



## Thomas Jefferson Bands 2025 - 2026 Class Syllabus

*Mr. Ryan McFall*

*BSED University of Missouri - Columbia, MME University of Missouri - Kansas City*

M/T/W/T/F, Room 165  
8th Grade Encore: 10:08 - 11:45  
7th Grade Encore: 12:20 - 1:59  
6th Grade Encore: 2:11 - 3:50  
Plan Time 10:08 - 10:56 Daily

Email to schedule an appt if necessary.  
Department: Encore, Area: Fine Arts  
Preferred contact method:  
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### Course Description

The Band program at TJMS is designed to provide students with a comprehensive musical experience. Through instruction in band instruments, music theory, and ensemble performance, students will develop their musical skills, creativity, and appreciation for the arts.

### Restrictions:

New 7th and 8th grade students may only join if previously enrolled in band at another school or if they have been taking private lessons on a band instrument outside of school. Students joining late will be extremely behind on instruction.

### Required Texts and Materials

1. For 6th grade: **Sheldon, R., Boonshaft, P., Black, D., & Phillips, B. (2015). Sound innovations for concert band, book 1: A revolutionary method for beginning musicians. Alfred Publishing LLC. (make sure it is for the correct instrument)**
2. 7th grade will use their Sound Innovations book from last year.
3. 1-inch binder with clear sheet protectors for sheet music
4. Mechanical pencils with good erasers
5. School-issued Chromebook
6. Personal instrument either rented or owned

**Rental Night is Tuesday, August 26th, 2025 in the CCHS Cafeteria from 6-8PM.**



\*\*\* In cases where an instrument cannot be procured, TJMS has a few used instruments that can be loaned for the school year to the student. The best solution is to communicate and we can do what we can to help if need be.

## Course Objectives

- **Instrument Proficiency:** Students will learn to play a band instrument, mastering basic techniques and musical concepts.
- **Music Theory:** Students will develop a foundational understanding of music theory, including rhythm, melody, harmony, and form.
- **Ensemble Performance:** Students will participate in band ensembles, learning to play together and contribute to the overall musical performance.
- **Musical Appreciation:** Students will develop a deeper appreciation for music, both classical and contemporary.
- **Personal Growth:** Students will develop important life skills such as discipline, teamwork, and self-expression.

## Course Assignments

Assignments will be completed in class, on google classroom, or performing live in class. The grade book is set up in two categories.

- |               |     |                                   |
|---------------|-----|-----------------------------------|
| - Classwork   | 40% | Classwork and Practice Log Points |
| - Assessments | 60% | Concerts, Performance Assessments |

## Late Work Policy

Late work will be accepted until the end of the quarter. Missing assignments will result in a zero points on an assignment at the end of the quarter. Once the quarter is over, absolutely no late work will be accepted.

## Retake Policy

- Students are allowed to retake their playing assessments if they turned their assessment in by the due date or played in class the day it was due. Students that earn this option may retake as many times they wish before the end of the quarter to achieve their desired score..
- In the instance a concert is missed, a written make-up assignment will be completed. Please communicate as soon as possible if a student is going to be absent from a performance. Our team effort relies on all of us.

## Attendance

- Our students' presence in rehearsals is crucial for the success of the group. Each member plays a vital role in creating the beautiful music we strive for. Please make every effort to be on time and present for all rehearsals and performances. Call times inform when students should arrive at a given event.



- It is also very important to remember to bring instruments to school. It is detrimental to not only the individual students but the group as a whole when instruments are left at home. We need everyone to be playing all the time. Extra disciplinary steps may need to be taken if students are forgetting their instruments too often.

## Professionalism

Students are expected to exhibit behaviors and characteristics of championship learners, including respectful and meaningful participation in class, punctuality, preparedness, and positive interpersonal interactions. Students are expected to come to class having practiced prior to each class rehearsal in order to facilitate efficient rehearsals. Students should be prepared to lead thoughtful discussions during class activities and always give their best effort. Any time students are wearing the TJ Bands shirt or are performing, students are expected to represent TJ appropriately.

## Grading Time Frame

I do my best to grade all work within 2 weeks of it being submitted to Infinite Campus or Google Classroom. If you have not received a grade for your work in I.C. after 2 weeks, please email me so I can ensure there are no communication errors in the system. Late work will be graded as soon as your directors are able to get to it.

