



Exploratory Band Syllabus Della Icenhower Intermediate School

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Course Information:

This year, as you probably already know, your child will be rotating every grading period into a different elective. For this period your child will be in the Pre-Band elective. This is a time for your child to be introduced to the possibility of being in the band program in the sixth grade.

We will be teaching your child basic music theory and evaluating his/her suitability and taste to be a musician. The students will learn how to perform music through the use of a musical instrument called a recorder. If your child played the recorder in elementary school, and can find it from the depths of their room, they may use it. If you do not have one, you may buy one at Rivard Brothers, The Music Place in Mansfield or Music and Arts in the Highlands in Arlington. Please do not buy them at the various stores where they will only cost \$1.00. Those do not play in tune and the software games we play will not recognize the pitches coming from them. I have a few that I can loan out during the rotation (yes, they have been sanitized), but they stay in my room and cannot be used for home practice.

During our time together, your child will be introduced to all the band instruments. We will have units on the woodwind instruments, brass instruments and percussion instruments. The students, after they have been introduced to all the instruments, will have the opportunity to choose a few to try. At that time we will assess if the student will be able to produce a “first sound” on the instrument. If they can successfully produce a good sound, then that instrument will be a choice for them when it’s time to sign up in the spring (April/May). If they are not able to produce an acceptable sound, then we will keep trying to find other instruments that they will be successful on.

We have found the students are happier if they are matched with an instrument they have chosen, and they are more apt to stick with the program and get more out of the experience. I assure you that no pressure will ever be applied to your child to become a part of the band program or to play a certain instrument. We do have some limits, however, based on their audition and other factors.

Reasons why your child might not receive a first choice on an instrument for 6th grade:

1. Limits on school owned instruments-We are limited by our inventory. These are normally assigned on a first come, first served basis after letters are returned in the spring.
2. Instrumentation limits-We don’t need 50 saxophones. The first students, who auditioned well enough, to return their letters in the spring, will be allowed in the class. Percussion hopefuls will have to pass my coordination test and a second audition with our percussion teacher. If successful, they will be allowed into percussion class.
3. Physical limits-Arms too short for trombone, hands too small for bassoon, etc.

You will be getting information explaining the program and the process as we move through the rotation. At any time, if you have questions about the process, or the band program, please call us. Know that you have until the end of school to make a decision about joining, but we only have this time period to test your child on the instruments. We have to test all the fifth graders in the school one grading period at a time. For the child who doesn't want to be in band, the sampling of an instrument becomes simply an interesting exposure to instrumental music. We look forward to teaching your child some music fundamentals and working with them at any rate. Be sure to call if you have questions, and have a great year.

Text

No textbook required. Any needed music or music books will be a class set sharing opportunity.

Materials

Pencils required. Donations of Kleenex and hand sanitizer would be greatly appreciated.

Course Schedule

All assignments will be completed in class. Parents will be notified if any assignments need to be prepared outside of class.

Grades

Students will obtain a minimum of one grade per week. Grades will be based upon the following categories:

50% - Daily Skill Mastery Assignments 40% - Major Tests/Projects/Performances 10% - Homework

Teachers shall determine student progress using a grading scale of 0-100.

90-100 = A

80-89 = B

70-79 = C

Below 70 = Failing

I = Incomplete ("I" is not an academic grade, but indicates incomplete work.)

E = Excellent

S = Satisfactory

N = Needs Improvement

U = Unsatisfactory

No grades are weighted at the intermediate level

Number of Grades Each Grading Period

10 (minimum)

Homework

Intermediate schools will provide for homework-free extended holidays. (Thanksgiving Break, Winter Break, and Spring Break)

Semester Grades

Semester grades are computed by averaging the numerical grades recorded for each of the three grading periods within the semester. The three grading periods will equal 100% of the student's grade (33.3% per grading period). Credit is awarded at the end of the academic year.

**No semester exams are administered at the intermediate level.*

UIL Eligibility (“No Pass/No Play”)

- Semester grades are computed by averaging the numerical grades recorded for each of the three six week reporting periods.
- Each six week grading period will stand alone for eligibility purposes.
- A student who is declared academically ineligible after a six week grading period will be able to regain eligibility if all of the student’s grade averages are 70% or higher at the subsequent 3 week grade reporting period.
- See MISD Board Policy FM (LOCAL) - Exempt Courses.

Student grades will be posted in Skyward parent portal within five business days for daily grades and major grades. Special consideration is given to major projects, including lengthy writing assignments.

Test Re-take Policy

Students who fail a major project (below 70%) will be allowed to make corrections for a maximum grade of 70%. All corrections must be completed by the specified date given by the teacher unless the student is afforded time, as a result of the district’s absent/make-up guidelines.

Late Work Policy

Teacher will accept late work:

- 1 class day late - grade reduced by 10 points
- 2 class days late - grade reduced by 20 points
- 3 class days late - Maximum grade of 70

Tardies and Absences

Regular school attendance is essential for students to gain the maximum benefit from teacher-led and school activities. An unexcused tardy will result in action being taken in accordance with school policy. Extra credit through additional assignments or projects will not be awarded.

