Welcome to 4th Grade Band!
Hello!

I am Mrs. Granite

Evan, Ana, (Me) & Marissa

My crazy family, trying to get a nice picture, on vacation in Puerto Rico.
I live in North Allegheny, with my husband and two daughters. He’s a Chemical Engineer and my girls are in 7th & 9th grade. We have a Bichon named Rocky, who is not very well-behaved. :)

I started teaching at North Allegheny in 2007. Way back before that, I went to college at Indiana University of Pennsylvania, where I majored in Clarinet and played Trombone in the Marching Band. My first teaching job was grades 4-12 Band in Port Allegany, PA. Then, I taught Band & Orchestra to grades 4-6 in Butler, PA.

In my spare time, I love to spend time with friends & family, read, cook and watch way too many shows on Netflix and Hulu.
Everything you need to get started in Band

- How “Band Lessons” work
- About Practicing your instrument at home
- How “Band Rehearsal” works
- Our Class Rules
- Grading in Band
- Concert performances this year
- Complete Google Form
Band Lessons

Small Group Lesson for 30”, once a week. May miss some Music, a Switch, Recess or the last half hour of ELA.
It will take me several days to make your lesson schedule.

It’s a little like a big Sudoku puzzle! I will group same instruments together as much as possible, and work around your other classes.

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You will have a 30 minute Small Group Lesson each week and a 45 minute Band Rehearsal.

Please make sure you have ordered your instrument AND bought the lesson book before we begin. (Accent on Achievement)
Each week, you will...

- Warm up on your instrument
- Play songs alone and with others
- Show what you learned when you practiced at home.
- Get an assignment to practice at home, for next week’s lesson.
- Earn a participation grade.
Some weeks, you will...

- Earn a Band Ninja Belt
- Listen or view a unique musical performance
- Learn new notes or skills
- View a video, teaching a new skill
- Play a music-learning game
- Complete a quick assessment
1st 9 Weeks

Before 1st Lesson - **Watch 4th Grade Videos for your instrument.**

1st Lesson - Learn how to put instrument together and how to play 3 notes. Show Mrs. Granite what notes you learned in Music Class in 3rd Grade.

2nd & 3rd Lesson - Learn about caring for your instrument and play 3 note songs / scale.

4th Lesson → end of 9 Weeks - 3, 4 and 5 note songs & scales. Quarter, half and whole notes/rests.

Earn White Belt - completed up to page 7 in the lesson book
2nd 9 Weeks

**Songs using 2, 3, 4, 5 & 6 notes.** Eighth notes.
Play Band songs with full Band and short songs with lesson group
Perform in cafeteria for Winter Caroling (tentative)
Perform a “Living Room Concert” at home.
Pass music for Winter Concert
Perform Winter Concert
Earn Fluorescent Belts for concert songs
Earn Yellow Belt - completed up to page 12 in the lesson book
3rd 9 Weeks

**Songs using up to 7 notes.** 1st/2nd endings and slurs
Chromatic Scale
Play Band songs with full Band and short songs with lesson group
Begin passing music for Spring Concert
Earn Fluorescent Belts for concert songs
Earn Orange Belt - completed up to page 15 in the lesson book
4th 9 Weeks

**Songs using up to 9 notes.**
- Concert Bb Scale
- Ties
- Play Band songs with full Band and short songs with lesson group
- Finish passing music for Spring Concert
- Perform Spring Concert
- Earn Fluorescent Belts for concert songs
- Earn Green Belt - completed up to page 18 in the lesson book
Sometimes students make mistakes.

- **Forgot your instrument?** Your teacher will let you call home once this year. Check outside the office BEFORE coming to your Lesson.
- **Forgot to come to your lesson?** You can come to a makeup lesson later in the week.
- **Neglected to practice?** Try your best in class and if you need to, you can replay an item next week.

PS - even if you forget your instrument, you still come to class!
Practicing

Everyone must practice their instrument at home
Practice Only On The Days That You Eat ;)

- Usually assigned one page of music/week
- Some might be easy
- Some might be tough
- Learn *how* to practice the tough stuff
- Search for music you <3 to play and enjoy it
- Find someone in your family who likes to listen to you and play for them
Instrument Care
Great Condition Plays Great!

First Lesson
- Storing instrument at school
- Put instrument together
- Hold it properly
- Keep it clean
- Take it apart
- Storing safely until you go home that day

Throughout the Year
- Deep cleaning
- Maintenance
- Tips and hints
- Keep you healthy
Band Rehearsals

All 4th Grade Band Members. Will miss Recess, and then go to lunch.
Each week, you will...

◎ Complete a movement exercise, playing example or music-listening warm up
◎ Play songs together
◎ Practice notes and skills
◎ Earn a participation grade
Ooops...

A lot like in Lessons:

◎ **Forgot your instrument?** Your teacher will let you call home once this year. Check outside the office BEFORE coming to Band.

◎ If it is not there, you still come to class. You will help yourself to a “rhythm stick” and participate in all class activities to the best of your ability.
Class Rules

There are only two!
1. No talking while the teacher is working.
2. Play & sing (only) when you have been asked to do so.
Grading
Skills & Participation
Grading is like all your other Special Area classes. A “P” is a good grade!

No A’s, no B’s, no C’s & no D’s!
70-89%

Is Appropriate Progress - aka P

That’s a GOOD grade!

It’s not like Math or ELA, where a 75% is a C. There is a very large range of scores that are designed to show that a student is making appropriate progress in Band.

Everyone in the class is in the early stages of learning a Band instrument and there will be mistakes. We also do things until we get them right, so sometimes a low Skills grade will be entered into Tyler that can be brought up later. Learning an instrument is a long process and messy learning is a big part of it.

So, please do not worry if you see a number lower than 90% showing up on Tyler.
Strength, Appropriate Progress & Needs Improvement

Skills
(Playing Tests)
S 95%* - Correct pitches, rhythms AND demonstrates “advanced” skills
P 85%* - Correct pitches AND rhythms
P- 70% - Correct pitches OR rhythms
N 69%* - Incorrect pitches AND rhythms (may replay to earn a “P” or P-”)

Participation
(Lessons, Rehearsal and Concerts)
S 95%* - Has instrument music & music. Needed no Class Rule or posture reminders.
P 85%* - Has instrument & music, but required 1 reminder.
P- 70% - Required 2 reminders OR no instrument and/or music.
N 69%* - 3+ reminders OR no instrument / music + 1 reminder.

* this number is the “default” number for S, P & N.
On the report card, the Skills grade and Participation grade are combined into ONE marking indicator.

Posted in January and June.
Concerts
Performances (Participation Grade)

**Living Room**
You choose 5 songs to play for family and/or friends
Assigned 2nd week of November, due 1st week of December

**Winter Concert**
January 12th*
Short songs from the lesson book
1-2 full band arrangements
Demonstrate performing etiquette

**Spring Concert**
May 11th*
4-5 full band arrangements
Demonstrate good performing etiquette

* Please put these dates on your calendar!
Thanks for reading!

Next Step

Please visit this Google Form to finish.
MES Band ROCKS!