

# Yvonne Shaw Middle School



## 6<sup>th</sup> Grade BAND HANDBOOK

2024 – 2025

*“Where music howls...”*

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Dear Band Parents, Guardians, and Students,

Welcome to the Yvonne Shaw Middle School Band program. I am very excited about our growing pack. I am also very excited to have *you* joining us this year!

Please take your time as you read through the Band Handbook. This will prepare you for how our band program functions. If a problem should arise, please turn to this handbook as your first resource. If you cannot find the answer here, please don't hesitate to contact me. Also, please be sure to complete the **forms** at the end of this handbook and return them to me by **8/16/2024**.

Students who take part in the band program at Shaw are challenged to grow musically and encouraged to achieve their highest potential. In order for this to occur, students must show respect for their teachers, fellow musicians, instruments, any/all music they perform, all guests, and the work each person puts into the band.

If you fulfill the expectations laid out in the handbook, you will complete/finish the year with great memories, true friendships, and a sense of pride and accomplishment for how much you are able to grow.

I can't wait to see what we will be able to accomplish this year!

Sincerely,

*Amy Whiteley*

Band / 7<sup>th</sup> +8<sup>th</sup> Choir Teacher

[amy.whiteley@washoeschools.net](mailto:amy.whiteley@washoeschools.net)

Google Voice Number (775) 476-2554 (feel free to text or call, however please note that I do not check this number every day and email is the best way to contact me)

## **Beginning Band Grading Procedures**

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

### **ASSESSMENTS/CONCERT (75% 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 by the end of the quarter. Students will have the option to perform live for me at a student and teacher arranged time or record themselves playing to be uploaded to Canvas.
- **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 and completing written assignments, you will not have a problem with any of the tests.

### **CONCERT ATTENDANCE (20% 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 prearranged 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 attached so you can ensure your attendance at all concerts this year.

### **PARTICIPATION/ASSIGNMENTS (25% of overall grade)**

**Participation:** Your participation is graded according to your preparedness and active participation in class. Participation is totaled per week out of 100 possible points. Below is the breakdown of how participation is calculated (based on a week where 6<sup>th</sup> grade students are in class 3 times for that week, please note that on weeks where students are seen 2 times per week the values adjust)

- **Bringing instrument and all accessories (reeds, oil, etc.): 5 points**
  - **Bringing binder with all materials (including pencils): 5 points**
  - **Playing instrument at appropriate times during class as instructed by teacher: 20 points**
- \*Participation points will also be subtracted if you are off task or disrupting the class.
- **Written assignments:** There will be an average of 1-2 written assignments per week pertaining to music notation and literacy, if not completed and turned in during class time the expectation is that the written assignment will be completed and turned in by the Friday of that week or it will be marked late.

*Please stay active on Canvas as I will do my best to update assignments and due dates as they arrive!*

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

My rules for citizenship are as follows:

- 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 our school positive behavior system.

### **LATE WORK/ABSENT POLICY**

- See planner for the Late Work Policy
- If absent, a student's participation grade will be lowered because they were not at school to participate in class. Students will need to practice for 20 minutes in order to raise their participation grade. They can do this before or after school or at lunch, upon Mr. Skinner availability. If they make this up at home, parents must send an email to Mr. Skinner confirming they practiced. A physical log will be available to print out on Canvas. Their participation grade will be raised once the student has practiced.

### **TAKING INSTRUMENTS HOME**

- Students are expected to take instruments home every weekend and over Fall, Winter, and Spring Break for practice
- This encourages students to practice their skills at home to continue their growth.
- This is also to give students the time to prepare for playing tests, which are held during class or online.
- Students will be eligible to bring instruments home once the rental form and fee have been handled and I have seen them demonstrate instrument safety properly (usually around week 4)

## Supplies – 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Band

Every student is responsible for having the following supplies for sixth grade band class:

