

8th Grade Music

Willows Preparatory School 2018-19

Mr. Benjamin Dysart

Dear Willows Parents and Families,

Welcome! Willows Prep is a unique school in that every student participates in Concert Band. Last year we were able to reach a high level of performance because of our student's hard work and parent support. With your help, together we can help your child have a successful musical experience.

Instruments

Instrumentation is dictated by balance of sound. Although most students will continue playing the instrument they played last year, in 7th and 8th grade we expand instrumentation to include oboe, bass clarinet, tenor saxophone, baritone saxophone, French horn, and tuba.

Practice Policy

As of this year I do not require practice slips from students, however they are expected to practice at home. During the first week of school I sent home a letter detailing practice expectations. Students are expected to practice 5 times a week for about 20 minutes.

Performances

Below is a list of the performance dates for the year. All students are expected to attend and participate in concerts.

- Veteran's Day Concert November 8th (8th Grade only)
- Winter Concert December 6th
- Pacific Northwest Band Festival February 11th (8th Grade only)
- Collaboration Concert April 26th
- Arts Showcase May 30th

Students are expected to wear concert dress to all performances. Boys may wear a black button up shirt and black pants. Shoes should be black with black socks. Girls may wear a black blouse and pants or an appropriate length black dress. Shoes should be black flats (no heels please).

Grading

Our local grade is based on daily participation (35%), performance attendance (35%), playing assessments (15%), and written assessments (15%). IB Grades are based on a set of four criterion: Knowing and Understanding, Developing Skills, Thinking Creatively, and Responding and Reflecting.

For further information or questions please contact me at bendysart@willowsprep.com.

I look forward to having a great musical year with your child.

Sincerely,

Ben Dysart

Curriculum Outline

Trimester 1

Students will study music introducing new key signatures, time signatures, and styles. Students will be asked to analyze music for intent and cultural importance. Formative Assessments will include the concert Ab major playing test, written theory tests, and playing proficiencies.

As a summative assessment, students will perform at the Veteran's Day Concert and the Winter Concert.

Trimester 2

In second trimester students will study traditional band literature to prepare for festival and contest. Formative assessments include a creative composition project, Concert C major playing test, playing proficiencies, group critique, and detailed self-reflection.

Students will perform a summative assessment at the Pacific Northwest Band Festival.

Trimester 3

In third trimester, students will be asked to play music introducing new key signatures, rhythms and other content in preparation for high school music. Students will also study music and diverse cultures. Formative assessments will include playing proficiencies, written theory tests, a brief world music presentation, and detailed reflection.

Students will complete a summative assessment in the form of their spring Celebration of the Arts concert.