**Band Syllabus**

Welcome to the 2025-26 school year. My name is Mr. Stallings and I’m looking forward to working with you and making great music. Music is a language that crosses all boundaries, and I hope you are ready for the journey ahead. For us to have a successful year in band, we must have structure and goals. This syllabus should help define what band class will be like.

*Grades*

Band is indeed still a class like any other. Grades are used to help assess your progress. While I would never expect you to be able to play like a professional in middle school, I do expect you to give your best effort daily. All of what you learn in the first few years of playing lays the foundation of how well you play later. Here is how the grading structure breaks down.

Category Weight in Grade Book

1. Participation Major Grade (60%)
2. Performances Major Grade (60%)
3. Theory Tests/Quizzes/Projects Minor Grade (40%)
4. Playing Tests Minor Grade (40%)

As you can see, daily participation is weighted as a *major grade*. Major grades account for 60% of your total grade. In order to learn your instrument, you have to play your instrument. You will receive a participation grade at the end of every week. Everybody starts with a 100. Each day is worth 20 points of that 100. As long as you play, that’s where your grade will stay. Your grade lowers by inactivity during instructional time.

Performances are also weighted as a *major grade*. Performances are **MANDATORY**. It is imperative that, as we work on music throughout the year, everybody attends the performances. You will be informed and reminded of our performances well in advance, so please make the proper accommodations. **The only types of absences that will be considered excused are medical emergencies and bereavement**. Attire for performances is a nice pair black bottoms and a nice white or black top. Ladies may where a black or white dress if they like. No leggings, sweatpants, or torn jeans. Also, no t-shirts or hoodies. We typically have a winter concert at the end of the first semester in December and a spring concert at the end of the year in late April/Early May. Keep in mind, there may be other performance opportunities. Official details will be shared in Remind, Canvas, as well as on my teacher page on the Pine Hill web

 LGPE (Large Group Performance Evaluation)

 Each year, Richmond County schools are required to attend LGPE. This is a performance that will be held off campus and reviewed live by a panel of judges. The judges will give comments (and possibly scores) to the performing groups. LGPE takes place in the spring semester (**March 11-13**) and transportation will be provided. Keep these dates open! We will be working on material to prepare us for this event throughout the year.

Solo/Small Group Ensemble

 In the event that we do not have enough players to attend Large Group Performance Evaluation (LGPE), we will have some students represent us at Solo/Small Group Ensemble. It is essentially the same as LGPE with the difference being the size of the group. Solo would be one student performing alone. Small group would be a small group of students performing.

To help with our musical literacy, we will have written tests and quizzes. These will count as *minor grades*. Minor grades account for 40% of your total grade. It is very important that we know how to read music. We may also have projects from time to time that help our overall understanding of music. I will make sure to give time both during class and outside of class to complete said projects.

Playing tests will be given periodically to further assess how you are progressing. These tests are also weighted as a *minor grade*. During a playing test, you will be given a song or a part of a song to play during class. This will be done individually. Playing tests may also determine chair placement in the band.

*Behavior*

We want to encourage positive behavior in the classroom so that we can rehearse and learn efficiently. Distractions waste time. That being said, here are some of the Do’s and Do Not’s:

* No cell phones/tablets/air pods/other electronic devices out during class
* No eating or drinking in classroom (water is okay)
* No toys, cards, video games, etc.
* No horse playing
* Come in, get your materials, and be seated promptly
* Clean up what you mess up

There are various other etiquette standards that I will go over throughout the year. You will be given the opportunity to correct any disruptive behavior with a warning. Failure to comply will result in consequences ranging from a parent call, detention, suspension, or removal from class. I will hold detentions in the morning from 7:40-8:40am.

*Supplies*

**Students must rent or purchase their own instrument from any local music store**. This is so everybody has a working instrument that they can play in class and can also take home to practice. *While some school instruments are available, they are in very short supply and will only be assigned on a case by case basis.* Students that rent a school instrument will pay a non-refundable rental fee of $30 per year and sign an agreement that essentially states you are responsible for the upkeep of the instrument. This fee is to help with the yearly upkeep and replacement of instruments as necessary. If you rent a school instrument, you can pay by cash or check (made payable to *Pine Hill Middle School*). Other supplies that are needed are as follows:

* Brass- For brass students, I require that you make sure you stay stocked on *valve oil* and *slide grease*.  These are essential to all brass players.  Your valves and slides will stick from time to time so keep them oiled.  I will have some stocked in the classroom as back up, but this should not be your main supply.
* Woodwinds- For woodwind students, I require that you have extra *reeds* and *cork grease*.  As reeds are thin pieces of wood, they will chip and break eventually.  This is an inevitability and part of the woodwind life.  Always make sure you have extra reeds so you are able to play.  I will have some reeds stocked in the classroom as back up, but this should not be your main supply.  Students that require a reed from me must purchase it.  It will be $5 per reed and money is due upfront. You should also have cork grease which helps in keeping your instrument easy to assemble.
* Percussion- For percussion students, I require that you have your own *drumsticks*.  It is also recommended that percussion students purchase a practice pad so they can practice quietly at home.
* Pencils- Please keep a pencil in your case at all times. This gives you the opportunity to mark your music as necessary. DO NOT use pens, colored pencils, markers, or anything else when making marks in the Essential Elements books.

It is also recommended students purchase their own Essential Elements book for their respective instrument.  These supplies as well as the instruments themselves can be found at local music stores such as *Kirkwood’s* and *Portman’s*. Remember, you will not be allowed to take a school instrument home without having first turned in both your rental fee and rental agreement. 

*Canvas*

We will use Canvas from time to time to help with our learning. I will upload various resources that you can use to help you practice outside of class. Remember to check Canvas.

*Contact Info*

Here is my contact info. Remember, announcements about concerts and rehearsals will be made in Remind, Canvas, and my teacher page.

Phone: 706-592-3730 ext. 3014

Email: stallma@boe.richmond.k12.ga.us

Remind: @pinehillb