

SYLLABUS

Beginning Percussion Course

Course Description: This course is an introduction to the fundamentals of percussion performance. Exploration of all areas in the percussion family will be introduced, including snare drum, mallet keyboards, timpani, accessories, drumset, and hand percussion among others. This course is designed to create a well-structured foundation in order to prepare the students for future success in all areas of percussion.

Objectives: By the end of the spring semester, students will:

1. know the anatomy and set-up of all main percussion instruments
2. have a detailed understanding of the techniques involved in the instruments stated above
3. develop basic reading skills
4. learn about improvisation techniques
5. experience the art of ensemble playing

Highly Recommended: One year of formal piano training.

Required Materials:

1. Text: "Simple Steps to Successful Beginning Percussion" By: Kennan Wylie
 2. One "stick & mallet bundle"; must include snare sticks, yarn mallets, xylophone mallets, and timpani mallets.
 - Suggestions:
 - Liberty I Basic Stick Pack
 - Innovative Percussion Intermediate Stick and Mallet Pack
 - Vic Firth Intermediate Education Stick and Mallet Pack
- **Any of the above can be ordered on www.lonestarpercussion.com or www.steveweissmusic.com**
3. Pearl Beginner Percussion Kit with Pull Along Cart (Model # PK-900C)
NOTE: Even if the kit contains sticks and/or mallets, the "stick & mallet bundle" must still be purchased as well. No beginner percussion kit contains the necessary sticks and mallets for the average middle school percussion student.
 4. One 2" 3-ring binder with paper

Grading: All grading and assessment for playing tests will be based on both level of individual improvement as well as level of execution. Weekly playing tests will be conducted to help students stay on track to reach various checkpoints along with semester goals. The vast majority of written exams will be based on music theory.

Grading Scale:

30%	Attendance
20%	Participation
20%	Preparation
20%	Playing Tests
10%	Written Exams

Course Policies/Absence Policies

***Note: The following will only be considered when not clarified by district/state policies**

- Cell phone usage as well as any other electronic device is prohibited without prior consent from the instructor.
- No food or drink is allowed during class time. I don't care if you don't use air when you play your instrument. Water is acceptable.
- Students are allowed 2 excused absences per semester. These absences must be communicated to the instructor at least 24 hours in advance. Any unexcused absence not involving a family emergency or a doctor's note will be deducted from your attendance. School related activities are of course fine.