



BEGINNING BAND SYLLABUS

Capt. Mark T. Voss Middle School
2022-2023



Welcome Voss Eagles! I look forward to teaching you and am extremely excited to have you as a part of our Eagle Band family. As an Eagle band member, you will develop self-discipline, learn to work well with others, begin to play an instrument, but mostly, you will create beautiful music! Your hard work and persistence will pay off when you improve as a musician. As a member of the Eagle band program, you will have wonderful experiences that will brighten your life. Your future will be filled with successes that will be a direct result of your experience in the band program. As you improve on your instrument you have chosen, you will realize how that same persistence for excellence will apply to all other academic subjects and aspects of your life.

Materials

In addition to the normal materials used for playing and care of your instrument, all students will be required to have the following items:

- Essential Elements Band Book 1 by Tim Lautzenheiser (instrument specific)
- Five Minute Theory Book by Mark Wessels (instrument specific)
- Percussionists need an additional book: A Fresh Approach to the Snare Drum by Mark Wessels
- 1 package of sharpened pencils
- Metronome and Tuner App for a device or metronome and tuner from a music store. The Tonal Energy App is recommended (\$3.99) but many free apps are available to choose from.

Classroom Expectations

- Follow all Voss procedures and classroom behavior expectations!
- Students must be in the band hall by the tardy bell to avoid being marked tardy.
- Students will respect the property of others by not tampering or playing with another person's instrument, music, or band locker during or outside of class, including music stands and percussion equipment.
- Instruments must be kept in playing condition. Repairs need to be taken care of within two weeks.
- While in the band hall, students will keep their mouths free of gum, candy, and food.
- Students will play or talk when they are asked to do so. The basic rule is: **YOU MAY DO NOTHING THAT INTERFERES WITH THE LEARNING OR THE TEACHING OF THE BAND.**

Due to the large number of students involved in a band classroom, it is necessary for all students to obey the rules at all times. Our goals are that each individual becomes a better player and that the whole band becomes a better band. An infraction of any of the above stated rules will keep us from reaching our goals and will result in step one of the VMS discipline consequences. Another infraction of any of the rules will result in step two of the VMS discipline consequences and so on.

BISD Grading Policy:

“Grades for Fine Arts students should be determined with regard to mastery of the TEKS for the particular course including performance. While performance is not the only component considered during assessment/ evaluation, it is a legitimate part of the assessment. If a performance is the culminating activity based on implementation of the TEKS, a grade may be given for participation or non-participation. Extenuating circumstances shall be considered when a student misses a performance.

Grades:

Minor Grades- 50%:

- Weekly Participation Grade- Students must have all necessary materials to properly participate in class. Each week the student begins with a Participation grade of 100. During that week, 20 points will be deducted each time that the student does one of the following:
 - Does not have instrument in class
 - Does not have supplies (music/ pencil/ etc.)
 - Repeatedly leaves music binder or instrument
- Theory Assignments- Students will complete a weekly theory assignment in the Five Minute Theory book during class time.
- Playing Assignments- Playing assignments will be completed at home using Flip-Grid and turned in through Google Classroom.

Major Grades- 50%

- Playing Tests are given throughout the year.
- Rehearsals and Concerts- Students are required to participate in all concerts. Performances are a major part of a student's grade. Band concerts are school related activities and take priority over non-school related activities. A required after school rehearsal will take place before each concert. (see calendar)

Concerts:

Beginning Band students will perform three concerts- Winter, Spring, and End of the Year. A mandatory rehearsal will take place the day before each concert from 4:15-5:30pm. Attendance at concerts as well as the after-school rehearsal preceding each concert is required. The rehearsals and concerts count as TWO test grades. All students are required to be in attendance throughout an entire concert. Concerts usually start at 7:00pm and are finished around 7:30pm.

Concert Uniform:

- Voss Band T-Shirt (new this year!) *Required for all concerts.
- Blue Jeans

School and Personal Instrument Care

- Students who have the privilege of using a school instrument are responsible for the general maintenance of their individual instrument. If the instrument is damaged while in your care, it is the financial responsibility of the family to have the instrument repaired, within two weeks, by a qualified MUSICAL INSTRUMENT REPAIR PERSON. NEVER ATTEMPT TO REPAIR AN INSTRUMENT YOURSELF!
- All students using a school instrument will be responsible for a \$80 (per instrument) Rental fee. The fee will be collected at the beginning of the school year. Additional repair costs may be incurred if the student causes damage to the instrument aside from normal use.

Here's to the start of a very exciting school year!

Alicia Perkins

Tivo Tristan

Voss Middle School Band Directors