

## Instrumental Music (Band)

Mr. Pfaff

Welcome to Instrumental Music.

Below is a brief description of some of the expectations and policies for the upcoming year. This should be read over and kept in your folder to refer to during the school year. This should also be shown to your parents. I will be happy to answer any questions you have.

### COURSE DESCRIPTION

Students receive specific instruction on their instrument one day a week (woodwind, brass or percussion) and mixed ensemble instruction one additional day a week.

During AT LEAST the first six weeks of this course, students will be reviewing (or *learning* in some cases) rudimentary skills on their instrument. During this time we will NOT be rehearsing any music for performance. This stage of the course is designed to build a solid foundation and will yield higher quality music when we do start to rehearse performance material.

### STUDENT EXPECTATIONS

You are expected to:

Come to class prepared and on time (with your instrument, book, and a good attitude!).

Behave appropriately in class.

Work well with others AND independently.

Show respect to your classmates and your teacher.

Practice regularly.

Actively participate in the lessons and rehearsals.

Students are expected to follow the schools policies. (See Student Handbook.)

## GRADING

You are graded on Practice and Performance.

### 50% of grade

#### Practice Grade

This grade is earned during sectional rehearsals, when we are reviewing previous assignments (material to learn) and starting new ones. In the past I have required a practice log for this portion of the grade, but have come to believe that practice is a matter of quality over quantity. Sixty minutes of focused, concentrated time on the assigned material is vastly superior to endless hours of playing what you already know or otherwise “messing around.”

Also, be aware that you can make use of the practice rooms in the music suite during school time.

### 50% of grade

#### Performance Grade

This grade is earned during our full-ensemble rehearsals. This is where we *perform* this material -- demonstrating not only that you have practiced well, but that you cooperate, take direction, and take an interest in the common goal of making great music. An excellent performance grade comes from your professional attitude and demeanor.

Additionally, instrumental ensembles perform a number of times throughout the year. Attendance and participation in these performances is **MANDATORY**. Only in rare and extreme circumstances would a student be excused from a performance. Unexcused absence from a performance will result in a two-letter drop in marking period grade. I post dates and times of performances in class and at [andrewpfaff.com/BCTHSmusic](http://andrewpfaff.com/BCTHSmusic) as they become available.

## MATERIALS

Students must purchase their own band books.

The required text is called Foundations for Superior Performance by Richard Williams and Jeff King. List price is \$5.95. Be sure to buy the edition meant for your instrument. The Music Gallery, 201 Bergen Tpke., (201) 814-1415, has copies on order.

Students are expected to come to class prepared with the necessary materials. Every student should bring the following to each class:

- Instrument (in working condition and with necessary accessories)
- Textbook/Workbook
- Pencil

## STUDENT ABSENCES AND LATENESS

When a student is absent, he/she is expected to make up any missed work and is responsible for any material covered. The student will be expected to get the notes for the missed lesson(s) from a classmate. When a student misses a lesson, it is his/her responsibility to arrange for and attend a make-up lesson.

If a student is/will be absent for an extended period of time, arrangements can be made for the student to receive the assignments at home.

A student is considered late to class when arriving without a pass after the bell has rung.

## CONTACTING ME

If you have any questions for me or there are any matters you would like to discuss, now or any time throughout the year, feel free to speak with me outside of class time or email me at [andpfa@bergen.org](mailto:andpfa@bergen.org).

This invitation also extends to your parents and/or guardians, who are encouraged to contact me at any time. They may also contact me by phone at the school by leaving a message for me.

Good luck!

Mr. Pfaff

**BY SIGNING BELOW, YOU ACKNOWLEDGE THE FOLLOWING:**

I have received and read the information given to me by my teacher. This includes student expectations, the grading policy, and the materials needed. I understand the policies explained by my teacher. I have also shown this material to my parent / guardian.

STUDENT INFORMATION -- Please fill out and return

Students name

Students signature

\_\_\_\_\_

Parent or Guardians name(s)

Parent or Guardians signature

\_\_\_\_\_

Home phone number

Best Time to Call

\_\_\_\_\_

Daytime phone number

Best Time to Call

\_\_\_\_\_

Parent / Guardians Email address(es)

\_\_\_\_\_

Mailing address

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

September 5, 2007

Dear Parent or Guardian,

Your son/daughter is taking Instrumental Music as part of his/her course schedule this year.

As his/her teacher, I look forward to working with your child and I will work hard to give him/her quality professional instruction. There are certain responsibilities that must be maintained by the students in order to be successful. Your child has received some general information about the course, including student expectations and the grading policy. I have asked that he/she show you this material. Please take a few moments to review this information with him/her.

I maintain a website (<http://www.andrewpfaff.com/BCTHSmusic>) with information about this and other BCTHS music courses, including a calendar of events.

Please feel free to contact me at any time throughout the year if you have any questions. You can leave a message for me at (201) 343 6000 xt 5148 or I can be emailed at [andpfa@bergen.org](mailto:andpfa@bergen.org).

Sincerely,

Mr. Andrew Pfaff  
Music Instructor