



COLEGIO INTERNACIONAL DE CARACAS

WIND BAND AND I.B. MUSIC PROGRAMS

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COURSE SYLLABUS 2006-2007

Beginning MS 6 Band

Cary Stewart, Director

OVERVIEW

All 6th Grade students at CIC earn their Music credit in Band. The Beginning Band is designed to teach proper foundations of playing a wind instrument to students with no musical experience, while also giving students with prior musical knowledge or instrumental experience additional opportunities for self-expression. In Beginning Band, students learn proper posture, breath support, horn carriage, and embouchure; staff, clef, time signature, rhythm, pitch, articulation, and other basic music symbols; and methods for setting goals, planning strategies, completing tasks, and evaluating results. As an IB-MYP Arts class, Beginning Band emphasizes that music is a creative process as well as an activity, that music is an intrinsic component of personal and cultural expression, and that music is an enjoyable hands-on activity rather than a consumer product.

Beginning Band members are required to practice at home at least six days per week. The Beginning Band performs as a unit at concerts and school events.

GRADING

Overall—The Band course is designed such that every student can earn 100% A+ by following all of the Director's instructions in class and during at-home practice.

Your Band grade is comprised of three categories:

<u>Written Tasks</u>	<u>Playing Tasks</u>	<u>Personal Involvement</u>
Research Projects	Playing quizzes	Rehearsal Participation
Written Tests/Quizzes	Audio Tapes	Concert Participation
Journals		Responsibility and Instrument Care
Recording Critiques		

Every task assigned will have a point value. Each category will be scored as a percentage of possible points earned (earned points divided by possible points). At the end of the quarter, the three category scores will be averaged together (written plus played plus personal, divided by three) to find the overall quarter grade.

HOMEWORK

Students are required to practice an average of twenty minutes per day (a **minimum** of fifteen minutes per day, six days per week). Students will periodically be required to write journal entries at home in addition to their daily practice. Preparation for written tests and research papers will require extensive time at home, and some modification of the practice schedule will be allowed at those times.

PLAYING QUIZZES

Playing quizzes must be taken on the due date assigned. Students may retake playing quizzes unlimited times until they earn a satisfactory grade, or until the end of the quarter. It is

intended that students will voluntarily retake each playing quiz until they earn an 'A'. Written quizzes may not be retaken for increased credit.

CONCERTS

Student participation in concerts and other performances is mandatory.

All formal and informal concert performances count as major project grades. Concert absences will be excused by the Band Director according to the CIC Attendance Policy. All students who arrive on time, bring all necessary materials, and follow all instructions until dismissed automatically earn full credit. Punctuality comprises 25% of the concert grade; proper concert attire 25%; instrument and materials 25%; and 25% of the concert grade is awarded for following all instructions until dismissed. Students lacking the proper performance attire or instrument may be barred from performing, and automatically receive a grade of zero. Any student with an unexcused absence from a performance automatically receives a grade of zero. The intent of this policy is that all students will earn full credit.

Concert attire consists of white top, black pants or ankle-length skirt, black shoes and black socks unless otherwise notified by the Director. Students are expected to follow school rules and instructions from the Director and all chaperones, regardless of the concert location.

PERSONAL INVOLVEMENT

Students are graded weekly on their effort toward achieving individual and ensemble excellence during in-class and after-school rehearsals. Points will be awarded for positive scholarly behavior such as attendance at rehearsals, participation in concerts, personal care of the instrument, and full effort on assigned tasks. Points will be deducted for disrupting rehearsal, failure to follow instructions, tardiness, or lack of effort. The intent of this policy is that all students will earn full credit.

AFTER-SCHOOL REHEARSALS

Sixth grade Beginning Band students are generally not required to participate in after-school rehearsals. However, 6th grade students and parents can expect at least one mandatory dress rehearsal before each Band Concert; dress rehearsals will be posted in advance on the CIC Band Website and sent home via paper letter as well. Sixth grade students may also audition to participate in after-school groups such as Wind Orchestra or Jazz Ensemble.

TUTORING

Students may get help before school Monday through Friday from 7:00 to 7:30 a.m., or after school on Mondays, Thursdays and Fridays from 3:10 to 5:00 p.m. Times may be available during Break and Lunch with prior notice.

POWERSCHOOL

Students will be given passwords with which to keep track of their grades via Powerschool (<http://200.41.118.202/public>). Using Powerschool, students can find their approximate grade in Band at any time. Parents are encouraged to check their students' Band grade weekly.

MORE INFORMATION

The CIC Band Website (www.cic-caracas.org/departments/finearts/index.php) is the best source for up-to-date information on Band activities and assignments. Questions may also be addressed to the Band Director via the contact information at the beginning of this syllabus.