**Curriculum**

**7th Grade Band**

**Course Overview**

Seventh Grade Band is a year long course open to woodwind, brass and percussion players with a minimum of one years’ playing experience. Students learn the basic skills of ensemble playing, fundamentals of music notation and reading, instrument care, music appreciation and performance. A broad range of music is studied, including marches, folk songs, arrangements of classics and selections from movies and musicals. Band members perform in two formal concerts per year.

**Department Standards**

* Students will sing alone and with others, a varied repertoire of music.
* Students will perform on instruments, alone and with others, a varied repertoire of music.
* Students will improvise melodies, variations, and accompaniments.
* Students will compose and arrange music within specified guidelines.
* Students will read and notate music.
* Students will listen to, analyze, and describe music.
* Students will evaluate music and music performances.
* Students will understand relationships between music, the other arts, and disciplines outside the arts.
* Students will understand music in relation to history and culture.

**Benchmarks**:

Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the theoretical basis of music through performance

Demonstrate care for instrument, sheet music and bandroom equipment

Demonstrate appropriate rehearsal and performance behaviour with a readiness to work as a team member

Interpret different styles of music appropriately

Communicate an awareness of music history and cultural heritage through sensitive performance

**Performance Indicators**

Demonstrate care for instruments and equipment

Set up music stand,chair and equipment in the appropriate place

Demonstrate good posture and confident sound production

Play a phrase demonstrating an understanding and knowledge of basic music notation

Establish eye contact with the conductor

Play a warm up using the correct fingering/technique

Show an aural awareness while listening to music, with an ability to identify instruments and style of music

Demonstrate an aural and visual awareness by playing rhythmic patterns with confidence, paying attention to the time and key signatures

Phrasing a melody with correct articulation and appropriate dynamics

Working and playing as an instrument section as well as an ensemble

Display appropriate on-stage performance behavior

Play concert Bb major basic warm ups from memory with confidence

Show an understanding of style and historical background while listening to music, with an ability to hear articulation, dynamics and phrasing

Play a phrase with appropriate articulation and vary the dynamic

Display a good basic understanding of conducting and demonstrate simple beat patterns to the rest of the class

Confident students will be able to conduct the band in class

Sight read music with conviction, demonstrate an understanding of the meter, key, articulation and dynamics

Demonstrate an understanding of rhythmic subdivision when sight reading

Show an understanding and ability to vary the tempo and dynamic by establishing eye contact with the conductor and following directions appropriately

Extended practice to master the concert repertoire

Display good on-stage etiquette and an ambition to give the best performance

**Assessments**

In-class teacher observations (correct posture, fingerings, music reading skills)

Playing tests in instrument section and solo

Theory Quizzes

As above plus:

In-class practice performance

Formal concert

In-class performance to another grade level

In-class teacher observations

Playing tests in instrument section and solo

Theory Quizzes

As above plus:

Formal end of year concert

**Core Topics**

Instrument care and band layout

Posture and sound production

Developing good practice habits

Music notation and reading

Phrasing

Following a conductor

Warm up routines

Scales & Rudiments

Listening skills

Rhythm patterns

Time Signatures

Key Signatures

Phrasing and articulation

Breathing and air control

Tempo and dynamic terminology

Singing parts

Preparation of repertoire for formal concert

Basic scales and arpeggios from memory

Listening critically

Stylistic and cultural awareness

Articulation combinations

Key Changes

Melodic variation

Conducting skills

Repertoire Expansion

Contrasting tempos and dynamics

Rhythmic subdivision

Advanced sight reading

Preparation for end of year concert

**Specific Content**

Warm up exercises no.1-6 in B flat major from 'Warm Ups & Beyond'

Exercises from 'Essential Elements' Band Method Book 1

Pieces, recent titles include:

'Bandroom Boogie'

'Majestic March'

'Appalachian Suite'

'Power Rock'

'Linus and Lucy'

As above plus:

Further repertoire, recent titles include:

'Winter Wonderland'

Warm up exercises in B flat and E flat major from 'Warm Ups and Beyond'

Further exercises from 'Essential Elements' Band Method

Further pieces, recent titles include:

'Royal Fireworks Music'

'Eye of the Tiger'

Advanced warm ups in B flat, Eb flat and F majors.

Key change studies

Articulation studies

Further exercises from Essential Elements Band Method

Further pieces, titles include:

'Farandole'

'Smoke on the Water'

**Resources**

Warm Ups & Beyond

Essential Elements 2000 Band Method

Individual Scores

CD recordings

Studywiz

Internet