



## **Instrumental Ensemble (Beginning Band)**

**Andy Deen**

**The Villages High School**

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**Room 325**

### **Course Description**

This course is an accelerated beginning band course designed to prepare students for ensemble membership. After one year in this course, students will have gained the musical competencies needed to become members of the Marching and Concert Bands at VHS.

### **Course Content**

This course is an independent practice period which will allow students to excel at their own pace. Most of the time will be spent working in method books in SmartMusic.

### **Required Materials**

-Students enrolled in this course will be **REQUIRED** to rent an appropriate band instrument from the school or from an approved rental provider.

-Instrument and all necessary reeds, mouthpieces, valve oil, etc.

-Music and folder, as issued

**-#2 Pencil WITH ERASER**

*Failure to bring required materials will result in a loss of participation points for the day. Students without an instrument must follow along in the music and "click" the part on a pencil or pen.*

### **Grading Policy**

The majority of the evaluation for this class is based on playing tests administered in SmartMusic

Bellringer- are you ready to play?	<b>10% (Compliance)</b>
Participation- do you have your required materials?	
Homework- written assignments (rare)	<b>90% (Mastery)</b>
Performance Readiness	
Tests- Playing Tests through SmartMusic	

### **Smart Music**

- All students enrolled in Instrumental Ensemble will maintain a SmartMusic account for playing tests. Students may test from home if they pay the \$40 annual subscription fee. They may also test at school (using the macs in the practice room) and may test before/after school.
- To download SmartMusic, visit [smartmusic.com](http://smartmusic.com). Be sure to enroll in your appropriate class so that I receive your submissions.

## **Classroom Procedures**

- When the bell rings, all students must be seated with instruments, music, and a pencil
- Food and drinks (other than water) are not permitted in the music room. A detention will be issued on the first offense.
- Bathroom passes are not issued except in case of emergency or documented medical condition.
- Talking and warming up cease when the conductor steps on the podium.
- Cell phones may not be visible at any time. Cell phones resting on music stands OR cell phones that ring/vibrate during rehearsal will be confiscated for the remainder of the school day. A detention will be issued on the first offense.

## **Participation**

Students are expected to remain on-task for all 50 minutes of the practice period.

Characteristics of “on task” practicing include:

- Sustained musical focus
- Systematic repetitions to clean a difficult passage
- Working with a tuner/metronome

Examples of “off-task” or unfocused practice include:

- Practicing with a partner (unless preparing a duet or trio)
- Watching YouTube videos
- texting
- leaving the room

## **Equipment**

Each student will be held responsible for all instruments and uniforms issued to them. Although the school will cover normal wear-and-tear, the student will be financially responsible for any damages that occur as the result of neglect or misuse. No student may use any instrument/equipment unless they have signed it out.

## **Consequences**

Each student will be held accountable for the choices they make. A violation to the classroom procedures will result in the following series of consequences:

- |             |                               |
|-------------|-------------------------------|
| Step One:   | Verbal Warning                |
| Step Two:   | Parent contact                |
| Step Three: | Detention                     |
| Step Four:  | Referral to Discipline office |

**Please detach the following page, sign, and return to Mr. Deen by the next school day.  
This will count as a writing assignment.**

### **Instrumental Ensemble Syllabus Acknowledgement**

I have read and understand the course description and class procedures for the Band course and I will do my best each day to abide by them and will encourage my child to abide by them.

**Class Period** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Student's Signature**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Date**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Student's Printed Name**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Date**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Parent's Signature**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Date**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Parent's Email Address**

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**Parent's Phone Number**

Please list any special conditions of this student that the teacher should be aware of:

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