

**Plymouth Middle Schools  
Music Program  
Course Syllabus**

**Course Name** Band  
**Grade** Grade 8

**Course Description**

Students in the Grade 8 Band will be continuing their progress of learning to play an instrument in preparation for continuing at the high school level. Emphasis will be on developing technique, ensemble skills, and performance experience with musical styles from a variety of musical genres. Students will develop musical independence and will be called upon to make their own musical decisions. Small ensemble performance will be a part of this class. Students will be able to perform music at a 2.5 - 3 grade level. Students will have the opportunity to audition for regional honor groups (Southeast Jr. District, Jr. SEMSBA, and All-Town Band). Assessments will be based on a student's performance. Students will be expected to participate in all performances both during school hours and evening school performances.

**Instructional Objectives**

*Students will:*

1. Use correct technique and posture;
2. Use appropriate embouchure and hand positions;
3. Improvise and compose simple melodic patterns;
4. Identify and describe basic elements of music: beat, tempo, rhythm, meter, pitch, melody, texture, dynamics, and form;
5. Use appropriate terminology in describing music, music notation, and music performances;
6. Use movement in response to music while performing and listening to music;
7. Demonstrate an understanding of good care of instruments;
8. Develop and maintain an effective practice routine; and
9. Develop and demonstrate appropriate rehearsal, performance, and audience behavior.

**Text and Instructional Materials**

Middle School Band Library  
*Standard of Excellence Book 3*  
*Teacher Recommendation*  
*Teaching Music Through Performance in Band*

**Performance Opportunities**

Students will perform in regularly scheduled evening performances throughout the school year. Additional performance opportunities may include:

- All – Town Band Festival
- SE Jr. District and SEMSBA music Festivals
- MICCA Festival
- Jazz Band (after-school ensemble)
- Small Ensembles
- Invitational concerts
- Musical and social events/ interactions with the High School Band
- Local and regional field trips

**Grading Policy**

Student grades are determined by their performance through the following tasks and assignments.

Performances	30%
Performance Assessments/Participation	30%
Quizzes and Tests	15%
Homework and practice	10%
Cooperation/Class Preparation	15%

## **Learning Sequence**

### **Term 1**

Review of note reading  
Chromatic scale in 2 octaves / full range of instruments  
Junior District solo introduction and audition requirements  
Key signature review (Bb, F, C, Ab, G, Db, D, Gb, A)  
Sight reading (MENC grade 2 music)  
Improvisation assignment  
Preparation for Holiday Concert

### **Term 2**

Holiday Concert  
Scale tests: Bb, F, Ab, C, G, Db, D, Gb, A  
Composition assignment  
Sight reading  
Junior SEMSBA solo introduction and audition requirements  
Junior District Auditions (optional)  
    Small ensembles  
Preparation for All-Town Band Festival

### **Term 3**

All Town Band Festival  
Key signature tests  
Rhythm tests  
Small ensembles  
Composition / Improvisation assignment and performances  
Sight reading  
Junior SEMSBA Audition (optional)  
Preparation of Spring Concert  
Southeast Jr. District Music Festival (qualifying students)  
Possible Music Festival/Competition

### **Term 4**

Spring Concert  
Jr. SEMSBA Music Festival (qualifying students)  
Final performance assessments  
Sight reading (MENC grade 3 music)  
Composition assignment and performances  
Final Written Exam  
End of the year review / reflections  
Marching techniques (Memorial Day parade)