

Marcellus High School Band Syllabus
Director: Katy Essex
Email: kathryn.essex@marcelluscs.org
Phone: 269-646-5081, ext. 5520

MARCELLUS BAND ROOM RULES

Rules

1. Respect others (no putdowns) and their property.
2. Do not talk or play your instrument out of turn.
3. Be in your seat and prepared to play when the second bell rings (or at the designated time).
4. No food, gum, candy, pop, etc. are permitted in the band room.

Consequences

1. Verbal warning
2. Office/Referral
3. Call home and Office/Referral
4. Removal from band program

Expectations

1. Help out! – Help clean, help move furniture, help each other.
2. Practice Your Music!
3. Dress accordingly. We will spend a lot of time outside from now until November.

GRADING

The grading is divided into four areas:

1. ***Musicianship*** (30%) - based on observed student effort and progress through periodic quizzes and tests.
2. ***Performance Requirement*** (25%) - the performance grade will be earned through performances and rehearsals outside of the school day.
3. ***Tests and Quizzes*** (25%) - based on mastery of assigned scales, playing tests and music theory through quizzes. During the first marking period, this grade will be earned through marching band memorization tests.
4. ***Participation*** (20%) - based on daily attitude, effort, and preparedness. Each student receives a daily participation grade of 2, 1 or 0 points.

Grading Scale – See student Handbook page 10.

GOOGLE CLASSROOM

Make sure that you are in the “Wildcat” Band Google Classroom. This is where you will find audio files, concert videos and important announcements regarding the program and schedule.

ATTENDANCE

Attendance is necessary and mandatory at all performances and rehearsals both during the school day and outside of school time. Absences and tardies mar the effectiveness of the entire band and will not be tolerated. Personal illness or a family emergency are the only permitted excuses. Prior notification of an absence does not necessarily make it excused (consult the director). All band members are required to present a written excuse from a parent on the day after an absence. The following penalties will be incurred upon an unexcused absence:

1. Unexcused absence from performance - marking period grade lowered two letters for each occurrence.

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2. Unexcused absence from marching band rehearsal - marking period grade lowered one letter for each occurrence.
3. Students accumulating three unexcused absences from performances during the school year will be dropped from the band program.

TARDIES

Refer to the Marcellus High School Handbook page 17. Tardies will result in a lower participation grade for each occurrence.

REHEARSALS

Band members are required to observe the following rehearsal guidelines:

1. To each rehearsal, bring your instrument, music, mutes (as needed), and a pencil.
2. Upon arrival in the rehearsal room, promptly get to your seat and start warming up quietly. When you are not playing you are not talking.
3. When the director or another conductor steps onto the podium, all playing and talking must cease immediately.
4. At the close of rehearsal, return your instrument and music to their proper place.
5. Return the music stands and chairs to their proper place.

EXTRA CREDIT

Students may earn extra credit by taking private lessons, participating in solo and ensemble festival, or attending a concert (with prior approval from the instructor).

EXTRA REHEARSALS

Occasionally extra before- or after-school rehearsals will be called by the director when the band is preparing for a special performance. Any conflicts will be cleared by the director and principal. The number of these extra rehearsals will be kept reasonable and minimal.

PRIVATE LESSONS

All students are strongly encouraged to take private lessons on their instrument. For a list of instructors, see the director.

SOLO AND ENSEMBLE FESTIVAL

All high school band members are encouraged to participate in Solo and Ensemble Festival. The director will be available for extra help before and after school. Students taking part in Solo and Ensemble earn extra credit.

ALL STAR BAND

MSBOA District 6 hosts an "All Star Band," which essentially is an honor's band made up of students from Cass, Berrien, Van Buren, and Allegan Counties. To be considered for All Star Band students must audition. The audition process consists of 2 well-prepared etudes as well as 3 Major scales and 1 Chromatic scale. The auditions are recorded and then students are chosen based on ability, tone, intonation, interpretation and recommendations from the director. All Star Band will be held in March this year.

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INSTRUMENTS

You are personally held responsible for your instrument whether school or privately owned. Never leave it unattended where it could get damaged or stolen. Take your instrument home regularly. It is essential to the welfare of the band that you keep the instrument in good playing condition (slides greased, reeds in good playing condition, valves working, etc.). If you are using a school instrument you will be required to pay for any damages it befalls while in your care.

MUSIC BOOKS AND SUPPLIES

All band students must provide the normal supplies needed to maintain their instrument properly. This includes, but is not limited to, the appropriate reeds, oil, cleaning supplies, swabs, etc. These items may be purchased at Meyer Music, Amazon.com, or Woodwind and Brasswind (www.wbw.com).

- Flutes – cleaning rod, rag, wind guard (provided)
- Clarinets – cleaning kit, cork grease, Reeds – Mitchell Lurie 3, 3 ½, 4 or 4 ½ OR Vandoren 2 ½, 3, or 3 ½
- Saxophones – cleaning kit (should include swab and mouthpiece brush), pad saver (optional), cork grease, Reeds – Vandoren 2 ½, 3 or 3 ½
- Trumpets – cleaning kit, valve oil, slide grease or cream
- Horn – cleaning kit, valve oil, tuning slide grease or cream
- Trombones – cleaning kit, slide oil or slide grease, tuning slide grease or cream; spray bottle if using slide cream
- Tubas – rags, tuning slide cream or grease, valve oil, mouthpiece scrub brush
- Percussion – snare sticks, bell mallets, yarn mallets, timpani mallets (optional), stick bag (optional), gloves (maybe, if you want)

CELL PHONES AND EARBUDS

Cell phones should be turned off and kept in your locker per the student handbook. If you bring your phone to class, please make sure that it is off and place it in the phone holder. This is not entrapment; you may have it back at the end of class. Please note that if your phone is lost, stolen or damaged the school and myself are not liable in any way (meaning, we won't replace it for you). If you are not honest and your phone goes off during instruction time, please refer to the rules in the student handbook. Earbuds are not permitted in any class per Mrs. Wagner.

UNIFORMS

Marching Band – “Spooktacular” or Drumline Shirt and black socks. Everything else is provided.

Concert Band – Black shirt (provided); Black pants; black shoes and black socks; bow-tie or scarf (provided)

Memorial Day – Black on the bottom; White on top; appropriate footwear.

NEED EXTRA HELP?

You can always reach me via email which, honestly, is fastest: kathryn.essex@marcelluscs.org

You can text me questions on my Google Voice number which is 269-340-0678.

Or you can make an appointment to see me before or after school.

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