8th Grade Band Curriculum Map

Method Book *Essential Elements Book 3* | August 14 – May 27

Month	Weeks	Focus	Book Pages / Exercises	Objectives
August	Weeks 1–3 (Aug 14–30)	**Fundamentals Review / Daily Routine Setup**	Book 2 review EE3 pp. 2–3	- Review tone, tuning, scales - Set up daily warm-up (tone, technique, rhythm) - Begin group chorales and breathing exercises
September	Weeks 4–8 (Sept 2–27)	**Scales and Rhythmic Precision**	EE3 pp. 4–7 Exercises 1–20	- Focus on Concert Bb, Eb, F scales - Dotted rhythms, ties, syncopation - Chorales for blend and tuning -Mass band concert
October	Weeks 9–13 (Sept 30–Oct 31)	**Expanded Key Signatures (Concert Ab, C)**	EE3 pp. 8–11 Exercises 21–40	- Play and apply new key signatures - Emphasize dynamics and articulation - Begin fall concert music
November	Weeks 14–17 (Nov 1–22)	**Ensemble Precision / Concert Prep**	EE3 pp. 12–13 + Performance Music	- Ensemble listening skills (balance, blend) - Refine concert music - Emphasize musical interpretation
December	Weeks 18–19 (Dec 2–13)	**Fall Concert & Reflection**	Concert Music + EE3 Chorales	- Perform fall/Winter concert - Reflect on musical growth - Group/individual tone and rhythm assessments

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January	Weeks 20–23 (Jan 6–31)	**Minor Keys & 6/8 Time**	EE3 pp. 14–17 Exercises 41–60	- Introduce minor scales (concert d, g) - Rhythmic focus: 6/8 and triplets - Begin spring concert literature -Solo and Ensemble!
February	Weeks 24–27 (Feb 3–28)	**Technical Fluency & Expression**	EE3 pp. 18–21 Exercises 61–80	- Develop flexibility, finger technique, range - Emphasize expressive markings, tempo shifts - Sectional rehearsals
March	Weeks 28–31 (Mar 3–28)	**Articulation Styles / Festival Prep**	EE3 pp. 22–25 Exercises 81–100	- Focus on contrasting articulations (tenuto, marcato, etc.) - Play in multiple styles - ISSMA contest
April	Weeks 32–35 (Apr 1–25)	**Full Ensemble Polishing & Performance Practice**	EE3 pp. 26–29 Exercises 101–115	- Execute phrasing and advanced dynamics - Emphasize musical storytelling - Rehearse and polish full program
May	Week 36 (May 1–27)	**Spring Concert & Year-End Reflection**	Spring Concert + Review	- Perform full program - Scale/musical growth assessment - Final reflections & future band placement goals