



## 7/8 Band Course Outline 2023/2024

Mrs. Robertson

### **Trumansburg Music Department Mission Statement**

The purpose of TCSD Music Department is to foster belonging & community for students through meaningful musical opportunities that encourage a lifelong connection to music.

### **Overview**

Each year, the band curriculum continues to undergo modifications and changes in order to help create knowledgeable, well rounded musicians who have a greater understanding of the make-up of music in addition to a solid level of performance on their particular instrument. Each year, the director continues to: 1) Strive for a curriculum that maintains high standards and expectations and 2) Create a classroom where students can thrive and experience the joy, fun and satisfaction of a shared musical experience.

### **Musical Selections**

Music is chosen to reflect a variety of musical styles, i.e. marches, pop tunes, jazz influences, multicultural influences, "classical" band literature, transcriptions for band by major composers, selections based on particular objectives for the band, i.e. soft, sustained playing, or detached, accented performance, etc...It is not possible to cover all areas in one particular year, but during their time at the middle school, most band students will be exposed to all of the above.

### **7/8 Band Grades**

Students will be assessed on the following:

1) **Academic Skill:** Ability to prepare and play required music (rehearsal and lessons)

2) **Success Skills:**

<b>Self-Directed Learning</b>	<b>Lessons &amp; Rehearsals</b> - prepared with instrument and music, evidence of practice at home, remembers to come to lessons.
<b>Participation</b>	<b>Lessons only</b> - level of focus and engagement, on task, willingness to try and persevere with challenges
<b>Collaboration</b>	<b>Rehearsals only</b> - level of focus and engagement, time on task, contributes positively to rehearsal (not a distraction), listens carefully

3) **Concert Attendance:** See dates on page 2

### **Lessons**

Time spent in lessons will include most or all of the following exercises and activities:

- Rhythm & time signature studies with corresponding musical excerpts
- Assignment/performance of lesson book materials
- Scale practice, appropriate warm-up drill & technique practice, songs by ear and simple improvisation exercises
- Simple written composition exercises
- Performance of songs of the student's choice
- Organized compilation in student portfolios of recordings and other significant information regarding student progress and performance
- Rehearsal of band music when needed and occasional sectionals

### **Practice Expectations**

A band director can only establish a practice guideline for students. I will be working with each student to determine a practice goal that is workable for them and their schedule. My intent is for each student to progress at a level that is appropriate for them. A large component of that progress is focused practicing on the material assigned- not just playing the easy stuff over and over because it's fun/easy! As a child progresses through their public school band career, the degree of careful home practice which occurs will make or break the experience for them. When it comes to band, students will get out of it what they put in. It isn't hard- it's new. Practice makes it not new!!

**Please Mark Your Calendar and Save These Dates:**

**November 3-4:** Area All-State Festival (Homer) for those who are accepted

**November 17-18:** STMEA All County Festival (South Seneca) for those who are accepted

**December 14:** 5-12 Winter Band Concert- 7pm, HS Auditorium

**May 3-4:** NYSSMA Festival (Trumansburg) for those who choose to participate

**June 4:** 7/8 Band & Chorus Spring Concert - 7pm, HS Auditorium

Parent/teacher communication is very important to ensuring the success of our students. Please do not hesitate to contact me at [krobertson@tburg.k12.ny.us](mailto:krobertson@tburg.k12.ny.us) (email is the best way to get a hold of me!), or 387-7551 ext. 322 with any questions or concerns. I'm looking forward to a great year!

***Please sign below, detach, and return by  
Friday, September 29.***

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Student Name \_\_\_\_\_

My child and I have reviewed the course outline as established by Mrs. Robertson. **We are aware of the concert dates** and understand that we may contact her at any time with questions or concerns.

Parent Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Anything you'd like me to know about your child: