



# Elizabeth Forward Middle School Band

## Syllabus

### **Instructor:**

Mr. Spang

Email: [spang@efsd.net](mailto:spang@efsd.net)

Website: <https://sites.google.com/site/efwarriorband/home>

Phone:

Grades: 8<sup>th</sup>

Help Hours: Before and After School

### **Course Descriptions:**

The 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Band class is for students who already have an understanding of basic music literacy, instrument assembly and maintenance, proper posture and playing position, and development of characteristic tone quality. Instruction offers continued focus on these concepts. Select students may have the opportunity to transition to instruments that may not have been offered in previous school experiences. These include many of the larger and/or more expensive instruments, which can be provided by the school including oboe, bassoon, tenor sax, baritone sax, French horn, euphonium and tuba. Otherwise, students and their families are encouraged to provide their own instrument. This group will be expected to play during the Veteran's Day, Winter, Combined, and Spring Concerts.

### **Course Content and Objectives:**

Each semester, the course content will be determined by the music selected for the concert. Our objective is to continue to grow as young musicians and foster a lifelong appreciation for the art of music. By the end of the year, each student should have a better understanding of the fundamentals of their instrument, how to practice, and how to play/rehearse in an ensemble setting.

### **Course Requirements:**

*Instrument* – Each student MUST have an instrument in order to enroll in this class. If the student does not have an instrument, they must see me before signing up for this course.

*Winter/Spring Concerts* – Your attendance is required at each concert. This year, the winter concert will be held on ....., and the spring concert will be on .....

*Performance Attire* –

*Veteran's Day Concert* - Red, White, and Blue w/black dress pants.

*Holiday Concert* - Ugly Christmas Sweaters

*Combined Concert* - Black bottoms, dress shirt (any color), and a tie.

*Spring Concert* - Black bottoms, dress shirt (any color), and a tie.



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### **Required Materials:**

“Foundations for Superior Performance - *Warm-ups & Technique for Band*”

By Richard Williams and Jeff King

Three ring binder

Protective plastic sheets

Pencil

Music

Instrument

### **Suggested Materials:**

(primarily for use at home)

Metronome

Tuner

### **Grading Policy:**

Playing Tests: 2 x 50 pts (per 9 weeks) = 100 pts

Rehearsals: 9 x 5 pts (per 9 weeks) = 45 pts

Concerts: = 100 pts

1st 9 weeks (145 pts) Playing Tests = 100 pts

Rehearsals = 45 pts

2nd 9 weeks (345 pts) Playing Tests = 100 pts

Rehearsals = 45 pts

Veteran's Day = 100 pts

Holiday Concert = 100 pts

3rd 9 weeks (245 pts) Playing Tests = 100 pts

Rehearsals = 45 pts

Combined Concert = 100 pts

4th 9 weeks (245 pts) Playing Tests = 100 pts

Rehearsals = 45 pts

Spring Concert = 100 pts



### **Classroom Etiquette:**

Maintaining an orderly, productive, and positive environment during band rehearsal requires everybody's cooperation. Please come to class on time and be in your seat with your materials ready when the late bell rings. If it is absolutely necessary for you to arrive late or leave early, then please do so as quietly and unobtrusively as possible. Please do not talk to your neighbors during class (many students have no idea how distracting this can be to others). Also, please do not eat (chew gum) in class or do other things not related to band.

### **Other opportunities and resources:**

*Private Lessons* – This is probably the quickest and easiest way to get better at playing your instrument (as long as you are also practicing what you're learning during your lessons). Please let me know if you are interested in taking advantage of this opportunity.

*Percussionists* – Use this link to practice at home!

<http://vicfirth.com/education/rudiments.html>

*Metronome Online* – Everybody should use this when practicing!

[www.metronomeonline.com](http://www.metronomeonline.com)

### **Strategies for Success:**

*Attendance* – Regular attendance is essential for mastery of the material in this course. Frequent absences will undoubtedly have an adverse effect on your grade. If you HAVE to miss this class on a regular basis, please contact me so we can find a solution.

*Regular Listening* – Listen to world-class musicians who play your instrument. Listen to world-class ensembles. Youtube can be an extremely valuable tool! Attend the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra concerts at Heinz Hall in Pittsburgh. This is a world-class ensemble, and they are not located very far from here!

*Daily Practice* – Nothing beats quality practice time. Remember, you will not always see or hear immediate results. Practice time is like putting money in the bank. You will only get better as you put more time into your instrument!

*High Standards* – Always hold yourself to the HIGHEST standard! Be sure that every note is *in TUNE, in TIME, with a GREAT SOUND.* Establish this HIGH standard as a habit!

*Ask for help if you need it* – I will always be willing to answer any questions you may have. If I do not have an immediate answer for you, I will find one for you and get back to you. Please do not be afraid to ask me any music-related questions!



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