***Stage Band***

***Syllabus 2016-2017***

**Instructors:** Ms. Denise Aspell and Mr. Dan Plybon

**Course Description**

Stage Band is a course for students with an interest in learning about and performing all styles of “pop” music from Dixieland to the present with the emphasis on the big band style.

There are two different Stage Band classes. One will meet A-days and the other will meet B-days. The course time is 7:15-8:10am. On delayed opening days we will alter the start time to reflect the Roanoke County Schools delay (i.e. if school starts 2 hours late we will meet at 9:15).

**Course Outline**

Goals:

1. To transfer playing fundamentals learned in band class.
2. To play scales in alternate modes and play blues scales.
3. To improvise within scales and around melodies
4. To play in a variety of styles including jazz, swing, pop, rock, Latin, and funk.
5. To learn balance within a Big Band ensemble.

**Course Materials**

**Student provides:**

Same materials needed for band class.

**School provides:**

1. Music folder
2. Sheet music (student is responsible for lost or damaged music)
3. Instruments for certain sections (student is responsible for any damages)

**Students will be graded on:**

Daily Grade

Playing and written assignments

Performance Participation (when applicable)

**Daily Grade**

Students will be given a grade on how well they demonstrate proper rehearsal and playing techniques. The techniques that will be evaluated include:

1. being **on time** to class and seat
2. having properly maintained instrument and materials (book, pencil, music, etc.)
3. refraining from chewing anything
4. remaining quiet while the director is talking or the group is playing
5. putting materials away at the end of class
6. demonstrating proper posture, instrument position, and hand position
7. being respectful to the teacher and other students
8. participation in class activities

**Playing and Written Assignments**

There will be various written and playing assignments throughout the year. Each may be weighted differently depending on the breadth of the assignment.

**Performance Participation**

Since band is a *performing* art, concerts and performances are the culmination of what we learn in class every day. Each student is expected to attend all required performances. A band is a large team. The absence of one team member can hinder the success of the remaining team members. An absence from a performance that the director considers unexcused will lower the nine-weeks grade 12%, which is the equivalent of one letter grade.

The performance calendar is attached to the syllabus your child received in Band 7 or Band 8 class.

**Discipline**

Band is a team, and everyone’s mutual respect for the other team members is crucial to our success. As long as we respect each other equally, discipline problems will be minimal. Problems that begin to interfere with class progress will be handled with teacher-student conferences, parent contacts, and then office referrals.

\* \* Behavior that is belligerent or may threaten the safety of a student will result in an immediate referral to the appropriate grade level administrator.

**Attendance**

Because there is no transportation provided for zero period, parents must provide transportation. Instruction will begin promptly at 7:15, so it is imperative that students be in their seats ready to begin class ON TIME. This means that students should be walking in the band room door by 7:10. **Every child in band is a “first-string player,” so** **good individual attendance is necessary to the success of the entire group.**

If providing transportation is difficult I recommend carpooling with someone else in the neighborhood. This divides the parents’ obligation up and will hopefully make it easier on each family. On any day if you know ahead of time that you will not be able to drive your child to school, please let me know in advance and I will try to find someone else who can help. There is almost always a solution if I know ahead of time.

**School-wide Tardy Policy**

**Excused**

A student will receive an excused tardy if he/she brings a signed tardy note from an authorized person. (teacher, administrator, guidance or attendance staff) This note should be timed and dated.

We will follow the school-wide tardy policy for unexcused tardies.

**Teacher’s Philosophy**

It is my belief that all children can experience success in music. I will operate our classroom in a positive and supportive manner focusing on the students at all times. I am excited to offer your child an opportunity that we hope will be one of the most memorable experiences of his/her middle school career. Please call at anytime with questions or concerns.

**Contact Information**

**School phone 890-1035**

**Band office phone 560-3900 ext 34043**

**Ms. Aspell - daspell@rcs.k12.va.us**

**Mr. Plybon – dplybon@rcs.k12.va.us**

***Stage Band***

***I have read the online syllabus and understand the manner in which my son/daughter will be graded. I also understand the discipline procedure, yearly band calendar, and other policies and procedures outlined in the syllabus.***

***I understand that when my child misses any portion of the warm-up because he or she is late, the daily grade will be significantly reduced. I also agree that if I cannot provide transportation for my child on any given day, if I am aware of the problem in advance, I will find alternate transportation or notify the teacher so that she may help me find alternate transportation.***

Please circle which day your child has Stage Band - A B

Student’s Name\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Signature\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parent’s Name\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Signature\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Email address(es) - \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parents’ Phone daytime phone number(s) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Date\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

***Due by September 2. Thank you!***