

Syllabus for Band and Music Technology 2016-2017

Subjects: Band and Music Technology for Grades 6-8

Teacher's name: Ms. Karen L. Garrett

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Instructor's Message / Introduction:

I have been a teacher in the Birmingham City Schools System for 24 years. My primary websites are www.MusicTechTeacher.com and www.MustangsMusic.com. I also maintain the www.GreenAcresMiddle.com school site. I am pleased to be able to work with the new band and music technology students at Green Acres this year. We have a very busy year coming up as we are learning to play musical instruments and how to use computers to write and record music. We will play for numerous programs this year as the students learn how to play.

Band Course Description and Objectives:

Band is a class that prepares students for playing a musical instrument and working with a group and in small ensembles for performances, for creativity and for their own enjoyment in life. Many students go on to receive college scholarships for participating in band. Middle school is the first step in that process. Extensive practice is needed, as well as cooperation, collaboration and dedication to our work.

Band Objectives:

- To become responsible for caring for an instrument.
- To learn to play an instrument with a pleasing tone quality.
- To learn how to participate in a performing group.
- To learn to read music notes and rhythm patterns.
- To learn discipline and team-building skills in small or large groups based on instrumentation.

Band Supplies / Fees:

There will be a \$30 Band Fee (cash only) that is separate from the school locker and shirt fee. The teacher will issue a receipt for the fee. The money will help pay for a band shirt, use of a cummerbund, bowtie and band music.

Band students will need to bring their instrument, accessories (reeds, sticks), music, pencils and paper to class. They will be responsible for practicing their instruments whether it is their own or school-owned each day. Students must purchase accessories such as reeds for clarinets / saxophones. The band does not have funding for purchasing any supplies.

ALL middle school bands in Birmingham Schools are **required** to have a concert uniform consisting of a white dress shirt with a collar (for the bowtie), black dress pants and black dress shoes (no tennis shoes). We will provide the cummerbunds and bowties at school when needed. Parents must purchase the shirt, pants and shoes. Students who are in the pep band will wear the black Mustangs Band T-shirt and black pants, which is **required** for all pep band performances.



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Band Course Book:

The band students will be using the *Tradition of Excellence Band Method, Book 1* for their band instrument. Students will receive supplemental music and band arrangements throughout the year.

Band Field Trips:

The only scheduled field trips we may take would be limited to the Birmingham area. We will have to pay for a bus if enough students attend field trips. We may participate in football games, the All City Christmas Festival and Band Evaluation and Solo and Ensemble.

Band and Music Tech Discipline at Performances (Football Games, Concerts and Other Performances):

- Students must display professional conduct at all times during performances and trips. Concert etiquette will be discussed as needed in class.

- Students must wear the proper uniform for our performances (pep band shirt or concert attire).

- Students may not eat (right) before playing the instrument or during the sports events because it will damage the instrument. Students are not allowed to go to the concessions during the game because food and soft drinks will damage the inside of the instruments. They must eat at school before we leave for games or concerts. Students may drink water during the games.

- Students must pay attention at all times and should not be using cell phones or electronics during the performances except in emergencies. Students are not allowed to use electronics to record students from other schools or our own during school events.

- Students are required to perform if they are using school instruments and if the student is advanced enough in music class to play. Students' grades will be reduced if they are at school but do not play in the performance as directed during school (skipping a performance).

- If students ride the bus with us, they must return with us on the bus. Students may use cell phones to notify parents that we are returning by bus from a performance. Students must be picked-up as soon as possible after we return from the games.

- Students must remain with the group until the end of the game or performance and may not be pulled out to leave early except in emergencies. This disrupts our group and performances.

- Students must help return the musical instruments, music stands, printed music and other items to the band room after performances. They are responsible for their instruments and accessories at all times and should not leave them unattended during or after performances.

Band After School Rehearsals:

We will have after-school rehearsals starting a few weeks into the school year. This gives students an opportunity for more individualized instruction and to improve their playing skills. A schedule will be set after school starts. Generally, the rehearsals are on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 3:20-4:00 except during football game nights in the fall or weather issues. Students do not receive a grade for after-school rehearsals and it is voluntary that they attend. Students may use cell phones to call parents if needed at the end of the rehearsals.

