

Berrien Springs Parent Partnership
Independent Study/Project Based Learning Course Description and
Syllabus

Course Title: BE IN A BAND

Ages/Grade Levels: GRADES 2-12

Class size: Min: 1 **Max:** N/A

Location Address: 9480 COLUMBIA RD, DOWAGIAC, MI 49047

Provide directions to location if necessary:

1.5 MILES EAST OF M-140 ON COLUMBIA RD

Start Date: September

End Date: November

Day of the Week: Circle: WEEKLY, to be arranged with students

Begin and end time of class: 2 HOUR CLASS SESSIONS

Contact/Instructor: JON WHIDDEN

Email and Website: jon@ruskets.com

Best phone #: 269-782-8809 **Publish # on website?** Y

Does the student also need to register with you or at your location? N

Classes will be (circle one): Pass/Fail **What is the criteria for passing the class?**

Students will participate in class arranging, rehearsing, recording and performing a song or series of songs as a group.

Briefly describe the course, including topics to be covered and subject areas that the course will cover –this is what will be posted on our website:

This is your chance to learn how to collaborate with other musicians as a member of a band. Classes will include a range of activities like jamming, group composition, rehearsing, recording a demo and live performance.

Players of any instrument and vocalists are all welcome to join. After registering, each student will be contacted by the instructor and assigned to a group based on their musical interests, abilities and their preferred instrument.

Over the course of the semester students will learn to write original songs, arrange cover versions of their favorite popular recordings, and rehearse their sets during intensive 2-hour sessions.

After the final day of rehearsal the band will perform their set for an audience and go home with a demo recording to keep.

Instructor: Jon Whidden is a local artist, teacher, homeschooling parent of 3 boys, and founding member of 3 bands that you've probably never heard of.

Weekly breakdown of instruction: (write on separate sheet if necessary)

All classes must have a min. of 4 Course Objective Checkpoints unique to your class. You will note on the attendance sheet when students have met these objectives. Write in #'s 2 and 3:

1st: pre-test

2nd: Learn how to set up and tune up for band rehearsals

3rd: Learn how to write a simple song as a group

4th: Learn how to arrange a cover version of someone else's song

5th: Learn how to record a demo

6th: Perform for an audience

List any materials that students are required to bring to class:

Bring your instrument. Drum kit, acoustic guitars, vocal microphones and guitar amplifiers are available at the studio.

List any required or optional online resources you will use in class: N/A

Final Project: Circle method(s) of evaluation resulting in a percentage improvement score

Live performance and/or demo CD

Cost per student for the entire semester, including materials and supplies: \$300.00

Invoices are due 10/15 for Fall and 2/15 for Spring.

Thank you for providing your expertise to the students in our community!