



Course Syllabus

Middle School Beginning Band

Mrs. Urbano & Mr. Cisneros



Class: 3rd, 4th, 7th and 8th Period Beginning Band | BAND MS 1

Classroom: Band Hall

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PHILOSOPHY

The Dobie Roadrunner Bands operate under the following philosophy:

Our middle school band program is designed to promote a basic understanding and appreciation for music, as well as provide the necessary skills to allow our students to participate in a wide variety of instrumental ensemble settings. Our bands are the heart and soul of our school, and our biggest goal is to steward musicianship and belonging for our students by providing a safe place to express, create, and bond. Our student's experiences in our band and mariachi programs will prepare and motivate them to successfully continue participating in music programs after leaving middle school.

The Austin ISD Fine Arts Department believes that a Fine Arts education is essential for the development of the **whole child**. The arts provide students with unique experiences that allow them to explore their passions, maximize their creativity and critical thinking skills, and learn valuable lessons about self-motivation, dedication, teamwork and communication.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Middle School Concert Beginning Band is open to instrumentalists in all grade levels who want to study instrumental music. Middle School Concert Bands meet 3 days a week during class time, and will be separated by instrument category for their first year of classes, with a combined instrumental concert in both winter and spring. This course develops additional skills necessary for students to perform in the High School Instrumental Ensembles, and beyond.

COURSE MATERIALS

All Solo, Small Group, and Ensemble **music** used for study are provided. Additional **handouts** are provided for enrichment study outside of practice and performance venues and rehearsals. Students will be issued an instrument belonging to Dobie Middle School (rental), and are responsible for its safety and wellbeing. Students will pay a \$30 Instrumental fee that includes instrument maintenance and rental costs, band shirt, accessory items (i.e. reeds, cork grease, tuning slide grease, valve oil), class binders, flip folders, etc. Students are expected to have their instrument, music, pencil, and a highlighter for EVERY rehearsal. Students will also need to download and have access to THE BAND APP and MUSECLASS, either on their phones or chromebooks for communications and assignments.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

1. Develop skills in instrumental music related to performing, analyzing, creating, and responding to music.
2. Develop skills in instrumental music to become successful musicians and 21st century citizens.
3. Demonstrate skills in instrumental music that contribute positively to culture and the school community.
4. Connect with our community and beyond through musical performances and experiences.

ASSESSMENTS & GRADING

Assessments & Grades will be calculated each nine weeks and will fall into 1 of 3 categories – Rehearsal Participation (50%), Performances (30%), and Quarterly Evaluations (20%). Rubrics will be provided to students prior to assessments. A description of the assessments and the categories in which they fall are listed below.

Assessment	Percentage of Grade
Daily Rehearsal Evaluation (Participation)	50%
9WKS Performance	30%
Quarterly Evaluations (Tests) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quizzes (Paper or BLEND) • Chair Tests • Recordings (MuseClass) 	20%

CONCERT PERFORMANCES:

Concerts are the culminating project of each quarter. Attendance and performance at these events is expected. Failure to attend will require the student to play the entire concert for Mrs. Urbano & Mr. Cisneros. Concerts for the 2024-2025 school year and times are listed below.

Winter Concert - Thursday, December 12th at 6:00PM	Spring Concert - Thursday, May 8th at 6:00PM
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EXPECTATIONS:

In addition to the rules stated in the AISD & Dobie student handbook, the following rule is *paramount* in the band program:

"Do not do anything that is detrimental to your success as a person and as a musician in our band program."

- Be in your assigned seat with instrument, music, and pencil no later than THREE MINUTES after the bell rings.
- **Do not chew gum during class or rehearsal.**
- Respect the facilities, equipment, and the musical abilities of your peers.
- Take responsibility for your behavior and performance in rehearsal.
- Do not leave personal belongings & food in the band room, lockers, or practice rooms.
- All Concert Band Students are assigned a locker to store their instrument & music. You are responsible for the upkeep of your locker.
- Students are expected to remain in the room during rehearsal unless directed to another practice space by the director. Students must sign out to use the water fountain and rest rooms.

FAIR-SHARE FEE

ALL Band students are billed a \$30.00 Instrument Rental / Supply Fee. This fee helps cover individual needs for the band program such as: district & region fees, UIL fees, music licensing, music copies, instrument maintenance, supplies (reeds, valve oil, slide grease, etc.) clinicians and master classes, student award and incentives, method books, experiences, extra activities for the students, etc. You may pay this fee directly, or use fundraising earnings.

DOBIE INSTRUMENT RENTAL

At Dobie, we are proud to have instruments available for every student to rent from the school. All that is needed is the "Instrument Rental Agreement Form" that can be found at the end of this handbook. In most cases, our Band program can repair minor wear-and-tear for instruments. However, ***students will be held financially responsible for the repair of any excessive damages occurring from student negligence in the care of a school owned instrument.*** In the event this maintenance fee creates a severe financial hardship, please contact one of the band directors, so that an alternative payment plan or other ideas may be considered.

