# 6th Grade Beginning Band Curriculum Map

### Method Book: *Essential Elements Book 1* | August 14 – May 27

| Month | Weeks | Focus | Book Pages / Exercises | Objectives |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **August** | Weeks 1-3 (Aug 14–30) | **Intro to Instruments & Fundamentals** | Pages 2–5 | - Instrument assembly & care<br>- Posture & embouchure<br>- First sounds on mouthpiece/headjoint<br>- Breathing exercises<br>- Rhythm counting (whole, half, quarter notes) |
| **September** | Weeks 4-8 (Sept 2–27) | **First Notes & Rhythms** | Pages 6–9<br>Exercises 1–15 | - Produce first notes (Concert Bb, C, D)<br>- Count and play in 4/4<br>- Play with steady beat<br>- Echo and call/response |
| **October** | Weeks 9-13 (Sept 30–Oct 31) | **Expanding Notes & Reading Skills** | Pages 10–13<br>Exercises 16–35 | - Learn more notes (Concert Eb, F, G)<br>- Improve tone and tonguing<br>- Begin playing simple melodies<br>- Intro to dynamics (p/f)<br>- Show+Demo Concert |
| **November** | Weeks 14–17 (Nov 1–22) | **Phrasing & Expression** | Pages 14–17<br>Exercises 36–50 | - Play musical phrases<br>- Intro to slurs and ties<br>- Dynamic contrast<br>- Prepare fall performance |
| **December** | Weeks 18–19 (Dec 2–13) | **Fall/Winter Performance Prep & Review** | Review Units 1–3 | - Play holiday/fall concert music<br>- Reinforce fundamentals<br>- Ensemble awareness |
| **January** | Weeks 20–23 (Jan 6–31) | **New Time Signatures & Key Concepts** | Pages 18–21<br>Exercises 51–70 | - Intro to 3/4 and 2/4 time<br>- New notes (Concert A, D, E, etc.) |

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| | | | | - Articulations (staccato/legato) |
| **February** | Weeks 24–27 (Feb 3–28) | **Musical Skills & Technique** | Pages 22–25 Exercises 71–90 | - Focus on tone and intonation<br>- Simple scale patterns<br>- Ensemble blend & balance |
| **March** | Weeks 28–31 (Mar 3–28) | **Scales & Spring Concert Prep** | Pages 26–29 Exercises 91–110 | - Bb Concert scale<br>- Articulation and dynamics<br>- Sight-reading basics<br>- ISSMA contest |
| **April** | Weeks 32–35 (Apr 1–25) | **Performance & Musicianship** | Pages 30–33 Exercises 111–122 | - Emphasis on musicality<br>- Play duets & small ensemble<br>- Practice concert music |
| **May** | Week 36 (May 1–27) | **Concert & Year-End Reflection** | Review and concert | - Perform final concert<br>- Class evaluations<br>- Reflection journals<br>- Celebrate progress! |