

## **Fruita 8/9 School Bands**

Brett L. Argo

Director of Bands

**2017 – 2018**

Welcome to the Fruita 8/9 Band. Thank you for choosing to join us in our quest to become better musicians. I trust you will find your time with us to be a worthwhile and rewarding part of your life as a Fruita 8/9 student and your life as a whole. I would also like to thank the parents and families of our students for giving of your time, effort and support to the students in our band program. Without you and your students, this program could not succeed.

In 2015, students who took four years of arts coursework outperformed their peers who had a half-year or less of arts coursework by 38 points on the verbal portion and 58 points on the math portion of the SAT. In addition to strengthening young people's capacity to learn, engagement in the arts allows young people to have positive outlets for their boundless energy and imagination. This quote, taken from the “Council on the Arts”, emphasizes the importance of the arts in our lives. “I believe that the pursuit of excellence in music is an academic as well as an aesthetic quest. I further believe the study of music and the arts is a crucial part of each person’s life. To be successful in the arts, a student must combine information and skills learned in the ‘core classes’ with skills learned in the arts classes and other electives to produce a quality final product. This work across disciplines only happens in the public school in the Arts and Athletics.”

My ultimate goal for the members of this program is that they become literate musicians. I will strive to help you develop your musical skills in a manner that allows music to become an integral part of your life from today throughout high school and beyond. Whether we are involved in music as performers or listeners, music is a vital part of our entire lives.

Further aims of the band classes at the Fruita 8/9 school include fulfillment of individual student goals in the field of music, improvement of individual and group skills, and cultivation of a lifelong appreciation and enjoyment of music in each student.

## Course Information

The instrumental music classes offered at the Fruita 8/9 school include Symphonic Band, Concert Band, Jazz Ensemble and Guitar Class.

### Symphonic Band (9<sup>th</sup> grade students)

**Prerequisite:** Prior Band experience, demonstration of competence on major instrument.

**Credit:** Full Year 1 credit

**Fee:** \$15.00 fee per year

**Method Book:** Foundations for Superior Performance by Richard Williams and Jeff King.

*Students must purchase their own individual book.*

This class, open to players in the 9<sup>th</sup> grade, emphasizes further development of each student's musical literacy and individual performance skills. Students will participate in evening performances, clinics and festivals throughout the year. **Limited rehearsals and performances outside of class time are a part of this course and are required.**

### Concert Band (8<sup>th</sup> grade students)

**Prerequisite:** Prior band experience, demonstration of competence on major instrument.

**Fee:** \$15.00 fee per year

**Method Book:** Measures of Success by Deborah Sheldon, Brian Balmages, Timothy Loest and Robert Sheldon.

*Students must purchase their own individual book.*

This class, open to players in the 8<sup>th</sup> grade, emphasizes further development of each student's musical literacy and individual performance skills. In order to sign up for this band, students should be fluent with note names and fingerings for their instrument. Students in this class will participate in clinics, evening performances and festivals during the year. **Limited rehearsals and performances outside of class time are a part of this course and are required.**

### Beginning Guitar Class (8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> grade students)

**Prerequisite:** Students must own an **acoustic guitar** and purchase the appropriate method book. Electric guitars will not be used in this class!

**Credit:** ½ year, ½ credit – **9<sup>th</sup> Grade only**

**Method Book:** Hal Leonard Guitar Method Book 1. *Students must purchase their own individual book.*

**This class is designed for beginning guitar students.** Studies in this class will include standard notation (note reading), chords, strum patterns, some tablature notation and other basic guitar skills. Since this class is a skills class and not a performing ensemble it will not involve performances outside of class time.

### Jazz Ensemble (8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> grade students)

**Prerequisite:** Audition and Concurrent enrollment in band at Fruita 8/9.

Guitarists must be able to read standard notation and chord symbols.

**Credit:** ½ credit per semester

**Fee:** \$15.00 fee per year

This class will emphasize development of each student’s musical literacy and individual performance skills in the jazz idiom. Students in this class will participate in clinics, evening performances and festivals during the year. **Limited rehearsals and performances outside of class time are a part of this course and are required.**

The jazz classes at the Fruita 8/9 school are intended to supplement, *not replace*, the Concert and Symphonic Bands classes. Students must participate in the regular bands in order to be eligible for participation in the Jazz Classes.

