

# **Miller Middle School Band**



**Course Expectations  
and  
Band Handbook**

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**2013-2014**

**Bob Miller Middle School**  
***Bobcat Band***

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Henderson, Nevada 89052  
(702) 799-2260 Ext. 4040

Jeffrey D. Williams  
Director

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**Band Handbook**  
**Course Expectations**  
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This handbook is designed to acquaint band students and parents with the policies and procedures of the band program. It also contains information which will be helpful to ensure that each student's musical experience at Bob Miller is successful and rewarding. Please put this booklet in a safe place as you will need to refer to it throughout the year. I encourage both students and parents to become familiar with the policies and procedures outlined in this handbook. After doing so, please sign the form at the back and return by **Friday, September 6, 2013**.

**To the Student:**

Welcome to the Miller Bobcat Band! As the director, I know that anyone who fully participates and gets involved within the band program will enjoy the experience of playing in an organization whose members not only possess high qualities of good citizenship, but also constantly strive to maintain a high degree of musical excellence.

**To the Parent:**

As your director, I am here not only to help the students but also to assist the parents in any way possible. I know that without your support, encouragement, and dedication, the quality that this organization can achieve will greatly suffer. If I can be of any help, or if you have any questions or concerns throughout the school year, please feel free to call the school. You may also leave a message and we will return your call as soon as possible.

I am certain that this school year will be one in which both you and your child will take a great amount of pride and satisfaction in his or her musical growth. I look forward to seeing each of you at upcoming band functions and performances.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey D. Williams  
jdw269@interact.ccsd.net

# Course Expectations

Mr. Jeffrey Williams  
Beginning Band  
Grade 6-8

## I. COURSE SCOPE AND GOALS:

### Course Scope:

This one-year course is designed for any student who desires to develop the ability to play a wind or percussion instrument. The course involves applying the basic fundamentals of music reading to the particular technique of the instrument being studied. The course may be repeated and is considered a preparatory course for progression to Junior Varsity and Varsity Band. This is an elective course for sixth-eighth grade students.

### Course Goals:

1. Select an instrument based on individual characteristics of the student.
2. Develop awareness of the responsibilities inherent in belonging to a musical organization.
3. Develop an awareness of the characteristics of all instruments.
4. Produce a characteristic sound on an instrument through the use of correct embouchure, posture, and breath support.
5. Identify and interpret the note and rest values, meter signatures, and common rhythmic patterns.
6. Recognize the note names and produce the appropriate pitches for the practical range of an instrument.
7. Demonstrate correct playing of scales and literature in the concert keys of F, Bb, and Eb.
8. Identify and interpret basic music terminology, tempo markings, and styles.
9. Develop an awareness and understanding of proper intonation.
10. Develop correct playing techniques for individual instruments.
11. Become aware of career opportunities in music.

## **II. PREREQUISITES**

None.

## **III. PRE-ASSESSMENTS**

1. Beginning Band Survey for Instrumentation
2. Survey of instruments and set instrumentation

## **IV. POST-ASSESSMENTS**

Critique and analysis of concert recordings, performance/written exams, and audition for progression into higher levels of band.

## **V. PERFORMANCE OUTCOMES**

Upon completion of this course, the student will:

1. Learn and apply the basic care and maintenance of the instrument.
2. Develop sufficient technical facility on an instrument as it applies to speed, flexibility, and coordination of the lips, tongue, fingers, and hands.
3. Develop a proper concept of tone quality on an instrument.
4. Develop a sensitivity in intonation.
5. Correctly play rhythms found in grade instrumental music.
6. Identify, explain, and execute on an instrument the tempo, dynamic, and expression markings found in grade music.
7. Learn phrasing and line development in music performed.
8. Identify key signatures and time signatures used in grade music.
9. Prepare music for performance.

## **VI. CAREER OBJECTIVES**

Upon completion of this course, the students will be exposed to various career opportunities including but not limited to performance, composer, educator, conductor, and arranger.

## VII. COURSE TOPICS AND SEQUENCE

<u>Lessons</u>	<u>Time in Weeks</u>
1st Quarter	
Learn and apply the basic care and maintenance of the instrument.	2
Introduction of fundamentals, tone production, and technique.	7
2nd Quarter	
Practice and drill on fundamentals, tone production, and technical facility of new material.	4
Winter Concert preparation	5
3rd Quarter	
Practice and drill on fundamentals, tone production, and technical facility of new material.	5
Recruitment Concert preparation.	4
4th Quarter	
Practice and drill on fundamentals, tone production, and technical facility of new material.	5
Spring Concert preparation	4

