copy of their music throughout the year. Students must have their own music even if they share a stand. It is the student's responsibility to replace lost music with Mr. Nelson. This should be done on the student's own time, not during class.

2. Instrument Safety: Dana makes every effort to keep instruments safe and secure in the music room. Lockers and locks are provided for the students, but it is the student's responsibility to secure his/her equipment. It is also the student's responsibility to take care of the locks. Lost, stolen, or broken locks (due to negligence) will be replaced at \$5.00 billed to the student.

DANA MIDDLE SCHOOL CANNOT BE RESPONSIBLE FOR LOST OR STOLEN ITEMS INCLUDING LOCKS. It is also a good idea to take your instrument to your locker in the morning and then home every day at the end of school.

NEVER LEAVE YOUR INSTRUMENT UNATTENDED IF YOU CARRY IT AROUND CAMPUS. Only open your case in the music room or at home – never on the bus or around campus. Most cases look alike, so be sure to affix provided name tags to your instrument with your name, class period, school, and home address.

3. Instrument Care: Learning to play an instrument is a challenging task. An instrument in poor condition can lead to frustration and is often the reason for a student falling behind the rest of the class. Keep your instrument maintained, and if it needs repair, check with Mr. Nelson or contact a reputable music store that can complete the repair. Never attempt to repair an instrument yourself.

4. Responsibilities Beyond the Classroom: Music classes at Dana are performing arts classes. Several times during the year, students will have performances in the evenings or on the weekends. All performances are required and part of the students' semester grades. Students with unexcused performance absences will receive a grade deduction for each absence. All excused absence requests must be submitted in writing (e-mail OK) 48 hours prior to the performance date. Baby-sitting, shopping, lack of transportation, too much homework, a sports event or practice, etc. are not considered excused absences. Notices for performances will be given as soon as the information is available.

5. Concert Dress: Concert dress is required during all performances. Students must be in full acceptable uniform for all performances.

6. Private Instruction: Private lessons are highly recommended if a student shows continuing interest in their instrument. Lessons can help students advance quickly in the music program by providing individual instruction and attention. Students can also request individual help after school (availability permitting).

7. Home Practice: Please practice your instrument regularly. Consistent practice is pivotal to growth on a musical instrument, especially for new and developing players. Short and regular practice sessions are far more helpful than infrequent long sessions.

8. Instrument Switches: Great bands sometimes require rare instruments. Some students will be given the opportunity to switch to some of these rare instruments. These instruments, when added to the band, make a HUGE difference in the quality of our program and give students an opportunity to play an important role in the band. If your student is asked to make a switch, please give it serious consideration.

9. School Instruments: If you are using a school instrument, you are responsible for its care and safety. If your instrument becomes lost, stolen, or falls into disrepair, you must tell Mr. Nelson **immediately**. Students not properly caring for a school instrument will have their rental agreements revoked with no refund of the usage donation (see Usage Form).

10. Good Conduct: As a member of the Dana Instrumental Music Program, you symbolize the "best of the best" that Dana has to offer. The choices you make reflect on the music program and the school as a whole. Your obligation is to uphold Dana's schoolwide P.R.I.D.E expectations and the Dana Music Code of Conduct both while in rehearsal and while on field trips.

11. Traveling & Field Trips: Traveling and field trip participation is a privilege. Any student who misbehaves during rehearsals or school performances will not be allowed to participate in traveling activities. Furthermore, students must obtain a 2.5 grade point average and a citizenship GPA of 3.0 or better in all classes to participate on any Dana Music field trip opportunities that may arise.

Parent Responsibilities

1. Make sure instruments are in good working order, supplies are purchased and concert dress is ready (ironed, looking good and fitting well).
2. **Be involved.** All parents should consider volunteering a minimum of once a semester. This includes volunteering for events and fundraisers, or helping out with field trips. As the year continues, more opportunities will arise.
3. **Stay informed.** Information coming from the Music Department will come predominately through digital means. Creating a newsletter and keeping family contact open and consistent in the works.

Smartmusic (All classes)

All students must register for a SmartMusic Account (email and password required). Accounts are provided by the school and therefore are free. Please talk with Mr. Nelson if you are in need of assistance in obtaining your subscription.

Google Classroom (All Classes)

All students must sign-up for the Google Classroom specific to their class section. Google Classroom will be used to complete assignments, tests, online discussions, and some assessment.

Class Codes (all letters are lowercase)

Class	Code
Advanced Band	2bjegzz
Beginning Band Per. 3	hlmaseb
Beginning Band Per. 4	ttdsxs7
Orchestra	x7c4fm6

Uniform Expectations

At Dana, we take pride in our musical ensembles. Ensembles in years previous have worn uniforms that are no longer available to our ensemble as an option. While a concert dress uniform has not been settled on, Mr. Nelson will coordinate with families and work towards options that are achievable and equitable to all of our families.

