



Liberty Middle School

281 Dock Murphy Drive, Madison, Alabama 35758

Beginner Band Mrs. Sims and Mr. Curtis

Teacher Contact Information	<p>Email: ksims@madisoncity.k12.al.us wecurtis@madisoncity.k12.al.us</p> <p>Classroom Phone: 256-430-0001 ext. 83500 (Sims), or ext. 83501 (Curtis)</p>
Classroom Digital Platforms	<p>Band Webpage Link: https://www.madisoncity.k12.al.us/domain/562 Schoology Link: https://madisoncity.schoology.com/home</p>
Textbook Information and Other Instructional Materials	<p>Tradition of Excellence, Book 1 (instrument specific)</p> <p><i>Parents and guardians can access other supplementary materials through the Schoology platform.</i></p>
Course Description	<p>Beginner Band is a year-long class designed for the student who has not played a band instrument before. Membership is open to students in 6th, 7th, and 8th grades. Fundamentals of playing a musical instrument and accurate reading of music are stressed. Instruments must be provided by each student. Students must attend an instrument screening where the band directors will help guide your student through the instrument selection process and provide information for purchasing or renting an instrument. Students in band are expected to participate in three evening concerts each year for a major portion of their grade.</p>
Course Objectives	<p>Students in Beginner Band will learn to control and maintain a good characteristic tone on their instruments. They will be able to maintain a steady pulse within a musical meter, and will demonstrate accurate rhythmic proficiency for both notes and rests. Students will develop appropriate instrument fundamentals including tone production, articulation, fingerings, phrasing, and dynamics. Students will develop correct playing posture and hand position. Students will also exhibit appropriate etiquette during rehearsals and performances.</p>
Course Outline	<p>Overarching Objective: Basic Music Reading and Instrument Fundamentals Unit 1: Holiday Music Preparation (Final Assessment - Winter Concert) Unit 2: Dessert Concert Music Preparation (Final Assessment - Dessert Concert) Unit 3: Solo and Ensemble Fundamentals (Final Assessment - Solo Performance) Unit 4: Spring Concert Music Preparation (Final Assessment - Spring Concert)</p>
Classroom Expectations	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Cell phones must be powered down and in a backpack from 8:15 am - 3:20 pm 2. Be seated and ready for class when the bell rings. Receiving multiple tardies to class will result in disciplinary action following LMS policy. 3. Students must have all required equipment for every rehearsal: instrument, book, music, pencil, instrument accessories (ie. reeds, mouthpiece, neck strap, sticks/mallets, etc). 4. Respect your directors, your classmates, and yourself. 5. Listen and follow directions. 6. Do not touch other student's instruments or equipment. Do not play other student's instruments. Do not trade instruments. 7. Follow all school rules. 8. No eating or drinking (except water) in the band room. Gum is never allowed during class time. 9. Only band students are allowed to enter the band room. 10. The teacher dismisses the class, not the bell. <p>All students must follow the Madison City Schools Code of Conduct.</p>

Technology & Cell Phone/Digital Device Procedures	<p>Effective July 1, 2025, the use, operation, or possession of Wireless Communications Devices including but not limited to cellular telephones, tablet computers, laptop computers, pagers, gaming devices, smart watches, earphones or headphones in school buildings or on school grounds during the Instructional Day, is prohibited. Violation of Board policy with respect to such use, operation, or possession of Wireless Communication Devices may constitute a Class II. Madison City Schools has outlined an Electronic/Wireless Device Policy (Policy 6.20) on page 137 of the MCS Policy Manual.</p> <p>Students should bring their MCS chromebooks and chargers to class each day. Teachers monitor student activity and participation; however, students are responsible for their activity on school-issued devices and using their MCS accounts.</p>
Progressive Discipline	<p>Liberty Middle School Classroom Management Plan:</p> <p>Step 1: Verbal warning</p> <p>Step 2: Student/teacher conference with parent notification</p> <p>Step 3: Parent contact/conference</p> <p>Step 4: Detention</p> <p>Step 5: Referral to administration for repeat Class I violations and initial Class II and Class III offenses (Madison City Schools Code of Conduct)</p>
Grading Policy (MCS Policy)	<p>60% = Assessments (Playing Tests, Required Performances)</p> <p>40% = Daily Grades (Music Checks, Quizzes, Homework)</p>
Late Work Policy	<p>A student may make up missed assignments; however, they will lose points for work turned in late:</p> <p>Work that is <u>less</u> than 1 week past due (minus 10 points)</p> <p>Work that is <u>more</u> than 1 week past due (minus 20 points)</p> <p>Work may <u>not</u> be submitted after the grading period ends</p>
Make-up Work/Test Policy	<p>Students with excused absences will be allowed to make-up all work within 1 week of returning to school without being penalized. It is the student's responsibility to ask for make-up work. Students can consult with a classmate or teacher for help. Work that is not made up will become a zero (including quizzes/tests).</p> <p>Please see the <i>LMS Band Handbook</i> for policies pertaining to missed playing assignments or missed performances due to absences.</p>
Materials & Supplies	<p>Tradition of Excellence, Book 1 (specific to each instrument)</p> <p>Instrument and required instrument accessories (i.e. reeds, neck straps, valve oil, slide grease, etc.)</p> <p>Appropriate instrument cleaning supplies (varies by instrument)</p> <p>Pencils</p> <p>Folding stand (recommended for at home practice - not required for class)</p>
Homework	<p>Students are expected to practice their instruments for 10 minutes each day. Practice objectives will be given each day.</p>
Band Booster Organization	<p>The LMS Band Boosters is a parent organization which supports the band by providing fundraising, chaperoning, and logistical assistance. The Boosters meet once each 9-weeks in the LMS Band room. Parents of students in all ensembles are encouraged to attend. The first LMS Band Boosters meeting will take place on Aug. 25 at 6:30pm. All other meeting dates can be found on the LMS Band yearly calendar of events.</p>
Parent & Student Acknowledgment Form	<p>Please read the <i>LMS Band Handbook</i> which is available on Schoology, the Liberty Middle School Band website, and Mrs. Sims' and Mr. Curtis's teacher pages on the LMS website. Please also sign the <i>Parent and Student Acknowledgement Form</i> sent home with your student (this is also available on the Liberty Middle School Band website.)</p> <p>By signing the Signature Page, the student and parent acknowledge understanding and agreement of the policies, procedures, and expectations of the Liberty Middle School Band program outlined in the Band Handbook and Band Syllabus.</p>

This syllabus is subject to change.