



# Flat Rock Middle School Band

Matthew D. Price, Director

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Tyrone, GA 30290  
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## *Flat Rock Middle School Band Road to Mastery*

(To be completed with Essential Elements Book 1)

Level 1

### *Unit 1—Basic Skills*

#### *The Instrument*

- Identify Parts of the Instrument (Essential Elements p. 3 diagram)
- Assemble Instrument Correctly (Essential Elements p. 3 step-by-step)
- Demonstrate Proper Care/Maintenance of the Instrument (including reeds)

#### *Playing Posture*

- Winds: Use Proper Playing Posture: total body, arm, wrist, hand, & finger positions
- Percussion: use proper grip/playing position for snare, bass, & mallet percussion

#### *Tone Production*

- Essential Elements: p. 2 “Mouthpiece Workout” (full airstream, even tone, brass buzz for 12 seconds)
- Long Tones—#1, #3, #5, #7, #9—Hold each note for 12 seconds maintaining a beautiful characteristic tone.
- *Written Test 1*: Must receive at least a 90 to move on.

### *Unit 2—Technique*

- Essential Elements #18—Half notes, quarter notes, half rests, breath marks. Students must begin to understand what phrases are. Perform with repeats.
- Percussion: Successfully complete Rhythm Challenge # 4 from *Winning Rhythms Book*—Lines A, B, and C with 2 or fewer mistakes--- Concert Bb scale 2 octaves on the xylophone.  
Brass and Woodwinds—Play exercise on a Concert F with 2 or fewer mistakes.
- Essential Elements # 23—March Steps. Percussion students must complete this exercise on mallet & battery instruments.
- Essential Elements # 26 QUIZ—quarter, half, whole notes and rests with repeat.
- Essential Elements #31 *A Mozart Melody*—Students must play alone and as a group while maintaining a good characteristic band tone.



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- Percussionists must display how to properly hold, maintain, and play a triangle (p.8) Rudiments: Alternating Flams—Quarter =120 Double Stroke Roll—Quarter=100 (p.46-47 #6, #20). Concert Bb and Eb scales on the xylophone 2 Octaves.
- Essential Elements #32 QUIZ.
- Written Test 2: Must receive an 80 to move on.
- Essential Elements #36 *A-Tisket, A-Tasket*. Pick-up notes, PC Rudiment: Paradiddle
- Essential Elements # 41—Percussion must learn mallet, snare drum, and bass drum parts.
- Essential Elements #44 *Oh, Susanna*— Students will perform #44 as a solo in class. Percussion students must play #44, and they must show how to properly hold, play, and care for a woodblock.
- Essential Elements #47 *Two by Two*—Percussion students will double the bass drum part on crash cymbals.
- All students must successfully conduct a 4/4 and a 2/4 pattern.
- *Winning Rhythms Book*—Exercise 4—Anything from lines A-J.
- #49. *Hey, Ho! Nobody's Home*—Perform with a repeat. Percussion students must show how to properly play a tambourine, woodblock, cymbal, and triangle.
- #51—*Play the Dynamics*
- #52—*Performance Warm Ups (Tone Builder, Rhythm Etude, Rhythm Rap, Chorale)*

## Unit 3—Performance

- Essential Elements # 55 *When the Saints Go Marching In*
- Essential Elements # 56 *Old McDonald Had A Band*
- Essential Elements # 57 *Ode to Joy*
- Essential Elements # 58 *Hard Rock Blues*
- Essential Elements #59 *Fit to Be Tied*
- Essential Elements # 62 *Camptown Races*
- Essential Elements #64 *The Nobles*
- Essential Elements #71 *Mexican Clapping Song*—Percussion—maracas, claves, accents.
- Students will be able to explain the roots of Latin American Music as explained on EE page 15.



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- Essential Elements #72—*Essential Creativity*—Students will compose their own ending to a piece of music, and they will perform in class.
- Essential Elements #73—*Hot Muffins—A New Note*—Students will display knowledge about accidentals in 2/4 time.
- S.T.A.R.S Sight Reading Handout. Students must understand how to sight read in the SMS Band.
- Essential Elements # 75—*Basic Blues*—Students will perform a basic Bb blues scale.
- Essential Elements #77—*Sakura Sakura*—Pentatonic Scale
- Essential Elements #82—*Air Time*—Sixteenth notes in percussion, extended range in the flutes, and Chalumeau range in the clarinets.
- *Winning Rhythms Exercise #14 Lines A,B,C,D*—All students must be able to perform selections from the lines in order to move forward.
- Essential Elements #85—Students will improvise basic quarter, eighth, and sixteenth rhythms.