## VIII. COURSE ACTIVITIES

- A. Concerts: Students are required to attend **ALL** concerts. Beginning Band students will participate in the Winter Concert, (Early December) the Spring Concert (mid-May), and recruitment concerts (March-April). Additional concerts may be scheduled during the year.
- B. Testing: The teacher will administer tests and quizzes throughout the course of study to determine the individual student's development as well as the effectiveness of teaching strategies/methodologies.
- C. Assignments/Homework: Assignments will be assigned throughout the week in accordance with Bob Miller Middle School's homework policy. Short written assignments and one research project will be used to reinforce concepts learned in rehearsal.
- D. Practice: Primarily, homework for band is **PRACTICE!** Although practice logs will not be turned in for a grade, effective practice is essential for success on all individual playing tests and is a crucial element of our success as a group. 15-20 minutes of practice each day should be considered a minimum for a successful experience in band.

- E. Extra Rehearsals: Students will occasionally be expected to attend extra rehearsals either after school and/or Saturday. A minimum advance notice of two weeks will always be given.
- F. Extra Credit: Extra credit may be built into some assignments. No special work will be assigned.
- G. Semester Examinations: Comprehensive written and playing examinations will be administered at the conclusion of each semester. This grade will comprise no more than 20% of each student's semester grade.
- H. Enrichment: All students will be encouraged to participate in enrichment opportunities such as Solo & Ensemble, composing, and performing in-class solos.

## **IX. TEXTBOOK**

Because it includes assignments and activities, students will be required to purchase their own band text. Beginning Band students will use **Accent on Achievement Book I**, by Mark Williams and John O'Reilly. The school is not responsible for lost or stolen books, so in the event this happens, the student will be required to replace it.

## **X. EVALUATION**

A. Each student's grade will be determined by dividing the total number of points earned by the total points possible.

Approximate point values will be:

1. 25-100 Points: Each playing or written test/quiz.
2. 5-50 Points: Each assignment, in class and homework.
3. Participation Points:  
2 points are given to students every day when he/she is prepared for class with all materials and is on task throughout rehearsal.
4. 50-100 Points: Concerts
5. Extra Credit: May be offered periodically.

B. Letter grades represent the following in total points available.

- A= 90% -100% --Excellent
- B= 80% -89% --- Above average
- C= 70% - 79% -- Average
- D= 60% - 69 % --Below average
- F= Below 60% -- Failing

C. Grade reports will be issued as follows:

1. Grade day reports will be given four times a year, midway through each nine weeks.
2. Quarter grades will be given on a report card four times a year, at the end of each nine week grading period.
3. Semester grades will be given twice during the year, at eighteen week

intervals. Semester grades will be a combination of a semester exam grade and grades for the two quarters.

4. Current grades will be posted by student number weekly in the room.

### **Performances**

Performance is a unique and very important part of music education. Because this experience cannot be recreated or taught in the classroom, attendance is crucial. Also, as each member of the band is essential to our success, it is imperative that every band member attend every performance. In general, performances will be the same value as tests (50-100 points). Points are credited for attendance, punctuality, behavior/concert etiquette, proper uniform, and clean-up following the performance.

No points will be awarded to students who do not attend performances.

Absences from any performance must be cleared with the director as soon as the absence is anticipated so that arrangements can be made in order to cover the part. In addition, a parent note stating the reason for the absence needs to be given to the director as soon as the conflict is known. If the reason for absence is a legitimate emergency, the excuse may be given to the director upon return to school.

Please keep in mind that notes do not automatically approve performance absences. The director must approve the absence for make-up work to be assigned. If there is a problem with an excuse, the director will make every effort to make contact with parents to discuss the problem prior to the concert. **Excuses such as no ride, sports, or not having the proper uniform will not be considered acceptable.**

### **Extra Credit**

Each week, students may earn extra credit points by answering the Weekly Challenge. Additional opportunities for extra credit will be given frequently throughout the year.

## **XI. PROGRESSIVE DISCIPLINE POLICY**

A. Citizenship grades: Citizenship grades will be based on a student's adherence to the classroom rules and procedures and will be issued according to the following scale:

- O (Outstanding)
- S (Satisfactory)
- N (Needs Improvement)
- U (Unsatisfactory)

B. Expectations

1. Demonstrate respect and courtesy at all times.
2. Be attentive and quiet during all functions.
3. Be responsible.
4. Keep rehearsal and performance areas neat.
5. Never bring food, drink, gum, or candy into the band room.

Failure to meet the above conduct expectations will result in the following consequences.

1. Warning, conference at the end of class
2. Loss of participation points, parent contact
3. Detention, possible behavior contract
4. Referral to Counselor
5. Referral to Dean

**Severity Clause:** Fighting, insubordination, or other serious disruption that inhibits the educational process will result in an immediate referral to the dean regardless of previous action.

