



# Turn of River Middle School

## COURSE SYLLABUS

Course Title: Band

**Teacher(s): Mrs. Irene Guda**  
**Teacher's email: [iguda@stamfordct.gov](mailto:iguda@stamfordct.gov)**

**Grade: (6-8)**

**Course Description:** Summary of what will be covered in this class.

Welcome to Mrs. Guda's instrumental music class! My class is designed to develop life-long musicianship through playing and performing using musical instruments. Students will improve their skills on their chosen instrument, while also deepening their understanding of music's written language. Students will also grow to understand music vocabulary. This class is a performance-based course, so students will participate in a two concerts as well as march in parades.

**Scope and Sequence:** Major topics covered throughout the year with a general timeline.

### 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter:

- Review previously learned notes and rhythms
- Learn/Review Bb concert scale
- Learn and practice etudes from Essential Elements 2000
- Focus on basic skills such as posture, finger position and instrument care
- Prepare for upcoming performances

### 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter:

- Begin working on concert-length music
- Add new notes and rhythms to our musical repertoire
- Focus on articulation

-Begin preparation for the Winter Concert

### 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter

- Continue adding new notes and rhythms
- Learn minor scales
- Prepare for Spring Concert
- Focus on breath support and tone quality
- Perform in Winter Concert (Gr. 7/8)

### 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter

- Focus on marching and playing (6<sup>th</sup> Gr.)
- Prepare for the final parade
- End of year assessments/instrument return
- Perform in Spring/Gr. 6 Concert and Parade

**Proficiency Targets (Student Learning Objectives):** Students taking this course will know and be able to...

- Perform music through playing an instrument
- Understand the written language of music through reading and performing music
- Analyze music through evaluating recordings and performances
- Grow and develop musical skills on their chosen instrument
- Understand musical vocabulary and apply it to performance, such as volume and speed
- Work together as a team to perform
- Learn responsibility through home practice and bringing their instrument

**Assessment:** Various evaluation tools used in this course.

In my class, I use a variety of evaluation techniques. Much of the evaluation is through observation and performances, but students will also have written quizzes and recorded playing quizzes to assess their progress. Playing quizzes will be recorded at home, and evaluations will be passed back during class. These are a very important part of the assessment process, and more instructions will be given out as the quizzes are assigned. Students will also be responsible for completing a weekly practice log and having it signed by a parent.

**Homework Expectations:** Frequency and how students will be held accountable.

This class has very little written homework, however students are expected to practice during the week. They then have to fill out practice sheets that must be signed by a parent and returned at the end of each week for their homework grade.

**Grading Procedures:** How do we determine grades for this course?

-Participation and Behavior	50%
-Practice Sheets and other homework	10%
-Playing Tests and other quizzes	20%
-Concerts and Other Performances	20%

\*If there is no scheduled performance during a quarter, the weighting will be as follows:

-Participation and Behavior	70%
-Practice Sheets and other written assignments	10%
-Playing tests	20%