



8th Grade Band

Approved by KSD Board of Education: May 19, 2025

Course Description:

8th Grade Band is a year-long course open to students who possess intermediate skills on woodwind, brass, and percussion instruments. This ensemble focuses on developing musical literacy, technical proficiency, and expressive performance through the study of varied repertoire at difficulty levels of 1 - 3. Prior participation or an initial screening is a prerequisite for 8th Grade Band.

Grade Level: 8th Grade

Unit Scope and Sequence (Units Occur Simultaneously)

Unit 1: Sound

Unit 2: Technique

Unit 3: Musicianship

Course Enduring Understandings:

- Musicians express musical ideas by continuously analyzing, evaluating, and refining their performance, remaining open to new ideas, persisting through challenges, and applying appropriate criteria.
- Musicians judge performance based on criteria that vary across time, place, and cultures.

Course Essential Questions:

- How do musicians improve the quality of their performance?
- What criteria do musicians use to determine if a performance is ready to present to an audience?

8th Grade Band Unit 1: Sound

This unit explores the artistry of sound, including how it is produced and how musicians adjust it to create expressive performances. Students will gain an understanding of proper tone production, intonation, balance, and blend to help them refine their individual and ensemble playing.

Unit Essential Learning Targets	
<i>Enduring Understandings</i>	<i>Essential Questions</i>
• The evaluation of sound quality is informed by analysis, interpretation, and established criteria. • Performing with a characteristic tone, appropriate balance and blend, and accurate intonation are essential to a quality performance. • Performing with a properly maintained instrument is essential to a quality performance.	• How do musicians utilize sound quality to improve performance? • How do we judge the sound quality of musical work(s) and performance(s)? • How does proper instrument care and maintenance improve a musician's performance?
<i>Students must know:</i>	<i>Students must be able to:</i>
• Proper Embouchure/Grip • Intonation • Characteristic Tone within the range of an octave • Assembly, Disassembly, and Storage • Cleaning and Maintaining Instrument	• Recognize, describe, and demonstrate a characteristic tone/timbre on their instrument. • Balance/blend their sound to fit appropriately within the ensemble. • Recognize, describe, and demonstrate "in tune playing" on their instrument. • Recognize, describe, and demonstrate the steps to properly assemble and disassemble their instrument.

8th Grade Band

Unit 1: Sound

Missouri Learning Standards

Priority Standard: Develop and refine artistic techniques and work for presentation. (Perform 5)

Supporting Standards:

- A. Develop strategies to address technical challenges in a varied repertoire of music and evaluate their success using feedback from ensemble peers and other sources to refine performances. (MU:Pr5A.E.8a)

Priority Standard: Apply criteria to evaluate artistic work. (Respond 9)

Supporting Standards:

- A. Explain the influence of experiences, analysis, and context on interest in and evaluation of music. (MU:Re9A.E.8a)

8th Grade Band Unit 2: Technique

This unit focuses on developing and refining the fundamental technical skills necessary for high-quality performance. Students will explore how technique influences musicality and expression. Through structured exercises, scales, rhythmic studies, and ensemble playing, students will build clarity, accuracy and control on their instruments.

Unit Essential Learning Targets	
<i>Enduring Understandings</i>	<i>Essential Questions</i>
- The way we judge musical technique is based on three things: the basic elements of music notation (like pitch, rhythm, and dynamics); the interpretation of subjective elements such as phrasing and style; and the standards used to evaluate performances. - Performing with appropriate technique is essential to a quality performance.	- How do musicians utilize technique to improve performance? - How do we judge the craft and technique of musical work(s) and performance(s)?
<i>Students must know:</i>	<i>Students must be able to:</i>
- Components of Playing (Technique) - Posture/Position - Hand Position/Mallet Grip - Foot Tap - Note/Rest Values - Whole, Half, Quarter, Eighth, Sixteenth, Eighth Note Triplets - Meters 4/4, 2/4, 3/4, 6/8, 2/2 - Tempo Markings - Moderato, Allegro, Ritardando, Andante, Andantino, Allegretto, Rallentando, Accelerando, Largo, Adagio, Vivace, Presto - Scales - Major Pentascales (Concert C, Concert F, Concert Bb, Concert Eb, Concert Ab) - Major Scales Group 1 (Concert Ab, Concert Bb, Concert F) - Major Scales Group 2 (Concert Eb, Concert C) - Minor Scales Group 1 (Concert G, Concert D, Concert C, Concert F, Concert A) - Chromatic Scale Level 1 (Range of a Fifth) - Chromatic Scale Level 2 (Range of an Octave)	- Recognize, describe, and demonstrate appropriate posture and position on their instrument. - Perform with pitch accuracy. - Perform with rhythmic accuracy. - Perform with a steady tempo. - Perform in time with one another. - Recognize, describe, and demonstrate appropriate articulation (including ensemble entrances and releases) on their instrument. - Perform using a practical range of their instrument.

