

Carquinez Middle School

Beginning Band Syllabus

Performing Arts Education at the JSUSD has a long tradition of excellence. Through participation in the program, students learn the techniques of performance, music literacy, teamwork, and self-confidence.

Teacher Information

Mr. Cadiz (He/Him/His)
FCadiz@jsusd.org
(510) 787-1088 x 1233

Class Times:

Wednesday & Friday: 1:45 - 2:45

Office Hours

Email me prior to reserve a time and pick a meeting platform (Google Classroom or Zoom)

Monday through Friday 3:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Or By Appointment

Course Description

Band is available to students who want to increase their knowledge and technical performance in the musical art. Previous experience in any form of music not required, but it will provide great assistance during class lecture and discussion. Band will provide students the opportunity to experience the different styles of music through academic study, creation, collaboration, and performance. Students enrolled in the Beginning Band class will discover and experience musical ideas such as dynamics, pitch, rhythm, timbre, composition, basic production, and music more. Throughout the year, students will develop strong musicality skills as they listen, analyze, critique, and create music.

Distance Learning

While we will be distance learning due to COVID-19, the strive for musical excellence will continue. We will pursue musical growth by looking at aspects of composition, production, teaching, communication, and performance. In addition, students will not be receiving or learning how to play physical instruments such as the flute, clarinet, trumpet, or trombone.¹ Instead, students will develop their musical skills through percussion, piano, music theory, and much more from the safety of their computer through the following programs

- Google Classroom
- Noteflight
- Bandlab

Goals and Objectives

- Provide students with high quality performance opportunities.
- Perform engaging and challenging repertoire.
- Provide an environment for artistic development, as an individual and as an ensemble.
- Provide opportunities to learn about music and performance; its development, construction and expression.
- Increase awareness of how music is unique in its expressive and communicative nature, particularly non-verbal aspects. Our case studies are the works we perform.

¹ Due to the physical nature of learning how to setup and play an instrument, providing and guiding students through the basics is currently not safe. Additionally, it is all too likely for a student to damage an instrument without proper and watchful practice from the teacher. If your child was dreaming of playing an instrument this year, please contact me and we can talk about purchasing instruments and how I can help your child at an individual level.

- Provide a place of belonging, a sense of unity, and a source of fellowship for students.
- Engage artistic culture at the highest levels of complexity and competence. The ensemble contributes to the campus and general communities through artistic expression.
- Develop and refine musicianship skills, i.e. dexterity, endurance, musicality, and other aural abilities.
- Develop self-motivated and independent musicians.
- Collaborate with peers to create works that are larger than an individual.
- Compose and produce works of music in a variety of styles and means.

Grading policy

Daily Participation Grade – 15%

- Obeying classroom/Zoom rules and etiquette, explained below.
- Participation in independent work, group work, etc.
- **Starting on time: In class/Zoom meeting at 1:45**
 - If you arrive late due to tech difficulties, please contact me or visit during office hours.
- Close nonessential applications during our meetings.
 - Save your GPU and RAM for the applications we will use in class.
 - While it is easy to get distracted and participate in other activities during distance learning; I encourage you to stay focused and pay attention throughout the entire class period. Your fellow teachers and I will not be able to “walk the room” and check for individual understanding by peeking over your shoulder.
- Ask questions if you have any confusion.
 - Teaching and learning through screens is not ideal for most; however, it is what we have to do.
 - If you are having tech difficulties or did not understand what happened — raise your hand!

Assignments – 20%

- Can be assigned in the form of surveys, vocabulary, notation, history, short writings, and many other facets.
- All assignments will be located under the assignments tab of Google Classroom.
 - Assignments will be posted under the following format — Date Due: Assignment Title
- Most assignments will be due at the end of class or the beginning or the next class session.

Tests — 15%

- Can be assigned in the form of vocabulary, musical notation, short writings, proficiency on a certain section of the music, or performance on an instrument.
- Can be retaken at the teacher’s approval.
- CANNOT be retaken if the student cheats.

