



## WELCOME TO A NEW YEAR OF MAKING MUSIC!

Dear Parent/Guardian and musician,

Happy New School Year! My name is Jessica Gould and I am the 6-12 band teacher here at Berlin Middle/High school. I am very excited to start a new year of music with the Berlin community and look forward to working with your young musician.

Thank you for being a band parent! I know you have a busy life yet you've still listened to your little musician practice those 3 notes over and over again. Even though you are exhausted from a day at work you've brought your young musician to school and listened to their concerts. It means more to your student than you will ever know.

My main goal is to make your student's life better through the act of making music. This does take work, including practice outside of class. If your student has a set schedule for after school each day, add a small chunk of practice each day, even if it is just 15 minutes.

Lessons will most often be conducted remotely as to not pull a student out of the few days they are physically here. These won't begin until the second full week of school, schedule TBA.

We will have one in-person rehearsal each week. On remote days you may sometimes be asked to 'stream in'; other times you may be assigned something specific to work on individually.

On the next page you will find out what your student needs to be successful and what they will be evaluated on. Please let me know if you have any questions, comments or concerns.

Sincerely,

Jessica Gould, 6-12 Instrumental Music  
[jgould@berlincentral.org](mailto:jgould@berlincentral.org)

**Your musician will need the following:**

-An instrument in workable condition

-necessary supplies:

INSTRUMENT SPECIFIC

-flute: cleaning rod, cloth

-clarinet/sax: reeds, neck-strap (sax), cleaning swab

-brass: trumpet-valve oil, trombone-slide oil, horn-rotor oil

-percussion: appropriate sticks

-ALL: 3-ring binder with plastic sheet protectors

-pencils

-all necessary music and handouts

**Your musician will be graded on the following:**

All band students receive a grade for each quarter. The following demonstrates the breakdown of the grading system:

**20% Daily Participation**-each student's participation, effort and attitude will be observed by the director **DAILY**. Each student will be assessed using the following rubric.

- 0 for not attending class and not participating at all
  - For virtual: student does not log in at all and does not make up the classwork with the teacher at all
- 1 for attending class, but not participating at all
  - For virtual: student logged in without video, audio or chat.
- 2 for actively attending class and following along with class
  - For virtual: student logged in with video, audio or chat but are not necessarily on task or participating during class
- 3 for actively attending class, engaging in actual lessons and completing work
  - For virtual: Student is logged in with video, audio or chat and are on task and participating for the majority of the class

*Points may be deducted as a result of not following the Ensemble Expectation Guidelines.*

**15% Virtual Concert Participation**-Each student will make a video of them performing their portion of the selected pieces that will be arranged into a "virtual ensemble".

**50% Formative Assessments/Audio Recordings**-Students will be submitting weekly "audio check in's" to make sure they are mastering the music for our virtual performance. They will also be showing mastery and knowledge through the use of formative assessments (i.e bell ringers, exit tickets, quizzes, assignments etc).

**15% Remote Work:** Students will be asked to complete various assignments on Schoology such as Choice Boards, compositions, selected musical sections, etc.

**What it means to be prepared (for both lessons and band rehearsal):**

- Have the following supplies:
  - Instrument with necessary supplies (reeds, neck-strap, et.)
  - 3 ring binder which will contain music and other handouts
- Participate positively and consistently
- Be able to perform the assigned music; this could be a lesson book example, a portion of a band piece or some other technique-related skills

**Concert Schedule for this year:**

Veteran's Day Virtual Performance Saturday November 7, 2020 (HS ONLY)

Winter Virtual Performance Friday December 18, 2020

Pops Virtual Performance Friday March 12, 2021(HS ONLY)

Spring Virtual Performance Friday June 11, 2021

***A word about practicing...***

In order for anyone to succeed at anything effort must be put forward. Musicians must practice their craft in order to improve; high quality practice is what's important, not necessarily the amount. Students will be assigned certain skills to practice each week; they will need to put in the amount of time that is required to master the assigned music. This means that some weeks there may be less practice required than others.