

James Workman Middle School

Band Syllabus 2021-2022

School Information

James Workman Middle School
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Section I

Course Details

Course Aims: Participation in JWMS ensembles will help students build confidence, develop self-discipline, develop time management skills, work towards individual and group goals, conquer performance anxiety, develop leadership skills and learn to enjoy listening to and performing music.

Tardy Policy: **Class begins when the bell rings.** At that point, students need to be in their chair with a music stand and have both their music, a pencil and their instrument with them in their seat.

All students will need to bring the following items to class everyday:

- Pencils in a pencil pouch (at least 3), preferably mechanical pencils
- 1 inch 3-ring binder with your band music in plastic sheets
(white for beginning band, black for concert band and wind ensemble)
- Band Method Book (provided by the district)
- Instrument (and all maintenance and cleaning supplies)
- Sheet music assigned to the class
- Music Theory Book (provided by the district)

Section II

Classroom Rules, Classroom Procedures and Discipline

Classroom Rules:

1. All school rules and dress codes apply.
2. Respect yourself, others and property.
 - a. Respect others
 - i. Once the bell rings you are to be seating in your chair
(or standing in your section area for percussion).
Anyone out of their seat (or seated/ standing in another section in the room) after the bell rings will be written up for class disruption (this is known as the "Jordan Rule").
 - ii. Please raise your hand if you have a question or comment to make.
Please do not blurt out your response.
 - iii. Do not enter the band office unless you have specific permission from Ms. Dean. Please respect your fellow students' privacy and wait at the door if they are already in the office talking to a teacher.
 - b. Respect Property

- i. Do not touch anything that does not belong to you.
This includes instruments and instrument cases and backpacks!
- ii. No food or drinks in the band room (bottled water is permitted).
- iii. Why? We do not need ants or other gross bugs in your locker or worse yet, your instrument case. Also keep in mind that you share this room with 180 of your classmates.

Classroom Discipline:

The school discipline procedures will be followed. See the discipline procedures posted in the classroom for more details.

Maintaining proper behavior in class is required so that EVERY student can learn. If a student receives two referrals for disruptions/disrespect from Ms. Dean, administration and/or Ms. Dean reserve the right to remove the student from the band class.

If a student is caught stealing any money or items from the band room, they will immediately be removed from band.

Band Trips and the Exclusion List: If a band student is placed on the exclusion list (for gum, food, or tardies) prior to a band trip (such as the SCSBOA Festival, the Forum Music Festival Trip or a festival/performance related trip) this will not jeopardize the student's participation for the trip/event. However, if Ms. Dean assigns you a Referral for defiance/distraction or disrespect 30 days prior to a band trip, that student will not participate in the festival band trip.

Section III

How you will be graded

Daily participation in class and Listening Assignments **10% of final grade**

Students must bring all their supplies to class every day to earn full participation points. These points can not be made up.

Practice Cards

15% of final grade

Practice cards are assigned on Monday and must be turned in on Monday or Tuesday of the following week. Practice cards are the only item not allowed to be turned in late. They can be turned in signed (for full credit) or unsigned for partial credit. The only way a student earns a zero on a practice card is if they don't turn one in at all. **Practice cards and practicing are a requirement to being in band. Students must practice daily and come to class prepared to learn.**

Written and Playing Tests

45% of final grade

Any written or playing assignment may be made up at any time during the trimester for up to full credit (all work must be turned in at least one week before the end of the trimester). I am concerned only if the students master the material. There are no points taken off for late work.

Attendance at Performances

30% of final grade

Students are required to attend their performances to demonstrate their knowledge for the audience. Prior notice is required in writing (at least two weeks) if a student is unable to attend a performance due to being double booked. Please email Ms. Dean as soon as your scheduling conflict becomes clear so she has time to adjust if need be.

Section IV

Participation in trips and festivals

If a student is failing to practice and consistently comes to class under prepared, Ms. Dean and/or administration reserve the right to remove them from band or remove them from a performance or a planned trip/festival.

Section V

Solo/Ensemble Festival

All students in wind ensemble are required to learn a solo for solo/ensemble festival each year. They are encouraged to also learn an ensemble/small group piece. This is a chance for the students to learn personal responsibility for learning their part and to receive an individualized assessment on their playing.

Section VI

Instruments, Name Tags, Insurance

Instruments

All students need to rent, borrow or purchase their own band instruments. All instruments are available to borrow from the school but are first come, first serve. Students must keep instruments in good working condition. **Students using school instruments will be charged for repairs such as dents, bent keys or broken parts or any other damage caused by food or drink that is not considered normal wear and tear** (replacements of pads, corks, etc. is considered normal wear and tear). *If you are interested in borrowing a school instrument for the year, you must turn in a note to Ms. Dean-Knapp. The earlier you turn in the note, the better.*

Beginning band students: PLEASE DO NOT rent or purchase an instrument until you have communicated with me on recommended brands. Parents, it is very important for your child's success that they have an instrument that can remain in good working condition and is of good quality. If you have any questions regarding the purchase or rent of an instrument, please do not hesitate to email me at jdean@psusd.us

Name Tags: **All students are REQUIRED to have their name clearly visible on their instrument case at all times.** If your name is not on your instrument, the office and security at JWMS does not know who it belongs to. Students must store their instrument in their assigned locker. **Personalized name tags will be available at the beginning of the year. Simply print your name, address and phone number on your luggage tag. You may NOT use tape to identify your instrument, you must have a luggage tag with all your contact information at all times.**

Instrument Insurance: I strongly recommend that parents keep a record somewhere of the serial number, make and model of your instrument (usually printed on your rental/purchase agreement from the music store). It is also a good idea to check your homeowners insurance to make sure you are covered if the instrument is stolen. If you do not have adequate insurance, there are some instrument insurance companies that I can recommend. *Clarion and Anderson are both good instrument insurance companies that I personally have experience with.* Clarion is available at www.clarionins.com and Anderson is available at www.anderson-group.com