**CASTAIC MIDDLE SCHOOL**

7/8 Percussion Ensemble Mr. Chandler

Room M6

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Hi, my name is Mr. Chandler, and I am your child’s music teacher. I am THRILLED to have your child in my percussion class! Your child has made the decision that they would like to be a part of our music program by learning the musical world of percussion. This class gives them the opportunity to do so, and it will continue to develop critical life skills through the unique avenue of instrumental music. These skills fall under the category of **what it means to be a musician**, and include some of the following: **hard work**, **perseverance, patience**, and **teamwork**. Students will be able to answer essential questions such as “Why is music such an integral part of the human experience?” and “How is personal preference for music developed?” This class will be covering the 5 common core state standards for visual and performing arts, which include the following:

1. ARTISTIC PERCEPTION
2. CREATIVE EXPRESSION
3. HISTORICAL AND CULTURAL CONTEXT
4. AESTHETIC VALUING
5. CONNECTIONS, RELATIONSHIPS, APPLICATIONS

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

The CMS Music Program provides students an opportunity to develop their musical skills throughout the entire school year. Percussion Ensemble will be working throughout the year out of the following book: *Essential Elements for Band.* We will have a class set for students to learn from, but it is recommended that students purchase their own book so they can practice at home. Books may be loaned out if needed, but students can purchase them on the CMS Music Website, which is <http://www.cmsroarsmusic.org/books.html>. Although practice pads and drum sticks will be loaned to students, it is recommended that students purchase their own drum sticks and practice pad, so they do not have to bring them to and from school.

Practice pads and the preferable Vic Firth 5A drum sticks can be found at this link:

<https://www.amazon.com/Vic-Firth-Nylon-Nova-Drumsticks/dp/B0002E3GBY/ref=sr_1_2?crid=2MSOT51GKPBTO&keywords=vic+firth+5a+drum+sticks&qid=1660662089&sprefix=vic+firth+5a+drum+sticks%2Caps%2C123&sr=8-2>

The same style of sticks with higher wood quality can be found at this link:

<https://www.amazon.com/Vic-Firth-Nylon-Nova-Drumsticks/dp/B0002E3GBY/ref=sr_1_2?crid=2MSOT51GKPBTO&keywords=vic+firth+5a+drum+sticks&qid=1660662089&sprefix=vic+firth+5a+drum+sticks%2Caps%2C123&sr=8-2>

*Essential Elements for Band* is a comprehensive band method book that will allow each musician to build their musical skills by means of scaffolded instruction. This book will help beginners to gain self-confidence and a sense of accomplishment quickly through its focus on music fundamentals. This book will also help students gain the confidence and the skills necessary to play additional, more complex music literature for public performances.

**PERFORMANCES**

There will be numerous required public performances that will occur during the school year. Major concerts include our fall, winter, spring, and combined middle/high school public performance at Castaic High School. Dates for these concerts will be announced at back to school night on August 24th.

Concert Dress Code

Every student in band at Castaic Middle School is expected to follow a set of guidelines for dressing appropriately at band concerts. The uniform for a concert is as follows:

* Men: BLACK dress pants, WHITE dress shirt, BLACK BOW TIE, BLACK dress socks, BLACK dress shoes
* Women: Long BLACK dresses below the knee, or BLACK dress pants and BLACK dress blouse with sleeves, BLACK dress shoes. Please wear shoes that you can move up and down stairs safely (while carrying your instrument). Hose are optional but encouraged.

Why such a strict dress code?

* Our MUSIC is the focus of our concerts, not the personal fashion choices of any individual.
* What we achieve as an ensemble, we achieve TOGETHER. Our uniform is an expression of that sentiment.
* As musicians, our entire energy in rehearsal and performance is spent in the world of sound. However, the visual world always takes precedence in the human brain. We need to dress and act in a way that puts the audience's focus on our MUSIC.
* If you have any questions about our dress code policy, please contact me early in the year so that appropriate clothing can be found for your child.

**Honor Band** Each year, on the last day of January and the first day of February, the William S. Hart Union High School District holds “Honor Band” auditions for students in middle and high school instrumental programs throughout Santa Clarita. Castaic Middle School has participated in this program since the school first opened in 1980. Students in their second year of Percussion Ensemble will be required to participate in auditions as part of their musical growth and experience. During the first semester and the month of January, students will be preparing for these auditions during class and will have all the tools necessary to give them success in their audition. If students apply themselves by making the time to practicing diligently outside of class, they will highly increase their chances of making their audition. Those students who are selected for this school year’s honor band, will have the opportunity to attend two rehearsals with other musicians who were selected, and will perform a concert together in the Hart High School Auditorium. More information will be given out to students and their families as the time draws closer for auditions.

**CLASSOOM RULES**

**Be on time:** Students will be given 5 minutes to set up their instruments, get their music ready in front of them on their music stand, and be seated ready to tune and warm up.

