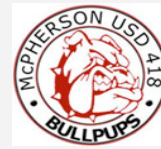


McPherson High School

Class Expectations

2008 - 2009

Period 1st hour



Instructor Kyle Hopkins

Class Band/Jazz Band

Course Description:

The mission of the McPherson High School Band Department is to provide a quality and well rounded music education for any student who is interested in being part of an outstanding program. This handbook outlines the policies and procedures that will form the foundations for excellence. If the handbook fails to serve that purpose in any capacity, the band directors reserve the right to change it or adapt it to meet the specific needs of the band program.

Music is as basic to a high school education as any other academic course. It has been a part of an essential education for young students since the days of the early Roman Empire and was included in the Quadrivium of Boethius in medieval times.

Each student has special needs and unique abilities. Therefore, every effort will be made to instruct students on both a group and individual level. The instructors will do their very best to reach each student and to help him/her gain the fullest understanding of music possible. Every student plays an important part of each group, and no single person is more important than another. The students also have a responsibility to the program and its instructors. A student must desire to learn in order to be taught. Therefore, students will be expected to be mature, disciplined and dedicated to the improvement of their individual musical skills as well as to the quality of the ensemble in which they participate. Being a member of a musical group is a team effort and each person must do his/her part, to the best of his/her abilities in order to achieve the level of excellence that will be expected of all ensembles.

The McPherson High School Band Program's reputation is based on excellence. Through hard work, cooperation and team spirit, the program will educate its students in musical understanding and will represent its school, instructors and members in the most positive way.

Materials needed for the class:

Percussionists will be asked to buy their own replacement sticks and if a school owned mallet is broken, the student will be required to replace it. Many students like to use lyres and/or flip folders to help keep music neat during Pep Band and for Marching Band until all music is memorized (which is required!). These may be purchased from a local music dealer for about \$5-\$10. Reed players are required to purchase their own reeds from any local music store. It is tempting to buy the cheapest brand (usually Rico). However, a slightly more expensive brand such as VanDoren will play better and in most instances last longer. It is wise to always have at least three reeds in your case and a reed guard to protect and preserve your reeds! If a student does not have a reed, it will be considered not having an instrument for that day.

Band music is very expensive, so if a student loses music they will be required to pay \$5 per piece of lost music so it can be replaced. District/State Band and Solo/Ensemble Festival fees will be covered from the band budget. However, if a student cancels his/her entry, he/she will be required to pay the cancelation fee of \$10. If a Band uniform is not turned in by the due date, a \$5 late fee per day will be charged for each day it is late.

A student's, or his/her family's financial status will NEVER stand in the way of full participation in the

Types of activities taking place in your classroom:

2008-2009 Calendar

(times given are student report times)

Weekdays, August 4-8 9:00 a.m.-9:00 p.m. Band Camp (9 am-noon, then 6-9 pm)

Friday, August 29 5:30 p.m. Fall Sports Preview-College Stadium @ 6:00

Thursday, September 4 6:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m. Dress Rehearsal at High School

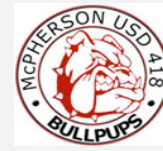
Friday, September 5 5:45 p.m. Home football game-Goddard

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Friday, September 19	5:45 p.m.	Home football game-Winfield
Wednesday, October 1	evening	District Jazz auditions-Andover (optional)
Thursday, October 9	7:30-9:30 p.m.	Dress Rehearsal at College Stadium
Friday, October 10	5:45 p.m.	Home football game-Valley Center
Monday, October 13	7:00 p.m.	Jazz Band/Orchestra concert @ 7:30
Wednesday, October 15	all day	Capitol City Marching Band Festival
Saturday, October 18	all day	Central States Marching Festival at K.S.U.
Friday, October 24	5:45 p.m.	Home football game-Great Bend
Friday, October 31	5:45 p.m.	Home football game-Hays
Saturday, November 8	all day	District Band Auditions (optional)
Tuesday, November 11	T.B.D.	Veteran's Day Parade (optional)

How students will be evaluated:

Grading Criteria

Band is a performance oriented class, so participation in daily rehearsals (40%) and attendance at performances (30%) carry great weight in determining quarterly grades. Each performance is a culmination of weeks of work and only under the most extenuating of circumstances will a missed performance be excused. If a conflict does arise, notify Mr. Hopkins as early as possible with a signed note from a parent. An unexcused absence at a performance will result in a loss of all points for that performance and a lowered semester grade by one full letter ("A" to a "B").