Projects – 40%

- Large scale works that show multiple days or weeks of effort.
- Can be given in the form of performance, composition, production, writing, etc.
- Projects are meant to be the final part of a section before we move into a new topic.
 - While deadlines are deadlines; if something happens in which you need more time (internet problems, computer crashes, family emergency, etc., please contact me and we can work something out).

Final Portfolio — 10%

- Throughout the semester you will create, edit, and polish a final portfolio of all your creations via a Google site.
- While you are required to include specific material in your portfolio, you are allowed to format and make it aesthetically pleasing to your heart’s content.
- A guide and grading rubric for what is needed in your portfolio will be provided soon.

Class - Distance Learning Rules and Etiquette

- Be punctual - Start class on time with equipment properly set up.
 - Things happen out of our control at times. Do your best and prepare for the unexpected.
 - Because the number of hours we share is limited, our allotted class time is critical for your success.
- Respect each other
 - Refrain from personal put-downs, offensive language and images, and unnecessary comments.
 - Do not record or take pictures without anyone’s permission.

- Mute your microphone when you are not speaking.
 - Even if your room is quiet, the microphone picks up white noise as it searches for sound.
 - If you have a question, raise your hand first. If I do not respond to that, please get my attention.
- Food may be consumed during class
 - Please be tidy and do not distract others.
- You may have your camera off during class; however, it is greatly appreciated if you have it on.
 - Feel free to change incorporate Zoom backgrounds, **they must be school appropriate**
- Flush your mouth before you play your instrument
 - Brush your teeth or swish water around to avoid buildup in your instrument.
- If you need to use the restroom or forgot materials, please do it quickly without distracting others.
 - Taking advantage of this privilege will result in point deductions and visits during office hours.
- Wait for me to dismiss you from class
 - I will do my best to be conscious of the time.
 - Because I do not see you everyday, it is imperative that you receive instructions on what to complete before our next meeting.
- Students must be dressed appropriately for virtual learning.
- Questions that pertain to an individual should be asked outside of ensemble work.
 - Feel free to email me the question during class

If we return to in person learning, please note the following changes to our class rules and etiquette. The grading policy will change depending on the days remaining on the semester schedule.

Class Rules - In Person Rules and Etiquette

- Students are only allowed in the band room or theater when an instructor is present.
- Students must ask to use the band room or theater equipment (this includes musical instruments).
- Phones are NOT to be used without permission. Students who violate this rule will lose daily participation points.
- **There will be no gum, food or beverage other than water allowed during class.**
- Students may not use the restroom during the first and last 10 minutes of class.
- Students may not wait by the door at the end of class.
- Questions that pertain to an individual should be asked outside of ensemble work.

Class Etiquette - In Person

During rehearsals and performances, students are expected to be on time, exercise the highest level of professionalism, and use good judgment when working with other people, equipment, and the room.

Timeliness - Start rehearsals on time with the proper equipment.

- Improve ensemble and individual performance as we maximize our actual rehearsal time by minimizing delays.

Rehearsal Focus - Restrict conversation to musical and rehearsal matters.

- Improve ensemble and individual performance as we allow sections to rehearse, and optimize communication between sections and the conductor.
- Set a standard for the entire ensemble (this behavior indicates the ensemble is important to us as individuals) and we are willing to sacrifice social and non-musical behavior for the performance of the ensemble.

Respect Each Other - Refrain from personal put-downs, offensive language, and unnecessary comments.

- Improve ensemble and individual performance as we can approach the music with a positive attitude, thus optimizing time on singing and minimizing conflict.
- Set a standard for the entire ensemble, as this behavior indicates the ensemble is important to us as individuals, and we are willing to resolve problems outside rehearsal time.

Respect Property, Rehearsal Room - Take the time to put materials in their proper storage place, keep the room clean.

- Improve ensemble and individual performance as we reduce delays in rehearsal that are unnecessary. Folders left lying on the floor will result in lost participation points for the day.
- Take the time to be organized for the performance of the ensemble