

2025-2026 Homer Middle School Band Syllabus

Hello! Welcome to a new year of band at Homer Middle School. I am very excited to start this year and work with all of you. Please take some time to carefully look over this syllabus; it details class requirements and grading practices.

Class requirements:

Coming to class prepared every day is essential to the success of both individual students and the group. Every student is expected to have the following in class every day:

- Their instrument in good working order. This means:

Woodwinds (Clarinets, saxophones, flutes):

- Woodwind players need to provide the following:
 - Reeds- All saxophones and clarinet players are responsible for providing their own reeds. Students should always have at least two working reeds. The following brands recommended due to their reliable quality control:
 - Rico, Rico Royal, Vandoren Traditional, D'Addario Reserve, D'Addario Mitchell Lurie, Vandoren Juno.
 - 7th grade students will generally be using 2.0 and 2.5 hardness reeds.
 - 8th grade students will generally be using 2.5 and 3.0 hardness reeds. Additionally, some 8th grade students may choose to purchase Legere synthetic reeds- Please contact me for guidance if you choose to switch to synthetic reeds.
 - Cleaning swabs.
 - Cork grease.

Brass:

- Brass players need to provide the following:
 - Trumpets, French horns, tubas, and euphoniums need valve oil (such as Al Cass Fast).
 - Trombones need slide oil- either slide-o-mix rapid comfort or Yamaha liquid trombone slide lubricant.
 - All brass players need to provide tuning slide grease.

Percussion:

- Percussion players need to provide the following (these should be clearly marked with your name):
 - 1 pair general snare drum sticks
 - General xylophone mallets (hard rubber)
 - Medium Marimba mallets (yarn)
 - Medium Timpani mallets
- These can be purchased locally or from online suppliers as individual components or in kits such as the following examples:
 - <https://www.steveweissmusic.com/product/mallettech-scholastic-pack-essentials-sp2/stick-mallet-pack#full-description>
 - <https://www.steveweissmusic.com/product/stick-pack/stick-mallet-pack#full-description>
 - <https://www.steveweissmusic.com/product/bestseller-stick-pack-1/stick-mallet-pack#full-description>
- A sharpened pencil with an eraser.
- Class texts. In band, this means your book and any music that you receive.
- A good attitude and a willingness to learn.

Fees:

- Course fees will be assessed by the office.

Grades:

Semester Grades will be calculated as follows:

- 50% Quarter 1
- 50% Quarter 2

Your quarterly grade will be made up of the following:

- Engagement. Students are required to demonstrate and recognize individual competency in an ensemble setting. Student grades will be based upon bringing required materials to class, response to instructor directions, and demonstrated proficiency and growth on assigned materials.
- Playing assignments - Students will be assigned musical exercises that they will be required to play for quizzes on assigned dates.
- Required Performances- Students are expected to attend each concert.
- Additional assignments will be given by the instructor as needed. These may include pop quizzes.

Concerts and concert attire:

A calendar with all required concerts will be distributed during the first week of school. If you have a conflict for with any of the scheduled concerts (such as a religious event, pre-existing family plans, etc...) or an unplanned emergency or illness occurs, it is your responsibility to contact your child's instructor as early as possible to arrange for a make-up assignment. Failure to do so may result in a failing grade for the semester.

Concert Attire is as follows:

Men- Nice slacks (no blue jeans), shirt with a collar (no t-shirts please, no logos), and dark shoes (dress shoes would be the best!). Our preferred dress code is dress slacks, a dress shirt and tie, and dress shoes.

Women- A nice dress, dress slacks or pants, or knee length or longer skirt, a nice shirt or blouse, and dark shoes (dress shoes would be best, no flip-flops).

Practice:

Students should practice 20-30 minutes every night at home. I recommend setting aside a regularly scheduled time (as frequently as possible) to practice every day. Regular at home practice will help students stay caught up in class.

Contact Information:

I can be reached at (907) 235-4667 or by e-mail to esimondsen@kpbsd.k12.ak.us