



# Journey Middle School

217 Celtic Drive, Madison, Alabama 35758

## Symphonic Band

Mrs. Gwen Rakoff

### Teacher Contact Information

Email: [grakoff@madisoncity.k12.al.us](mailto:grakoff@madisoncity.k12.al.us)

Classroom Phone: 256-464-8370

### Classroom Digital Platforms

Webpage Link: [JMS Band](#)

JMS Band Handbook: [JMS Band Handbook 25-26](#)

### Textbook Information

**Tuned In** edited by Brian Balmages and Robert Herrings

**Foundations for Superior Performance** (provided by JMS)

**WW/Brass: Rubank Advanced Method, Vol. 1**

**Percussion: Intermediate Snare Drum Studies**

### Course Description

This course is designed for students that already know how to play an instrument. An audition is required for selection. Instruments must be provided by each student. Students in this band continue to develop and refine basic individual and ensemble skills as well as begin to learn more advanced concepts and skills. Students in Symphonic Band are eligible for the (optional) Spring Band trip. Mandatory graded performances include (but are not limited to) three evening concerts per year, all Pep Band performances, and Music Performance Assessment for a major portion of their grade. All students in the Symphonic Band are required to audition for District 1 Honor Band/ Alabama All-State Band.

### Course Objectives

Students in the Symphonic Band will produce a consistent characteristic tone, and exhibit good intonation alone or within the ensemble. Students will demonstrate rhythmic proficiency up to sixteenth notes and sixteenth rests in both simple and compound meters. Students will develop awareness and understanding of ensemble playing; with consideration for balance, blend, style, and expression. Students will exhibit proper musical and mechanical fundamentals on their instruments. Students are expected to master their assigned musical selections at performance level accuracy.

### Course Outline

**Overarching Objective:** Advanced Music Reading and Instrument Fundamentals

**Unit 1:** Pep Band Music Preparation (Pep Band Performances count as test grade)

**Unit 2:** Holiday Music Preparation (Assessments - Halloween, Veterans, and Winter Concerts)

**Unit 3:** All-State Audition Music Preparation (Assessments - All-State Audition)

**Unit 4:** State MPA Music Preparation (Assessments - Dessert Concert and MPA Performance)

**Unit 5:** Spring Concert Music Preparation (Final Assessment - Spring Concert)

### Classroom Expectations

1. Be seated and ready for class when the bell rings. Students tardy to class will receive a detention per JMS policy.
2. Students must have all required equipment for every rehearsal: instrument, book, music, pencil, instrument accessories (ie. reeds, mouthpiece, neck strap, sticks/mallets, etc).
3. Respect your directors, your classmates, and yourself.
4. Listen and follow directions.

### Classroom Expectations

5. Do not touch other student's instruments or equipment. Do not play other student's instruments.
- Do not trade instruments.