1. **Instrument** – 6<sup>th</sup> grade students pick from the instruments below. Students wanting to play percussion must play a wind instrument during 6<sup>th</sup> grade before transitioning to 7<sup>th</sup> grade.
2. **Band Book/Binder**– will be provided to student from Class Fee.
3. **Class Fee** – \$25 beginning band fee is for a Band T-Shirt, Band Book, and Classroom Supplies.
4. **Band Folder** – (*This will be provided along with other band music*)
5. **Pencil** – Keep in instrument case as we ABSOLUTELY use them daily.
6. **Instrument Accessories** – Students renting instruments from Shaw\* will receive all of the following accessories. Students renting from outside sources will have to provide their own supplies. The supplies are as follows:

<u><b>Flute</b></u>	<u><b>Clarinet &amp; Saxophone*</b></u>	<u><b>Alto Saxophone</b></u> <i>Please note Alto Sax cannot be rented through school and student must provide their own to play in class!</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cleaning Cloth</li> <li>• Swab</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Swab</li> <li>• Cork Grease</li> <li>• 3 Working Reeds (per quarter)</li> <li>• Neck Strap (Saxophone)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Swab</li> <li>• Cork Grease</li> <li>• 3 Working Reeds (per quarter)</li> <li>• Neck Strap</li> </ul>
<u><b>Trumpet, French Horn, Baritone/Euphonium, &amp;Tuba</b></u>		<u><b>Trombone</b></u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Valve Oil</li> <li>• Tuning Slide Grease</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Slide Cream</li> <li>• Spray Bottle</li> <li>• Tuning Slide Grease</li> </ul>

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## Band Instrument Rental

*For Beginning Band Students*

### Rental/Purchase Options:

- **Rent instrument from the school.** Rental fees are \$50 for the school year (Limited inventory- reserved for those on the Free & Reduced Lunch list per district policy). \*There will **not** be any school Saxophones available to 6th graders.
- **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. A more in depth explanation will be at the end of this handbook.
- **Purchase from a local music store or online** If you are going to purchase, I will be happy to give input about instrument quality and price.
  - Remember - you get what you pay for! No quality band instrument will be less than \$100.

### Rental Procedures:

- **From Music Stores:** Families review prices from different stores and then go in to rent/buy. More in depth information to be found on last page of handbook
- **For School instruments:** Parents who are in need of a school instrument submit a School Rental Application (found in the forms section of handbook). The list of those in need of and instrument is then checked for Free & Reduced Lunch eligibility. If the student qualifies and an instrument is available, I will then send home a rental contract. Once those students receive instruments, the inventory will be available on a first come, first served basis. Students will not receive school instruments until I have received contract and payment. The fee for renting a school instrument is \$50 for the year. For questions, please contact me.

## **6<sup>th</sup> Grade Band Uniform**

We will wear our uniform at all concerts. The 6th 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)
- Close toed shoes, preferably darker in color (No sandals or flip-flops)

## **Views on Religious Music**

### **National Association for Music Education Statement on Religious Music:**

*“It is the position of NAfME: The National Association for Music Education that the study and performance of religious music within an educational context is a vital and appropriate part of a comprehensive music education. The omission of sacred music from the school curriculum would result in an incomplete educational experience.”*

## **Supplies at Shaw**

At Shaw, we have common supplies that are available for purchase. To purchase supplies, students should bring money to me. If supplies are in stock, students will receive their item(s) immediately. If we are out, I will not accept money until we have the supplies. The supplies that Shaw offers and prices are the follow:

<b>Supply</b>	<b>Price</b>
Bassoon/Oboe Reed	\$18
Clarinet / Alto Sax Reed	\$2
Bass Clarinet / Tenor Sax Reed	\$3
Bari Sax Reed	\$4
Cork Grease	\$3
Woodwind Swab	\$5-14
Saxophone Neck strap	\$15

<b>Supply</b>	<b>Price</b>
Trombone Slick-Kit (Slide Cream & Spray Bottle)	\$6
Tuning Slide Grease	\$2
Valve Oil	\$2
Mouthpiece Brush	\$2
Cleaning Snake	\$5
Polishing Cloth	\$6

## **6<sup>th</sup> Grade Band Calendar**

All events are required unless marked with OPT. For “optional”. Families are welcome and encouraged to attend all events! Please note that there may be fundraisers or events that may be added, but ample notification will be given.

