**Adele Harrison Middle School**

**2017-2018 Band Syllabus**

**Teacher Contact Information:**

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Philosophy

Welcome to the AHMS Band Program! The opportunity to play music is a basic component of receiving a well-balanced education as we all become lifelong listeners and enthusiasts of music. All of the activities through the year will be centered on music performance, theory, and appreciation while having fun! Learning to proficiently play a musical instrument will be a fascinating and rewarding experience, but in order for that to occur, a certain amount of effort will be required on the part of the student.

Discipline Guidelines

The discipline guidelines of Adele Harrison Middle High School will be used as the basis of discipline. To be successful at AHMS, and in life, following the principles of being Safe, Respectful, and Responsible are crucial. Any disrespect or misbehavior will NOT be tolerated. Immediate ramifications for misbehavior will include calls home, detention slips, referrals to the principal, and possible removal from the class.

**AHMS Band Rehearsal Standards**

In order to meet our full musical potential, we agree to the following:

1. Be punctual

2. Be prepared for class (Chair, stand, instrument, music, and PENCIL)

3. Show RESPECT for self, other, and equipment (return everything to its place)

4. Be silent when the director is on the podium, or when somebody else has the floor

5. Be cooperative, encouraging, and positive – a great attitude is everything!

Grading

Grades: Class participation, practice logs, quizzes, tests, and performances will be used to determine the student’s grade in band.

Practice Records (25%): For each week, students will need to practice for 60 minutes. Practice Records will need to be filled out completely and signed by parent/guardian for each week for full credit.

Assignments/ Playing quizzes (15%): Any written work NOT included in the Practice Records will be counted in this category. Playing quizzes will occur throughout the year to test students’ ability to play their parts in preparation for performances.

Class Participation (30%): Each day a student earns 5 points by participating in class. If the student does not have their instrument, music folder, or pencil, they will be unable to earn full points. Further deductions will be made iif a student misbehaves or breaks any of the classroom or school rules.

Performances: (30%): Performances are MANDATORY for every student. We will have at least one concert each semester, to be held at Adele Harrison Middle School, and another All-District Concert at Sonoma Valley High School. Sometimes the bands are asked to play for events at school and around town (rallies, awards ceremonies, holiday concerts, etc.). If for some reason a student cannot make it to a concert, written notice must be provided by the parents at least two weeks prior to the performance with a valid excuse. Unexcused absences will result in a lowering of the student’s grade. Remember, the concerts are the reward for all the hard work we put in during the year!

Practicing

You are doing a disservice to yourself and letting down the entire group if you do not meet this practice goal.

Consider the following regarding practice:

1. Practice a little every day, rather than trying to practice two hours in one day.

2. Select a time of day free from interruption. Use this time every day and stick to it.

3. Develop a routine including warm-up, scales, and sight-reading.

4. Pay attention to the basics every time you play: Posture, Air, and Instrument Position.

5. Practice in front of a mirror on in another location sometimes – mix things up!

6. Isolate difficult passages and work them SLOWLY, then gradually increase the speed. In other words, play the hard stuff first.

7. Use a metronome and/or tuner daily!

Quizzes and Exams

Students will be expected to care for a music folder, in which they will store the worksheets, scales, and other handouts received in class. We will study music theory and be given playing tests as well as periodic written quizzes on material learned in class.

Written Assignments

Students will be expected to complete several written assignments over the course of the school year. These will include but are not limited to Personal Practice Analysis, a brief Concert Report, and a Composer Biography. More information on those assignments will be given when assigned.

Performance Attendance

A concert information sheet will be sent home at least two weeks in advance of the required concert date. Attendance at designated concert is a course requirement and students not willing to attend these concerts and performances should not take this course. Grades will be affected when students are absent from performances. Please note the following:

1. Students must bring a note from the parent/guardian/doctor within 5 school days of the missed performance. No grade penalty will be made if the absence is due to a personal illness or family emergency.

2. Unexcused absences will result in the lowering of one letter grade.

3. If conflicting dates arise, it is the responsibility of the parent and student to contact the band director at least two weeks in advance to resolve concerns.

Check-out of Music and Instruments

1. Our music budget is small. Each student will be responsible for replacing any lost method books. Method books not lost must be returned in excellent condition.

2. Instruments: In order to check out an instrument for the school year, student and parents must fill out and sign an “Instrumental Loan Agreement” form. Any malicious damage to school instruments or property will be paid by the individual responsible for the damage. The individual may also lose the privilege of using a school instrument if poor or careless instrument treatment is observed.