INSTRUMENT STORAGE

During the first week of school, all students will be assigned a band locker. All band members are required to leave their instruments in their designated locker slots located in the band hall BEFORE their first class period. They should NOT be taken around the school from class to class - this is how they go missing. They are expected to pick them up immediately after school. Dobie/AISD will not be responsible for lost or damaged instruments.

FUNDRAISING:

The Band will provide several fundraisers this year. Our first fundraiser is scheduled to be Snap!Raise. The money raised by our students is used for the operating expenses of the whole band, i.e. repairing school-owned instruments, buying new instruments, new equipment for the band hall, music for concerts, solos, ensembles, clinicians and transportation, etc. Our fundraiser lasts two weeks from the starting date. Students are not required to participate in fundraising activities, however, it is highly recommended for the success of the DMS Band Program.

STUDENTS MAY USE FUNDRAISERS TO PAY for Fairshare Fees, Trips or Private Lessons!!!

Fundraising profit cannot be refunded to students/families. Fundraising profits can be credited to another band member if needed. Any money left over will go toward the band activity account to help pay for operating expenses at the end of the school year.

PAYMENT INFORMATION:

For Fairshare Fee or Fundraising, we accept cash (soon we will accept cards, too.) Money MUST always be turned in to our Dobie Band Directors to avoid the money getting "forgotten" by another party. Please refrain from sending coins and use exact change when sending cash. Each student will be given a receipt upon turning in their fee. ONE FEE PER HOUSEHOLD!

Student Name: _____ Class: _____ Grade: _____

Beginning Band 2024-2025

Please initial each line to verify that you have read our policies:

		Student	Parent
Course Materials	pg. 1	_____	_____
Assessments & Grading	pg. 1	_____	_____
Concert Performances	pg. 2	_____	_____
Expectations	pg. 2	_____	_____
Fair-Share Fee	pg. 2	_____	_____
Instrument Rentals	pg. 2	_____	_____
Instrument Storage	pg. 2	_____	_____
Fundraising & Payments	pg. 2	_____	_____

DO DO NOT give Dobie Band permission to use my child's photo electronically (yearbook, website, social media).

I have read and understand all of the information from the Dobie Middle School Beginning Band Syllabus and agree to abide by the stated policies.

<p>Student Signature</p> <p>Parent/Guardian Signature</p> <p>Date</p>

FUNDRAISING PARTICIPATION *(Please check one):*

_____ I **DO** give my son/daughter permission to participate in **FUNDRAISERS** for the Dobie Middle School Band program. I understand that my child is responsible and will be held responsible for all items that he/she checks out from a band director.

_____ I **DO NOT** give my son/daughter permission to participate in fundraisers for the Dobie Middle School Band program.

PRIVATE LESSONS

_____ I am interested in scheduling private music lessons.

PARENT/BOOSTER HELP for opportunities with dates, please initial

*Starred events are for 7th/8th grade parents only

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| _____ Office/Clerical Help (any time during the year) | _____ Door Greeters for Concerts (see dates on calendar) |
| _____ Counting Money (after fundraisers) | _____ Hispanic Heritage Assembly |
| _____ Uniform Fittings (9/5-9/8) | _____ Black History Month Assembly |
| _____ Dress Hemming (light hand stitch) | _____ HopeFest (October) |
| _____ *Chaperone Navarro HS game | _____ KidsFest (April) |
| _____ *Chaperone NEHS Game | _____ Music Library (data entry, filing) |

Due by Friday, August 30, 2024

(the best birthday gift you can give to Mrs. Urbano is turning in this form and your fair share fee!!)

DOBIE INSTRUMENT RENTAL AGREEMENT

We are pleased to provide your child with a school-owned instrument for his/her use during the 2024-2025 school year. At the end of the school year, the instrument is to be returned to the school. It can then be reissued for the following school year, when a new rental agreement has been completed. **Sign and return this rental agreement to your child's Band Directors. They will not be permitted to take the instrument from school until it is turned in.** Thank you for your participation and support of our music program!

Please Note:

The District is not responsible for instruments left on the school bus, in student lockers or unsecured facilities.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Student's Name: _____

Grade: _____ Home Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

INSTRUMENT INFORMATION

Instrument type: _____ Brand: _____

Serial # _____ Date Issued: _____

Condition: _____

In consideration of the Dobie Fine Arts Department releasing the above equipment to my son/daughter, I agree to take full responsibility for the care of the instrument described above, including loss or damage to the instrument beyond normal wear and tear for the 2024-25 school year. **I understand that I will be responsible to pay for any damage to the instrument.** I also understand that if the instrument is not returned to school at the end of the school year stated above, I will be obligated to pay the school district the sum of \$_____ which is the replacement cost of the instrument to Austin ISD.

Signature of Parent or Guardian

Date

TO BE FILLED BY DIRECTOR

Instrument Returned: _____

Date Damage: _____

Teacher's Signature _____