

Nikolay Middle School 6th Grade Band Syllabus

2025-2026

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Welcome to band! Band is a class where you will learn the skills needed to perform on an instrument.

We start with the basics of reading music and producing a sound on your instrument in 6th grade band. As you progress through 7th and 8th grade band we will build on this foundation and add more complex music. There is never an end to learning in band- I'm still learning even after playing an instrument for over 25 years!

Band Rehearsals

- Band is a class where participation is expected.
- You are expected to Be Responsible by keeping your instrument in good playing condition.
- You will have your own music stand- Be Responsible by bringing your music to each rehearsal..
- If you forget your instrument, I will probably NOT have a school instrument for you to borrow for the day. If you are unable to rehearse because of a forgotten instrument or another reason, (for example, broken arm, new braces, etc...) you are expected to follow along during the rehearsal, write in any directions we add to the music and/or fill out a rehearsal worksheet.

Concerts

- Performance is an important component of any musical experience, therefore, it is a mandatory part of this class.
- *If you will be missing a concert due to a trip or previously planned event I need written notice (e-mail is best!) from a parent or guardian at least 2 weeks prior to the performance.*
- If you have a family emergency please let me know ASAP before or after with a note or phone call from a parent or guardian.
- If you have an excused absence, you are expected to complete a concert makeup within 2 weeks of the concert date.
- Concerts are graded based on the following expectations: Be Respectful: demonstrate proper concert etiquette; Be Responsible: arrive on time for the concert, have all the supplies needed, and dress appropriately; Be Prepared for Learning: actively listen to other performances.

Concert Dress

- Part of performing is looking professional on "stage" so we will dress in performance attire: a Music Shirt, provided through the school, worn with **solid black bottoms which you provide** (this includes socks/stockings and shoes) . All clothes must meet the school dress code. If you need help getting these items- just let me know! We have extra supplies for those who need them!

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Small-Group Instruction:

- In addition to our large ensemble rehearsals, you will have some small-group instruction- with the change to the schedule of band meeting everyday this year, the details of this are still not set, but will be communicated out ASAP.
- If you are absent from, or you do not have your instrument for, your small-group time, you will need to make it up. There will be times before and after school, during my prep time, and on Fridays to make up small-group time.

Practicing Expectations:

- You need to Be Responsible and Be Prepared for Learning by practicing outside of band rehearsals and small-group time. Practicing is the only way for you to improve your skills on your instrument. I can teach you everything you need to know, but your effort determines how good you will be.
- Practicing will do the most good when it's done daily, in small chunks, rather than in a couple days for longer times. For example, practicing for 15 minutes a day for 6 days will help you more than 45 minutes a day for 2 days. A great goal is 120 minutes each week.
- Many students find it helpful to have a regularly scheduled practice time each week. This makes it harder to keep putting it off until later, and then all of a sudden a week has passed!
- There are 2 practice rooms in the back of the band room that you can use during a study hall- we will cover how to use these in class.

Written Assignments

- Written assignments will be given periodically each quarter to reinforce concepts we are learning in our music.

Behavior

- All school expectations are to be followed in the band room: Be Respectful, Be Responsible, Be Prepared for Learning.
- **Specifically in band:**
 - **Be Respectful** means following rehearsal procedures, using an indoor voice, and touching/playing only your own instrument, and treating other kindly.
 - **Be Responsible** means storing your instrument and supplies properly, cleaning up after yourself, and straightening chairs and stands.
 - **Be Prepared for Learning** means practicing outside of rehearsal time, bringing all needed supplies with you, and keeping your instrument in good playing condition.