

**Course Syllabus for Parent Night
PK-8th (2016-2017)**

Course: Advanced Band 3rd Period

Teacher: Kenneth L. Griffin

Grade Level: 7-8

Email: kgriffin@jp2.org

Conference Time: 9:15-9:45 a.m.

Textbook Series: (workbooks, Novels, other reading materials): Essential Elements, Book II, Major Scale Sheet, All-Region Band audition etudes, appropriate pop and concert/contest music.

Topics Covered: Music reading, tone production, breath control, fingering techniques, instrument care and maintenance, music theory, music history, aesthetics, team work ethic, concentration, self-control, listening skills, tuning, balance, blend, articulation, percussion mallet and sticking techniques.

- 1.** Expectations: Students will start at their level of performance and begin to work on fundamentals of instrument care, embouchures, breath support, tone production (or stick/mallet techniques) as a class with strong emphasis on individual work.
- 2.** Students will begin ensemble drill to listen to themselves and each other.
- 3.** Students will begin learning major scales and the chromatic scale on a limited basis along with audition etudes, again depending on the level of each student.
- 4.** Contemporary music will be introduced.

Grading: 25% daily participation; 25% playoff grades (scales and assigned etudes); 50% performance participation (unless excused by director); extra credit for audition preparation, etc. If there are no performances scheduled during the grading period, daily participation and playoff grades will be valued at 50% each.

Special Projects / Events: The instrumentation of the group will determine performance opportunities, but it is anticipated that this group will perform at Grandparents Day November 18, 2016, the Christmas Concert December 15, 2016, the Spring Concert May 11, 2017, and Fun in the Sun Day May 26, 2017. Appropriate seasonal or concert music will be given the students for use at these concerts. Participation in concerts is required unless illness or death in the family intervenes, so make plans now for these activities (students will have to take a written music theory exam if missing a performance). If it advances to a competition level by spring, the band may also enter the Houston Symphonic Band Concert and Sight-reading Contest April 4, 2017. Individuals are encouraged to prepare and audition for the ATSSB All-Region Band and the Houston Area Private School All-City Band, but this is optional for extra credit.

Integration and Use of Computers: Mimeo (whiteboard) used at times to play etude examples, show videos of professional musicians by instrument, and videos of band performances as needed.

Field Trips: Possible competition April 4, 2017 at the Houston Symphonic Band Concert & Sightreading Festival. The Advanced Band has participated in this Festival the past six years (winning Sweepstakes each year).

Other: **Materials Needed:** Students will need their instrument and all music as given to them by the director. The instrument needs to be maintained in playing condition, clarinets and saxophones should have at least two playable reeds, and brass players should keep their mouthpieces clean and free of dirt and debris.