**Please Note:** As you may know, band is a popular elective and classes are often large. For this reason, it is extremely important that good citizenship be demonstrated at all times. Throughout the year these qualities will be recognized and encouraged. Various incentives and rewards will be offered to those students who exhibit positive behaviors, ongoing courtesy, and exemplary citizenship. Additionally, any student who is currently earning a U in citizenship, or received a U in citizenship during the most recent marking period will not be eligible for participation in field trips.

## **XII. TARDY POLICY**

All students are expected to be in class on time. A student is considered tardy when both feet are not in the classroom when the bell begins to ring. Tardy students will be reported to the deans and will receive consequences in accordance with the school-wide tardy policy.

## **XIII. REQUIRED BAND CLASS SUPPLIES**

A detailed list of required band supplies will be distributed as instruments are selected during the first week of classes.

## **XIV. HOMEWORK/LATE WORK POLICY**

The purpose of homework is to reinforce the skills and concepts that are taught during class. Students can expect four nights of practice/homework per week in this class.

Homework is expected to be turned-in on the day it is due. Students should not turn in assignments late. If an assignment is turned in after its due date, the grade will be penalized 10% for each day it is late. Assignments will only be accepted up to five days following the due date unless alternative arrangements have been made with the teacher.

Students are expected to write the proper Bob Miller M. S. heading on their assignments. If a student does not put his/her name on an assignment, the paper will be placed in the No Name Basket. The teacher may deduct up to 10% of the assignment's point value when a student fails to put his/her name on the paper.

## **XV. MAKEUP WORK**

Teachers shall provide an opportunity for a student to make up missed work due to any absence. Students shall be held accountable for the work {CCSD 5113.7}.

After any absence, a secondary student is required to initiate contact with the teacher(s) to obtain appropriate makeup work within three school days immediately following the absence. Once contact has been made with the teacher(s), specific makeup work must be completed and returned to the teacher(s) within a reasonable length of time, to be determined by the teacher and communicated to the student/parent or legal guardian. The makeup work must be returned to the teacher(s) by the specified due date if it is to be acknowledged. Students shall be allowed a minimum of three (3) days to complete makeup work.

## **XVI. ACADEMIC DISHONESTY**

- First Offense: Teacher will collect the assignment, mark a zero for the work, notify the parent of the event, and refer the student to the counselor.
- Second Offense: Teacher will notify parent of the event; student will receive deans' detention.
- Third Offense: RPC and one day IHS.

## **XVII. MISCELLANEOUS**

### **Instruments**

Information regarding obtaining an instrument for use in band will be distributed at the beginning of the school year.

### **Instrument Security**

Lockers will be assigned to students who desire them. Because of the large number of students enrolled in band, it may be necessary to share lockers. We are confident that students will respect each other's property and do not anticipate problems with this arrangement.

It is imperative that students clearly label the outside of their cases with an identification tag. The school cannot be responsible for loss or damage of a privately owned instrument. Privately owned instruments can be inexpensively insured through homeowner's or renter's policies.

### **Uniforms**

The band uniform is an integral part of a successful band program as a symbol of the identity of the group. More importantly, it shows that every student has given up a part of his or her individuality to be part of a collective team effort.

- The uniform for Beginning Band students will consist of:
- Completely black shoes and socks
- Black slacks (jeans are not acceptable) or skirts
- Bobcat Band Logo shirt

The Bobcat Band Logo shirts are available through the band at a cost of \$15. These shirts are the property of the student and will be used each year in band. Information regarding ordering these shirts will be distributed during the first weeks of class. If financial considerations prevent this purchase, please contact the directors immediately. No student will be denied the experience of band due to this expenditure.

## **Additional Programs**

### **Solo and Ensemble Festival**

Held in early February, this festival is a fantastic opportunity for all band students to perform a solo or small ensemble piece. Participants will be judged by a professional musician and given valuable suggestions to improve performance. Information and registration forms will be available in January.

### **Fundraising**

In order to expand our limited music library and instrument stores, and to help fund field trips, fundraising will be an important part of ensuring our future success. We will most likely need two fundraising events this year, the first beginning in October. As always, our aim is to keep these events simple and productive.

**Band Commitment Form**

After reading this handbook please print, sign and return this entire page no later than **Friday, September 6, 2013**. Should you have any questions or concerns regarding these policies and regulations, please contact the director.

**For the student:**

I have read the behavior expectations, grading procedures, and responsibilities in this handbook.

I understand what is expected of me as a band member and will follow these regulations.

Student Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**For the parent:**

We would like all parents to understand the rules and procedures that their child is expected to abide by in class. Please sign below indicating that you have read this handbook and agree to its content.

Parent Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Please complete the following information:

Student Name \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Home Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Work Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

**Student shirt size (please circle):**

Youth:          Small          Medium          Large

Adult:          Small          Medium          Large          X-Large