



## **7TH GRADE BAND 2017-2018 SYLLABUS**

**Directors: Mrs. Lisa Borst**

([LBorst@capsk12.org](mailto:LBorst@capsk12.org))

&

**Mr. Greg VanStrien**

([GVanStrien@capsk12.org](mailto:GVanStrien@capsk12.org))

*Both directors can be reached through  
their shared email account:*

**[directors@coopersvillebands.org](mailto:directors@coopersvillebands.org)**

---

For the most up to date information please visit our band  
website:[www.coopersvillebands.org](http://www.coopersvillebands.org).

By “subscribing” to our band website you will receive emails with new  
updates or announcements!

Scanning this QR code with your mobile device will take you directly to the  
website.



---

### **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

Band instruction in the seventh grade is built upon the fundamentals learned in the fifth and sixth grade. Students entering seventh grade band will need to have either successfully completed sixth grade band, or demonstrate for the instructor that the exit outcomes from sixth grade band have been met. Students participate in several performances throughout the school year, including the Holiday Concert, Pre-Festival Concert, MSBOA Festival Performance and Spring Concert. Students will also have opportunity to participate in the MSBOA Solo and Ensemble festival in December. Because this is a performance-based class, we ask for a yearlong commitment.

---

### **GOALS & OBJECTIVES**

**Students will be able to:**

- Play major scales and arpeggios in the keys of concert Bb, Eb, F, Ab & C
- Play g minor and c minor scales.
- Read rhythms using note and rest values from whole notes through sixteenth notes including dotted rhythms.
- Time Signatures include 4/4, 3/4, cut time, and 6/8 time.
- Proper posture, breathing, tone quality, and hand position for their instrument are reinforced.

- Able to successfully perform intermediate-level band repertoire, demonstrating the proper use of dynamics, articulation, phrasing, and notation.

## **GRADING:**

Concerts	300-500 each
Daily Rehearsals	20 points
Playing Tests	50 each
Class Assignments	50 each
Extra Credit/Help	30 each

**Concerts:** Students are graded on attendance, punctuality, being in uniform, having all materials, following instructions, and demonstration of proper audience and stage etiquette. **Every member of the band is essential**, which is why attendance is required at all concerts unless it is indicated as a volunteer activity. If a student must miss a performance for any reason please email Mrs. Borst as soon as possible. Excused absences will be handled on a case by case basis. **Students are expected to report 30 minutes prior to every band concert in the high school band room.**

**Daily Rehearsals Rehearsals:** Students are graded on coming to class with all necessary materials every day (instrument, music/book/folder, pencil, reeds, mouthpiece) and demonstrating good rehearsal skills by following classroom rehearsal expectations. *Students are expected to write notes given by the teachers into their music with a pencil.*

**Playing Tests:** Students are graded on both playing and written tests. **Students will record their playing tests using their chromebooks.** Students MAY retake all playing tests (please note that retakes will not change chair order). Students may also submit recordings for test retakes.

---

## **GOOGLE CLASSROOM:**

All students will join the google classroom page. Students will use google classroom to submit playing tests and other assignments.

**Class code: tln6ak3**

## **UNIFORM**

The 7th & 8th grade band uniform consists of black pants, dark green polo (provided by the school), black dress shoes and black socks. **Students are responsible to bring their OWN black pants, black shoes and black socks.** If you do not have your own black pants you may check out a pair from the school prior to November 1st. Ladies - You MAY NOT wear see through leggings/tights/ short skirts etc. If you choose to wear a skirt it must be full length - reaching your feet. Prior to the first concert, students will be issued a polo. Students will keep the polo throughout the school year and are expected to wear it for every band concert. At the

end of the final concert the polos will be collected.

## **BAND EXPECTATIONS**

- BE NICE! This means be positive, respect your peers and teachers and never use mean words.
- TRY! Never give up. Be ready to play. Mark your music as asked. We will never give up on you and never be afraid to ask for extra help!
- BE PREPARED DAILY: Bring your instrument, book, sheet music/folder, pencil, reeds (woodwinds), sticks (percussion), mouthpiece (brass), and brain! ☺
- CONTROL YOUR VOICE: No “extra” noises or sounds. Do not yell at anyone.
- Immediately get instrument ready upon entering the room.
  - Always be ready to play when the baton is up and be silent after the cut off.
- Only touch items that YOU own (or that are signed out to you).
- Please dispose of gum. Food should be finished in the hallway. Water is okay, but be careful around instruments.
- Do your best to not interrupt rehearsal. This means use the bathroom during passing time (the pass is for emergencies), use your filter instead of blurting out, take care of reed/music/instrument issues before or after class and not during instructional time.

---

## **7th Grade Band Performance Schedule**

If you find you have a conflict with any of the dates below, please inform Mrs. Borst immediately! Excused absences will be handled on a case by case basis. If students are sick or have a family emergency on the day of the concert a parent or guardian please email or call one of the directors for the absence to be excused. [directors@coopervillebands.org](mailto:directors@coopervillebands.org)

<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Event</b>	<b>Location</b>
Saturday 12/2/17	TBA	<i>Solo and Ensemble</i> <i>**Volunteer Performance**</i>	CHS Middle School
Tuesday 12/5/17	7:30pm	6th & 7th Grade Band Holiday Concert	HS Centerstage
Tuesday 2/20/18	7:00pm	Festival Preview Concert	HS Centerstage
3/2/18 or 3/9/18	TBA	MSBOA Band Festival	TBA
Tuesday 5/15/18	7:00pm	7th & 8th Grade Band Spring Concert	HS Centerstage