8th Grade Band Unit 2: Technique

Missouri Learning Standards

Priority Standard: Develop and refine artistic techniques and work for presentation. (Perform 5)

Supporting Standards:

- A. Develop strategies to address technical challenges in a varied repertoire of music and evaluate their success using feedback from ensemble peers and other sources to refine performances. (MU:Pr5A.E.8a)

Priority Standard: Apply criteria to evaluate artistic work. (Respond 9)

Supporting Standards:

- A. Explain the influence of experiences, analysis, and context on interest in and evaluation of music. (MU:Re9A.E.8a)

8th Grade Band

Unit 3: Musicianship

This unit focuses on the skills and knowledge that make a performance expressive and musical. Students will explore how musicianship goes beyond playing the correct notes and rhythms by incorporating interpretation, analysis, and expression. They will also connect musicianship to other disciplines, cultures, and everyday life, deepening their understanding of musical meaning and purpose. Through listening, discussion, and performance, students will learn how to judge, apply, and refine their musicianship.

Unit Essential Learning Targets	
<i>Enduring Understandings</i>	<i>Essential Questions</i>
• Musicianship is informed by analysis, interpretation, and established criteria. • Performing with appropriate musicianship is essential to a quality performance. • Understanding connections to varied contexts and daily life enhances musicians' creating, performing, and responding.	• How do musicians utilize musicianship to improve performance? • How do we judge the musicianship of musical work(s) and performance(s)? • How do the other arts, other disciplines, contexts, and daily life inform creating, performing, and responding to music?
<i>Students must know:</i>	<i>Students must be able to:</i>
• Musical Staff/Grand Staff • Treble and Bass Clefs • Articulation Markings • Ledger Lines • Flat/Natural/Sharp Signs (accidental) • Time Signature • Measures and Bar Lines/Double Bar • Breath Mark • Key Signatures • Enharmonics • Fermata • Pickup BNote • Dynamic Markings • Solo/Soli/Tutti/Divisi • Unison • Musical Phrase • Repeat Signs/Codas • Simile • Grand Pause/Caesura • Poco a Poco • Simple Meter (Identify strong and weak beats) vs. Compound Meter (Identify strong and weak beats).	• Recognize, describe, and demonstrate characteristic elements of various styles of music. • Recognize, describe, and demonstrate various expressive markings on their instruments. • Recognize, describe, and demonstrate dynamic markings and contrasts on their instruments. • Recognize, describe, and demonstrate appropriate musical phrasing on their instruments.

8th Grade Band

Unit 3: Musicianship

Missouri Learning Standards

Priority Standard: Develop and refine artistic techniques and work for presentation. (Perform 5)

Supporting Standards:

- A. Develop strategies to address technical challenges in a varied repertoire of music and evaluate their success using feedback from ensemble peers and other sources to refine performances. (MU:Pr5A.E.8a)

Priority Standard: Apply criteria to evaluate artistic work. (Respond 9)

Supporting Standards:

- A. Explain the influence of experiences, analysis, and context on interest in and evaluation of music. (MU:Re9A.E.8a)

Priority Standard: Relate artistic ideas and works with societal, cultural, and historical context to deepen understanding. (Connect 11)

Supporting Standards

- a. Demonstrate understanding of relationships between music and the other arts, other disciplines, varied contexts, and daily life. (MU:Cn11A.E.8a)