

**Fairview Middle School
Instrumental Music Syllabus
2025-2026**

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Objective

Students will learn, understand, and execute the performance fundamentals, technical preparation, and musical effects required for instrumental music of the highest quality they can perform.

Course Descriptions

Exploratory Band: This class introduces students to the instruments in band and teaches the basics of individual and ensemble performance skills.

White Band: This beginning band class teaches the fundamentals of instrumental performance, musical literacy, and musical effect.

Red Band: This intermediate band class continues the development of individual and ensemble performance skills and engages critical thinking with new repertoire.

Blue Band: This advanced band class refines individual and ensemble performance skills with an emphasis on artistic expression and cross-curricular connections. **Blue Band has rehearsal after school on Wednesday** and may have additional rehearsals to prepare for important events.

Jazz Band: This advanced ensemble meets during homeroom. Students are admitted by audition only, which takes place at the end of the prior school year. The Jazz Band performs at numerous events in the community. Students must be enrolled in a Fairview band or choir class to participate in Jazz Band.

Student Expectations in Band

Think: Students will think about music and many topics that connect to music. Students will respectfully contemplate new concepts and think critically as they expand their musical knowledge.

Feel: Students will consider the feelings expressed by music. Students will perform with emotion and communicate feelings to listeners. Students will care for the classroom and respect the learning environment. Students will demonstrate compassion for others in their words and deeds.

Do: Students will actively participate in learning. This includes but is not limited to: Practice your instrument with purpose. Put your best judgement into practice. Work hard; play hard. Take responsibility for yourself. Do that which is helpful, just, and honorable.

How to Do Band Class

Band class works differently from many other classes. The following behaviors will help students to have a safe, supportive, and productive class:

1. One band, one sound.
2. Fail forward! Mistakes are expected and encouraged.
3. Be patient. The skills we learn are not equally challenging for everyone.
4. Encourage one another. Shuffling is a good way to do this.
5. Never be off-task. Practice your instrument silently when it is not your turn to play.
6. Do not play with equipment belonging to others. This includes percussion instruments.
7. Try to solve problems yourself.
8. Take your time. The ensemble will not wait for you, and that's a good thing!
9. Do not waste time. If you are consistently unprepared, then there is a bigger problem.
10. Address individual or private concerns outside of ensemble time. Email is usually best.

Band is not about you or me; band is about us.

How Competency-Based Grading Works

Most assignments are worth 1 point. Students must competently perform the objectives of the assignment to earn credit. There is no partial credit. **Not-competent or missing assessments may be re-submitted an unlimited number of times until 11:59pm on the last official day of the 9-weeks.** Every student has the opportunity to earn an A. Keep trying — you can do it!

Students will earn the following grades on assignments:

- **1 for competent, on-time work.** On-time means that the first attempt was properly submitted by the due date.
- **0.75 for competent, late work.** Late means that the first attempt was properly submitted after the due date.
- **0 for not-competent work** that should be re-submitted by the student.

Assessments (70% of final grade)

Playing assessments: Playing assessments will be required most weeks. These will be submitted by recorded video.

Proper submission of videos: All videos must show the student's face, hands, and instrument, and the performance must be clearly audible, for the video to be accepted as submitted.

Feedback and resubmission: If a student receives a grade of not-competent (0) on any assessment, the student will receive written feedback for improvement via Canvas. The student must read the

feedback, practice to make corrections, and then re-submit the assessment. **The final deadline for re-submissions is 11:59pm on the last official day of the 9-weeks.**

Written quizzes: Quizzes are graded for competency in the same way as video assessments. Quizzes should also be re-submitted if the student does not pass on the first attempt.

Concerts: All performances count for a double assessment grade (2 points). Students will be graded on their musical performance, behavior, and wearing proper concert attire. This includes helping with set-up before the concert and helping with clean-up after the concert. Improper participation before, during, or after the concert may result in a student losing credit for the performance grade.

End-of-semester exams: Mid-term and final exams count for a double assessment grade (2 points).

Class Participation/Homework (20% of final grade)

Competent Class Participation means that students are ready to begin learning on-time, actively participate, and work diligently throughout the class period or rehearsal. **One point is earned for each day of class.** In-class written assignments may also factor into this grade. There will be no resubmissions or make-up assignments for this category.

Approaches to Learning (10% of final grade)

Competent Approaches to Learning means that a student has all materials for class and has completed the business of course participation. **One point is earned for each week of class.** Approaches to Learning will include additional assignments such as parent signatures, forms submitted, borrowed items returned, etc. There will be no resubmissions or make-up assignments for this category.