## Level 2

### Unit 4—Tone, Rhythm Building, and Extended Techniques

- Complete SMS Warm Up—Essential Elements #86-89. All 4 exercises must be performed by memory by each student.
- Brass—Lip Slurs on pg. 24 of Essential Elements
- Essential Elements # 138—*Easy Gorilla Jumps*—Clarinets on high G.
- Full Band—Essential Elements #119-124 and 126—*Grenadilla Gorilla Jumps—Extended Range Clarinets and Lip Slurs in the Brass.*
- Percussion Rudiments—double stroke roll, flam tap, flam accent, alternating flams, and paradiddles
- Essential Elements # 90—*Variations On A Familiar Theme*—Theme and Variations
- Essential Elements #91—*Banana Boat Song*—basic Eighth two sixteenth rhythms.
- *Winning Rhythms Exercise #16 Lines A,B,C,D,E*—All students must be able to perform selections from the lines in order to move forward.
- Essential Elements # 92—*Razor's Edge*
- Essential Elements # 95—*Slur technique*



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- Essential Elements #99—*Take the Lead*—Concert A.
- Essential Elements #109—*Bottom Bass Boogie*—2 parts
- Essential Elements #111—*The Dot Always Counts*—Dotted quarter and eighths. Basic Syncopation.
- Essential Elements #116—*The Turnaround*—Basic inverted syncopation.
- *Performance Spotlight—Solo—Theme from “New World Symphony”* All wind students must perform this solo alone and with others.
- *Performance Spotlight—Solo—Hungarian Dance No. 5—Snare Drum Solo.* All percussionists must perform the snare drum part. Concert Bb, Eb, F, Ab scales 2 octaves on marimba.

## Unit 5—\*\*\*\*Performance\*\*\*\*

- Essential Elements #125—*QUIZ—Intervals*
- Essential Elements #128—*Grenadilla Gorilla Jump No. 5*—C for clarinets.
- Essential Elements #129—*Technique Trax*—Accidentals and quarter eighth syncopation.
- Essential Elements #130—*Crossing Over—New Note*
- Essential Elements #131—*Kum Bah Yah*
- Essential Elements #135—*Technique Trax—Slur 2 tongue 2 Concert Eb.*
- Essential Elements #145—*More Gorilla Jumps—New Note—B natural for the clarinets.*
- Essential Elements #146—*Full Coverage*—Exercise cannot be completed unless all fingers are covering the finger holes correctly.
- Essential Elements #150—*Theme from Surprise Symphony.*
- Essential Elements #151—*QUIZ*—note names, 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> endings, clarinets and bass clarinets...low E.
- \*\*\*\*Essential Elements #152—*School Spirit March*
- \*\*\*\*Essential Elements #153—*Carnival of Venice*
- Essential Elements #155—*Technique—Concert Bb in sequences.*
- Essential Elements #159—*Eighth Note March*
- Essential Elements #162—*Eighth Notes off the Beat*
- Essential Elements #165—*Dancing Melody—Concert Gb introduced.*
- Essential Elements #169—*The Snake Charmer*—Enharmonic Tones



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- Essential Elements #174—*Half Steppin'*—Bb Chromatic Scale Work.
- Essential Elements #175—*Egyptian Dance*—Work with Harmonics—*Bacchanal*.
- Essential Elements #184—*Theme from 1812 Overture*
- At least 3 band pieces from the Grade E—Grade 2 GMEA list.

## Required Scales, Rhythm Assignments, Theory Assignments and Techniques—Final Exam

- Essential Elements Page 40 Nos. 1,2,3—*Concert Bb Major Scale with Arpeggio, slur 2 tongue 2, Scale in 3rds*
- Concert G Natural Minor Scale
- Essential Elements Page 40 Nos. 1,2,3—*Concert Eb Major Scale with Arpeggio, slur 2 tongue 2, Scale in 3rds*
- Essential Elements Page 41 Nos. 1,2,3—*Concert F Major Scale with Arpeggio, slur 2 tongue 2, Scale in 3rds*
- Concert D Natural Minor Scale
- Essential Elements Page 41 Nos. 1,2,3—*Concert Ab Major Scale with Arpeggio, slur 2 tongue 2, Scale in 3rds*
- 12 Major Scales + full range chromatic
- 6 minor scales—G, C, F, Bb, Eb, Ab minor scales
- Rhythm Studies—Students must have the counts written in for measures 1-72, and students must be able to clap, count, and play any measure assigned by the instructor. Fayette County Rhythm Sheet.
- All Pep Music has been passed off for Mr. Price
- Essential Elements #185—Final Exam—Students must perform a solo. *Eine Kleine Nachtmusik, Theme from Symphony No. 1 or Can Can.*
- Percussion Students Final Exam:
  - Snare Drum—Double stroke roll, 5 stroke roll, 9 stroke roll, alternating flams, flam accent, flam tap, drag, paradiddle
  - Mallets—Concert Bb, Eb, Ab, F, C, Gb, and full range Chromatic scale.
  - Timpani—Be able to tune intervals of a 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> ascending and descending.
- Students must complete the first 20 lessons in *Master Theory* by Charles S. Peters and Paul Yoder.



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## Required Performance Opportunities

- ❑ Student must perform in at least 2 Band Concerts—Grade 1—Grade 2 Literature
- ❑ Student will audition for District Honor Band.
- ❑ Student will participate in Solo and Ensemble
- ❑ Student will audition for placement as a member of the FRMS 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Bands
- ❑ Student must perform in at least 1 chamber ensemble.



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