



## ORANGE TOWNSHIP PUBLIC SCHOOLS *Academic Excellence*

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INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC INSTRUCTOR  
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### *Course Syllabus*

**Course Description** - The Orange Preparatory Academy Instrumental Music Program is open to any student, regardless of ability level. The primary focus of the band is to expose students to new music that offers new and exciting challenges. New rhythms and musical styles, as well as scales will be the backbone of those challenges. Classes will meet everyday. **IF YOU BRING YOUR INSTRUMENT HOME, YOU MUST BRING IT BACK THE NEXT DAY.**

### **Materials Required:**

- pencils---HAVE A PENCIL AT ALL TIMES EVERYDAY

Instruments are provided by the school free of charge. All students must fill out an instrument contract prior to taking the instrument off school grounds. In addition, students will receive a music folder and small music writing notebook.

**Performances** - Students will have numerous opportunities to perform throughout the school year both during the school day and in the evening. There are 2 official evening concerts and 2 assemblies during the school day. These performances are mandatory and graded.

**Winter Concert** - Thursday December 14, 2023 6pm

**Spring concert** - Thursday May 30th, 2024 6pm

**Hispanic Heritage Assembly** - usually in mid/late October - TBA

**Black History Assembly** - usually late February - TBA

Other performances/trips - TBA

### **Key Concepts** -

Instrument maintenance

Proper posture, embouchure, and tone production

Note reading (Treble and Bass Clef)

Rhythm reading and counting

Time Signatures

Key Signatures

Dynamics

Articulations (slurs, legato, staccato, tenuto, accents)

Scales and rudiments

Sight Reading

Music History

Accidentals (sharps, flats, and naturals)

**Grading** is based on a diverse range of assessments and activities. The following is the percentage breakdown of the grading system:

25% Tests (includes concerts and other performances)

20% Quizzes

25% Authentic Assessment (Portfolios, performance assessments, projects, with a focus on 21<sup>st</sup> century real world experiences)

20% Class work (Journals, logs, assignments, tasks and demonstrations)

10% Homework (Including long term projects, Google Classroom assignments, Band Lab)

#### Methods of assessments-

All written, composition, playing, authentic, and critique/reflection assignments are rubric scored. Students will be provided with the appropriate rubric.

Music definition, symbols, and other music knowledge (theory) assignments and tests/quizzes will be assessed as to the number of questions answered correctly.

ALL ASSIGNMENTS ARE OUT OF 100 POINTS

#### Rehearsal Policy-

Students are to attend ALL MANDATORY after-school/in-school band rehearsals. Students and parents/guardians will be notified in advance of mandatory rehearsals. Failure to attend mandatory rehearsals can result in lowered grades and/or exclusion from performances.

#### Concert/performance policy-

Students are expected to perform in the winter and spring concerts as well as in school assemblies. These performances are counted as test grades. In the event that there is a conflict that cannot be rescheduled the night/day of a performance, an alternative assessment will be assigned. Notice must be given to Mr. Abazia at least 2 weeks before a performance in the form of a signed letter from a parent/guardian. Also, student behavior in class is a determining factor in performance participation. Students that cannot be trusted to behave properly on stage will not be permitted to perform with the group. In this case, an alternative assignment will be given.

#### Academic Integrity-

All students at Orange Preparatory Academy are expected to have academic integrity when completing assignments. *Any student found cheating or plagiarizing will receive no credit for the assignment and no opportunity for make-up.*

#### Technology Usage-

All students are to complete the necessary and required technology paperwork prior to using school issued devices. Computer usage is necessary for this class as many assignments are completed via Google Classroom. Students that misuse technology (inappropriate websites, games, non subject related usage, etc.) will lose their technology privileges in class. This also applies to students that improperly handle technology (holding computers by the screen, dropping computers, neglecting to plug in computers after use).

#### Ensembles

Students at OPA may perform in ensembles outside of the OPA concert band such as the Orange High School Mighty Marching Tornados and the OPA/OHS Jazz ensemble. Students of all ability levels are encouraged to join the OHS Marching Band which performs all over the state during football games and parades. More experienced students are able to join the OPA/OHS Jazz Ensemble. This group performs throughout the city of Orange and gives students an opportunity to play more challenging music and improvise. Students with two or more years of experience are also welcome to join The Essex Wind Ensemble as part of The Youth Orchestras of Essex County. Please see Mr. Abazia for more information.

### **Class Expectations:**

**Be on time** - Being a responsible student means showing up to class on time. If you are late for a legitimate reason, please get a signed pass from a teacher/administrator/staff member. Consequences for frequent tardiness can include detention, a phone call home, further administrative action.

**Be respectful** - This includes treating teachers and fellow students with respect. Please refrain from foul or inappropriate language, shouting, running, horseplay, and other inappropriate or disrespectful behavior. Students are also expected to respect instruments, equipment, and property.

**Come prepared** - ALWAYS have a pencil and pen. Students are to begin the DO NOW activity immediately upon entering the classroom. Students must bring instruments to school each day. All students must be in the appropriate school uniform.

**No eating or drinking** - There is absolutely no food or drink allowed in the classroom. This includes gum, mints, and candy. The only item that is permitted is a bottle of water.

**No cell phones** - There are no exceptions. Students must keep cell phones off and put away while in class. Consequences for not meeting this expectation include detention, a phone call home, confiscation of the cell phone, and administrative action.

**No headphones/earbuds** - Please remove upon entering the classroom.

**Follow the school uniform policy** - Our school's administration had made this policy very clear. No exceptions.

**Listen to and follow all directions** - A great ensemble or team follows directions and listens to instructions.

**Try your best** - All students are expected to try their best in this course. Progress will be made, however, the amount of progress depends on students' efforts.

### **Discipline Policy-**

1st offense: warning

2nd offense: detention (lunch or afterschool)

3rd offense: phone call home

further offenses: referral to school administration



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**Concert Band 8**

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

Parent/Guardian Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/guardian contact number: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian email address: \_\_\_\_\_

By signing this contract it is understood that:

- 1) Grades will be determined by playing and written tests, class work, homework, participation, and concert attendance etc. as outlined in the grading section of this syllabus.
- 2) Students must have instruments everyday for class. If you bring your instrument home to practice, it is your responsibility to bring it back for class. Failure to have an instrument can result in loss of performance privileges and a lowered grade.
- 3) Concerts are mandatory. If you know in advance you will not be performing, you **MUST** bring in a note prior to the concert. If there is an emergency the day or evening of the concert, the parent must provide a written explanation within one week's time. No note = failing grade for that performance.

I have read and agree with the above guidelines.

Student signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian signature \_\_\_\_\_