Concert Policies

Attire: Students must wear a white dress shirt, black dress slacks or skirt, all-black shoes, black socks or tights, all-black belt (optional), and all-black tie (optional). Skirts must be 3/4 or full length (no visible knees). Jewelry should be kept to a tasteful minimum. No bare legs, torn jeans, sandals, or athletic wear. If your family has financial difficulty acquiring this attire, contact Dr. Douty several weeks before the concert. Assistance is available!

Concert etiquette: It is important that everyone can enjoy the concert without distraction. Guests and students in the audience should be quiet and still during each performance, should prevent distractions with electronics, and should applaud enthusiastically after each piece. **All students should remain for the duration of the concert** and be polite and encouraging to their peers.

Conflicts or emergencies: In the event of a conflicting obligation (school athletics, family trip, etc.) or an emergency that prevents a student from attending a concert, **a make-up video assessment must be submitted that includes all concert music.** This assessment will not appear on Canvas. The student must record the concert make-up video and email it to Dr. Douty or bring it to school on a thumb drive. Unexcused absences from performances will not be eligible for a make-up assessment.

Class Materials

Students should have the following with them for every class:

- Instrument
- All required materials for that instrument (reeds, valve oil, mallets, etc.)
- Pencil
- Music folder, including all handouts provided to the student
- Lesson Books
- Chromebook

A detailed list of required materials for each instrument will be provided by Dr. Douty.

Instrument Requirement

Each family provides the instrument and equipment for their child. You may rent or purchase an instrument. Students take pride in having their own instrument. It is an investment that will last for many years and provide countless opportunities for entertainment, joy, learning, and growth.

We strongly recommend two local vendors for musical instruments and equipment: Playground Music (850-320-6463) and Music Masters (850-224-6158). They provide excellent service and reasonable terms for rental or purchase of an instrument. Check with them first.

If you desire to purchase an instrument from a different vendor, PLEASE check with Dr. Douty before you buy. There are many inferior quality instruments available on the internet that will break easily, sound bad, and will cause frustration for you and your student. Dr. Douty will help you in your search so that you are able to make an informed, quality purchase.

If the cost of an instrument will make it difficult for any student to participate in band, contact Dr. Douty to rent an instrument from the school. These instruments are for families facing financial difficulty. A maintenance fee of \$100 is required to pay for the upkeep of the school instrument. In the event of severe hardship, we ask each family to contribute what they can reasonably afford.

Care of instruments and equipment is the responsibility of each student. Neither Dr. Douty nor Fairview Middle School is responsible for damage or loss of instruments/equipment in the student's care. If school-owned instruments/equipment are damaged or lost by a student, repair or replacement costs will be billed to the student's family.

Other than providing an instrument and materials for your child, there is no required participation fee for band at Fairview Middle School.

Optional Expenses and Band Sponsorships

A school-year FMS band t-shirt will be available for purchase. The shirt is sold at cost; this is not a fundraiser. Students are encouraged (not required) to purchase the shirt to show their band pride. Students who choose to participate in the amusement park field trip are required to have the shirt for the trip.

Red and Blue Band trip to perform at an amusement park. Students are encouraged (not required) to participate in this trip. It is really exciting to perform for a live, public audience! And then we have fun in the park the rest of the day! Trip fees are paid by each student, but students may lower their cost by participating in fundraisers. To qualify for the trip, students in Red or Blue Band must have an overall “B” average (or better) in band class for the first three nine-week grading periods.

Families and businesses/organizations can provide sponsorships to keep costs down for low-income families. Please donate if you can! This is not a required fee, but it makes band affordable for many, many students. Your donation is tax-deductible. A receipt will be sent home with your child.

Family sponsorship, \$50: Your name will appear in band concert programs (or anonymous, if preferred) and you will be given 4 vouchers for admittance to any ticketed athletics or fine arts events sponsored and hosted by Fairview Middle School.

Business/organization sponsorship, \$250: Your name will appear in band concert programs (or anonymous, if preferred) and you will have a sign advertising your support of Fairview that will be visible in the car pickup line.

All fees/donations are non-refundable. Checks should be made out to FMS Band.

Parent Chaperones and Background Checks

We need parent chaperones for band events! To be responsible for students, chaperones must have a Level 2 background check from Leon County Schools (cost is approximately \$75). The background check is good for five years, and it allows parents to supervise students at any school activity. Parents of all band students are strongly encouraged to get involved! For additional details, please contact our band parent coordinator, Nicole Fish, at nikita9041@gmail.com or 850-694-9711.

After-School and Before-School Activities

After-School Tutoring — Tuesday & Thursday, 4:00pm to 5:00pm — Dr. Douty is available to tutor students who would like extra help with band assignments. This is optional for any band student. No appointment necessary. Before you come, make sure you have a ride home at 5:00pm!

