



Liberty Middle School

281 Dock Murphy Drive, Madison, Alabama 35758

Symphonic Band

Mrs. Rakoff and Mrs. Sims

Teacher Contact Information	Email: grakoff@madisoncity.k12.al.us ksims@madisoncity.k12.al.us Classroom Phone: 256-430-0001 ext. 83500 (Sims), or ext. 83501 (Rakoff)
Classroom Digital Platforms	Band Webpage Link: https://www.madisoncity.k12.al.us/domain/562 Schoology Link: https://madisoncity.schoology.com/home CHARMS platform Link: https://www.charmsoffice.com/
Textbook Information	Tuned In, A Comprehensive Approach to Band Intonation, arr. Balmages/Herring
Course Description	This course is designed for students that already know how to play an instrument. An audition is required. Instruments must be provided by each student. Students in this band continue to develop and refine basic individual and ensemble skills as well as begin to learn more advanced concepts and skills. Students in Symphonic Bands are eligible for the (optional) Spring Band trip. Mandatory graded performances include (but are not limited to) three evening concerts per year, all Pep Band performances, and Music Performance Assessment for a major portion of their grade. All students in the Symphonic Band are required to audition for District 1 Honor Band/ AL All-State Band. Additional individual performances/events are optional at the student's discretion.
Course Objectives	Students in the Symphonic Band will produce a consistent characteristic tone, and exhibit good intonation alone or within the ensemble. Students will master rhythmic accuracy up to sixteenth notes and sixteenth rests in both simple and compound meters. Students will develop awareness and understanding of ensemble playing; with consideration for balance, blend, style, and expression. Students will exhibit proper musical and mechanical fundamentals on their instruments. Students are expected to master their assigned musical selections at performance level accuracy.
Mandatory Events and Performances <i>these events and performances count as a Test Grade</i>	Sep 2: Pep Band Performance Sep 9: Pep Band Performance Sep 30: Pep Band Performance Dec 10: Liberty Middle School Bands Winter Concert Jan 28-29: D1 Honor Band/All-State auditions Feb 26: Liberty Middle School Bands Italian Dinner Concert Mar TBD: Music Performance Assessment Apr 2: Solo and Ensemble Festival (not required) May 12: Liberty Middle School Bands Spring Concert
Classroom Expectations	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. When the bell rings, enter the band room, get your instrument from the storage room, and sit in your assigned chair. Do not play your instrument until instructed. 2. Students will be considered tardy when not seated at the downbeat of the warm-up. 3. Students must have all required equipment for every rehearsal: instrument, book, pencil, instrument accessories (ie. reeds, mouthpiece, neck strap, sticks/mallets, etc). 4. Respect your directors, your classmates, and yourself. 5. Listen and follow directions. Do not talk during rehearsals unless given permission. 6. Do not touch other student's instruments or equipment. Do not play other student's instruments. Do not trade instruments. 7. There is no food or drink (except water) allowed in the band room. Gum is never allowed in the band room. 8. Only band students are allowed to enter the band room. 9. The teacher dismisses the class, not the bell.

<p>Progressive Discipline (LMS Policy)</p>	<p>Step 1: Verbal warning Step 2: Student/teacher conference Step 3: Parent contact/conference Step 4: Detention and a parent contact Step 5: Office referral</p>
<p>Grading Policy (MCS Policy)</p>	<p>60% = Assessments (Playing Tests, Required Performances) 40% = Daily Grades (Music Checks, Quizzes, Homework) 70% = High School Credit Assessments 30% = High School Daily Grades</p>
<p>Late Work Policy</p>	<p>A student may make up missed assignments; however, they will lose points for work turned in late: Work that is less than 1 week past due (minus 10 points) Work that is between 1 & 2 weeks past due (minus 20 points) Work that is more than 2 weeks past due (minus 30 points) Work may NOT be submitted after the grading period ends</p>
<p>Make-up Work/Test Policy</p>	<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. Please see the <i>LMS Band Handbook</i> for policies pertaining to missed playing assignments or missed performances due to excused absences. Students will not be allowed to make up work for unexcused absences as per Madison City Schools policy. Work missed in these instances will result in a zero.</p>
<p>Technology</p>	<p>Student laptops should not be hard-wired to the network or have print capabilities. Use of discs, flash drives, jump drives, or other USB devices will not be allowed on Madison City computers. Neither the teacher, nor the school is responsible for broken, stolen, or lost laptops. Laptops and other electronic devices will be used at the individual discretion of the teacher.</p>
<p>Accommodations</p>	<p>Requests for accommodations for this course or any school event are welcomed from students and parents.</p>
<p>Materials & Supplies</p>	<p>Tuned In, A Comprehensive Approach to Band Intonation (specific to each instrument) Required instrument accessories (i.e. reeds, neck straps, valve oil, slide grease, etc.) Appropriate instrument cleaning supplies (varies by instrument) Pencils Flip folder and lyre Folding stand (recommended)</p>
<p>Homework</p>	<p>Students are expected to practice 15-20 minutes each day. Practice assignments will be given each day at the end of rehearsal. During weeks without a mandatory performance, students may be assigned a recorded (video) playing excerpt to be submitted on Schoology.</p>
<p>Band Booster Organization</p>	<p>The LMS Band Boosters is a parent organization which supports the band by providing fund raising, 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 meeting of the LMS Band Boosters will take place on Aug. 30 at 7:00pm. All other meeting dates can be found in the LMS Band yearly calendar of events.</p>
<p>Parent & Student Acknowledgment Form</p>	<p>Please read the <i>LMS Band Handbook</i> which is available on CHARMS, the Liberty Middle School Band website, and Mrs. Rakoff's and Mrs. Sims' teacher pages on the LMS website. Please also print and sign the <i>Parent and Student Acknowledgement Form</i> on the Liberty Middle School Band website. 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.