## **BRONCO BAND BOOSTERS:**

As our band program continues to grow so do our needs! We could use your help in coordinating fundraisers, collecting money during fundraisers, chaperoning during band events and/or any other way you are willing to help out. Please consider attending a Bronco Band Booster Meeting. The band boosters are essential in the success of the Coopersville Bands. All meetings are held in the high school band room and begin at 7:00pm. If you cannot attend a meeting but would like to volunteer please go to the band website and use the link for sign up genius to volunteer. **We will need many volunteers to help run our annual chocolate sale on September 22nd - October 9th.**

## **BRONCO BAND BOOSTER MEETING DATING**

**7:00pm High School Band Room**

Wed- 9/13, Tues - 10/10, Tues - 11/14, *No December Meeting*, Tues - 1/9,  
Tues - 2/13, Tues - 3/13, Tues - 4/10, Tues - 5/1, Tues - 6/5

---

## **OTHER WAYS TO HELP YOUR CHILD IN BAND:**

1. Encourage your child to practice. This is “band homework”. Help develop a **routine of practice** by setting aside a specific time each evening for practice.
2. Provide a quiet, comfortable place to practice without distractions.
3. **Consider purchasing a supplemental music collection** for your child’s individual instrument. These include pop, rock, movie themes, Christian, holiday etc. They are available at local music stores and online. Supplemental books make great gifts!
4. Encourage your child to perform a mini concert for you and other family members at home. This can also help students overcome nerves.
5. Whenever possible go to concerts, musical events, and listen to recordings that feature your child’s instrument.
6. Attend your child’s band concerts and discuss proper concert behavior with your child. A schedule of events is included in this handout. Mark your calendar and try to keep those dates clear.
7. Consider attending a Bronco Band Booster meeting or volunteering for band events!

Thank you for trusting us with your child’s musical education! If you ever need anything, please do not hesitate to contact either of us. We are here to help.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Lisa Borst & Mr. Greg VanStrien

## **ABOUT MR. VANSTRIEN**



Mr. Greg VanStrien is beginning his 19th year as a music educator. His previous position was Director of Band at Morley Stanwood Community Schools. During his time he has helped the program grow considerably. Under his direction, the bands score strongly at district and state festivals earning superior 1st Division ratings on a consistent basis. The bands have also traveled to destinations including Toronto, Mackinac Music Clinic, Chicago and New York City.

Outside of his school district, he has arranged numerous pieces of music for several Michigan schools. He has also worked in drill design having produced shows for Michigan Schools since 1993. During his career, he has been recognized at the high school's Hero's Banquet five times. He takes great pride in working with students to help them be successful after their high school career. Mr. VanStrien has found a strength and a passion to help students that may have "fallen through the cracks" if not for their participation in band.

Mr. VanStrien is very active in MSBOA having served as VP of Solo Ensemble, Treasurer and four years as President of District 1. Currently, he is a member of the State Executive Board serving as Treasurer and Secretary. He has been a middle school solo ensemble festival host for numerous years and has performed the duties of site chair at the State Solo Ensemble in Manistee for the past five years. Mr. VanStrien also adjudicates Solo Ensemble Festival throughout the state. Mr. VanStrien was selected as MSBOA District 1 Teacher of the Year in 2013-2014 and 2015-2016. Mr. VanStrien was also nominated and selected to the prestigious American School Band Directors Association (ASBDA) in 2011.

In his free time, he enjoys working with and learning about new technology. He enjoys working in his home studio where he works on music composition, website design, photography, audio/video production and many other projects.

At home, Mr. VanStrien enjoys spending time with his family and friends. He has two children James (11) and Alanna (9) and has been married to his wife Amanda for 13 years. During the summer months, they enjoy camping and try to enjoy the outdoors as much as possible. He is also a coach for his daughter's softball team. He enjoys a good game of golf regardless of his score and always takes the time to fit in a few baseball games during the summer.

## What Your Directors Want You to Know the Most

You are a **VALUED** and **IMPORTANT** member of this **BAND**. Always **BELIEVE** this. What you do here is a critical part of your **EDUCATION**, don't let anyone tell you otherwise. While you are here you will become many different things, each of which will make you more successful in **LIFE**. You will learn the importance of **TEAMWORK**. You will learn how to work well with other **PEOPLE**. You will not just work as a **TEAM MEMBER** but also learn how to **LEAD**. Knowing how to be a **LEADER** and a **TEAM MEMBER** is extremely important to your **FUTURE**. You will make **FRIENDSHIPS** some of which will last for your entire **LIFE**. You will learn how to solve problems with **PATIENCE** and **DISCIPLINE**. You will learn that it is important to treat others with **RESPECT** and that **RESPECT** is earned. You will find ways to express **EMOTION** outside of the spoken language. You will **EXPRESS FEELING** within a group setting as well as individually. You will learn to work as a **FAMILY** and accept similarities and differences in people and appreciate both of them. Even if years down the road you have forgotten fingerings and notes, know that the **EXPERIENCE** and **CHARACTER** building you did here made you a better person.

When you are asked why you are in the band, always reply...**IT'S IMPORTANT!**



# **7th GRADE BAND SYLLABUS AGREEMENT**

**This form is due this Friday, September 8th!**

*(Worth 50 points)*

**By signing this form both the student and parent has read the syllabus and agrees to the following:**

- **Performing in all required concerts**
- **The uniform policy**
- **The grading policy**
- **Classroom expectations**
- **Having a great year as a part of the Coopersville Middle School Bands!**

---

**Student Name (print)**

---

**Student Signature**

---

**Parent or Guardian Name (printed)**

---

**Parent or Guardian Signature**