Points lost because of an excused absence at a performance or rehearsal can be made up by seeing Mr. Hopkins within one week of the absence and completing an assigned task or project within the period of time specified by Mr. Hopkins. Points lost because of an unexcused absence at a rehearsal or performance cannot be made up.

Work is not an acceptable excuse for any missed rehearsal or performance. MHS school policy is also very clear that a performance/game in any school activity takes precedence over another activity's practice. Coaches and sponsors of other activities will support this school policy. We would never expect you to miss or be late to a game or performance in another activity because of a band rehearsal and we ask for that same respect in return.

Tardies are a significant problem for any band or group activity because a rehearsal cannot begin

Discipline rules and expectations:

Band Rules

Instill pride and excellence in ALL of your actions. All district and school rules and policies apply anytime we are together as the McPherson High School Band.
NO TALKING OR INDIVIDUAL PLAYING WHEN THE CONDUCTOR IS ON THE PODIUM.

Three whistles or the attention command from a director or drum major-the band is silent while coming to complete attention. Concert Band-the band becomes silent when the director takes the podium to begin rehearsal.

Use respectful actions and language at all times toward students and staff. No students are allowed in the band office without permission. No food, drink (including gum) or wearing hats are allowed in the band room.

Never use someone else's instrument without permission. Only percussionists should play drum equipment and only color guard should handle their equipment. This includes walking to and from the practice field.

Each day be prepared for band with all your music, supplies and equipment. You are

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expected to be ready to play with your equipment assembled by the class bell.

Consequences for inappropriate classroom behavior:

Consequences

- Forfeit daily participation points-a MAJOR (40%) portion of your grade
- Lose privileges such as third quarter breaks during games and/or
- Attend a detention-assigned when severity of behavior warrants it and/or for every 3rd loss of participation points (for any reason) in a grading period.
- Teacher/parent conference

Additional Comments

Rehearsals and Practices

Early Morning and Thursday Practices

During marching band season, we will begin practice each morning at 7:45 a.m. As we progress during the season, this start time will be moved later. During marching band season we will also practice Thursday evenings. Most Thursday evening rehearsals will be sectionals. However, two times during the season we will have REQUIRED dress rehearsals. Check the calendar for those dates. Like other band rehearsals and performances, work is NOT an acceptable excuse. If you must miss for a valid reason, make sure that you inform Mr. Hopkins both verbally and in a parent signed note. If you miss a Thursday practice without prior approval from Mr. Hopkins, you will not get the points. Plan ahead!

Sectionals

Thursday evenings will be sectional rehearsals, but a sectional can also be an extra rehearsal usually called for by the section leader and in some instances a Band director. Any time a sectional is called, it is essential that all section members attend. The section leader should take roll and let Mr. Hopkins know if certain members do not attend without an acceptable excuse. Sectionals are used to improve the overall quality of the section. Memory, dynamics, pitch, etc. should be the goals of the rehearsal and not just playing through the songs. These rehearsals, if handled properly, can do a lot toward building section unity both socially and musically. No band can truly be outstanding without regular sectional work. Section leaders should take it upon themselves to develop a regular sectional routine that fits the schedules of the section's members.

Instructor's Name

Name of Class:

Kyle Hopkins

Band/Jazz Band

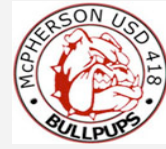
I have read and understand the Classroom Expectation:

Parent/Guardian signature

Date

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Instructor Kyle Hopkins

Class Band/Jazz Band

Student signature

Date