

DOWNEY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT  
Middle School Course Outline

**Course Title:** Beginning Band (One Year)

**Grade Level:** 7, 8

**Prerequisites:** None

**Course Description:**

The Beginning Band/P.E. course is a preparatory class open to all students wishing to learn basic skills on wind and percussion instruments. Beginning Band/P.E. provides opportunities which prepare the student for sequential band courses. (For students in 6th grade, this course alternates daily with their P.E. class.)

**Student Performance**

**Objectives for this**

**Course:**

Students will

1. demonstrate the proper means of assembling the instrument, holding the instrument while playing, and cleaning and/or lubricating the instrument after demonstration by the teacher.
2. show competence in reading music notation and terminology through examination.
4. develop interpersonal skills within the ensemble as observed in the classroom environment.
5. develop individual study skills through home practice, to be recorded by parents on a home practice record.
6. demonstrate correct fingerings on his/her instrument (approximately 1-1 1/2 octaves chromatically) after demonstration by the instructor.
7. develop proper embouchure and air column support as it relates to tone production to the satisfaction of the teacher.
8. memorize a minimum of two major scales to be performed in a playing test with 80% accuracy.
9. demonstrate rhythmic notation down to eighth notes and corresponding rests as determined by teacher-made tests.
10. utilize correct posture as demonstrated in proper playing position.
11. demonstrate pitch matching skills with 70% accuracy.

## **Beginning Band - continued**

### **Instructional Strategies**

Demonstration  
Individualized instruction  
Performances  
Exams

### **Instructional Units**

Typical class session (50 minutes) consists of:

<u>Minutes</u>	<u>Activities</u>
5	Warm up
5	Review
15	Introduce New Concept (new note, rhythm, etc.)
15	Guided Practice of New Concept
5	Student Performance
3	Feedback
2	Closure

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50 Minutes Total

### **Evaluation**

Student progress will be evaluated by:

Attendance  
Class participation  
Performance  
Written and oral (playing) tests  
Home practice (evidenced by student progress)  
Teacher observation  
Teacher evaluation