

Miller Middle School Band



**Course Expectations
and
Band Handbook**

2013-2014

Bob Miller Middle School
Bobcat Band

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(702) 799-2260 Ext. 4040

Jeffrey D. Williams
Director

Band Handbook
Course Expectations
2013-2014

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 students' 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
Symphonic Band
Grade 7-8

I. COURSE SCOPE AND GOALS:

Course Scope:

This one-year course is designed for students who have achieved beyond the Junior Varsity Band level. Students will receive guidance and direction in solving problems related to band instruments and the techniques for producing and evaluating pitch, tone, rhythmic patterns, and dynamic levels. Emphasis will be placed on providing each student with a variety of performing experiences. This is an elective course for seventh and eighth grade students.

Course Goals:

1. To review correct embouchure, hand positions, posture, tonguing, and breathing techniques.
2. To further develop technical facility.
3. To develop a characteristic tone quality throughout the appropriate playing range of the instrument.
4. To develop an awareness of proper unison and chordal intonation needed to produce harmonic balance.
5. To play rhythm patterns and phrases with dynamic control.
6. To identify and respond appropriately to musical terms, tempo markings, dynamics, and expression markings.
7. To demonstrate the fingerings and slide positions of all notes within the appropriate playing range of the instrument.
8. To utilize acquired musical skills in a public performance.
9. To develop an awareness of various career opportunities.

II. PREREQUISITES

Successful completion of Concert or Beginning Band with advanced playing ability. Audition.

III. PRE-ASSESSMENTS

Playing and written tests to determine ability and level.

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 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	
Review and apply basic care and maintenance of the instrument.	2
Review of fundamentals, tone production, and technique.	7
Preparation for Fall Concert.	4
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
District Festival 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. Symphonic Band students will participate in the Fall Concert (October), Winter Concert, (Early December) the Spring Concert (mid-May), the CCSD District Festival (March), and tentatively, the Heritage Festival in Anaheim, California. Additional concerts will 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.
- 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 Honor Band, 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. Symphonic Band students will use **Accent on Achievement Book II**, 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, including District Festivals and the Heritage Festival Trip.

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 Symphonic Band students will consist of:

Boys:

- Completely black dress shoes and socks
- White, long-sleeve dress shirt
- Tuxedo: Loaned for use at performances through the year

Girls:

- Concert Black—completely black dress or black skirt with black top.
- Completely black shoes

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.

District Honor Band

Membership in the CCSD Honor Band is a great distinction. This group will be comprised of the top musicians in the district. Auditions for the CCSD Honor Band will be held in February. Students who earn a chair in the group will rehearse weekly leading to a concert at UNLV Ham Hall. Additional information and audition music will be available in February.

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

Please also sign and return this field trip permission form. A letter detailing each field trip will be sent home, but this form will be kept on file for all events.

999-503765

**CLARK COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT
FIELD TRIP PERMIT**

CCF-796
6/92

Last Name of Pupil _____ First Name _____

I request that my child be allowed to participate in an authorized Clark County School District Field Trip. I understand that my child will be chaperoned by a responsible adult while away from the school, who will take reasonable precautions to protect my child from harm and injury.

I understand that this is a supervised activity in order to maintain order, students will be expected to comply with rules, standards, and instructions for student behavior. I waive and release all claims against Clark County School District employees or their agents arising out of my child's failure to remain under such supervision. If at any time my child's behavior is incompatible with the standard for student behavior, his/her further participation may not be permitted.

In the event that my child is injured, becomes ill, or involved in an accident while away, I understand that the chaperon will seek medical attention for my child, and the school will contact me as soon as possible, and that I will be financially responsible for medical treatment. I further agree to hold the Clark County School District, its employees, and agents harmless for any injury or illness caused by the negligence of persons other than employees or agents of the Clark County School District when such injury or illness occurs during the trip.

Signature Date

Home Phone: _____ Work Phone: _____

Emergency Phone and Name: _____

Please note any medical information which would be of help: (i.e., allergies, medications to avoid, current medications, etc.)

I do not wish my child to take part in the school field trips.

Signature of Parent or Guardian Date

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**CLARK COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT
PERMISO PARA EXCURSION**

Apellido del Alumno _____ Nombre _____

Deseo que mi hijo/a participe en excursiones autorizadas por el Distrito Escolar del Condado de Clark. Tengo entendido que una persona adulta responsable supervisará a mi hijo/a mientras este fuera de la escuela, y se tomarán las medidas necesarias para ofrecer protección en contra de daños y perjuicios.

Tengo entendido que esta es una actividad supervisada. Para mantener el orden, los alumnos deben cumplir con el reglamento y las instrucciones de conducta que se impongan. En caso de que mi hijo/a no obedezca los reglamentos y resulte en cualquier incidente, renuncio y cedo todas las reclamaciones en contra de empleados del Distrito Escolar del Condado de Clark o sus representantes. Si mi hijo/a rehúsa obedecer o su comportamiento es deficiente, participación en futuras actividades no se autorizarán.

En caso de que mi hijo/a sufra un accidente y se lastime durante la excursión, tengo entendido que la persona responsable por él/ella conseguirá atención médica inmediatamente y que la escuela me notificará tan pronto sea posible así como yo soy responsable por los gastos médicos incurridos. Además, no haré responsable al Distrito Escolar del Condado de Clark o a sus representantes si mi hijo/a sufre algún accidente o enfermedad causada por negligencia de personas ajenas al Distrito Escolar del Condado de Clark.

Firma Fecha
Teléfono de su Casa: _____ Teléfono del Trabajo _____

Teléfono de Emergencia y Nombre _____

Por favor indique información que nos pueda ayudar: (i.e., alergias, medicamentos que debemos evitar, medicamentos que se estén tomando, etc.)

No deseo que mi hijo/a participe en excursiones escolares.

Firma del Padre o Tutor Fecha

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