



Northern York County School District

Curriculum Overview

Course: Middle School Band	
Grade Level: 6-8	
Approval Date:	Length of Time: 60 days
Course Description: At the middle school level, students expand the foundational musical and instrumental (woodwinds, brass, percussion) performance skills developed in earlier grades. They rehearse and perform a variety of age-appropriate band literature, focusing on tone quality, rhythm accuracy, intonation, and expressive phrasing. Students also strengthen their listening and evaluation skills through guided analysis and peer feedback. Small-ensemble opportunities allow motivated students to prepare more challenging pieces and perform at school and community events.	
Course Objectives: Students will: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Perform music with appropriate tone quality. • Recognize, demonstrate, and create examples of pulse, rhythm, and subdivision. • Read and interpret written music notations and expressions. • Analyze and organize music into meaningful phrases. • Prepare literature that reflects a wide variety of cultures and styles. • Be provided opportunities to grow as musicians and as an ensemble. 	
Related Standards: National Music Standards (PA State Standards for the Arts and Humanities): Creating (PA 9.1a-k) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • (MU:Cr1.1.E.IIa) Imagine- Generate musical ideas for various purposes and contexts • (MU:Cr2.1.E.IIa) Plan and Make- Select and develop musical ideas for defined purposes and contexts • (MU:Cr3.1.E.IIa) Evaluate and Refine- Evaluate and refine selected musical ideas to create musical work(s) that meet appropriate criteria • (MU:Cr3.2.E.IIa) Present- Share creative musical work that conveys intent, demonstrates craftsmanship, and exhibits originality Performing (PA 9.1.8 a-k) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • (MU:Pr4.2.E.IIa) Analyze- Analyze the structure and context of varied musical works and their implications for performance • (MU:Pr4.3.E.IIa) Interpret- Develop personal interpretations that consider the creators' intent • (MU:Pr5.3.E.IIa) Rehearse, Evaluate, and Refine- Evaluate and refine personal and ensemble performances, individually or in collaboration with others. • (MU:Pr6.1.E.IIa) Present- Perform expressively, with appropriate interpretation and technical accuracy, and in a manner appropriate to the audience and context. Responding (PA 9.3.8a-g) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • (MU:Re7.2.E.IIa) Analyze- Analyze how the structure and context of varied musical works inform the response 	

- (MU:Re8.1.E.IIa) **Interpret**- Support interpretations of musical works that reflect creators'/performers' expressive intent.
- (MU:Re9.1.E.IIa) **Evaluate**- Support evaluations of musical works and performances based on analysis, interpretation, and established criteria

Connecting (PA 9.2a-f; 9.4.8a-d)

- (MU:Cn10.0.H.IIa) **Synthesize and relate** knowledge and personal experiences to make music.
- (MU:Cn11.0.T.IIa) **Relate** musical ideas and works with varied contexts to deepen understanding.

Units:

- Instrument maintenance and safety
- Tone production and quality
- Rhythm
- Music literacy
- Form, History, and Culture influences
- Performance and Advocacy

Concepts:

- Instrument care
- Tone production and quality
- Rhythm
- Music literacy
- Form, History, and Culture influences
- Performance and Advocacy

Competencies:

- Prepare and maintain their instruments to support proper instrumental techniques
- Produce, refine, and reflect on individual and ensemble tone quality
- Internalize and interpret aspects of pulse and subdivision
- Accurately express musical notation
- Understand and appreciate music from different historical and cultural backgrounds
- Represent musical concepts through individual and group performances

Learning Activities:

- Homogeneous group lessons:
 - Group discussion on technique/musicianship
 - Review of smaller, specific excerpts
 - Guided listening
 - Student/teacher-led modeling
- Full-ensemble rehearsals:
 - Proper group warm-up
 - Extended excerpt review/refinement
 - Balance and blend
 - Interpretation of conducting patterns
- Guided and unguided practice sessions
 - Reflection/practice logs
- Listening Activities
 - Call-and-response

Performance Tasks:

- Self-Evaluation (Formative and Summative)
- Concerts and Public Performances
- Sightreading un/familiar music
- Error detection for self and ensemble
- Rehearsal etiquette
- Participation and Preparedness

- Balance and blend
- Guided listening of small/large groups
- Error detection

Other Assessment Measures:

- In-class participation
- Written Evaluations
- Standardized measures (PMEA) of growth and mastery
- Peer evaluations

Textbook/Primary Resource:

- *Essential Elements for Band* (Lautzenheiser, Higgins, et al; Hal Leonard Publishing)
- *Habits of a Successful Middle School Musician* (Rush, Scott, et al; GIA publications)

Supplemental Resource Materials:

- Standard Concert band literature, grades .5-3
- Literature recordings
- Concert recordings