

Course Syllabus for

# GREEN ACRES MIDDLE SCHOOL

## BANDS

2024-2025

Mr. Morris and Mr. Ray

**Instruments and Materials:** Every class, each student needs to have:

1. Instrument
2. Pencil
3. 1 inch binder for music with top down leading plastic sheet protectors (**provided**)
4. Snark ST-8 Rechargeable Tuner (*Available at White's Music and Amazon*)

**Performances:** All performances are mandatory and count towards each student's grade.

Tentative Schedule:

Sept. 21 and Oct. 5

Saturday Band Camps (At GAMS)

Oct. 12- Visalia Band Review

Oct. 18- Junior High Band Night (Redwood HS)

Oct. 19- Fowler Band Review

Nov. 2- Pismo Band Review

Dec. 2nd- Visalia Christmas Parade

Dec. 12th- Holiday Concert

Mar. 3rd- Pre Festival Concert LJ Williams

Mar. 6th- CMEA festival- during the school day

May 3-(Tentative) Santa Cruz Festival- all day

May 15- Spring Concert

May TBA - All-District Music Festival Wind Ensemble

Remind Codes

Text to 81010

Advanced Band

@ak4ak76

Intermediate Band

@bac46kf

Beginning Band

@ec4b76

Jazz Band

@96bb6be

**Concert Attire:**

Boys: Black pants, band shoes and long black socks. Black button-up shirt with tie.

Girls: All black. Skirts, dresses and dressy pants are all fine, but must cover the knee when seated. Tops should be  $\frac{3}{4}$  length or long-sleeved.

Uniforms will be issued for parade competitions

**Extra Help:** Students are encouraged to make an appointment during lunch or after school with Mr. Morris or Mr. Ray to receive extra help or to make up tests.

**Practice and Homework:** Students should schedule regular practice as a part of their homework (3-5 days a week/ 20-30 minutes each day). Practice outside of class is a must!

**Fundraisers:** We will be participating in the Music in the Parks festival in Santa Cruz this year on May 3 (tentative). We will be looking into fundraisers to help with this cost.

**Cell Phone Policy:** Cell phones are not allowed to be used during class. If a student is on their phone, it may be taken away by the teacher for the duration of the class or sent to the office to be picked up after school.

**Ways to connect:** Please feel free to contact me at any point during the year. See above for Remind class codes

Mr. Morris     dmorris@vusd.org

## **The Grading System**

Grades are recorded for all students taking Advanced Band, Intermediate Band, Beginning Band, and Jazz Band. Mr. Morris will use the following criteria that will determine final grades:

Musical Improvement/ Playing Tests/Assessments

Attendance/Participation/Concerts/Competitions

Each criterion is equal in value. Strength in one area cannot make up for weakness in another area. A student must be outstanding in all areas to receive the grade of A. Since our music ensembles are always expected to perform in a superior manner, each member is expected to earn an A or, at the lowest, a B.

Musical Improvement/ Playing Tests/Assessment:

Each ensemble member will be expected to show evidence of a satisfactory rate of musical progress and to play his or her assigned part acceptably.

In addition, students must demonstrate the following to receive a musical grade of A:

- Individual practice on a regular basis.
- Individual study/individual playing assessments.
- Participation at section rehearsals.
- Participation at instrumental workshops.
- Participation at required performances.

## **Grading Scale:**

Participation: 10% (Students are expected to fully participate in all rehearsals, sectionals, etc.) Students will earn 5 points a day for participating in class with an organized binder, pencil, instrument, and good attitude

Class Assignments: 10% (All class assignments: theory assignments, etc)

Homework/Practice reflections: 10%

Playing Tests: 20%

Performances: 50% (Please check the calendar for all scheduled events)

## **Private Lessons**

Private lessons are the best way to progress on your instrument. Below is a list of private teachers that are available for each instrument. Taking private lessons is something you do independent of Green Acres Middle School . Every teacher and student is different, so you need to research your options to find a private instructor who is appropriate and helpful for you.

If you find that one of these people is no longer giving lessons or the contact information is incorrect, please let Mr. Morris know.

Green Acres highly recommends private lessons for student musicians. However, we do not specifically endorse any of the instructors listed below. It is the student/parent responsibility to contact the individuals below and find the best fit for their specific needs as lesson costs and availability can vary from instructor to instructor.

Flute/Piccolo: Emily Archuleta• (209) 568-8998 Tracy Harris• (559) 679-8576 Carrie Wells• (599) 799-1044	Bassoon: Larry Gardner • (559) 435-3237 (Fresno area)	Clarinet/Bass Clarinet: Nicholas Flores• (559) 480-0801 Mario Marquez• (559) 635-1840 Robert Bennett (530) 3832638
Saxophone: Larry Honda • (559) 322-8958 (Fresno area) Mario Marquez• (559) 635-1840 David Morris• (559) 786-7521	Trumpet: James Kusserow• (559) 740-8443 Paul Lujan• (209) 259-7212	Horn: Kevin Odell• (925) 914-0354 Elisha Wells • (559) 801-2777 (Fresno area) Robert Whitield• (559) 759-3409
Trombone/Euphonium/Tuba: Erick Farrenkopf • (559) 788-5836 (Tuba) Chad McCoy • (559) 836-1744 Jordan Ray• (559) 909-1198	Percussion: Regine Abad• (559) 639-8954 Shawn Glyde • (559) 281-4809 (Fresno area) Joseph Hernandez• (559) 308-2720	Piano Hannah Board• (559) 901-8217