

Marston Middle School
Instrumental Music
2012-2013
Scott Kent -Instructor
Room 403
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Course Objectives:

Instrumental music class is open to all students. Students enrolled in this course will be taught the basic fundamentals of playing a band, orchestra instrument or guitar. Students enrolled in this class will perform several times a year at which attendance is mandatory. The purpose of this class is to give students the skills necessary to perform on their instruments.

Content Standards:

Students will play on at least one instrument accurately and independently with good posture, good playing position, alone and in small and large groups. Students will perform music representing different genres and cultures. District standards may be found at: <http://prod031.sandi.net/vapa/standards.html>

Concerts:

In concert situations the performance of the entire ensemble is dependent on that of each of the individual players. If just one member of that organization fails to add their part, the music of the overall ensemble will suffer. Therefore, each player's active participation and attendance at every performance is vital. Absences from performances will result in a one full grade reduction per unexcused performance. In rare cases of an unexpected, severe illness, the student or parent is expected to notify the teacher **prior** to the performance. Students are responsible for notifying parents of performance responsibilities. Parents having any questions or concerns regarding performance dates or times please feel free to call the school (273-2030) and leave a message for Mr. Kent. I will return your call as soon as it is possible.

Equipment:

Players are responsible for anticipating all of their equipment needs such as: instrument repair and maintenance, reeds, oil, sticks or mutes. Personal preparation will be reflected by citizenship grades.

Responsibilities:

Students are expected to care for and maintain all equipment material issued to them.

Students will be expected to replace all lost or damaged music, books or equipment issued to them as per school and district policies.

Food:

No food, gum or colored drinks are allowed inside the classroom. **WATER ONLY!** Students bringing food or drinks inside the classroom will be asked to dispose of them immediately.

Homework:

Successful performances are not simply the result of solely full ensemble rehearsal, but instead, are the culmination of both ensemble rehearsal and individual practice. Practice material is assigned everyday in class, though it may not always be written out for them. Individual home practice will strongly enhance student performance, and parent encouragement in this area is of prime importance for the student's success.

Grading Policy:

Academic Grades-

Practice logs:

Practice logs are due every Monday or the first day of the week following a holiday. In a six week grading period each student is responsible for six practice logs, each one signed by a parent and turned in **on time! No late practice logs will be accepted!** If a student misses one practice log in the grading period, their grade will **start** at an A-. If a student misses two- B+, three- B, four- B-, five- C+, six- C. Students must practice 100 minutes per week. Students will not receive full credit for anything less than 100 minutes.

Several written or playing quizzes will be given over the course of each six week grading period. In addition, there will be a Mid-term and a Final exam. These exams will include a written and performance portion. Academic grades will be calculated by averaging the quiz scores together for a total of 10% of the final grade, and Mid-term/Final exams counting for 20% each. **Performances count for a total of 50% of the final grade.** An average score of 90% or higher would be an A, 80% a B, 70% a C, 60% a D and 59% or lower an F. Missed or failed quizzes must be made up on the student's personal time (before or after school, or during lunch). As stated prior, unexcused absences from performances result in a one full grade reduction per unexcused absence.

Citizenship Grades:

Students are expected to come to class every day with all of their equipment and instruments in playing order. Students are expected to display constructive, courteous attitudes at all times. Mutual respect for both teacher and fellow classmates will weigh heavily in citizenship grading. Each violation will result in consequences such as parent notification or after school detention.

Tardies:

Students will be inside the band room before the tardy bell rings. In addition, students will be in their seats with their instruments out, ready to play two minutes after the tardy bell rings. **Failure to comply with this policy will result in a tardy**

Extra Credit:

Extra credit is available upon request by a student/parent/teacher conference.

Each of these standards have been explained and discussed in the classroom. This should be a successful and enjoyable class. If you have any questions at all concerning the class or these policies, please let me know immediately. I am looking forward very much to working with everyone in my class, and I am confident we will have a very successful year.