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### **Band Department Philosophy Statement**

The Waukeee Band Program provides all students with opportunities to develop lifelong appreciation of music, take ownership over their own accomplishments, and contribute to something larger than themselves.

[National Coalition of Core Arts Standards](#)

[WCSD Band Standards](#)

### **6th-7th Grade Band Basics Description**

This course is designed to help any 6th or 7th grade student become successful with the basic skills needed to perform in a large-group Band ensemble. The objective of Band Basics is to help students gain enough skills to confidently perform in an ensemble with their grade-level peers. Students will engage in guided practice in the following areas: instrument position and posture, embouchure (mouth formation), breath support, music notation, rhythmic notation and steady beat, and note-reading in correlation with fingering/slide position recall.

This course is designed for students who meet one or more of the following criteria:

- New to the Band experience and have not previously participated in a curricular Band
- Switching to a new instrument from the one played in a previous year (particularly flute, clarinet, saxophone, trumpet, trombone, or euphonium)
- Recommendation of 5th Grade Band or current instructor

*NOTE: This course is viable with a minimum of 12 students enrolled. If projected enrollment is lower, students may be moved to 6th or 7th grade Band and will receive differentiated support through lessons.*

### **Students will be able to demonstrate...**

- Perform expressive qualities of music
- Perform music with technical accuracy
- Evaluate musical performances
- Write using standard notation

### **6th-7th Grade Band Basics Course Components**

- Self-paced learning with the Essential Elements lesson book
- Once a student demonstrates mastery of the required skills, they may be transferred into a regular grade-level band class at any time.
- Mastery of required skills may include:
  - a. Range of at least one octave
  - b. Ability to read and perform rhythms up to dotted quarters and eighth notes
  - c. Appropriate embouchure and posture
- This class is not performance-based, so performing at concerts is not part of the Band Basics curriculum.

### **Waukeee CSD 6-12 Guiding Principles**

- Responsive instruction and ongoing assessment are necessary for all learners to grow and progress.
- A body of evidence is used to determine proficiency.
- Course grades accurately communicate only academic achievement of the standards.
- Equitable practices and opportunities exist across all classrooms.