<b>(Continued)</b>	<p>6. Follow all school rules.</p> <p>7. There is no eating or drinking (except water) in the band room. Gum is never allowed during class time.</p> <p>8. Only band students are allowed to enter the band room.</p> <p>9. The teacher dismisses the class, not the bell.</p>
<b>Progressive Discipline</b> <i>(JMS Policy)</i>	<p><b>All progressive discipline will correspond with the Madison City Schools Code of Conduct regarding Class I and II offenses. Class III offenses are a direct office referral.</b></p> <p><b>Step 1:</b> Verbal warning  <b>Step 2:</b> Student/teacher conference  <b>Step 3:</b> Parent contact/conference  <b>Step 4:</b> Detention and a parent contact  <b>Step 5:</b> Office referral</p>
<b>Grading Policy</b> <i>(MCS Policy)</i>	<p><b>60%</b> = Assessments (Tests, Concerts)  <b>40%</b> = Daily Grades (Playing Assignments, Daily Fundamentals, and Participation)</p>
<b>Late Work Policy</b>	<p>Students present in class on the day of instruction are expected to turn in all in-class and out-of-class assignments on time.</p> <p>A student may make up missed assignments; however, they will lose points for work turned in late:</p> <p>Work that is <u>less</u> than 1 week past due (minus 10 points)  Work that is <u>1 to 2</u> weeks past due (minus 20 points)  Work that is more than 2 weeks past due will remain a zero  Work may NOT be submitted after the grading period ends</p>
<b>Make-up Work/Test Policy</b>	<p>Students with excused absences will be allowed to make-up all work within 1 week of returning to school without being penalized. It is the student's responsibility to ask for make-up work. Students can consult with a classmate or teacher for help. Work that is not made up will become a zero (including quizzes/tests).</p> <p>Please see the <i>JMS Band Handbook</i> for policies pertaining to missed playing assignments or missed performances due to absences.</p> <p>Students will not be allowed to make up work for unexcused absences as per Madison City Schools policy. Work missed in these instances will result in a zero.</p>
<b>Electronic Communication Device Policy</b>	<p>Wireless Communication Devices</p> <p>A. Definitions</p> <p>1. Instructional Day –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• When school is open and in session;</li> <li>• During class time, lunch, transitions between classes, and any non-instructional periods;</li> <li>• Any time that students are required to store their Wireless Communication Devices under the Student Code of Conduct, or other school rules; or</li> <li>• Any other time, students are instructed to store their devices by school staff.</li> </ul> <p>2. Wireless Communication Devices – Any portable electronic device that has the capability of exchanging voice, messaging, or other data communication with another electronic device, including, without limitation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• cellular telephones</li> <li>• tablet computers</li> <li>• laptop computers</li> <li>• pagers</li> <li>• gaming devices</li> <li>• smart watches</li> <li>• earphones or headphones (Air Pods, ear buds, over the ear headphones, etc., whether wireless or not)</li> </ul>

	<p>B. Possession of Wireless Communication Devices – Students are prohibited from bringing Wireless Communication Devices into school buildings and onto school grounds, except in compliance with this policy. The Board is not responsible for the theft, loss, or damage to any Wireless Communication Device brought onto campus by a student.</p> <p>C. Storage of Devices– At all times during the Instructional Day, students who possess a Wireless Communication Device on any campus or in any school must turn the device off and store the Wireless Communication Device off their person in a locker, car, backpack, purse, gym bag, or other storage location approved by school administrators. This storage requirement is subject to the exceptions set out in subsection D below.</p> <p>D. Prohibition on Use; Exceptions – Students are prohibited from using, operating, or possessing a Wireless Communication Device during the Instructional Day, except under the following limited circumstances:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The use, operation, and/or possession of the device is specifically included in the student’s Individualized Education Plan (IEP), 504 Plan, or an Individualized Health Plan;</li> <li>• The use, operation, and/or possession of the device is for educational or learning purposes under the supervision of school personnel; and</li> <li>• The use, operation, and/or possession occur during an emergency threatening the life or safety of the student or another person.</li> </ul> <p>The Superintendent or designee is authorized to develop additional guidelines for implementation of these exceptions.</p> <p>E. Searches – School officials may read, examine, or inspect the contents of any wireless communication device upon reasonable suspicion that the device contains evidence of a violation of Board policy, the Code of Conduct, or other school rules, provided that the nature and extent of such reading, examination, and inspection shall be reasonably related and limited to the suspected violation.</p> <p>F. Disciplinary Action – Any violations of this policy may result in disciplinary action under the Student Code of Conduct.</p> <p>G. Additional Procedures Authorized – The Superintendent or designee is authorized to develop any additional rules necessary to carry out this policy.</p>
<b>Accommodations</b>	Requests for accommodations for this course or any school event are welcomed from students and parents.
<b>Materials &amp; Supplies</b>	<p>Tuned In and Foundations for Superior Performance method books</p> <p>Required books for All-State auditions, Rubank or Intermediate Snare Drum Studies</p> <p>Instrument and required instrument accessories (i.e. reeds, neck straps, valve oil, slide grease, etc.)</p> <p>Appropriate instrument cleaning supplies (varies by instrument)</p> <p>Pencils</p> <p>Folding stand (recommended for at home practice - not required for class)</p>
<b>Homework</b>	Students are expected to practice 10-15 minutes each day. Practice objectives will be given each day.
<b>Parent &amp; Student Acknowledgment Form</b>	<a href="#"><u>JMS Band Acknowledgment Form</u></a>