

TAPPAN MIDDLE SCHOOL
Band Syllabus and Classroom Policies
Ms. Lauren Stout, Band Director, <stoutl@aaps.k12.mi.us>
Mr. Craig Beery, Band Director, <beeryc@aaps.k12.mi.us>
Tappan Band Web Site: <http://tappanbands.org>
734-994-2011 x35421

I. **Goals**

- Provide every student with a great experience learning music.
- Help every student achieve success on a musical instrument.
- Allow students to express themselves through music. What does music mean?
- Translate and decode musical symbols into meaningful sounds.
- Teach about music in a historical context.
- Refine playing skills on instruments (i.e. rhythm, tone, intonation, articulation, reading, posture, etc.)
- Promote student responsibilities as members of an ensemble, (i.e., learning your part, having materials, being on time, showing up to rehearsals/concerts)
- Create a feeling of belonging and inclusion in a community of learners.
- Use music to learn strategies that will support learning in all other subjects across the curriculum.

II. **Attendance, Practicing, Rehearsals, and Performances**

- A. **In Class, On Time, Everyday, with Materials, engaged in learning.**
- B. **Music Folder, Instrument, Planner, and Pencil with Eraser are needed in class, every day.** Class materials and instruments are to be taken care of and returned in excellent condition at the end of the year.
- C. **Students And Parents Are Expected To Be At Concerts and are responsible for managing their personal calendar. All parents and students are expected to make some sacrifices, if necessary, to attend concerts. Please plan ahead.** The concert calendar is distributed in September. Students/parents are responsible for sharing the school calendar with non-school groups so other groups can avoid scheduling important activities when they conflict with school concerts. **Students/parents must alert coaches and others of performances months in advance so that conflicts do not occur. Concert performance is regarded as a test grade and will only be excused in case of emergency.**
- D. **Concert Attire: White long sleeve dress shirt, SOLID BLACK pants or long skirt (no jeans please), SOLID BLACK socks or tights/nylons, and SOLID BLACK dress shoes.**
- E. **Regular Graded Practice Assignments.** Students should expect to practice outside of the classroom. Scales, arpeggios, band & private lesson music should be the content of your practice. The more a student practices, the better they will get and the more they will enjoy music. Students who practice will have more to contribute to class.
- F. **Band, choir, and orchestra are full year courses.** Rigor and in-depth study in coursework are expected and this happens when students are expected to learn, develop skills, and master curriculum for an entire year. There should not be any expectation that a request to drop band, choir, or orchestra mid-year will be honored.

III. **Seating/Chairs**

Occasionally, at the discretion of the teacher, tests and quizzes may be used to determine chair placement. Decisions on seating will be decided by Ms. Stout and Mr. Beery based on formal and informal assessments of instrumental skills and the social context in the classroom. Students in all grade levels will be paired with other students whose skills and attributes compliment each other and who form good working partners.

IV. **Grading Policy**

"Practice Sheets", "Homework Assignments", "Performances", and "Test/Quiz" grades may be averaged to calculate a nine-week quarter grade. Some grades may be used for feedback purposes only; other grades (namely playing tests) will be used to calculate the student's grade.

Testing will consist of a student's individual performance for the director either privately or in the classroom setting. During the year, you will be assigned scales, exercises, or band music to play for an achievement grade. Students who miss a test due to absence have the responsibility of contacting the teacher to schedule a time outside of class to make up the test.

V. **The Importance of Concert Attendance.**

A performance is the same as an exam in other classes. There is also an obligation to their classmates and their own education to participate equally in the concert experience by being in attendance and remaining until the conclusion of the concert. Since there is no opportunity to make up a performance, missing a concert is equivalent to not taking an exam and obtaining a zero as a score. Each member of the band must handle attendance and performances responsibly and with pride. It is expected that when a parent notices a conflict, they will consult with Ms. Stout on how to resolve the conflict so that the student may participate in the concert. In cases where the director excuses the absence, an alternative assignment will be given and graded.

VI. **Solo & Ensemble Festival**

Solo & Ensemble Festival is HIGHLY RECOMMENDED for all 7th and 8th grade students. You may sign up in October to perform a solo work and to perform with others in a small ensemble (i.e. a duet, trio, quartet, quintet, sextet, or septet.) Both are recommended. There is a fee for participation in this event. The exact amount will be known in October. Festival is traditionally held at Livonia Franklin High School.

Tappan Bands Syllabus Form 2017 - 2018

Student Name (Please Print): _____ Date: _____

Dear Ms. Stout and Mr. Beery

We have received and read through the Tappan Band Syllabus and Classroom Policies for 2017 – 2018. We will honor our responsibilities and obligations.

Student Signature

Parent Signature