Before-School Practice Time — every day, 8:45am to 9:23am — Students who are unable to practice at home may receive a written pass to practice in the band room before school. Students must request the pass from Dr. Douty, and they must show the pass to the hall monitor when they enter the school. Students may not come without a pass.

Blue Band Rehearsal — Wednesday, 4:00pm to 5:30pm — Blue Band meets after school to rehearse important repertoire and sometimes do fun activities that don’t fit in the school day! All Blue Band students are expected to attend unless they are participating in another Fairview Middle School club or sport. If you need transportation home after rehearsal, tell Dr. Douty so he can arrange a ride. If you have conflicts with this rehearsal time, contact Dr. Douty ahead of time.

If Dr. Douty is not available for after-school or before-school activities, notification will be sent via Remind.

Performances and Events

Performances listed below in bold count for a double assessment grade. Notification will be provided via Remind if any dates/times change, or if events are added.

Aug 28, 6pm: Band Parent Meeting and Instrument Rental Night in FMS band room (for new band students and parents)

Sept 13, individual times: All-State Band auditions at Leon HS (for participants)

Oct 7, 6pm: First Concert in FMS cafeteria (required for White Band and Jazz Band)

Oct 25, details TBA: Perform Star Spangled Banner at Marching MPA (optional)

Nov 1, individual times: District Band auditions at Lincoln HS (optional, counts as Blue Band midterm grade)

Nov 6, 6pm: District Jazz Band Reading Rehearsal (for participants)

Nov 13-15, details TBA: District Jazz Band (for participants)

Nov 18, 6pm: Fall Concert in FMS cafeteria (required for Red Band and Blue Band)

Nov 18-22: Popcorn fundraiser

Dec 2-4, details TBA: Jazz Band Elementary School Tour (Jazz Band)

Dec 13, details TBA: Southwood Winter Fest (required for Jazz Band)

Dec 16, 6pm: Winter Concert in FMS cafeteria (required for White Band and Jazz Band)

Dec 19, 4pm-midnight: Band-A-Thon rehearsal (Blue Band)

Jan 14-17: All-State Band in Tampa, FL (for participants)

Jan 19: 12pm-6pm: Jazz Band mini-camp (Jazz Band)

Jan 22, 6pm: District Band Reading Rehearsal in FMS band room (for participants)

Jan 29-31, details TBA: District Band at Chiles HS (for participants)

Feb 4-5, details TBA: Pre-MPA at FSU (required for Red Band and Blue Band)

Feb 4-11: Pizza fundraiser

Feb 12, details TBA: Jazz Band MPA at Rickards HS (Jazz Band)

Feb 13-14, details TBA: Host State-Qualifying Solo & Ensemble at Fairview (volunteer service hours available!)

Feb 25, 6pm-8:30pm, Concert MPA rehearsal at Rickards auditorium (Blue Band)

Mar 5-7, details TBA: Concert Band MPA at Leon HS (required for Red Band and Blue Band)

Mar 11, during lunch: Beginning Band concert in FMS cafeteria (required for White Band)

Mar 29, individual times: Solo & Ensemble practice at John Wesley UMC (for participants)

Apr 10-11, individual times: Band Solo & Ensemble at Montford MS (for participants)

Apr 28, 7pm: Joint Concert with Rickards HS Band (required for Red Band and Blue Band)

May 2, details TBA: Jazz in the Park at Cascades Park (Jazz Band)

May 5, 6pm: Spring Concert in FMS cafeteria (required for White Band and Jazz Band)

May 6, 5:45pm: Band Spring Trip parent meeting (participating members of Red Band and Blue Band)

May 9, details TBA: Band Spring Trip (participating members of Red Band and Blue Band)

Communication

All band parents/guardians must sign up for the Remind text message service to receive important information throughout the school year. Follow the instructions on the handout for your child's class. Signing up for Remind counts for an Approaches to Learning grade.

Any questions for Dr. Douty should be communicated via email (doutym@leonschools.net) or the **Remind** texting system. In the event of an emergency, call the school office at **850-488-6880**.

Parent/Guardian Agreement and Digital Signature

For a student to participate in band, a parent or legal guardian must digitally sign the syllabus to indicate that they have read, understood, and agree to support the expectations, policies, and procedures for the upcoming school year. Signing the syllabus also counts for an Approaches to Learning grade for every band student.

Parents/guardians, **electronically sign this syllabus by completing both steps:**

1. **Join the Remind text messaging service, using this year's course code for your child's band class (provided on a separate sheet of paper).** You must re-do this every school year, or you will not receive updates about band events this year.
2. **Send a message via Remind that includes the full name of the band student, and the name of the parent/guardian who reviewed the syllabus.**

If you are unable to digitally sign the syllabus using the Remind system, please contact Dr. Douty by email or phone for assistance.