



Methuen Public Schools

Timony Grammar School, 45 Pleasant Street, Methuen, MA 01844

Nick Abruzzese
Director of Band, Grade 5-8
Timony Grammar School

Phone: (978) 722-9001 x3436
email: nsabruzzo@methuen.k12.ma.us
website: www.timonyschoolband.org

Timony Grammar School Grades 5-8 INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC Handbook

PPE (“Instrument Masks”) – Band students will receive a mask, or mask-like device, that is designed for their instrument. The student is responsible for keeping this device with their instrument, and making sure that it is in good working order. If a new one is needed due to irresponsible student use, the student is required to replace it.

Special Protocols – Band students will be assigned a specific locker to store their instruments. Students are required to use **only** the approved locker. Issues with this need to be brought to Mr. Abruzzese’s attention. Students may bring their instrument with them if they desire. Social distancing will be demonstrated, as well as enforced by Mr. Abruzzese.

GRADING POLICY – Band students receive a letter grade each trimester is based on: RECORDING ASSIGNMENTS, REHEARSAL PARTICIPATION, PRACTICE LOGS and BASIC MUSICAL COMPETENCY. *Students must be in good academic standing in all classes in order to be a member of the Instrumental Program. Any student that does not meet these requirements will be notified by the director and may be removed from the program. Any student that is retained from one academic year to another will not be eligible to participate in the Instrumental Program until sufficient academic progress can be demonstrated.*

There are two different models for this school year: **Non-Concert Trimesters** (A Trimester that **does not** have a concert); and **Concert Trimesters** (Trimesters with a Concert). More information on Concerts at a later date.

Trimester - NO Concert

- 30 % BASIC MUSICAL KNOWLEDGE
- 30 % REHEARSAL PARTICIPATION
- 20 % RECORDINGS + PRACTICE LOGS
- 20 % PROJECTS

Concert Trimester

- 30 % BASIC MUSICAL KNOWLEDGE
- 30 % REHEARSAL PARTICIPATION
- 15 % RECORDINGS + PRACTICE LOGS
- 25 % PROJECTS / VIRTUAL CONCERT

BASIC MUSICAL KNOWLEDGE

Throughout the year each student will be given opportunities to demonstrate an understanding of basic music theory covering the most essential information a musician should know in order to be successful in a middle school instrumental program. To help ensure proficiency on their instrument, it is **required** for students in grades 5-8 to have a music book. All books are available through the local music store or Mr. Abruzzese.

REHEARSAL PARTICIPATION

All instrumental students are required to attend all scheduled class periods during the school day. If a student does not attend class regularly, they will not be given full credit for **Rehearsal Participation**. Students who are sick for the day will not be penalized; excessive absences will result in a lower grade.

A student's positive contribution to the rehearsal, preparedness, participation in class discussions, general conduct, effort, punctuality, and attentiveness are all necessary for accelerating through the Instrumental Program. Students must be enrolled in the correct Google Classroom, and have these appropriate materials ready before class begins:

- Pencils, provided sheet music and folders,
 - The appropriate *Essential Elements* book
 - Any notes or handouts Mr. Abruzzese has provided
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PRACTICE LOGS and RECORDINGS

Practice Logs: The purpose of the practice log is to help develop a practice schedule or routine for each student. Each student must practice for 60-90 minutes per 6-Day Cycle. This averages out to about 30 minutes every other day, or roughly 20 minutes every day with one day off. Once practicing becomes routine, it will be more enjoyable. **Due once every C-Day**

Recordings: Recordings will be found on Essential Elements Interactive (EssentialElementsInteractive.com) for Grades 5 and 6, and Google Classroom for Grades 7 and 8. **Two Recording Assignments Due approximately once a month**

These Recordings will act as an assessment on student progress. Every student will be tested on a predetermined excerpt chosen from the Concert Band literature or Lesson Book material. The specific excerpt will be announced in advance, as well as practicing suggestions to help each student achieve success.

PROJECTS

Throughout the year, there will be several projects the students will need to complete. They will range from Musical Composition, to recording and producing their own music video. All required materials will be given to the students **through Google Classroom**, and they must complete the project before the due date given to receive full credit.

CONCERT DRESS

Along with sounding professional, a group's performance is also enhanced by its appearance. Virtual Concerts and live in-person performances both require the same Concert Dress.

Girls: Black pants or black *knee-length* or *full-length* skirt; **white** shirt, blouse or sweater; black shoes.

Boys: Black pants; collared **white** shirt; Black shoes and socks. [*Optional* - Necktie & Dark sport coat.]

At the director's discretion, a performer dressed inappropriately may be excluded from a performance.

INSTRUMENT SIGN-OUT

If you require an instrument, you MUST email me as soon as possible. To keep everyone safe and healthy, Methuen has very strict COVID Procedures.

The Timony Grammar School Instrumental Program has some instruments available to borrow.

1. A student must first demonstrate successful performance and care with their primary instrument before being considered for a school loaned instrument. This is left up to the discretion of the Director.
 2. Both the student and parents/guardian must sign an Instrument Sign-Out Form and return to the Director.
 3. When the student receives an instrument, they are responsible for its care and return.
 4. The instrument must be returned immediately upon request, in the same OR BETTER condition.
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CLASSROOM IDEALS

Classroom Expectations

1. We are a team - Respect Each Other
2. We Try Our Best
3. We create and Learn From Our Mistakes, and We Celebrate Each Other's Success
4. We participate with video and audio on when possible, contributing fully to discussions

Consequences

1. Verbal Warning
2. Phone call home
3. Detention; If more than 2 calls home occur in any trimester, the Principal will be notified
4. Severe Clause – Escorted to the Office

Rewards

1. Verbal Praise
2. S.O.A.R Bucks for outstanding:
 - a. Leadership
 - b. Helping others set up instruments
 - c. Consistently being ready to play without reminders