

Teton Middle School 2014-2015 **BAND and STRINGS SYLLABUS**

Welcome back to school! I am excited to make this a great year and hope you are ready to work hard with me to accomplish good things in music! Here are some things you should know:

Important Dates – PLEASE RESERVE!

12/1/14 – Winter Concert (with choir) at TMS – MANDATORY

3/11/15 – Instrumental Workshop, location TBA – Not required but really fun and a good learning experience.

4/29/15 – Instrumental Festival at South Fremont – MANDATORY – This is where we get judged!

5/4/15 – Spring Concert (with bands) at TMS – MANDATORY

Mandatory performances count very heavily toward your grade and EVERY effort should be made not to miss a concert. Unlike some other group experiences, we need every person in order to perform as we've practiced. One person missing can change the entire sound of things and alter what we've worked on. We need you!

Your Instrument

You provide your own instrument and all that goes with it. If you do not have access to one from a friend or family member, you may rent-to-own or purchase one from a music store. If you plan to buy an instrument outright, I encourage you to use a reputable source as there are many sub-standard instruments out there which will simply frustrate you. As a courtesy to my students and their families, I have arranged for an instrument rental night on Thursday, September 4, 2014, 5:00-7:30 pm in the music room at the middle school. At that time, representatives from Chesbro Music will be on hand to rent instruments and sell you any supplies you may need. Please see the Rental Night flyer for more information.

If you plan to use an instrument which has been stored for some time, I recommend you have it looked at by a qualified technician who can give you a good assessment of its condition. It may need minor repairs or work which will make your experience much better. You may also wish to have it chemically cleaned. Just as your car works better with a tune-up, your instrument may work better with some adjusting. I can refer you to a good technician if you desire.

A cubby in the music room will be reserved for your use and we will mark your case with your name. This is not a guarantee, however, and I encourage families to purchase rental insurance with the instrument or see that it is covered by homeowner's insurance, etc. The school, the district or your teacher will not be responsible if it is lost or stolen. We have very few problems in this area, but please make sure you take care of your instrument and all your belongings. It is an expensive item, but one which you can enjoy for many years to come if proper care is given.

Your Uniform

How we look affects an audience's or judge's perception of our performance and it is important we are dressed appropriately. Concert attire is black pants (or skirts below the knee, if girls desire), black socks, black shoes and a white, collared shirt with no logos or designs.

Your Behavior

Music class is a fun place to be. One thing that makes it fun is that we work hard so we feel good about ourselves. Please come to class ready to practice and work together. You should be considerate of others' feelings and belongings at all times. You should be respectful of all property and follow teacher directions. Work hard and keep a positive attitude and you will succeed!

Your Grade

“Half of life is showing up” is a saying I’ve heard for many years. A large part of your grade is earned by coming to class on time, with your music, with your instrument, with everything you need to play it and then participating appropriately. You receive 5 points per day for this. If you are missing your instrument, your pencil, your planner, your music and so forth, points may be deducted. If you are uncooperative or disruptive to rehearsal, points may be deducted. If you miss rehearsal, points may be deducted. Much of what we learn in music happens during class so we really need you to be there!

Another important part of your grade is your personal practice. Students who do not practice outside of class receive low grades, fall behind the others and end up having a negative experience. Those who practice do well. I require 75 minutes per week of practice outside of the regular class time. This is not much time compared to many other good band programs so please make time for the 15 minutes per school day this averages. You may do more on some days and less on others if you wish, but it should total 75 minutes per week. You should turn in a practice slip each Monday (or the first school day of the week) reporting your practice which will give you a maximum of 10 points each week. Consider this your homework for band class and a guarantee you will continue to progress.

You will also have the occasional playing or written quiz which will contribute to your grade. I will occasionally offer extra credit for concert attendance or other musical activities.

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Other than the cost of your instrument, book, reeds, valve oil, rosin, drumsticks, etc. (whatever is needed for your particular instrument), there are only three things which will cost money this year:

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| 1. Band/String t-shirt (optional but recommended) | \$8.00 |
| 2. District instrumental workshop (optional but recommended) | \$8.00 |
| 3. Your concert uniform and your meals at workshop | \$?? |

You may pay the office for the first two items, preferably as soon as possible. Please give Miss Christensen your receipt (or a copy of it) for her records.

Problems

Please talk to me if you are struggling with your instrument or music or if you are having other problems with which I can help. Try to catch me at the beginning or end of class so our chat is not disruptive to the whole class and so you can tell me what you need without involving other students. I will do my best to help you succeed. Please also let your parents know they can e-mail me at any time if they have questions or concerns

Signature Page

Your first assignment for the year is to tear off the signature page attached to this syllabus and turn it in to the appropriate cubby. This tells me your parent(s)/guardian(s) have seen it and we all know the expectations of music class. Please turn this in by September 8th or sooner if you can.

Let’s have a wonderful, musical year!

☺Miss Christensen (aka Miss Chris, Miss C . . .)

schristensen@d401.k12.id.us

STUDENT and PARENT AGREEMENT

(Please return this page to Miss Christensen by September 8, 2014)

I have read the 2014-2015 Band and String Syllabus and I understand my responsibilities. I will keep the rules of the music classroom and do the things Miss Christensen asks.

Print Student Name

Grade Level

Student Signature

Parent Signature

How Parent(s) can best be reached

In the space remaining, please tell me anything I should know to help you succeed in my class. This could include health conditions, learning styles or anything you would like me to understand about you. 😊