Covington Community Schools

Middle School Band Curriculum Guide

## Beginning Band

1. Students will learn and demonstrate proper rehearsal procedures and behaviors which are designed to provide the basis for further success.

1. The students will be able to count whole, half, quarter, eighth notes and corresponding rests. Also, students will have a clear understanding of dotted half- and quarter-note rhythms. Students will also have experience in the following time signatures: 4/4, 3/4, 2/4, and alla breve.

1. The students will demonstrate an ability to play the following concert scales: Bb, Eb, Ab, Db, G, C, and F Major. Also, students will be able to play a one- octave Bb chromatic scale in quarter notes ascending and descending.

1. The students will be taught from a method book of recognized quality (currently: Essential Elements Bk.1, for winds as well as other appropriate supplemental materials.

1. The students will learn pertinent musical terms and symbols as presented in their beginning band method book and sheet music.

1. Students will learn to actively participate in critical listening to all the instrument families (e.g.- woodwind, brass, and percussion,) and will be able to demonstrate an ability to balance their individual sounds with those of other band members.

1. Students will be familiar with the proper procedure for tuning their instruments and will demonstrate a rudimentary knowledge of some of the more common pitch tendencies of their instruments.

1. Proper breathing technique and use of air will be established through breathing and phrasing exercises where applicable.

1. The recognition of pitches on the staff and appropriate responses thereto will be strongly emphasized in an attempt to develop strong sight-reading skills.
2. Each student playing a wind instrument will be taught the proper techniques to develop a good embouchure and to establish a characteristic sound. Percussion players will be taught proper stick control techniques.

1. Each student will be responsible for the proper care and maintenance of their instrument.

1. Proper performance posture will be emphasized.

1. Students will be taught to use a standardized rhythm counting system.

1. Beginning Band percussionists will demonstrate an understanding of basic snare drum rudiments including: 5, 7, 9, 11, 13, 15, & 17 stroke rolls, flams, flam taps, ruffs, single and double paradiddles, and ratamacues.

1. A strong emphasis will be placed on the playing of keyboard percussion instruments such as bells and marimba. On these instruments, students will learn all major scales and arpeggios in one octave, as well as selected scales in two octaves.

1. Rhythmic vocabulary with which beginning band percussionists will be familiar will include combinations of whole, half, quarter, eighth, sixteenth, and dotted values. These will be demonstrated through performance and occasionally composition.

1. Timpani and accessory instruments (bass drum, cymbals, triangle, tambourine, etc.) will be briefly introduced.

## Middle School Band (Grades 7-8)

1. Students will expand their rhythmic vocabulary to include sixteenth notes and rests while continuing to reinforce rhythms learned in beginning band. The combination of eighth and sixteenths as well as dotted eighth/sixteenths will be stressed. The students will also be made familiar with 4/4, 3/4, 2/4, 6/8, and alla breve.

1. The concert scales and arpeggios learned in beginning band (Bb, Eb, Ab, Db, G, C, and F Major) will be expanded to include Gb and D Major. Students will learn to play a two-octave chromatic scale for both concert F and Bb (if possible) on their instrument.

1. Students will be able to recognize basic musical intervals on paper and have a basic understanding of how they translate to actual sound.

1. Percussionists will continually review and improve all skills acquired in the beginning band. Higher level snare drum rudiments will be learned, while having more exposure and experience on timpani and accessory instruments: bass drum, crash cymbals, chimes, triangle, and tambourine, etc. In a full band setting, percussionists will begin to work on skills associated with ensemble blend, balance, and precision.

1. Students will be exposed to more musical terms, definitions, and symbols in the context of music prepared for concerts.

1. Each student will be familiar with the proper procedure for tuning his or her instrument and know some of the more common tuning tendencies of their instrument. This will include tuning of unison with other performers as well as the above-mentioned intervals in context.

1. Students will be taught the above concepts through work in a high-quality technique book (currently Essential Elements Bk. 2) as well as other handouts, books, or sheet music of the directors’ discretion.