



Ashworth Middle School Band Syllabus 2020-2021



Director: Will Johnson
Principal: Sket Angland
Email: wjohnson@gcbe.org
Phone: 706-625-9545, ext. 4323
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)
Or "@amsband8" (8th grade)

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. Course Objectives

The objectives for the 6th, 7th, and 8th 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.

III. Necessary Supplies

- **Instrument and accessories** – INSTRUMENT MUST BE BROUGHT TO CLASS EVERY DAY
 - Woodwinds
 - Reeds
 - Cork grease
 - Cleaning swab
 - Cloth hand rag
 - Brass
 - Mouthpiece
 - Slide cream (Trombones)
 - Slide grease
 - Valve oil (Valved instruments)
 - Cloth hand rag
 - Percussion
 - Sticks/mallets
- **Method book** -- METHOD BOOK MUST BE BROUGHT TO CLASS EVERY DAY
 - 6th Grade – Tradition of Excellence Book 1, Kjos
 - 7th Grade – Tradition of Excellence Book 2, Kjos
 - 8th Grade – Tradition of Excellence Book 2 , Kjos
- **Pencil with eraser**
- **Band folder with music**
- **iPad**

- **Masks**
 - Aerosols created from instruments put students at greater risks. **Masks are mandatory for band.**
- **Water**
 - Keep your water full when possible. We will be outside some days.
- **Good attitude/work ethic!**
 - The day goes by a lot better when you are positive in what you do!

IV. Band Uniform

The concert uniform for all grades is concert black:

- black shirt (preferably button-up long sleeve),
- black slacks or floor length skirt (NO DENIM),
- tall, black socks,
- black shoes (no open toed shoes or sandals)

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

For casual/informal performances, students will wear:

- band t-shirt covered by the band fee.
- BLUE jeans with no holes/ frays present.

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.**

V. Grading Policy

Coursework will be weighted as follows:

Rehearsal Techniques.....	45%
Assignments.....	25%
Performances.....	20%
Pass-offs/Tests.....	10%

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.

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.

PERFORMANCES: Because of uncontrollable circumstances, the Ashworth Middle Band will not be engaging in public performances until further notice. Public performance opportunities may become available as conditions change. Alternative assignments are given for excused absences.

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.

VI. 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.
6. Social distance or wear a mask indoors. **Masks are required** in music classes because of the increased exposure to aerosols.
7. Have a good attitude!
8. HAVE FUN! Music-making is a creative process and should be fun!

VII. Band Fee

- \$30 - All 6th, 7th, and non-marching 8th graders
- \$10 - 8th graders marching with the Blue Wave Band

Band fees pay for the band t-shirt, music, and other general expenses.

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

Payment will be due by **Friday, August 21st** 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.

VIII. Concert Etiquette

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

FOR THE STUDENT:

- Arrive **before** the “call time”. You should be in your seats ready to play by “call time”.
- Have instrument, reeds, mouthpieces, sticks, and any other accessories needed.
- Have music folder and music.
- 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.
- 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.



Guidance for Classroom Instruction

Gordon County Guidance for Performing Arts During the Instructional Day:

1. **Social distance at all times. Students should remain 6x6 feet from each other and should never sing or play instrument while facing another student. Trombone players should remain 6X9 feet from other musicians.**
2. **Masks will be worn during any activity that produces aerosol from singing. (*Please see research below on wearing masks and other ideas to reduce the emission of aerosol while playing an instrument.*)**
3. **Conduct singing and musical activities outside as much as possible. (*Social distancing is required. Masks are not required while outside but recommended if students are not social distancing.*)**
4. **Consider allowing smaller groups of students to perform while other students are engaged with non-aerosol type activities. (*For example: Allow musicians that play wind instruments to spread out and play while other musicians are outside of the space. Allow time for the air to exchange, then allow the brass to play.*) The study below suggests 30-minute rehearsals.**
5. **Allow students to wash their hands with soap and warm water as much as possible.**

Research:

The international Coalition Performing Arts Aerosol Study from the University of Colorado Boulder has published findings from an ongoing study of respiratory aerosol that is generated while playing instruments, singing, acting, speaking, and dancing. Current data from study:

- The aerosol study is entering week 3 of a 6-month study, results may change over time (These results were published July 25, 2020)
- Wind instruments produce aerosol, which may vary by instrument as well as intensity. Trends noted: *woodwinds have aerosol coming from keyholes and bells, brass have aerosols coming from bell*
- At this time, it appears that if a player wears a mask with a slit for mouthpiece AND bell covers, aerosol emission is reduced. Flute players can put the head joint between their mouth and mask ("flute sock") to reduce emission.
- Bell covers tested so far were made from pantyhose made of 80 Denier in 2 layers
- Singers produce aerosol, which vary with consonants, vowels, and intensity. At this time, it appears that if singers wear surgical style masks, aerosol emission is reduced.
- Face shields are only effective at close range to stop large droplets.
- Plexiglass partitions or barriers between musicians are not recommended. The room HVAC system cannot properly exchange the air as designed.
- Rehearsal space recommendations in order of preference:
 - Outdoor rehearsals, using individual mitigation techniques described above
 - Outdoor gazebo style tents with open sides and high-pitched ceiling with mitigations.
 - Indoors with elevated outdoor air exchange rate from HVAC plus recirculation air through MERV 13 filters or addition of appropriately sized HEPA air purifiers
 - Indoors with outdoor exchange rate from open windows supplemented with appropriately sized HEPA air purifiers when airflow is reduced
- General procedures:
 - Masks must be worn at all times
 - CDC guidelines for social distancing of 6X6 feet, with 9X6 for trombone players
 - Indoor rehearsals should last for 30 minutes following by clearing the room for 20 minutes for the HVAC system to change the air indoors with outside air