**Be prepared:** Music folders will be provided to the students for them to write on and keep their music in. **Any student that takes his or her instrument and music home, must remember to bring it back the following day of class**, unless otherwise specified.Instrument lockers are provided for the students to keep their instruments in each day so they do not have to carry it around school all day. Students must bring a pencil and paper with them every day. However, if the student forgets or runs out, there are extra supplies in the classroom.

**Be attentive:** When the director is on the podium, students must be focused and not stray from the task at hand. **If a student has a question, they must raise their hand and wait to be called upon, or they may write it down to ask after class.** Directions will be given throughout rehearsal; students within each instrumental section must respond accordingly and in a timely fashion.

**Be respectful**: An important part of growing as a musician is being able to learn in a comfortable and secure environment. Treat others with respect and offer help to those who need it. If I am giving directions, please be quiet. Disrupting the class repeatedly will result in a demerit or a referral to the principal’s office. If other students are playing or speaking, please set an example for them and listen respectfully. Part of being respectful in this class includes showing respect to the music you are learning. This means that you take care of your music folder and do not lose track of your music. It also means that when playing your music, always give your best effort. Treat each piece of music as if the composer is there listening. Please do not play others instruments.

**ATTENDANCE POLICY** – If a student knows they are going to be missing class, it is their responsibility to come by during my office hours to ask for work ahead of time. If they are unable to notify me in advance of their absence, I am more than happy to let them know what they missed. Students who are tardy without a pass from the office will be marked late and will receive a demerit.

**LATE WORK POLICY** – Each day an assignment is late will result in a 10% deduction from the total points for that assignment. If a student has an excused absence, I will allow one additional day for them to receive full credit.

**CLASROOM TEXTBOOKS and SUPPLIES** – *Essential Elements for Band* (provided) Students are expected to bring their own paper and pencil, and are encouraged to purchase their own composition notebook for monthly journal entries.

**GRADING POLICY**

90%-100% = A

80%-89% = B

70%-79% = C

60%-69% = D

59% and below = F

Practice Logs (25%):

**Practice hours outside of class will be required starting in August. Each student will be required to practice a minimum of 15 hours per month.** This is a necessity if students want to see personal, steady musical growth. A musician will not excel without hard work and dedication, and any consistent, structured practice outside of class will be of exponential benefit. ***Private lessons are highly recommended, and I can provide a list of instructors if so desired*.** At the end of the month, if students have completed the minimum of 15 hours of practice required, they will receive full credit. Students who consistently turn in their weekly practice logs as expected, will find that 15 hours per month is far less than they realized!

Playing Tests (45%):

Throughout the semester, students will be tested in person at times, during class, as a way of monitoring their progress and showing their knowledge of the music literature being learned. These frequent playing tests will help students set their own goals and also gain confidence for further musical opportunities such as honor band auditions and public performances.

Musician Summaries (15%):

This class will have written assignments throughout the year about professional musicians and recordings. Each month students will be required to complete one “listening summary” and one “musician summary”. A list of professional musicians and recordings will be provided to each student at the beginning of the year. Each summary written must be at least half a page, and must address the following questions:

1. What is the title of the piece and the name of the musician/group of musicians?
2. What did you learn from your research or listening? Please be specific.
3. What is one thing you can take away from this assignment that will help you in your growth as a musician?

Written Tests/Quizzes (10%):

There will be a number of quizzes throughout the year that will take place at the beginning of class. These quizzes will be short but helpful for students to test their knowledge about musical terms and concepts that have been covered. Questions will be drawn from the music they are playing in class and the vocabulary that is presented in their *Essential Elements for Band* method book. Academic Dishonesty will not be tolerated. Any student that is caught cheating or plagiarizing on any assignment whatsoever, will be given an immediate failing grade without a chance for make-up.

Sight Reading (5%):

Students will be graded on their sight-reading progress throughout the year, measured by their daily fundamentals practice routine and their ability to read through intermediate to advanced music literature without stopping.

**TEACHER CONFERENCE PERIOD and EXTRA ASSISTANCE**

My conference time is during my 1st period. Because CMS runs on a rotation block schedule, my 1st period falls on every odd day.

Odd Day 1: 9:30-11:00

Odd Day 3: 1:30-3:00

Odd Day 5: 11:20-12:50

**PARENTS!**

If your child needs any additional help or needs to come by to pick up or make up an assignment due to an absence, I am available during my office hours, as listed above. If you would like to schedule an appointment to meet with me in person, you can see my conference period hours, as listed above. The quickest and easiest way to get in touch with me I through email or Jupiter Ed. My email address and phone extension are listed at the top of this syllabus. Please feel free to contact me anytime you have questions or concerns.

My email address and phone extension our listed at the top of this syllabus. Please feel free to contact me any time if you have questions or concerns about your student.

This is your first super easy homework assignment of the year! All you have to do is sign and return this sheet showing me that you have read and understand this syllabus☺

Student name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Student signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parent(s) name(s): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parent signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Comments or concerns?

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