## Important Dates

- Veteran's Day performance: November, 8 2024
  - During the school day assembly
  - **8th grade band performing** - limited attendance, notify the front office if you plan to attend to make sure you have a seat.
  - Wear TJ Bands T-shirt and jeans
- Winter Concert: Tuesday, December, 2nd, 2025
  - Call Time: 6:00PM
  - Concert Start Time: 6:30PM
  - 8th, 7th, and 6th grade bands will perform
  - Attire will be ugly holiday sweaters!
- Java N' Jazz : Blue Note Jazz Band Concert with High School Jazz Ensembles Mid March (TBD)
- Spring Concert: Late April or Early May (TBD)
- All other field trips, performances, group activities, fundraising information etc. will be sent out in a timely manner through Infinite Campus. Ensure that you can receive information from I.C. and notifications are turned on as that is the main form of communication I will use in this class.



## Statement of Inclusion

In this band program, we celebrate the diversity of our student body and promote inclusivity. We believe that every student has the right to participate and contribute to the musical community. We value and respect each student's unique background, abilities, perspectives and experiences. We will create a safe and supportive environment where everyone feels welcome and included.

## TJ Bands Shirt

- Every band student at TJ will have a TJ Bands T-shirt to wear for performances and events to support a strong identity within our programs. Concert attire for all performances besides the Winter Concert will be the black TJ Bands T shirt and jeans. To help offset cost, please bring in 5 dollars with your acknowledgement form to give back to the band program. If you would like to donate an extra 5 dollars to help another student that may not be able to contribute, you are more than welcome to do so. If you are unable to give 5 dollars, just let me know and the band will take care of you. We are one band, one sound.



## Sound Innovations Online Features

Our new band books feature FREE online media and resources we will be using in class. Each student will have online access to play-along audio accompaniments for every song in the book as well as practice tips and masterclass videos from expert musicians and



teachers. When I assign practice for home, students should not miss out on this helpful resource. The back of your band book lists information on how to access SI Online. Each book has a unique product number in the bottom left corner of the back cover.

Navigate to the following website: <https://sionline.alfred.com/>

Enter your unique product number and click GO

SI ONLINE

SUPPORT

ACTIVATE PRODUCT

Select a product

Enter your Product Number:

Product Number

GO

Welcome to SI Online

Teachers, students, and parents can now access all the correlating media for the *Sound Innovations* series online.

How to Access

Activate SI Online by entering your book's **product number** in the entry field. Your book's **five-digit product number** can be found in the lower left-hand corner of the back cover.

Product Number

44210 Book & Online Media US \$8.99

0 38081 52993 6

Privacy Policy

< Sound Innovations: Book 1, Trumpet

Q Search...

Ready? Set? Play!

▼ First Sounds

- Page 3: Posture
- Page 3: Breathing
- Page 3: Embouchure & First Sounds
- Page 3: Hands & Fingers
- Page 3: Tonguing
- Page 4: A Good Tone
- 001 Intro - D Tuning Note

▶ Level 1: Sound Beginnings

▶ Level 2: Sound Fundamentals



## Warm-Up and Cool-Down

- **Start slowly:** Begin each practice session with a gentle warm-up to prevent injuries and get your muscles ready to play.
- **End gradually:** After your main practice, play some easy exercises or scales to cool down and relax your muscles.

## Effective Practice Techniques

- **Break it down:** If you're struggling with a piece, break it down into smaller sections and practice them individually.
- **Use a metronome:** A metronome can help you keep a steady tempo and improve your rhythm.
- **Record yourself:** Recording your playing can help you identify areas where you need to improve.
- **Practice with a friend:** Playing with a friend can make practice more fun and help you learn from each other.
- **Create a controlled space:** Devote a space at home that will be free from distractions where you can always practice. Make sure your sitting posture isn't changed by the chair you sit in. No couch playing :)
- **Use your resources:** SI Online and other resources will be available on Google Classroom

## Stay Motivated

- **Set goals:** Set realistic goals for yourself and track your progress.
- **Find a practice buddy:** Having a friend who also plays an instrument can help keep you motivated.
- **Listen to music:** Listening to music can inspire you and help you develop your ear.

## Take Care of Your Instrument

- **Clean it regularly:** Keep your instrument clean and well-maintained to ensure it sounds its best.
- **Protect it:** Store your instrument in a safe place when you're not using it.

Remember, consistency is key. Even short, daily practice sessions can make a big difference in your playing. If you're ever struggling or have questions, don't hesitate to ask your band director or a more experienced musician for help.