Missed Work

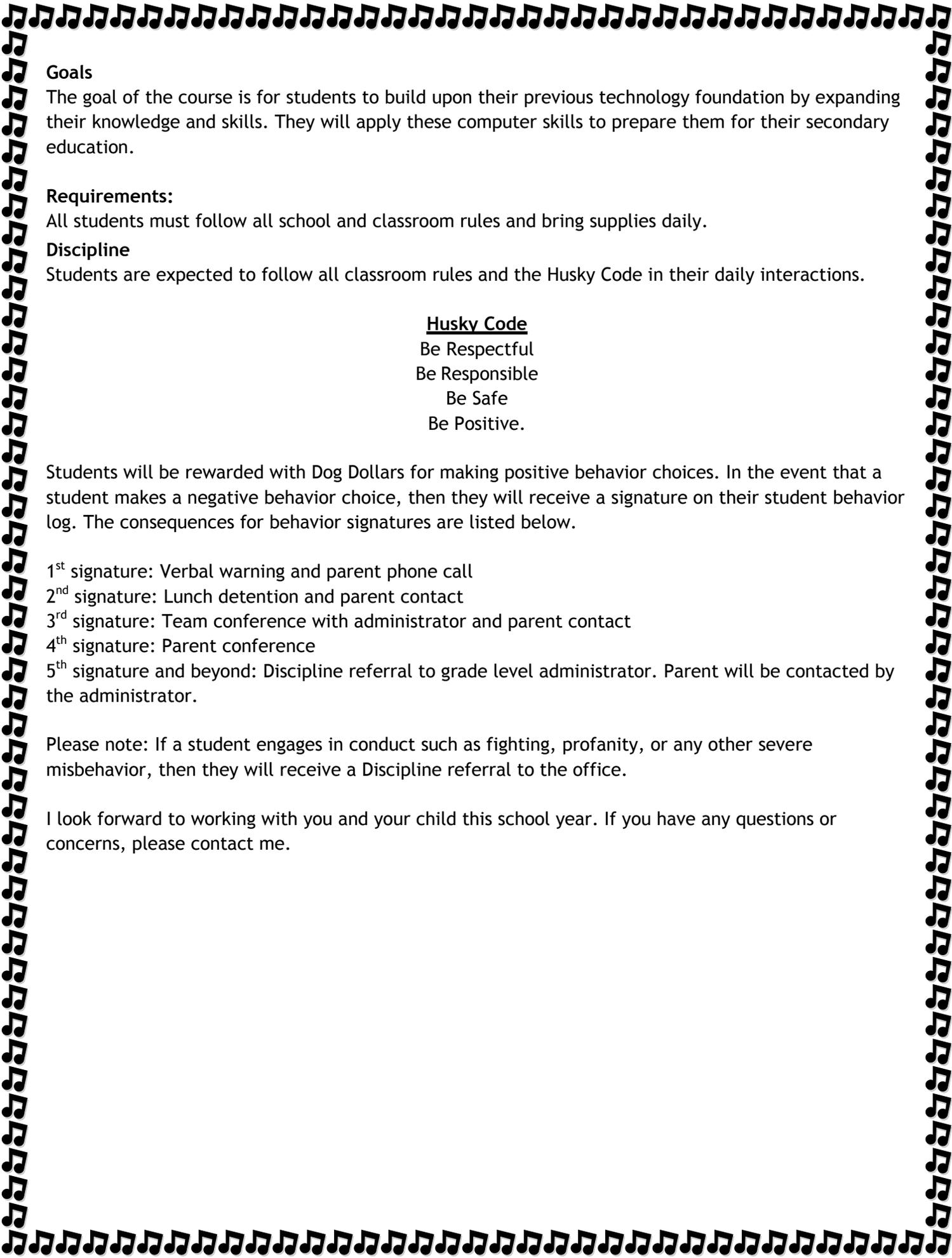
Students may make-up assignments after an excused absence. Students will have the same number of days they are absent to make up work. Please make sure your child speaks with me after an absence to identify any assignments that need to be completed.

Class Participation

Students are expected to participate in discussions, activities, and complete all assignments. Their grade will be calculated upon meeting these requirements. Student progress will be determined using a grading scale of 0-100.

Academic Dishonesty

A student found cheating or aiding in cheating will receive a grade of zero on the assignment and their parent will be contacted. Cheating will also encompass being in possession of another student’s work without teacher’s permission and copying information from a source without properly citing the author.



Goals

The goal of the course is for students to build upon their previous technology foundation by expanding their knowledge and skills. They will apply these computer skills to prepare them for their secondary education.

Requirements:

All students must follow all school and classroom rules and bring supplies daily.

Discipline

Students are expected to follow all classroom rules and the Husky Code in their daily interactions.

Husky Code

Be Respectful

Be Responsible

Be Safe

Be Positive.

Students will be rewarded with Dog Dollars for making positive behavior choices. In the event that a student makes a negative behavior choice, then they will receive a signature on their student behavior log. The consequences for behavior signatures are listed below.

1st signature: Verbal warning and parent phone call

2nd signature: Lunch detention and parent contact

3rd signature: Team conference with administrator and parent contact

4th signature: Parent conference

5th signature and beyond: Discipline referral to grade level administrator. Parent will be contacted by the administrator.

Please note: If a student engages in conduct such as fighting, profanity, or any other severe misbehavior, then they will receive a Discipline referral to the office.

I look forward to working with you and your child this school year. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me.

