**2016-2017 SJA BAND SYLLABUS**

**UPDATED 9/18/16**

**Alexandra Burton, Band Director**

[**aburton930@comcast.net**](mailto:aburton930@comcast.net)

**OVERVIEW**

**Every student receives a half-hour lesson every school week. All lesson times are teacher-approved.**

* Students should be on time for lessons. I cannot always go overtime to compensate for late arrivals.
* Lessons are held in the concession stand across from the gym.
* Students must bring their own instruments and lesson books to every lesson.
* Students are responsible for making up any work missed in their regular classes.
* If a student has a test or other activity they cannot miss in their regular class, they should remain in class and sign up for a make-up lesson.
* Parents: if you know ahead of time your son or daughter cannot attend a lesson, please contact me to schedule a makeup lesson ASAP. It is preferred that students try to make up their lesson the same week of the absence if possible.
* If a student must switch lesson times because they are struggling in a class, I require an email or note from a parent or teacher in order to do so.

**PAYMENT**

* The fee for the 2016-2017 school year is a flat fee of $52.00/month.
* Payment via check (made out to Alexandra Burton) is preferred, but cash is accepted as well so long as it is in exact change*. If you pay in cash, please place it in a sealed envelope with your child’s name on it.*
* This year there will be no refunds for missed lessons except in extreme circumstances such as an extended illness or family vacation, or if I have to cancel due to illness or poor road conditions. Students should instead make up their lessons at the earliest opportunity.

**MAKE-UP LESSONS**

There is a monthly sign-up sheet for make-up lessons posted on the door of the concession stand. Students have the entire semester to make up a missed lesson. I will be providing many opportunities for makeup lessons this year, including:

* Lunch times on Tuesdays. Students should take 10-15 minutes to eat their lunch and then come to the makeup lesson. I recommend packing lunches.
* Any time between 2:00-3:00 on Thursdays.
* Students also have the option to come to another student’s lesson who plays a similar instrument or is at a similar skill level, provided the arrangement is okay with the other student.
* Students and parents can ask about additional make-up times that may arise on a week-to-week basis.

**PRACTICING**

* I recommend practicing 15-30 minutes a day, at least 4 days a week.
* Keep in mind it’s more important to practice *smart*, not necessarily for a long time. It helps to approach each practice session with a goal in mind to accomplish by the end.

**CONCERT BAND**

**Band rehearsals are held Tuesdays from 3:00 – 4:00 in the cafeteria. The first rehearsal will be September 27th for all 5th-8th graders. 4th Graders will join the band on an individual basis once they are ready.**

* Attendance at band rehearsals is mandatory. If your child must miss a rehearsal, please contact me in advance and let me know they will not be there.
* Students should report directly to band after they have packed up their belongings, along with their instruments and music. Chairs and stands will be provided.
* Students are expected to help clean up after rehearsal – meaning, they just need to put away their own chair and stand. If everyone takes responsibility for their own equipment, it should go very fast.
* **Even though we have the cafeteria reserved until 4:00, I don’t believe rehearsal will ever need to run past 3:50. Please arrive BY 4:00 to pick up your child from band.**

**MANDATORY PERFORMANCES**

* **December 22, 2016: Christmas Concert**

(Same evening as the 4th and 5th Grade Musical. The band will perform first.)

* **Spring Concert: TBA**

These performances are required for all participating band students unless a serious illness or emergency should occur. More performances may be added to our schedule in the future. I will keep everyone posted.

**COMMUNICATION**

* I will primarily be communicating with parents through my email list, so please check your messages regularly!
* I have a webpage on the SJA School site:

<http://school.stjoanhershey.org/instrument-lessons.html>

Parents and students can find announcements, recordings, a calendar of events, and PDFs of all the forms I've sent home here.

* If lessons are cancelled, I will try to give as much notice as possible through email. The cancellation will also be on the morning announcements.

The best way to get in touch with me is to send an email to [aburton930@comcast.net](mailto:aburton930@comcast.net). Please don’t hesitate to contact me if you have any additional questions that were not answered in the syllabus!

Thank you,

Alexandra Burton