



# Ashworth Middle School

## Band Syllabus

### 2023 - 2024



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**Website:** www.ashworthband.com

**Facebook:** www.facebook.com/ashworthband

**Instagram:** www.instagram.com/ashworthband

**Remind:** Text "@amsband6" (6th grade) to 81010

Or "@amsband7" (7th grade) to 81010

Or "@amsband8" (8th grade) to 81010

## I. Course Descriptions

**53.03300 Beginning Band/Grade 6:** This performance-based class focuses on basic instrumental skill development and music reading. The goal of this class is to teach students the proper way to hold and play a brass, percussion, or woodwind instrument with the characteristic tone quality of the instrument. Students can elect to play their instrument of choice with the band director's approval and recommendation. Participation in concert performances outside of regular class hours is required.

**53.03410 Intermediate Band/Grade 7:** This performance-based class focuses on the development, continuation, and expansion of basic skills begun the previous year that are necessary for effective instrumental music performance. In addition to large group ensembles, individual growth and achievement are encouraged through participation in solo and ensemble festivals, district honor bands, and private lessons. Participation in concert performances outside of regular class hours is required.

**53.03520 Advanced Band/Grade 8:** This performance-based class is the middle school's most advanced performing ensemble for wind and percussion instrumentalists. This year-long course introduces "comprehensive musicianship" through performance of challenging and varied literature. Skills and concepts from the previous year are developed and expanded upon. In addition to continued refinement of individual performance skills, greater emphasis is placed on ensemble performance skills. Students will continue to develop their knowledge of music theory, begin to analyze and evaluate music, and use critical thinking skills to make refinements in their performance. Individual and ensemble performance skills will be expanded through musical expression and technical accuracy. Individual growth and achievement are encouraged through participation in adjudicated solo and ensemble festivals, district honor bands, and private lessons. Participation in concert performances outside of regular class hours is required.

Course descriptions were defined by the Georgia Standards of Excellence:

<https://www.georgiastandards.org/Georgia-Standards/Documents/K-12-Music-Georgia-Standards.pdf>

## II. Program Goals

Students who participate in the Ashworth Middle School band program will be able to:

- Demonstrate basic use of a primary instrument for tonal and/or rhythmic production.
- Have a basic understanding of how music is read in Western music notation and theory.
- Recognize and experience various music genres by engaging in performance and listening.
- Foster a sense of community among band members as well as the audience and the conductor.
- Become ready to support and appreciate music in other aspects outside of the Ashworth Middle School band program.

## III. Course Objectives

The objectives for the 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, and 8<sup>th</sup> grade courses are for students to be able to perform on appropriate levels guided by the National Association for Music Education (<http://www.nafme.org/my-classroom/standards/>) and the Music Georgia Standards of Excellence

(<https://www.georgiastandards.org/Standards/Pages/BrowseStandards/FineArts.aspx>). Students at all levels should be able to achieve the following tasks:

- Students should be able to sing and vocalize rhythms through counting and various syllables.
- Students should be able to perform on instruments through varied repertoire of music alone and with others.
- Students should be able to read, identify, and define standard notation symbols in music.
- Students should be able to respond, analyze, and describe music using appropriate vocabulary and cultural contexts.
- Students should be able to respond to music and music performances.
- Students should be able to understand the relationships between music, other arts, other disciplines, varied contexts, and daily life.

## IV. Necessary Supplies-

- **Instruments**– INSTRUMENT MUST BE BROUGHT TO CLASS EVERY DAY
- **Accessories**- the following is a list of accessories your child will need the take care of their instrument.
  - Woodwinds
    - Reeds – at least 3 at all times
    - Cork grease
    - Cleaning swab/ cleaning rod
  - Brass
    - Mouthpiece
    - Slide cream/oil (Trombones)
    - Slide grease
    - Valve oil (Valved instruments)

- Percussion
  - Drum Sticks (View “Recommended Instrument List” for options)
- **Method book** – METHOD BOOK MUST BE BROUGHT TO CLASS EVERY DAY
  - 6<sup>th</sup> Grade – Habits of a Successful Beginner Band Musician- S. Rush, J. Scott
  - 7<sup>th</sup> Grade – Habits of a Successful Beginner Band Musician- S. Rush, J. Scott
  - 8<sup>th</sup> Grade – Habits of a Successful Middle School Musician- S. Rush, J. Scott
- **Pencil with eraser**
- **Band folder with music**
- **iPad**
- **Water**
  - Keep your water full when possible to prevent classroom disruptions.
- **Good attitude/work ethic!**
  - The day goes by a lot better when you are positive in what you do!

## V. Band Uniform

The concert uniform for all grades:

- The current band polo (issued as part of the band fees.)
- black slacks or floor length skirt (NO DENIM/ BLUE JEANS),
- TALL, black socks,
- Fully black shoes (no open-toed shoes/sandals)

For casual/informal performances, students will wear:

- The current band t-shirt (covered by the band fee).
- BLUE jeans with **no holes/ frays anywhere.**

**It is the responsibility of the parent(s)/ guardian(s) to have/purchase these items for their child before they are needed.**

All band students **must** wear the appropriate band uniform for performances. Students not wearing the uniform may not be allowed to perform with the ensemble, at the director’s discretion. **Please speak to Mr. Johnson if there are any issues with obtaining these items.**

## VI. Grading Policy

Coursework will be weighted as follows:

Informal Assessment.....	60%
Formal Assessment.....	40%

**Informal Assessment:**

Informal Assessments are grades recorded based on behaviors inside and outside of the classroom. These include participation in concerts and events, in class behavior and participation, having all materials, and other observations during the classroom setting.