Field Trips

During the course of the year, the teacher will include various forms of educational enrichment opportunities that will give students a well-rounded musical experience. These may include entering music festivals, guest performer demonstrations, educational tours and on or off-campus performances and workshops.

IMPORTANT!

Students must be in good standing in all areas of academics and citizenship. Major disruptions in school-wide behavior may result in the removal of a student from any music field trip.

Classroom Expectations

The expectations for this class are simple. Every student is expected to uphold Dana's schoolwide P.R.I.D.E expectations and the Dana Music Code of Conduct both while in rehearsal and while on field trips. Because you will be responsible for the care and handling of expensive equipment and materials it is important to follow all of these expectations and they will be enforced without negotiation. Safety with and care of all music equipment is a zero tolerance item as is respect for your peers and their contribution to Dana Music.

Dana Music Code of Conduct

As a student involved in making music at Dana Middle School I will:

I. treat everyone with courtesy and respect.

- 1.1 I will support my classmates in making music.
- 1.2 I will listen carefully for instruction.
- 1.3 I will raise my hand when I want to contribute.
- 1.4 I will not talk while the band is in rehearsal.

II. treat personal and school property with respect.

- 2.1 The instruments and music I use are the tools I need to learn.
- 2.2 Borrowing these tools is a privilege that has been entrusted to me by my instructor and my school.
- 2.3 I will care for these tools as if they are my own.
- 2.4 I will not eat, drink, or chew gum in the classroom.

III. create and maintain a positive and safe environment.

- 3.1 I will help everyone in this class feel capable, connected, and contributing.
- 3.2 I will volunteer and be helpful to my classmates, and instructors.
- 3.3 I will keep my hands to myself.

IV. come to class prepared and on time for learning.

- 4.1 I am part of a team and my classmates depend on me.
- 4.2 I will be on time
- 4.3 I will have all of my materials and music needed to make music successfully.
- 4.4 I will be open-minded to new ideas.
- 4.5 I will learn my music to the best of my ability.
- 4.6 I will strive to do better everyday.
- 4.7 I will ask for help when I need it.

V. act responsible and accept consequences for my actions.

- 5.1 I am human and will make mistakes.
- 5.2 As a young adult, I will be honest and admit my mistakes when I make them.
- 5.3 I will accept the consequences for these actions and always learn from my mistakes.

Consequences

- 1) Violation of any of the above rules results in a verbal warning.
- 2) 2nd violation of the above rules within the same class period will result in the above, plus a phone call home, and an after-school detention.
- 3) 3rd violation of the above rules within the same class period will result in the above plus removal from class, an after-school detention and a lowering of the citizenship grade.
- 4) 4th violation of the above rules will result in a referral and a lowered citizenship grade.

SEVERE DISRUPTION – Immediate referral to the office, and a lowered citizenship grade.

Department Communication

Google Classroom Stream

In addition to the newsletter, Mr. Nelson uses the Google Classroom Stream to send reminders and make announcements to students throughout the year.

Supplies

All items on this list are strongly recommended (unless specified) for participation in Dana Instrumental Music, but not required.

BAND

Flute

Cleaning Rod; Soft Cloth

Clarinet

Cleaning Swab

3 Reeds: 2.5 or 3 (beginners use 2.5) (Van Doren recommended)

Cork Grease

Saxophone

Cleaning Swab

3 Reeds: 2.5 or 3 (beginners use 2.5) (Van Doren recommended)

Trumpet

Valve Oil (Al Cass recommended)

Schielke Tuning Slide Cream

Beginners: Bach 7C Mouthpiece (optional)

Advanced: Bach 5C Mouthpiece (optional)

Baritone/Trombone

Valve oil – Baritone

(Al Cass recommended)

Schielke Tuning Slide Cream

Slide-o-mix – Trombone

Beginners: Bach 12C

Mouthpiece (optional)

Advanced: Bach 61/2 AL

Mouthpiece (optional)

French Horn

Valve oil (Al Cass recommended)

Schielke Tuning Slide Cream

Holton Farkas MC Mouthpiece (recommended)

Tuba

Valve oil (Al Cass recommended)

Schielke Tuning Slide Cream

Beginners: Bach 30E

Mouthpiece (recommended)

Advanced: Bach 25

Mouthpiece(recommended)

Percussion

Drum Sticks

(VIC FIRTH SD-2 or any 7A stick recommended)

Practice Pad

Metronome app

ORCHESTRA

Violin/Viola

Soft cloth; Dark Rosin; Shoulder

Rest (KUN Bar recommended);

Cello

Soft Cloth; Rock Stop; Dark

Rosin;

Bass

Soft Cloth; Rock Stop; Pop's

bass rosin

ALL STUDENTS

Pencil

3-Ring 1-inch BLACK Bin

