

# Billingshurst MIDDLE SCHOOL - SIXTH GRADE

## BAND

### 2021-2022 HANDBOOK

Dear Band Parent(s)/Guardian(s) and Band Students,

I am looking forward to introducing your child to band music. During this class we will learn 1) proper playing position, 2) breath support, 3) embouchure, 4) note names/fingerings/pitches, 5) basic rhythms, 6) instrument care and cleaning, and most importantly, how to put all the six elements together to make music. In addition, we will be doing some basic music theory to help understand how to communicate in the language of music. Encourage your child to play for you often. They will appreciate your interest and you will notice their progress! **On a separate note, please make sure your contact information is up to date in Infinite Campus and that you set your message settings to allow teacher messages as this is the way I send out group emails with updates/info (instructions for this can be found at the bottom of the band website homepage - in red writing). Also, please complete and submit the forms in this packet.** Feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Nathaniel Myers  
(775) 746-5870 (BDB MS Office)  
[nathaniel.myers@washoeschools.net](mailto:nathaniel.myers@washoeschools.net)

**Band Website** [www.washoeschools.net/billinghurstband](http://www.washoeschools.net/billinghurstband)

## Band Grading Procedures

\*Band grades will be determined using the grading categories below.

### **ASSESSMENTS (33% of overall grade)**

- **Playing tests:** these will be done in class once per quarter so I may give each student feedback and grade their progress. Playing tests may be re-taken for a higher grade until the end of the quarter.
- **Pass-off tests:** there will be several of these assigned each quarter. The goal of these tests is to pass with 100% accuracy as they will cover the basic building blocks of musicianship. Students may take them as many times as they would like until the end of the quarter and if they are unable to pass with 100%, I will enter the grade they earn on their third attempt.
- **Written assessments:** these will be given to show knowledge of music reading, symbols, and terms.
- **To note for all assessments:** You will always be given ample notification and will only be tested on concepts that have been covered in class. If you are practicing regularly, you will not have a problem with any of the tests.



### **PRACTICE (22% of overall grade)**

**Home practice is a critical element of playing an instrument!** Students will complete weekly practice assignments and then submit electronically at the end of each week (via the band website under the 'Practice Assignments' page). Each assignment will have a set amount of goals to complete and students may complete more than the required amount to earn extra credit. Students should set aside about 60 minutes/week for practice and are encouraged to divide this time up evenly throughout the week (four 15-minute practices would be perfect). This means they will need to take their instrument home regularly (they may also practice in the band room after school or at lunch if arranged ahead of time). Late work is graded at 60% after the due date and will not be accepted after a week from the due date.

### **PARTICIPATION (CLASS PERFORMANCE) (30% of overall grade)**

Your participation is graded according to your preparedness and active participation in class. You may receive up to 20 points per class session.

To be considered prepared for band; you need to bring the following items to every band class:

- ✓ **Instrument: 10 points**
- ✓ **Book- Sound Innovations, Book 1: 3 points**
- ✓ **Planner, pencil, practice log, additional music sheets, instrument accessories (reeds, oil, etc.): 1 point each**

Participation points will also be subtracted if you are off task or disrupting the class.



**ABSENCE MAKE-UP WORK POLICY:** If a student misses class they can earn the missed Class Performance grade by recording themselves playing the indicated music from the day they missed (I'll list this on the band website and in Infinite Campus). If they are unable to record they can also arrange to play for me at lunch or after school. Students have the amount of days absent plus one to complete the make-up work and have the absence cleared (per WCSD policy). They will have until the end of the quarter to earn the missing grade.

### **CONCERT ATTENDANCE (15% of overall grade)**

We will have several concerts during the year. **Your attendance at these events is mandatory and a major part of your grade.** If you must miss a concert, please submit a signed parent note with a valid excuse to your band teacher either: two weeks before the concert for pre-arranged absences or within one week after the concert for unexpected absences (sickness, family emergencies, etc). An alternate assignment will be given for excused absences. If you can avoid scheduling elective surgeries/procedures before concerts (especially dental), please do! See the band calendar on the band webpage so you can ensure your attendance at all concerts this year.

### **CITIZENSHIP (Behavior/Work Ethic)**

My rules for citizenship are really basic manners that I hope you have acquired before this class:

- ✓ **Be respectful to teacher and fellow classmates**
- ✓ **Do not talk or play out of turn**
- ✓ **Enter and leave classroom quietly and orderly**
- ✓ **Employ all the elements of TRACKS (our school positive behavior system)**

### **DISCIPLINE PLAN**

I will follow the discipline plan that is described in your student tracker.