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Music Tech Course Description and Objectives:

Music Technology is a class that teaches students how to play music using electric piano keyboards and computers. Students also learn how to write their own music and produce musical projects. Students will have free online accounts to notate music even outside of class time. Students are **not** required to have a musical keyboard, the Internet or a method book. They will need to bring **earbuds or headphones**, paper and pencils or pens. Students can work in pairs or individually because of the limited number of computer and keyboard stations that we have. A number of our students have written music that won local and state level awards. Our website for this class is www.MusicTechTeacher.com.

Music Tech Objectives:

- To become responsible for caring for a keyboard instrument and a computer.
- To learn how to participate in a performing group.
- To learn to read music notes and rhythm patterns.
- To learn discipline and team-building skills in small or large groups based on instrumentation.
- To learn how to write music compositions using keyboards and computer programs.
- To create multimedia projects such as quizzes and websites using information from music theory and famous composers that we have studied in class.

Music Tech Course Book:

The Music Technology students do not have course books, but will be supplied with materials for reading, along with several Internet accounts (such as Noteflight.com) to produce their music. The Internet sites will be accessible to all students during class.

Daily Supplies:

Music Tech students need to bring earbuds or headphones to use with the computers. A USB 'flash drive' would be optional, but beneficial for saving work from the computers. Students need pencils or pens and a notebook or folder for class each day.



Students may not use computers for activities other than school related work and educational use. Misuse of the computers will cause the student to lose computer access.

Band and Music Tech Projects:

Most projects completed by band and music technology students will be video clips or similar materials created by the students. Special projects may range from a few weeks to two months. We will try to create a school song and a video or song related to discipline and learning. We will participate in the PTA Reflections contest for Birmingham schools. Students will write their own music for the PTA Reflections project. Band students will have to prepare music for programs. Selected students will try-out for the All City Christmas Festival, Solo and Ensemble, the All City Band Evaluation and other events.

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Band and Music Tech Electronics Policy:

Students may not bring cell phones or other electronic devices or use them in class during school unless it is an emergency, as it is a Birmingham City Schools Board Policy. Cell phones may be sent to the office if necessary and if students continue to violate the school policy. The teacher will designate cell phone use only after football games, field trips or after-school rehearsals to notify parents of pick-up times.

Students are **not** allowed to use electronics to record other students in any way except during special assigned projects.

Grading Summary:

A (100 – 90) B (89 – 80) C (79 – 70) D (69 – 60) F (59 and Below)

2016-2017 Progress and Report Card Issue Dates:

Progress Reports: Sept. 7, Nov. 10, Feb. 9, Apr. 27

Report Cards: Oct. 11, Jan. 6, Mar. 17, May 31.

Band and Music Tech Make-Up Work:

Students are allowed to make-up work that is missed. Students will not be penalized if they are working in intervention or other similar activities during school, although it is very important to attend music class on a regular basis.

Class Rules:

- 1) Come in quickly, quietly and be prepared to work every day.
- 2) Take care of the equipment at all times.
- 3) Respect everyone.

... And Procedures:

- Students should bring pencils, paper / folder, music, accessories and instruments to each class.
- Students may **not** have food, drinks or candy in the Band Room.
- Students may **not** have or use cell phones or other electronic devices in the room.
- Any fighting, destruction of equipment or other severe offenses will result in immediate referrals to the office for discipline problems.



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PLEASE COMPLETE THIS FORM AND RETURN IT TO MS. GARRETT

Return the signed form to Ms. K. Garrett / Band and Music Technology Director at Green Acres.

By completing the information below, I confirm that I have read, understand and agree with the information and policies outlined in the syllabus.

Date	Print Student Name
Grade	Sign Student Name
Homeroom	Print Parent Name
Home Phone	Sign Parent Name
Cell Phone	Print Parent E-mail
Student will be in Band or Music Technology (Circle)	
BAND	MUSIC TECHNOLOGY (Keyboard)