**Please remember that your membership in an ensemble at the Fruita 8/9 School requires and implies that you will participate in the performances presented by that group outside of the regular school day. These performances and festivals are the “final tests” for your work in class. Your participation and individual performance quality will be reflected in the grade you earn for each grading period.**

#### **USE OF SCHOOL OWNED INSTRUMENTS:**

All Fruita 8/9 students using a school owned instrument will be required to have a signed copy of the Mesa County Valley School District NO. 51 Music Instrument Use Agreement on file with Mr. Argo and pay the appropriate usage fee before the instrument will be released for use during the 2017 – 2018 school year. If a student loses, defaces, or damages the school identification tag for a school owned instrument, they will be fined \$10.00 to replace the tag.

**The following schedule is reprinted from Tab A of the Music Instrument Use Agreement:**

#### **Exempt Status**

Students playing a school owned instrument would not be exempt from paying a maintenance fee on the basis of owning a personal instrument. Students will be exempt only for financial hardship. Exempt status will be based on federal guidelines and approved by the **Supervisor of Music Education.**

**Class A – Major Usage - \$75.00 Annual Fee – make checks payable to your student’s school.**

Each student playing a school owned instrument as their major or primary instrument during the school year will be required to pay a maintenance fee of \$75.00.

**Class B – Limited Usage - \$40.00 Annual Fee – make checks payable to your student’s school.**

Each student playing a school owned instrument on a part-time basis (i.e. during the marching season only, as a member of the jazz band at the school only, or in conjunction with their personal instrument), will pay a maintenance fee of \$40.00 for the year. (A student playing two school owned instruments would pay a maximum maintenance fee of \$75.00).

**Class C – Percussion Usage - \$75.00 Annual Fee - make checks payable to your student’s school.** Each student participating primarily as a member of a school percussion section in band or orchestra will be required to pay an annual maintenance fee of \$75.00. Payment of this fee will allow a student to play any of the school owned percussion instruments. Sixth grade or beginning percussionists bringing their own instrument to school will be expected to pay only \$30.00. **Percussionists are *required* to provide their own drumsticks (no colored tips), tympani mallets, one pair of hard bell or xylophone mallets, one pair of soft bell or xylophone mallets, and a pair of yarn or chord wound mallets.**

## Classroom Procedures

1. Students are expected to behave in a manner conducive to the learning process at all times. Behavior should project a positive image of the band to band members, students, teachers, administration, school staff and the public in general.
2. Students are expected to attend rehearsals with music thoroughly prepared.
3. Students who “sit out” in any rehearsal will be required to do a writing assignment during the class period.
4. Students are expected to have a properly working instrument, all necessary accessories (reeds, valve oil, mutes, neck straps, etc), and a pencil at each rehearsal.
5. Students are expected to take exceptional care of the facilities and equipment in the music area.
6. All instrument cases, with the exception of flute, oboe and Bb clarinet cases, must be kept in lockers during rehearsals.
7. All notebooks, binders and other personal items, with the exception of a pencil, must be kept in the lockers during rehearsals.
8. Water bottles (containing only water) may be kept with the student during rehearsals. **Any other food, drinks, or gum will not be allowed in the rehearsal hall or stage areas.**

## Grading Policies

Student grades in the band program at the Fruita 8/9 school are based on a percentage of total points earned throughout the grading period. The final grade will be compiled from a weighted average earned in three areas: 30% will be based on **daily participation**, 40% on **performances**, and 30% on **written and playing tests**.

### Daily Participation -

A student will earn daily participation points based on a 0, 2, 5 scale.

- 5 – On time, outstanding participation, attentive, no talking, pencil in class, has all reeds, mutes, music, drum sticks, etc.
- 2 – Tardy to class, in class but not really paying attention, talking, no pencil, no reed, no instrument etc.
- 0 – Student not in class and therefore unable to participate. **Excused absences, for any reason, must be made up in order to receive credit.**

### Performances -

Attendance at performances is **mandatory** and will count as 40% of the student’s grade. Performances will be graded on a 200 point scale. In order to receive the maximum available points a student must be on time and in the proper uniform with music, instrument and all necessary accessories.

