

Liberty Middle School
Symphonic Band

2019-2020

Mrs. Gwen Rakoff

COURSE SYLLABUS

Course Description

The Symphonic Band is the top performing ensemble in the band program. 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 Concert and Symphonic Band are eligible for the (optional) Spring Band Trip. Mandatory graded performances include (but are not limited to) one evening concert per semester, all home LMS football games, one away football game, pep band performances, and the MPA (Music Performance Assessment) State Competition. More performance opportunities are experienced. Individual help is offered to students participating in individual events.

Supply List

Method Book Required for All-State Auditions (specific to each instrument)
Appropriate instrument cleaning supplies (varies by instrument)
Flip folder and Lyre (specific to each instrument)
Folding stand (recommended)

Classroom Expectations

The students in the Liberty Band program are expected to behave with respect and consideration for fellow band members, parent volunteers, and the band director. Privately owned and school-owned instruments and equipment will be treated with appropriate care and usage practices. Students of the LMS Band will adhere to the attendance, discipline, and performance expectations outlined in the LMS Band Handbook and the MCS Student Code of Conduct.

Grading Policy

- 60% test grades, 40% daily grades

Opportunities to Make Up Work / Late Work Acceptance

Missed assignments and/or playing tests may be made up by appointment, either before or after school. If a chair-placement test is missed, the grade may be made up, but the student will sit last chair until the next chair test is given. In the case of missed performances, an alternate assignment may be completed only for excused absences. Acceptable excused absences are outlined in the LMS Band Handbook.

LMS Testing Days

Wednesday and Friday	Science and Math
Tuesday and Thursday	Social Studies and Language Arts
Monday and Thursday	Electives

Communication

- a. Mrs. Rakoff's school email: grakoff@madisoncity.k12.al.us
- b. CHARMS: Each student will be trained on the uses of CHARMS. Parent information/usage instructions will be given at the Band Booster meeting on Aug. 26.
- c. Google Classroom

Technology

Students may bring Smart devices to band rehearsal. These devices may be used only with permission from the director, and will be utilized mainly for tuning or metronome applications. Any use of a Smart device without permission, or for inappropriate means, will result in the student's loss of usage privileges for the device.

Student and Parent Signature required

Please read the LMS Band Handbook which is available on CHARMS, the Liberty Middle School Band website, and Mrs. Rakoff's and Mrs. Sims' teacher pages on the LMS 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.