

DEPOALI MIDDLE SCHOOL - SIXTH GRADE BAND

2023-2024 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 of 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 follow the 'To Do List' at the end of this packet so you are all set for band for the school year.** Feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Daniel J. Barthel (Mr. B)
852-6700 (Depoali MS Office)
dbarthel@washoeschools.net (best way of contacting me)



Band Website: www.washoeschools.net/dbarthel

Band Grading Procedures

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 a few 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 (three 20-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 80% after the due date and will be accepted for one week after the due date. They may also do extra practice to earn extra credit each week!

CLASS PERFORMANCE (30% of overall grade)

Student performance in class is graded according to preparedness and active participation in class. Students can earn 20 points per class session. To be considered prepared for band; they need to bring the following items to every band class:

+Instrument: 10 points, +Band Book: 3 points, +Planner, pencil, practice log, additional music sheets, instrument accessories (reeds, oil, etc.): 1 point each. Participation points will also be subtracted if students are off task or late to class.

ABSENCE MAKE-UP WORK POLICY: If a student is absent, they can earn the missed Class Performance grade by doing 15 minutes of make-up practice and then emailing me after they complete the practice (telling me what they worked on). They are also welcome to come into the band room at lunch or after school to complete this practice. 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 basic manners that I hope students 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 STRIKE!! (our school positive behavior system)**

DISCIPLINE PLAN: I will follow the discipline plan that is described in your student planner.



Supplies Needed – 6th Grade Band

Every student is responsible for providing the following supplies for sixth grade band class by **August 24th, 2023**:

- 1) **Instrument** – Flute, Clarinet, Trumpet, Trombone, or Baritone
- 2) **Band book: Sound Innovations – Book 1** (this is provided as part of your band fee)
- 3) **Pocket folder** to hold music and band book (provided)
- 4) **Portable Music Stand** (optional- for practice at home)
- 5) **Pencil** (keep a pencil in your instrument case, we will use them daily!)
- 6) **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 (*sax only*)
- 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 complete the [Band Registration Form](#) on the band website ASAP. Please refer to the ['Band Instrument Rental/Purchase Procedures'](#) section below for more info about obtaining instruments.**

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*)



Band Instrument Rental/Purchase Procedures 2023-2024

Rental/Purchase Options:

- **Rent-to-own from a local music store** (*or online*). Approximate Prices: \$30-45/month for flute, clarinet, trumpet and trombone.
- **Purchase from a local music store or online** (*do not recommend this option for beginners*). If you are going to purchase, Mr. Barthel is happy to give input about instrument quality and price. Just email the link to the instrument. 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*).

Rental Procedures:

- **From Music Stores:** Families review prices from different stores (some store rental rates and info can be found on the Depoali Band website) and then go in to rent/buy.
- **For School instruments:** Parents who are in need of a school instrument will indicate this on the [Band Registration Form](#). If more instruments are requested than are available, the list of those in need will be given to our Principal to check Free & Reduced Lunch eligibility. If the student qualifies and an instrument is available, Mr. Barthel will then send home a rental contract. Students will not receive school instruments until Mr. Barthel has received the rental contract and payment. Qualifying students still pay the \$50 rental fee.
- **If you are not in financial need of a school instrument but would like to use one if they are available after those in need are taken care of,** please indicate that on the form as well.
- **The following 6th grade instruments will be provided by the school and do not need to be purchased or rented from a store:**
baritone/euphonium

Depoali 6th Grade Band - Required Events Calendar**

- **6th Grade "Boot Camp"** – one day for each instrument (to help students get a great start in band!):
 - Flute: Thursday, 8/24, 2:00-5:00pm
 - Trombone/Baritone: Monday, 8/28, 2:00-5:00pm
 - Clarinet: Tuesday, 8/29, 2:00-5:00pm
 - Trumpet: Thursday, 8/31, 2:00-5:00pm
 - **If students are unable to attend their assigned after school day, they may come in during lunch after they eat for two lunches.*
- Thursday, 9/28/23 **5:00PM** (*call time 4:45PM*) **Fall Concert** Depoali Gym
- Wednesday, 12/13/23 **12:45PM** **Winter Concert** Depoali Gym
- Wednesday, 3/13/24 **6:00PM** (*5:30 student arrival*) **Zone Concert** Damonte Ranch HS Gym
- Thursday, 5/23/24 **5:00pm** (*call time 4:45PM*) **Spring Concert** Depoali Gym
- Friday, 5/24/24 **School Day** (exact times TBA) **Reward Trip to Fly High!**

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

YOUR 6th Grade BAND "TO DO LIST"

- 1) **Read the Band Handbook**
 - 2) **Complete the [Band Registration Form](#) by Friday, August 18.** 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)
 - 3) **Order the needed supplies for your child's instrument.** You can buy these through the band using the [Supply Order Form](#) (cheaper & easier!). This can be brought in with check or cash to school starting Tuesday, Aug 15. You can also see the supply list in the Band Handbook and order the supplies yourself from a local or online vendor.
 - 4) **Set your Infinite Campus Message Settings to push teacher messages to email.** Most teachers use Infinite Campus as the primary means of communication with families. Instructions for this can be found at the bottom of the home page of the Band Website.
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6th 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 Depoali Days the week before school). This fee pays for your band t-shirt, band book, and band coaches. To order supplies, [print and complete the form from the band website](#) (sample below) and then bring to Mr. Barthel before turning it in to the main office with payment. Keep your receipt as proof of purchase (Mr. B will have copies to send home as well). You do not need to purchase your supplies through the band, but if you buy them online or in a store, please make sure to buy according to the details listed in this handbook. ***Band fees & supply orders are due by Thursday, August 24th.***

2023-24 Depoali MS Band 6th Grade Fee Payment & Supply Order Form

First & Last Name: _____

Instrument: _____ Band Class Period (circle one): 6th Period / 7th Period

Please check the items you are paying for:

Band Fees (required for all students – you may have already paid this at Depoali Days in early August)

_____ \$25 Band Fee

Instrument Rental (only pay this after you have been emailed a rental contract)

_____ \$25 half payment (the second payment of \$25 will be due by October 12th)

_____ \$50 full payment

_____ \$_____ (other payment amount as discussed with Mr. Barthel)

Band Supplies & Supply Packs (you don't have to buy these through the school, this is offered as a convenience)

_____ \$9 Flute - polishing cloth, swab

_____ \$27 Clarinet - swab, cork grease, 1 box of 10 reeds

_____ \$11 Trumpet - valve oil, polishing cloth, slide grease

_____ \$0 P-Bone (plastic trombone) – no supplies needed

_____ \$12 Trombone - slide cream, spray bottle, polishing cloth

_____ \$11 Baritone - valve oil, polishing cloth, slide grease

_____ \$14 Folding music stand – optional, for use at home

Other

\$_____

_____ \$ Total Amount Paid (Check # _____ or Cash) Make checks to: *Depoali MS*

Date: _____

Please contact Mr. Barthel with any questions: dbarthel@washoeschools.net