

**Van Wyck Middle School
6 Hillside Lake Road
Wappingers Falls, NY 12590**

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Music Syllabus

Welcome to 6th Grade General Music at Van Wyck Middle School! This year, students will further their skills reading and writing music. This includes studying time signatures, note values, and rest values. Students will also recognize the major characteristics of musical forms, perform melodies on recorder, and perform rhythm compositions on percussion instruments. They will learn about the symphony orchestra, concert band, and other performing ensembles as well as about American Musicals and famous composers. This class will also encourage students to listen critically to a variety of music.

Materials Needed

1. PENCILS PENCILS PENCILS! Students are expected to bring a pencil to class EVERYDAY! NO EXCEPTIONS! A blue/black ink pen is OK but a pencil is strongly recommended.
2. A folder or binder used ONLY for music class. You will be receiving numerous handouts throughout the year and they should be stored in your music folder/binder.
3. A music notebook used ONLY for music class. You may also just keep loose leaf paper in your music folder/binder instead of purchasing a separate notebook.

These materials are to be brought to every music class. This means in your hands, not in your locker. Failure to bring any of these items will result in being marked “Unprepared” for the day. If you are unprepared more than three times during the marking period, your class participation grade will be lowered and a parent/guardian will be notified.

Classroom Rules and Expectations

1. Respect others at all times.
2. Come to class prepared with all materials.
3. Students are expected to be on time, in their assigned seat, before the bell rings at 8:00.
4. Students are expected to listen while teacher or other students are talking.

5. Students are expected to turn in all assignments on time.
6. Think you are done with an assignment? Follow these steps:
 - Check it again
 - Quietly compare answers with someone sitting next to you
 - Raise hand to have teacher check it.
7. Leave class only when dismissed by teacher. You must have a signed pass and sign out in the sign out log before exiting the classroom. This is school policy.
8. No chewing gum.
9. Do not write on desks, materials, anything that is not yours.
10. Students are expected to follow all school rules and guidelines as stated in the student handbook.

Silent Reading: Everyday begins with silent, independent reading from 8:00 to 8:10. Students are to enter the room quietly, take their seat, and begin reading silently. Students are expected to bring their independent reading book EVERYDAY to school, not just music class. Students that bring their book for EVERY class for the month will be rewarded with a special prize at the end of each month.

Breakfast: Van Wyck Middle School offers a “grab and go breakfast” for students and can be picked up at the entrance of the school for \$1.25. There are other locations as well to ensure that all students will pass by it on their way to their locker/first period class. I will allow you to quickly and quietly eat your breakfast while you read. This program runs from 7:50 am to 8:00am. Students will NOT be allowed to leave the room to get breakfast after the 8 am bell. Please pick up breakfast on the way to class!

Eating breakfast in the music room is a PRIVILEGE not a right. If you do not pick up after yourself or, if you purposefully make a mess, throw food, etc. you will lose your privilege to eat breakfast in the room for the rest of the year. I reserve the right to take away this privilege should you choose to abuse it.

Absence and Tardy:

Absent: If you are absent from music class, it is YOUR responsibility to make-up any work that you missed. I have an “Extra's” folder in my room that has all handouts, homework, and worksheets that are received in class. Before asking me what you missed, check the folder during silent reading time to see what you missed! As per school policy, any work that was missed is due within three days of the students return to school. Work that is handed in after that time period will receive a zero.

Tardy: A student that is not present in the room before the final bell and arrives without a pass is considered tardy. It is school policy for teachers to notify a parent/guardian if a student is tardy more than three times a marking period. Being tardy more than three times in a marking period will also result in the lowering of your grade.

Consequences for not following the classroom rules will be as follows:

1. Warning in class
2. Sent out of room, down to office
3. A phone call home
4. Referral to the Principal

Grading Policy:

40% Classwork/Homework

- Everyday students will have classwork to complete. I give plenty of time in class to complete the work and most of the time review it in class. If students are unable to complete the work during the allotted time, it is to be completed for homework and turned in next class. Classwork/homework that is not done correctly or has been given minimal effort may be handed back for the student to redo.

20% Projects

- Students will be asked to complete various projects throughout the year, both group projects and individual.

20% Tests/quizzes

- Most tests and quizzes will be announced but a pop quiz may occur. Students will be given a study guide for all tests and we often review during class time.

20% Class Participation/Effort

- Participating in class is vital for your students success in music class. Students that do not try do not learn. If there is a constant problem with participation and a lack of effort, a phone call or email may be made to a parent/guardian.

Late Work and Extra Credit:

Late work is deducted 5 points for every class it is late. For example, if an assignment is due Monday, the student may hand that in the next class (Thursday) for a deduction of 5 points.

Extra Credit: Students may receive extra credit opportunities if and only if they have completed all assignments to date. Therefore, a student looking to improve their poor grade at the end of a marking period may only do so if they have completed ALL work they owe and all work is done to the approval of the teacher. Students that turn in late work that does not show legitimate effort or understanding will be returned to the student to be done again.

Recorders:

It is Wappingers District Wide policy that all students purchase a recorder in 4th grade. These recorders are used again in 5th and 6th grade. Students need to bring their recorders in as soon as possible and may leave them in their designated class box in the music room. If your student has lost or misplaced their recorder, they have until **MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 22nd** to bring one in. Any student that does not have a recorder after this date will receive a zero for the day's class and every class after that. Students without recorders will be assigned other work to be done for the remainder of the class. If a student does not bring in a recorder at all, they will automatically fail the unit. Recorders may be purchased at Alto Music on Route 9. Please email me if you have anymore questions about recorders!

Parent Section

I have read the 6th Grade Music Syllabus in its entirety and have discussed it with my child. I understand that my child needs to bring in a recorder before Monday, September 22nd and not doing so will result in the lowering of their grade. I will do everything within my power to ensure that my child has a successful year in music.

Parent Signature: _____ Date: _____

Parent name and email _____

Day time phone number _____

Student Section

I have read the 6th Grade Music Syllabus in its entirety and have discussed it with my parents. I understand what is expected of me and will do my best this year in music!

Student Signature: _____ Date: _____

(Please sign and hand in next class!)