

SYLLABUS FOR MONRONEY BEGINNING BAND 2008-09

Holly Fike and Jackie Gilley, Monroney Band Directors, teach all beginning band classes. Their planning period is 1st period, 8:10-9:10 a.m. They may be contacted either by phone, 739-1786 x232, or by email, jjgilley@mid-del.k12.ok.us or hfike@mid-del.k12.ok.us.

The Monroney Beginning Band is comprised of three separate beginning band classes: Percussion class, Woodwind class, and Brass class. Students who enroll in these classes should have no previous band experience or have not achieved mastery in more than one beginning band method book. The Beginning Band classes concentrate on learning fundamentals of rhythm, tone production, technique, musical terms, music history, and the PASS requirements for the fine arts.

Students are expected to provide an instrument if they select the flute, clarinet, alto saxophone, trumpet, trombone, or percussion. Due to the expense of some of the larger instruments, the Monroney Band provides instruments for students who select French horn, baritone, or tuba. In November, we will audition students who would like to learn a “secondary” instrument. These “secondary” instruments include: oboe, bassoon, and bass clarinet. Students who play the secondary instruments or larger instruments must sign a loan agreement, provide the mouthpiece, reeds, and other necessary accessories, and also pay for any damages or repair to the instrument, as well as the \$50 annual usage fee.

Students are also expected to purchase the beginning band book, *Essential Elements 2000 Book 1*. Percussion students are required to purchase additional books, *A Fresh Approach to Mallet Percussion* and *A Fresh Approach to the Snare Drum* both by Mark Wessels. All students except percussionists are also required to purchase a “care kit” for their instruments so they might take care of the horn and avoid costly repairs.

The Beginning Band shall perform for the following events: Beginning Band “First Concert (10/13), Christmas Concert (12/5), Spring Concert (5/5), Heartland Music Fest/Frontier City Contest (4/18), and a “recruitment tour” to the elementary schools (12/12). Students shall also have other opportunities to perform or compete at the Mid-Del Beginning Honor Band (3/2) and Mid-Del Solo & Ensemble Contest (4/25). Scholastic eligibility is a requirement for the student to perform in any competitions or miss any classes during the school day.

All grades are based upon a 100-point system. Grades shall be based upon the following: passoff exercises from the band book; weekly theory tests; special reports; worksheets and notespellers; responsibility grades for returning paperwork and newsletters by deadline dates. Concerts and other performances are worth 300 points; points are deducted if students are tardy or absent for these events.

Chair order shall be determined by our “passoff system.” Students are given a list of required exercises at the beginning of each nine weeks. Students must perform the passoff exercise perfectly while also tapping the left foot. Once students have passed the exercise, 100 points is marked in the gradebook and the exercise is dated on the passoff chart. Each student may progress at his/her own speed BUT a minimum number of passoffs is required each week to pass the class. Students may passoff in any of the following ways: in class on Tuesdays or Thursdays; on a cassette tape that is turned in with the band book before school; before school on days the directors are available. Passoff charts are located on the east wall of the band room; parents are welcome to check the charts at any time.

NOTE: Please sign the page attached to the Policies & Procedures handout to signify you have read the course syllabus and accept the above conditions. Thank you for supporting your child in band!