**Formal Assessment:**

Formal Assessments are grades recorded based on performance accuracy. Performances can be written/typed work, instrument performances, or other physical measurement of growth.

Some specific examples of these informal and formal assessments would be listed as follow:

**ASSIGNMENTS:** Students will participate in classroom learning, in-class discussions, and various activities. Assignments will be given as more than just playing instruments. These assignments can range from research projects to daily work sheet.

**PASS-OFFS/TESTS:** Pass-offs are playing tests. Most of these will be done on school-issued iPads. It is important that these are submitted in a timely fashion to prevent point deduction. Written tests are also be given based on the curriculum.

**PERFORMANCES:** Because of uncontrollable circumstances, the Ashworth Middle Band will be engaging in limited public performances until further notice. Public performance opportunities may become available as conditions change. Alternative assignments are given for excused absences.

**REHEARSAL TECHNIQUES:** Students will report to class on time with all materials and assigned parts learned to the best of their abilities. Points will be deducted for items that are missing.

**VII. Classroom Management Policy**

## Classroom Expectations

**M** = Make good/well-intended choices.

**U** = Use proper manners and etiquette.

**S** = Speak only when discussion suggests.

**I** = Involvement is required in all activities and events.

**C** = Care for equipment, materials, and one another.

## General Classroom Responsibilities

1. Be on time to class.
2. Be prepared for class with your instrument, music, pencil, and iPad (when needed).
3. Be quiet and still during instruction.
4. Put everything in its proper place after every class.
5. No food or drinks in the band room. Bottled waters are allowed. **ABSOLUTELY NO GUM!**
6. Have a good attitude!
7. **HAVE FUN!** Music-making is a creative process and should be fun!

## **VIII. Band Fee**

- \$50 - All 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students

Band fees pay for the band shirt(s), classroom instrument repair, buses, and other general expenses.

Fundraisers will be done to purchase instruments, equipment, and other material needed for the band class. **Participation in band fundraisers is required by all students in band class.**

Payment will be due by **Friday, August 18th** so that we can place our order for the t-shirts and method books as soon as possible. If this payment or deadline is an issue, **please contact Mr. Johnson** and we will make necessary arrangements.

## **IX. Concert Etiquette**

Concert etiquette is how performers and audience members act and behave during a concert.

### **FOR THE STUDENT:**

- “Call time” is when the band warms up. Be in your seat ready to play **BEFORE** “call time”.
- Have instrument, reeds, mouthpieces, sticks, and any other accessories needed.
- Have music folder and paper copy of the music. **NO iPads** at a Concert.
- Watch the conductor.
- Wait until clapping has stopped before changing your music to the next piece.
- Be quiet and still during performances of other ensembles. It’s called **RESPECT**.
- Leave cell phone and other devices with parents/guardians.
- Stay for the **ENTIRE** performance.
- Support other ensembles by clapping at appropriate times.

**FOR THE AUDIENCE:**

- Arrive early.
- Wear your Sunday best. This attire makes the event more special for the kids.
- Silence cell phones and any other noise-making devices.
- Remain silent during performances.
- Keep any children from running around.
- Wait to enter, exit, or move to another location between pieces.
- Stay for the ENTIRE performance.
- Support the musicians by clapping for them in appreciation and respect.



**AMS BAND**  
**Information and Agreement Form**

Please complete and return to Mr. Johnson  
by Friday, August 18<sup>th</sup>



Grade Level: \_\_\_\_\_ Homeroom Teacher: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Student's Instrument: \_\_\_\_\_

Shirt Size (circle one): YXS YS YM YL S M L XL 2XL 3XL

Y = Youth/Kid Sizes

Student's Parent/Guardian's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Mobile #: \_\_\_\_\_ Work #: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent's E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Student's Parent/Guardian's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Mobile #: \_\_\_\_\_ Work #: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent's E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

**THE SYLLABUS CAN BE FOUND ON:**

**ASHWORTHBAND.COM, SCHOOLGY, OR REQUESTED HARDCOPY.**

**PLEASE READ THE SYLLABUS CAREFULLY AND RETURN THIS FORM TO MR. JOHNSON**

**AND**

**The BAND FEE (\$50) PAID IN FULL**

**or**

**ARRANGED A PAYMENT PLAN**

**BY AUGUST 18<sup>th</sup>.**

**STUDENT: I have read the syllabus and will fulfill the expectations in place. I will act as a responsible, committed band member and student while representing our school and community.**

Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**PARENTS: Please check ONE LOCATION you have read the AMS band syllabus. By signing below, you and your child are stating you have read and understood the syllabus and wish to continue in band.**

- Ashworthband.com**
- Schoolgy**
- Paper Copy**

Parent Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_