On occasion there may be extraordinary circumstances that prevent a student from attending a performance. These absences, other than emergencies (car accident on the way to the concert, death in family, etc.) must be cleared with the band director in advance. **In the event a student is absent from school due to illness on the day of the concert, they will be considered excused and they may not participate in the performance. In addition, if a student is absent from rehearsal the day of a performance for any unexcused reason; they may not participate in the concert.** Excused absences from performances may be made up by playing the concert for the class and by filling out the required form. You are responsible for making arrangements with

Mr. Argo to make-up the concert. **If you do not make-up the concert within one week, it will be entered as a zero.**

### **Performance Uniform**

Concert dress for all Fruita 8/9 Band students will be a **black shirt, black pants, black socks and black shoes and a tie for the gentlemen.** The tie can be of any color or print. **The ladies should wear a black shirt or blouse with sleeves, black dress pants and black shoes.** Yoga pants, leggings, sweats, jeans and shorts are unacceptable attire for gentlemen or ladies. For Jazz Band only – all students (both male and female) must have a **bright, solid color tie** (no black, white, or gray).

### **Tests**

From time to time we will have written or playing tests in class that will count toward the student's grade for the grading period. Playing tests may also serve as the basis for chair placement within the section.

### **Individual Practice**

In order to succeed as a musician, a student must practice. I realize it is difficult for some students to practice because the large instruments are difficult to transport. Every effort will be made to obtain "home horns" for those students with large instruments so they have one at school and one at home. The band room is also open 30 minutes in the morning and 30 minutes after school. Students are welcome to come in at those times and practice as well. Students are expected to practice a minimum of 15 minutes per day.

Individual practice will also be used to make up excused absences from classes or performances. Class absences will be made up at the rate of 1 minute of practice for 1 minute of class missed, or 45 minutes per day.

### **Music Care**

Music is very expensive to replace. If a student loses or damages a piece of music, they will be charged a \$5.00 **per part** replacement fee. Because most jazz music cannot be replaced individually, students may be charged for **replacement of the arrangement** (\$45.00 - \$75.00)

## **Select Bands and Honor Bands**

### **8<sup>th</sup> Grade**

Eighth grade students are eligible to participate in the Western Slope Colorado Bandmasters Select Concert Band and the Western Slope Honor Jazz Ensembles.

In the fall quarter I will recommend several 8<sup>th</sup> graders to the selection committee and they will choose 1 to 5 students to participate in the Western Slope Select Band held this year on the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> of November, 2017 at Grand Junction High School.

Eighth grade Jazz students are also eligible to participate in the Western Slope Colorado Bandmasters Honor Jazz ensembles. Students must submit an audition recording for this ensemble. The audition recording is due on the 17<sup>th</sup> of November, 2016. The Honor Band is held at Colorado Mesa University on January 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> of 2018.

### **Freshmen**

Freshmen are eligible to participate in several regional select or honor bands and some of the state level honor bands. They may be nominated for the Western Slope Colorado Bandmasters Select Band and/or Colorado Mesa Best of the West Band. They are also eligible to submit auditions for the WSCBA High School Intermediate Jazz Ensemble, the Fort Lewis Honor Band and the Western State Honor Band.

In the fall quarter I will recommend several freshmen to the selection committee and they will choose 1 to 5 students to participate in the Western Slope Select Band held this year on the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> of November, 2017 at Grand Junction High School. I will recommend students for CMU Best of the West in early November. The Honor Band is being held from the 7<sup>th</sup> of December to the 9<sup>th</sup> of December. There will be a cost to both of these ensembles.

Freshmen Jazz students are also eligible to participate in the Western Slope Colorado Bandmasters High School Intermediate Jazz Ensemble. Students must submit an audition recording for this ensemble. The audition recording is due on the 17<sup>th</sup> of November, 2017. The Honor Jazz Band is held at Colorado Mesa University on January 6<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> of 2018.

The state level honor bands are open by auditions that occur in November and December. Fort Lewis require the submission of an audition tape that is due in early November. Talk to Mr. Argo about audition materials.

## **Lettering**

Each freshman member of the Fruita 8/9 Symphonic Band has the opportunity to letter. It will be the same blue chenille letter F that all Fruita Monument Band members earn. In order to letter, freshmen must meet the following requirements plus earn 5 additional points.

### **Requirements:**

1. Be in Symphonic Band all year.
2. Participate in 100% of the performances.
3. Participate in the band fund raiser.
4. Attain 5 points from the list below.

