

# ***INSTRUMENTAL ENSEMBLE SYLLABUS***

***Grades 7 & 8***

***Instructor: Melinda P. Sarver***

## ***Course Description***

The Instrumental Ensemble Course is designed to promote solo and small ensemble performance. Students must have a solid mastery of basic skills taught in concert band: breathing, tone quality, rhythm and phrasing. Students are responsible for providing their own instrument and supplies. A minimal number of outside of school rehearsals and performances are required.

## ***Goals of the Class***

1. Students will develop confidence in their playing through the small ensemble experience.
2. Students will understand the differences required of individual players in a small ensemble setting from those of a large concert setting.

## ***Course Outline***

1. Instrumental Ensembles will be formed as is appropriate based upon the instrumentation of the registered members.
2. Instrumental Ensemble Class will meet on an alternating A/B schedule. The schedule is attached. Please review carefully.
3. Students need to think of Instrumental Ensemble as a regular academic class. Parents are asked to schedule early morning appointments on non-Instrumental Ensemble days. In small ensembles, each person is a soloist, so absentees make rehearsal time ineffective for those present.
4. Students will perform complex meters and rhythm patterns.
5. Students will further develop proper intonation ability.

## ***Special Requirements***

Each student will be responsible for providing his/her own instrument and supplies. Each student will be expected to participate in the concerts and relevant rehearsals planned for the year. Concert Dress will be the same as for the band class in which the student is enrolled.

## ***Evaluation Process***

Students will be evaluated objectively through performance, attendance and punctuality. Subjective evaluation will take place in the form of daily effort and cooperation. Much of the progress of the ensembles depends on the cooperation of each student as the ensembles work independently with brief instruction from the director at each meeting. Students must be mature in their thinking and behavior in order for this class to be successful. Weaknesses in this area will result in removal from the class. The total grade will be divided into the following proportions:

10% performance participation  
40% daily effort and cooperation  
50% attendance and punctuality

- \* \* *Should a student's horn need to have repairs, a receipt with the dates of service needs to be shown in order to excuse the absence of a horn in class. The parent must also send a note stating the instrument is in the shop and the date it was taken in for repairs.*

***Special Notes***

***The meeting schedule for the year is attached. We will be alternating A and B weeks so for instance, one week your child will have class M, W and F. The following week their class would meet on Tues and Thurs. Please review this schedule carefully.***

Since this class meets before school, transportation is provided by the parents. If transportation is a problem, I will help you with car pool arrangements. Students are to be dropped off behind the school and should enter the building by the cafeteria doors. They will remain in the cafeteria until 7:20 at which time the teacher on duty will release them to report to the bandroom.

In case of delayed opening of schools, there will be no Instrumental Ensemble class. I realize that parents generally must keep their regular work schedule. Students may then ride the bus on the delayed school schedule.

The discipline procedure will be the same as they students current band class.

Please call at 772-7560 or email [msarver@rcs.k12.va.us](mailto:msarver@rcs.k12.va.us) if you have further questions.



*Parents and students should understand that this class begins the school day. Arriving late is treated as if the student arrives late for 1<sup>st</sup> period. Should a student not show up for class and has not previously notified Mrs. Sarver of an appointment, the absence will be treated as the student skipping class and will be subject to a referral to an administrator.*

*Tardy Policy – If there are special circumstances, please let Mrs. Sarver know in advance.*

*Tardy 1            Quiet Table*

*Tardy 2            Quiet Table*

*Tardy 3            Detention*



***INSTRUMENTAL ENSEMBLE SYLLABUS***

Please sign and return this form indicating that you have read the course syllabus for Instrumental Ensemble.

Student Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

***Please sign and return by September 3<sup>rd</sup>,2010. Thank You!***

***During the current school year, Roanoke County Public Schools has my permission to use my child’s name, picture, voice, opinion and school related work in public media, exhibits, and/or publications in professional educational training materials used by RCPS. Yes \_\_\_\_\_  
No \_\_\_\_\_***

***Parent Signature \_\_\_\_\_***