<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Event</b>	<b>Location</b>
<b>Thur. Nov. 14th</b>	<b>4:30 – 6:00 PM</b>	<b>Fall Band Concert</b>	<b>Shaw Middle School Gym</b>
<b>Thur. Jan. 30th</b>	<b>4:30 – 7:30 PM</b>	<b>Solo and Ensemble Night (OPT)</b>	<b>Shaw Middle School Cafeteria</b>
<b>Fri. May 23rd</b>	<b>4:30 – 6:00 PM</b>	<b>Spring Band Concert</b>	<b>Shaw Middle School Gym</b>



Shaw MS Beginning Band

# Class Contract

Due by Friday, August 16, 2024

We have read the welcome letter, grading procedures, discipline policy and supply list and agree to abide by the policies set forth in the band handbook. We understand the commitment necessary to participate in band and will provide the instrument and other supplies needed in order for my student to succeed. Also, the parent/guardian listed below hereby gives consent and approval for the student named below to participate in all trips and functions of the Shaw Middle School Band Program for the 2024-2025 school year.

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<b>Student Name (Printed)</b>	<b>Circle Class:</b> 6A	6B	7A	7B
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<b>Student Signature</b>	<b>Date</b>
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**Parent/Guardian Name (Printed)**

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<b>Parent/Guardian Signature</b>	<b>Date</b>
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## School Instrument Rental Application (Optional)

- **Only complete this form if school instrument is needed.**
- **This does not guarantee that you will receive an instrument.** This lets me know that you would like an instrument from the school. Please understand that the school has limited instruments available. Large or less common instruments are available to rent from the school. These include: Oboe, Bassoon, Bass Clarinet, Tenor/Baritone Saxophone, French Horn, Trombone, Baritone/Euphonium, Tuba, and Percussion Kits. I will do my best to ensure there is an instrument for your student if store rental is not an option. Please note priority for rental instruments will be in the order as follows: Students qualifying for free or reduced lunch, 8<sup>th</sup> grade, 7<sup>th</sup> grade, 6<sup>th</sup> grade.
- **Those needing a school instrument should detach & return forms by Friday, August 16, 2024.**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Instrument (If trials completed if not leave blank)

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Band Class (please circle):      6A      6B      7A      7B

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Parent/Guardian Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Parent Email: \_\_\_\_\_

### ***Please Initial once read:***

School instruments will be rented for the school year for a \$50\* fee. I understand that high-demand instrument will go to those on the free & reduced lunch list first and there may not be enough instruments to cover all requests.

Initial Here: \_\_\_\_\_

**\*DO NOT SEND IN MONEY WITH THIS FORM. PLEASE WAIT UNTIL RENTAL IS APPROVED!**

## Renting from Music Stores

### Recommended Stores


- Blue Note B's
- Absolute Music

Both have an online option or offer in person. I recommend calling ahead to make sure the desired instrument is in stock.

<https://bnbinstruments.com/>

→ Get Your Instruments from the Guys that Fix Instruments. Call me 775 453 9219 Location bnbinstruments@gmail.com f X Instagram

HOME Shop by Category ▾ Our Story ▾ Repairs ▾ Make a One Time Rental Payment Rentals ▾ Music Lessons ▾ Directions, Store Hours & Contact Info




# Blue Note B's Horn Shop

For all your musical needs

<https://absolutemusiconline.com/rentals/>

**Absolute Music** Home About Rentals + Instruments + Service & Repairs In the Community Contact Us



Rent And Own Your Dream  
Band Or Orchestral Instrument

The Best Rent-To-Own Program In The Business

All Students Are Accepted. We do not run credit reports. All customers who fill out our rental application

Hi there, have a question? Text us here.

Rental