



Beginning Band

Missy Danforth – Mdanforth@ems-isd.net (Flute, Oboe, Bassoon, Clarinet, Saxophone)

- Conference Period – 6th period

Spencer Southall – Ssouthall@ems-isd.net

- Conference Period – 6th Period

Jenn Giba – Jgiba@ems-isd.net

Facebook – Highland MS Band

Tutoring Opportunities: By appointment

Class Materials:

- Instrument and cleaning supplies
- Beginning Band Book
 - Tradition of Excellence (Woodwinds and Brass)
 - A Fresh Approach to Snare Drum and A Fresh Approach to Mallets
- Band Binder with pencil pouch and dividers

Access to Canvas and Office365 tools is available to students through our [Single Sign-on Portal \(SSO\)](#). Students receive their SSO login during enrollment.

Course Description:

Beginning Band students will start the year learning basic music theory, rhythm counting, parts of the instrument and how to clean and maintain their instrument. Students will then proceed to learn fundamentals of playing a musical instrument such as posture, embouchure, hand position and tone production. Beginning band students will continue to learn to play their instrument throughout the remainder of the school year.

Course Goals:

Students who complete this course successfully will be able to:

- Demonstrate understanding of beginning to intermediate music theory
- Demonstrate beginning to intermediate rhythms through counting and playing
- Demonstrate a more mature tone production
- Develop intermediate ensemble listening skills

Student Evaluation:

The grading system for this course is as follows:

- Grade averaged 60% Major 40% Minor

- Major grades – tests (including District Common Assessments, six weeks assessments, projects, final essays, research papers, presentations); minimum three per six weeks
- Minor grades – quizzes, daily assignments, journals; minimum ten per six weeks
- Semester exams will count 1/7 of the semester grade
- A letter system (S, N, U) is used to report a student’s conduct based on proper/responsive conduct and citizenship
- Per Board Policy EIA (LOCAL), “The District shall permit a student who meets the criteria detailed in the grading guidelines a reasonable opportunity to redo an assignment or retake a test for which the student received a **failing** grade. This policy applies only to initial identified major grades and does not apply to daily assignments, quizzes, six-week test, and semester final examinations. Upon reteach and retest, the new test, project, etc. recorded will be a high score of 70%.
- Official grades will be in Skyward only and can be accessed by student and parent through Family Access.

Assignments, exams, expectations outside of the classroom:

Students will be given both written and performance-oriented assignments throughout the school year. Performance based assignments may require students to submit video recordings in canvas. Students are expected to practice daily at home to develop at an appropriate level. Private lessons are strongly encouraged for more individualized instruction.

Attendance/Tardy Policy/Make-Up Work:

Students are expected to participate in band class daily. Band classes will follow the same attendance, tardy and make up work policies stated in the Highland Middle School Handbook.

Classroom Expectations:

- Daily participation
- Daily at home practice
- Completion of assignments
- Be respectful
- Adhere to safe practices as it relates to Covid 19 campus expectations

Preliminary Schedule of Topics, Readings, and Assignments

Students will learn the fundamentals of music theory and instrumental performance.

Academic Integrity:

Academic integrity values the work of individuals regardless if it is another student’s work, a researcher, or author. The pursuit of learning requires each student to be responsible for his or her academic work. Academic dishonesty is not tolerated in our schools. Academic dishonesty includes cheating, copying the work of another student, plagiarism, and unauthorized communication between students during an examination. The determination that a student has engaged in academic dishonesty shall be based on the judgment of the classroom teacher or other supervising professional employee and considers written materials, observation, or information from students. Students found to have engaged in academic dishonesty shall be subject to disciplinary and/or academic penalties. The teacher and campus administrator shall jointly determine such action.