## Supplies Needed - 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Band

Every student is responsible for providing the following supplies for sixth grade band class by **August 23rd, 2021**:

- 1) **Instrument** - Flute, Clarinet, Alto Sax, Trumpet, Trombone, or Baritone
- 2) **Band book: Sound Innovations - Book 1** (this is provided as part of your band fee)
- 3) **Portable Music Stand** (optional- for practice at home)
- 4) **Pencil** (keep a pencil in your instrument case, we will use them daily!)
- 5) **Additional Accessories** for individual instrument:



### Flute

- Cleaning rod (normally included with instrument)
- Swab for rod (any rectangular piece of cotton is fine)
- Polishing cloth

### Clarinet/Saxophone

- Reeds (1 box, Rico brand- strength 2.5)
- Cleaning Swab
- Cork Grease
- Neck Strap & Polishing cloth (sax only)

### Trumpet/Baritone

- Valve Oil
- Slide Grease
- Polishing Cloth

### Trombone

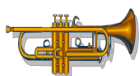
- Slide Cream/Oil
- Mini Water Spray Bottle
- Polishing Cloth

\*For students needing to rent an instrument from the school, please submit the School Rental Application in this packet ASAP. Please refer to the "Instrument Rental/Purchase Procedures" section below for more info about obtaining instruments.

## Band Uniform

We will wear our uniform at all concerts. The 6<sup>th</sup> grade uniform includes:

- Your band t-shirt (included in band fee, will be given out prior to our first concert)
- Nice Blue Jeans (nice = not ripped up or dirty)



## Band Instrument Rental/Purchase Procedures 2021-2022

### For Beginning Band Students

#### Rental/Purchase Options:

- Rent-to-own from a local music store** (or online). Approximate Prices: \$30-45/month for flute, clarinet, trumpet and trombone. Saxes and larger instrument are around \$50-80/month. (Some pricing can be found on the band website)
- Purchase from a local music store or online** (do not recommend this option for beginners). If you are going to purchase, Mr. Myers is happy to give input about instrument quality and price. Remember- you get what you pay for!
- Rent instrument from the school** for \$50 for the school year (Limited inventory- reserved first for those on the Free & Reduced Lunch list per district policy.). **There will not be any school alto saxes available to 6<sup>th</sup> graders.**

#### Rental Procedures:

- From Music Stores:** Families review prices from different stores (some store rental rates and info can be found on the Billingshurst Band webpage, info below) and then go in to rent/buy.
- For School instruments:** Parents who are in need of a school instrument submit a School Rental Application (next page). The list of those in need is then given to our Principal to check Free & Reduced Lunch eligibility. If the student qualifies and an instrument is available, Mr. Myers will then send home a rental contract. Students will not receive school instruments unless Mr. Myers has received contract and payment. **Qualifying students still pay the \$50 rental fee (different from Class Fee)**
  - o If you don't need a school instrument, but would like to use one if Mr. Myers has any left over after those in need have checked theirs out, please complete the form below as well.

## Billingshurst 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Band - Required Events Calendar\*\*

Tuesday 12/07/21	Time TBA	Winter Concert	Billingshurst Gym
Tuesday 5/10/22	Time TBA	Spring Concert	Billingshurst Gym
Date TBA (Early Spring)	Time TBA	Zone Concert	McQueen HS Gym

\*\*Events may be added, changed, or cancelled. Advance notice will be given for any changes

## **6<sup>th</sup> Grade Band Fees & Supply Order**

The main office collects all fees. You pay your band fee on the full school-wide fee form (most families pay this during the week before school). This fee pays for your band t-shirt, band book, \*some\* supplies, and band coaches. To order additional supplies, print and complete the form below and then bring to Mr. Myers before turning it in to the main office with payment. Keep your receipt as proof of purchase. ***Band fees are due by Friday, August 20<sup>th</sup>.***

### **YOUR BAND “TO DO LIST”**

- 1) **Read the Band Handbook**
- 2) **Receive Instrument Placement from Mr. Myers (Done in Class on Tuesday 8/10)**
- 3) **Complete the [Band Registration Form](#) by Friday, August 13.** This form includes:
  - a. *Band Class Agreement* (to complete after reading the Handbook)
  - b. *Needed student information* (shirt size, etc)
  - c. *School Instrument Rental Request Form* (for those wanting to rent an instrument from the school)
- 4) **Purchase the needed supplies for your child’s instrument.** Check out the [supply form](#) from the band website

### **Adjust your Infinite Campus Message Settings**

You can adjust your Infinite Campus Message settings to allow teacher messages to go directly to your email. This is very handy for grade warnings and other important class information for band and all classes. For instructions about how to adjust your settings, visit the band website([www.washoeschools.net/billinghurstband](http://www.washoeschools.net/billinghurstband)) and go to the bottom of the HOMEPAGE. There is a link here that will take you to the instructions.