



RADNOR TOWNSHIP SCHOOL DISTRICT
Course Overview



Course Name: 8th Grade Band
Course # 7880

General Information

Credits: N/A

Weighted: N/A

Prerequisite: Successful completion of 7th Grade Band or equivalent experience.

Length: Full Year

Format: Meets twice every six-day cycle; one group lesson every six-day cycle

Grade: 8

Course Description

The 8th Grade Concert Band extends the opportunity for students who have received instruction on a band instrument for at least three years prior (or equivalent) to continue instruction and performance on their selected band instrument as part of a large grade-level ensemble. Primary focus is placed on continued sequential skill development on the student's instrument in their fourth year of playing, as well as advancing ensemble performance, listening and higher-order musical skills. Within each six-day rotation, students meet twice for large ensemble rehearsal, and also have one instrument-specific group lesson.

Course Objectives:

The objective of this course is to provide the opportunity for the students to grow as ensemble musicians, to increase their knowledge and application of instrumental technique, and their knowledge of historical and technical aspects of music beyond the level achieved in 7th grade band.

- To continue skill advancement in the areas of tone production, note and rhythmic reading, technique development, ensemble performance (blend among sections/balance between sections), and musical expressiveness.
- To perform their parts accurately and with appropriate, expected musical expression within their instrument sections, and among the other sections of the ensemble, creating a cohesive and expressive reproduction of the composer's intent.
- To combine aural, visual, and kinesthetic-tactile domains in the performance of their instrument, and to develop skill to be able to respond appropriately to split-second changes that often occur during performance.
- To contribute to the large group in developing a unique and characteristic ensemble sound.

Common Assessments:

Quarterly Music Assessment: Once each quarter, students are assessed on a specific scale(s), exercises from method book and/or excerpts of performance repertoire. As part of each assessment, students are evaluated on Performance Fundamentals, Individual and Ensemble Performance, Technique Development, and Musical Expression (see below – Major Units of Study).

Major Units of Study:

As band instrument instruction is sequential by nature, elements of music and instrumental pedagogy are taught concurrently and expanded upon as student skill allows rather than compartmentalized into individual units. Main content areas include:

- 1. Instrument operation, care & handling;**
- 2. Performance Fundamentals** (tone production, breath support, embouchure, (sticking/mallet technique for percussion);
- 3. Individual and Ensemble Performance** (note and rhythmic reading and fingering, listening skills, key signatures, blend and balance);
- 4. Technique Development** (note and range extension, flexibility, intervals, extended and alternate note fingerings); and
- 5. Musical Expression** (Articulations; changing tempo; expanding ranges of performance tempo; changing dynamics to enhance expression; musical vocabulary)

Materials & Texts

Accent on Achievement, Book 3 (O'Reilly & Williams; Alfred Publishing Co);
Standard of Excellence, Book 3 (Bruce Pearson; Kjos Publishing Co);
Skill Builders, Book 2 (Balent & Hilliard; Carl Fischer, Inc.);
Supplementary materials: Function Chorales by Stephen Melillo
Selected band performance repertoire.