Curriculum Overview
Eighth Grade Band

Course Description:
Students continue to learn to perform as an ensemble through method book activities and age appropriate sheet music. In advanced band, students refine playing skills and develop higher-level listening skills. Students are highly encouraged to attend All-County Band Auditions, All-District Band Auditions and Solo & Ensemble Festival. Evaluation of progress is based on individual playing tests, written work, and daily class participation. Daily at-home practice is necessary to continue mastering playing technique. Performance opportunities will increase. Since performances are a natural and vital extension of this course, participation is strongly recommended.

Essential Skills/Processes: Students will—

Technique:
● Demonstrate proper posture and playing position
● Demonstrate by proper breath support and embouchure, a refined tone in extended ranges consistent with the nature of the instrument
● Demonstrate through performance appropriate musicianship and interpretation of band literature
● Demonstrate correct tonguing, accents, slurring and fingerings/stickings in a consistent manner
● Demonstrate knowledge of alternate fingerings and advanced percussion rudiments

Music Theory:
● Demonstrate through counting and playing advanced and syncopated rhythmic notation and recognize the following time signatures: 2/4, 3/4, 4/4,6/8 and cut time
● Name and recognize notes as well as enharmonic tones in all music performed
● Demonstrate the C, F, Bb, Eb, Ab, G, D and A Major scales. (Introduce second octave where applicable)
● Recognize key signatures and accidentals
● Demonstrate chromatic scale within practical range of instrument

Ensemble Skills:
● Discriminate pitch discrepancies between individuals and the ensemble
● Respond to advanced conducting gestures
● Demonstrate cooperative attitude and actively participate in class activities & performances
● Perform music at appropriate speed or tempo

Music Literature:
● Listen to, perform, compare and/or contrast music representing musical periods and styles
● Demonstrate through playing and discussion, standard music literature such as march style and variations, as well as music of diverse world cultures

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Discussion of biography of composer, music history and styles as related to music studied

**Musical Analysis and Listening Skills:**
- Demonstrate through performance longer phrases and view the phrase as a musical idea
- Express critical judgments and evaluate their own performances
- Discriminate between melody and harmony
- Recognize form of music being rehearsed/performed

**Technology:**
- Explore available CD’s, CD-ROMs, Videos and laserdiscs, cassettes etc. to enhance musical knowledge and skills
- Explore and observe available computer technology in the field of music

**Instrument Care and Maintenance:**
- Demonstrate proper procedure for handling and storing instrument
- Perform simple maintenance and cleaning as required for each instrument
- Begin to diagnose problems and make minor adjustments and repairs

**Music Careers:**
- Provide opportunities for professional musicians to speak to and/or perform for students
- Explore and discuss in depth career opportunities in music

**Essential Knowledge:** Students will—
- Understanding the role of music in our society
- Appreciate the work/study ethic
- Appreciate different cultures and customs
- Acquiring stage presence and decorum
- Encouraging creative experimentation
- Sharing the talents of others
- Fostering a spirit of cooperation

**Resources:**

**Curriculum Connections:**
- **Language Arts:** musical terms and vocabulary
- **World Language:** Musical terms in various languages
- **Health and Physical Education:** aerobic activity is required for performance of an instrument
- **Mathematics:** Rhythmic counting and various meters (fractions)
- **Science:** acoustics and physical properties of sound
- **Social Studies:** music history in relationship to general historical events

Stafford County Public Schools:
[https://www.staffordschools.net/](https://www.staffordschools.net/)

VA Standards of Learning:
[http://www.doe.virginia.gov/testing/sol/standards_docs/fine_arts/index.shtml](http://www.doe.virginia.gov/testing/sol/standards_docs/fine_arts/index.shtml)

School Report Card (VA Department of Education):

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