Course Overview
Seventh and Eighth Grade Band at Abell Junior High School is designed to develop students' musicianship, ensemble skills, and personal responsibility through performance-based learning. Students will study a variety of musical genres and styles, work collaboratively in rehearsals, and perform at concerts, contests, and community events throughout the year.

Instruction is based on the **Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS)** for Fine Arts and is aligned with the standards set by the **University Interscholastic League (UIL)**. Students will improve their skills in tone production, music literacy, rhythm, sight-reading, and ensemble playing through daily practice and structured rehearsal routines.

Throughout the year, students will:

- **Instrument Proficiency:** Improve tone, technique, articulation, and tuning on their instrument.
- **Music Reading Skills:** Develop skills in reading rhythms, pitches, key signatures, dynamics, and musical symbols.
- **Ensemble Skills:** Learn how to play as part of a group—listening, blending, and following the conductor.
- **Performance Preparation:** Prepare and participate in concerts, UIL contests, and other public performances.
- **Music Theory and History:** Learn basic theory concepts and explore composers and genres across musical history.
- **Individual Responsibility:** Maintain instruments, attend rehearsals, and develop habits of practice and commitment.

Contact Information
Teacher Name: Jordan Frazier, Payne Conner
Email: jordan.frazier@midlandisd.net, payne.conner@midlandisd.net
Phone: 432-689-2600

Classroom Expectations
Our band hall is a safe, respectful, and focused environment where all students can thrive musically and personally. We value commitment, responsibility, and teamwork.

Expectation 1: Be prepared with materials and music

- Bring your instrument, music folder, pencil, and supplies to every rehearsal
- Be seated and ready to begin on time

- **Expectation 2: Participate actively and take responsibility for your growth**
- Practice your music outside of class
- Follow rehearsal directions and contribute positively to the ensemble
- Strive to improve each day

Expectation 3: Be safe and respectful

- Treat instruments and equipment with care
- Use appropriate volume and behavior at all times
- Respect your peers, your teacher, and the rehearsal space

Positive behavior will be reinforced through praise, leadership opportunities, and recognition.
Failure to meet expectations will be addressed through reminders and reteaching.
Continued issues will result in parent contact, and if needed, an office referral.

Attendance Policy & Its Importance

Daily attendance is crucial for progress in band. Band is a team effort, and consistent participation is required for successful rehearsals and performances. Students who miss rehearsal fall behind musically and impact the group's overall sound.

Please notify the band director and the school office if your child will be absent. Frequent absences may lead to reduced performance opportunities and make it harder for students to succeed.

Learning Objectives

By the end of the first semester, students will be able to:

- Demonstrate correct posture, embouchure, and hand position
- Perform major scales and rhythmic patterns appropriate to their level
- Sight-read music within their ability range
- Identify key musical terms and symbols
- Participate in a public performance (Fall Concert or similar event)
- Collaborate effectively in an ensemble setting
- Maintain and care for their instrument

Course Resources

- Instrument (provided by family or school if eligible)
- Music Binder
- Tuner/Metronome (recommended)
- Band Method Book and UIL/Concert Literature
- Chromebook (provided by Midland ISD for digital resources)

Grading Policy
According to Midland ISD Grading Policy:

Grades will be based on a combination of rehearsal participation, individual performance checks, written assignments, and concert performances. Students will receive timely and meaningful feedback on all assignments.

- **Major Grades (60%)**
    - Performance Tests
    - Concert Performances (attendance is required)
    - Playing Assessments
- **Minor Grades (40%)**
    - Daily Participation
    - Music Theory Assignments

Semester performances will count as 15% toward the final semester grade.

Communication with students and families will occur regularly through Remind, email, or the Student Information System. Please reach out with any questions or concerns!

We are excited for a fun and productive year of music-making at Abell Junior High! Thank you for your support in helping your student grow as a musician and team member.

Please fill out the portion below and return this portion to your teacher.
We acknowledge that we have read and that we understand the expectations in 7th/8th Grade Band. We agree to contact the teacher should we have any questions or concerns regarding this instructional plan.

Parent Name: _____
Student Name: _____
Cell Phone Number: _____
E-Mail: _____
Parent Signature: _____
Student Signature: _____
Date: _____