

Ms. Kathy Green, Director of Bands  
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## BEGINNING BAND COURSE OVERVIEW

Event schedule/times: **ALL PERFORMANCES ARE REQUIRED UNLESS NOTED**

September 11, Tuesday – Instrument Rental Night – Sacajawea MS Gym, 5:30 – 7:30 pm

November 6, Tuesday– Beginner’s “Info” Concert, Totem Cafeteria, 7:00 pm

December 11, Tuesday – Winter Concert – Totem Gym, 7:00 pm

May 23, Wednesday – EMP Field Trip during school day, **not required**

June 2, Monday – Spring Concert – Totem Gym, 7:00 pm

Chaperones/Helpers: Needed for ALL the above events. Please check on the return information/contract form if you will help out.

Fees/fines:

Instrument Usage Fees = \$100 for the year or \$60 per semester

EMP field trip = \$20 – students who cannot afford may fundraise

Grading:

Students are required to participate in all events, except as noted above. Barring circumstances beyond control, **failure to participate in any required event will result in the lowering of the student’s grade by one to two letter grades.** Because of the unique learning circumstances provided by the performance situation, make-up assignments for performances **ARE NOT POSSIBLE.** Performances are 20% of the grade. Classroom participation, practice and homework, playing and written tests, and performances are categories each having point totals. Percentiles as follows will be averaged to comprise an overall grade:

Independent Work (practice records, homework)	20%
Collaborative Work (daily points, class work, ensembles)	20%
On Demand Work (playing and written tests)	40%
Project Based Work (concerts and contests)	20%

### Independent Work / Practice Records (graded every Monday)

- ♫ Totem planner, band book, or practice card to be used to record practice time
- ♫ Practice record turned in ON TIME
- ♫ Practice record signed by parent
- ♫ Students may count ½ the time practiced on another instrument or rehearsing with an out of school group, and may count ALL the time from a private lesson.
- ♫ At least 60 minutes for Meeting Expectations
- ♫ Homework turned in complete at Meeting Expectations

### Collaborative Work (daily points, class work, ensembles)

- ♫ "Do Now" work graded every two weeks
- ♫ Ensemble work done throughout the year
- ♫ Students earn 4 points daily in band class by following the two classroom expectations: 1.) No one has the right to interfere with the learning or safety of others. AND 2.) Do what is expected and do it the best you can.

### On Demand Work (playing tests)

- ♫ Playing tests performed on assigned test day at Meeting Expectations
- ♫ Playing tests will be taken from performance music, band books, and handouts

### Project Based Work (grade for each performance)

- ♫ Student on time for performance warm-up
- ♫ Student in required uniform for performance
- ♫ Having instrument and music
- ♫ Remains for the entire performance
- ♫ Attentive and following performance behavior expectations
- ♫ Individual part performed at a high level of proficiency

### Concert Attire:

White uniform shirt or other white shirt with a collar. Gentlemen may wear ties.  
Black dress pants  
Black socks  
SOLID black shoes

If purchase of the required attire is not possible, please contact Ms. Green or the counselors. We want all students to participate and be properly dressed!

**2007- 2008 Essential Academic Learning Requirements /Course Expectations for  
Totem Middle School 6<sup>th</sup> Grade/Beginning Band**

1. The student acquires the knowledge and skills necessary to create, to perform, and to respond effectively to the arts. To meet this standard, the student will:
  - 1.1 Demonstrate knowledge of music vocabulary, key signature, time signature, tempo, expressive elements, and dynamics
  - 1.2 Reads, writes, and creates music using whole through eighth rhythms
  - 1.3 Play music graded on the Beginning - 1 level
  - 1.4 Play the concert F, Bb Eb and Ab major scales
  - 1.5 Play the chromatic scale for one octave
  - 1.6 Sight read music containing whole, half, dotted half, quarter notes, dotted quarter notes, eighth notes and the corresponding rests
  
2. The student applies the creative process with arts knowledge and skills to reason and solve problems. To meet this standard, the student will:
  - 2.1 Evaluate musical performances and use their knowledge of music to identify ways to improve it using music vocabulary
  - 2.2 Improvise from a familiar tune by varying notes or rhythms
  - 2.3 Evaluate the form structure of the literature being performed
  
3. The student uses at least one of the art forms to communicate ideas and feelings. To meet this standard, the student will:
  - 3.1 Demonstrate musical artistry to communicate ideas and emotions through musical performance as a group and solo
  
4. The student understands how the arts connect to other subject areas, life and work. To meet this standard, the student will:
  - 4.1 Demonstrate stage presence, correct posture, etiquette and the ability to follow the director during performance
  - 4.2 Attend all performances and rehearsals of the band

Each band student **MUST** bring to class everyday:

- ♪ their instrument
- ♪ their music folder and pencil that should **ALWAYS** remain in the folder
- ♪ their planner
- ♪ the intention of following the two classroom expectations

## **CLASS EXPECTATIONS**

- ♪ No one has the right to interfere with the learning or safety of others.
- ♪ Do what is expected and do it the best you can.

Every other "rule" we might have falls into one of these two expectations.

To expand on that:

- ♪ Respect yourself
- ♪ Respect each other
- ♪ Respect the teacher
- ♪ Respect the school and band equipment.

## ***Class Guidelines***

There are some procedural guidelines to help keep the class running smoothly.

- ♪ All Totem school rules, expectations, and guidelines as printed in the planners will be followed in band class.
- ♪ **BACKPACKS ARE NOT TO BE BROUGHT TO CLASS!** Planners **MUST** be brought to every class.
- ♪ Only water in a closed container is permitted in the band room. No food, gum, candy, or other drinks. 3<sup>rd</sup> period band students who have lunch immediately after band will put their lunches in a plastic basket to be kept in the teacher's office and retrieved after dismissal.
- ♪ Students are expected to participate daily by playing their instrument. If a student is ill, they are expected to **TRY** and play. If they cannot, they will be expected to "air play" their instrument. If they are too ill for this, they will be excused to the health room.
- ♪ Students should keep their instruments in the storage room and **NOT** in their classrooms. The instrument storage room will be open before school at 7:50 no earlier. It will be open after school until 3:00. Band students should drop their instrument off before 1<sup>st</sup> period, and retrieve it immediately after school before going home.
- ♪ If your instrument is not operating properly before or during class, please continue to **TRY** to play your instrument. If you will leave it with me after class, I will attempt to repair it myself during my plan time.
- ♪ There is a designated red basket for notes, letters, permission slips, homework, and "do now" work.
- ♪ Each student will have their own folder or music and will use only their music. No sharing. If parts are needed, please let the teacher know.

PLEASE READ THE PRECEDING FOUR PAGES CAREFULLY BEFORE SIGNING. Note particularly the grading policy for performances and concert attire. You may want to mark events on the family calendar at this time. Please detach this back page and KEEP THE REST for reference.

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I have read and understand the contents of this course overview, and agree to follow the classroom guidelines and expectations:

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Student

Date

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I have read and understand this course overview. I understand that my child is expected to attend all performances of the Totem Advanced Band and what is required for concert attire.

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Parent

Date

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E-mail address

Phone

I may be able to help chaperone or help at an event:

\_\_\_\_\_November Fund Raiser, cookie dough sale

\_\_\_\_\_Monday, Dec. 11, Winter Concert Assistance

\_\_\_\_\_March 23 Fund Raiser, Jazz Café (lots of help needed for this)

\_\_\_\_\_Monday, June 2, Spring Concert Assistance

\_\_\_\_\_Wednesday, June 4, Chaperone EMP field trip