### **5 additional points chosen from the following:**

1. 1 point per ensemble
2. 1 point per outside concert attended
3. 1 point per outside ensemble (Jazz combo, Brass Quintet, Solo, etc.)
4. 1 point per 2 months of private lessons within the current school year
5. 1 point per performance at Solo/Ensemble Festival
6. 1 point per Select Band attended
7. 1 point per Honor Band attended
8. 1 point per Honor Band audition
9. 1 point for recruiting a student to join band

If you plan to letter, you will need to fill out a letter form throughout the course of the year and return it to Mr. Argo. The form must be completed and turned in to Mr. Argo during the week of May 7 – 11, 2018. Letters will be presented at the final concert on Thursday, May 17, 2018.

## CONCERT SCHEDULE FOR 2017 – 2018 AS OF 8/11/17

Please post this schedule where it is highly visible.

Mon. Oct. 3, 2017	8 <sup>th</sup> Grade Clinic/Concert Band @ GJHS – ½ Day	7:00 PM - <b>GJHS</b>
Tues. Oct. 17, 2017	Jazz Concert @ FMS	7:00 PM – <b>FMS</b>
Wed. Nov. 1, 2017	Symphonic Band (9 <sup>th</sup> Grade) with FMHS @ Avalon	7:00 PM – <b>Avalon Theater</b>
Thurs. Dec. 14, 2017	Concert/Symphonic/Jazz Bands Holiday Concert @ FMS	7:00 PM - <b>FMS</b>
Feb. 9 – 10, 2018	District 51 Solo/Ensemble Festival @ GMMS	TBD – <b>GMMS</b>
Tues. Feb. 20, 2018	Concert Band (8 <sup>th</sup> Grade) with FMS @ FHS	7:00 PM – <b>FMS</b>
Tues. Feb. 27, 2018	Symphonic Band with FMHS @ FMS	7:00 PM – <b>FMS</b>
Mon. March 5, 2018	CBA State Qualifier – Symphonic Band @ Palisade HS	TBD - <b>PHS</b>
Thurs. Mar. 8, 2018	Jazz Concert - Fruita Jazz Cluster @ FMS	7:00 PM – <b>FMS</b>
TBA. March 2018	D51 Jazz Jam @ Palisade High School	7:00 PM - <b>PHS</b>
Mon. Apr. 9, 2018	Pre-festival Concert/Symphonic/Jazz w/ FMS @ FMS	6:00/7:30 PM - <b>FMS</b>
April 19 - 21, 2018	Colorado West Performance Festival for 8/9 Bands/Jazz	TBD – <b>GJHS, CHS</b>
Mon. April 30, 2018	Colorado Mesa Jazz Festival	TBD – <b>CMU</b>
Tues. May 15, 2018	Symphonic Band with FMHS Bands @ Graduation	6:00 PM - <b>Stocker Stadium</b>
Thurs. May 17, 2018	Pops Concert for F8/9 Bands/ Choirs/Orchestras @ F8/9	6:30 PM - <b>F8/9</b>

These performances are required as part of the student's grade in band. Any changes or additions will be made at least 2 weeks in advance wherever possible. School concerts are evening events and festival performances may be scheduled daytime, evenings or weekends. Exact details will be given to students nearer the performance. **Students are expected to be present for the entire concert.**

Our students work very hard to prepare for each of these events and we want to share our talents and hard work with family members and friends. The final concert in front of an attentive audience is the payoff for all of the careful preparation. We appreciate your support.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me at the Fruita 8/9 school, 970-254-6720, x 34126 or by email [Brett.Argo@d51schools.org](mailto:Brett.Argo@d51schools.org) . I will return your call or email within 24 hours.



Student/Parent/Guardian  
Acknowledgement of Responsibilities  
Fruita 8/9 Band Program  
2017-2018

As a student and a member of the band, I have read the Fruita 8/9 Band handbook and agree to abide by the policies it outlines.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student Name (please print)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student's Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

As a parent/guardian of this student I have read the Fruita 8/9 Band handbook and understand the policies my son or daughter is expected to follow. **I realize they are to be in attendance at the required performances and will make every effort to have them there.**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Guardian (please print)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Guardian Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

Return this signed form to Mr. Argo by Friday, August 18, 2017 to receive the full credit.