Sartartia Middle School Band Course Description:

Beginning Band

The Beginning Band is the entry-level performance group at SMS. Ms. Elias is the primary instructor for the woodwind groups; Mr. Pham is the primary instructor for the brass groups, and Mr. Willis teaches percussion. Ms. Elias and Mr. Pham share group conducting. Membership in the Beginning Band is open to any 6th, 7th, or 8th grade student interested in learning to play an instrument. Emphasis is placed on individual performance with basic to more advanced fundamentals stressed throughout the year. Daily attention will be given to music theory concepts, characteristic tone production, intonation, ensemble drill, and rhythm pattern recognition. Each student’s goal should be to become well-rounded as a musician, team player, and leader. The student will consistently demonstrate a positive attitude and healthy work ethic.

Members of the Beginning Band will have the opportunity to annually participate in the following activities:

Winter Holiday Concert Spring Concert

Spring Music Competition Full-band rehearsals for Concerts or Contest

\*\*Other special events at the discretion of the band directors\*\*

Performing organizations are often required to perform outside of regular school hours. You will be notified of all functions well in advance (see preliminary calendar at back of handbook), and as a member of the band, all students are expected to attend all band activities. Absences can be excused only under special circumstances, and only if notification is given in writing prior to the event for consideration. Excusing a student from an event is up to the director’s discretion. Emergencies will happen. In these instances, consideration will be given on a case-by-case basis. Every performance will count for double major grades per district policy.

The Texas Education Agency considers all on-campus band activities of a curricular nature that take place outside the school day as an integral part of a high quality instructional program. The “No Pass/No Play” ruling does not apply to co-curricular activities that help determine your grade. Performances are an integral part of meeting the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills for this course, so attendance is mandatory.

Dress code for a performance will be announced in advance of the event, but in general, the student will be asked to wear either blue jeans, tennis shoes, and the official band t-shirt, or “dress clothes” for more formal events such as the Holiday Concert and Spring Concert.

**Course Content and Focus:**

Students will begin with fundamental method-oriented studies in a like-instrumentation environment, with emphasis on tone production, embouchure, intonation, balance, blend, breath support, fingerings, hand position, posture, scales, rhythm and counting, and musical terminology. The focus of this class is development of musical and social skills for students with 0-1 year previous band experience.