

Yvonne Shaw Middle School

BAND HANDBOOK

2023 – 2024

“Where music howls...”



Dear Band Parents, Guardians, and Students,

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

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 ALL forms at the end of this handbook and return them to me by 8/18/2023.

Students who take part in the band program at Shaw are challenged to grow musically and encouraged to achieve their highest potential. 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,

Quinlan J. Skinner
Shaw MS Band Director
quinlan.skinner@washoeschools.net
www.washoeschools.net/shawband

Intermediate & Advanced Band Grading Procedures

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

ASSESSMENTS (30% of overall grade)

- **Playing Assignments:** These will be done randomly throughout each quarter. Students will be notified at least one week ahead of the assignment and will be tested during class time.
 - Students are encouraged to take their instrument home to practice in order to prepare for the playing assignment.
- **Written assessments:** These may be given to show knowledge of music reading, symbols, and terms.
 - 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.

PARTICIPATION (50% 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. If a student is absent, they will not receive credit for the class. *Please see Late Work/Absent Policy below.* To be considered prepared, students must bring the following items to every band class:

- *Instrument: 10 points*
- *All music (Band book, concert music, or other handouts): 5 points*
- *Planner, pencil, instrument accessories (reeds, oil, etc.): 5 points*

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

RHEARSAL & PERFORMANCE ATTENDANCE (20% of overall grade)

The band will have several after-school rehearsals and performances during the year. **Student attendance at these events is mandatory. A student's grade will be lowered two full letters if they miss a concert.** If a student must miss a concert, they must submit a signed parent note with a valid excuse to Mr. Skinner 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 families can avoid scheduling elective surgeries/procedures before concerts (especially dental), please do! See the band calendar so you can ensure your attendance at all concerts this year.

CITIZENSHIP (Behavior)

Students will receive 100% at the start of each quarter. For each negative behavior event, a student will lose 5 or more points. If there are outstanding positive behavior events, a student will receive up to 5 points.

LATE WORK/ABSENT POLICY

- See planner for the Late Work Policy (pg. 12)
- 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, upon Mr. Skinner availability. If they make this up at home, a parent/guardian must send an email to Mr. Skinner confirming they practiced. Their participation grade will be raised once the student has practiced and Mr. Skinner has been notified.
- Students may also complete practice logs to make up participation points.

TAKING INSTRUMENTS HOME

- Students are expected to take instruments home every weekend and over fall, winter, and spring break.
- This encourages students to practice their skills at home to continue their growth.

BAND PRACTICE LOG (*Quarterly Challenge/Absence Make Up*)

Students may complete an optional weekly home practice log this year.

- Practice logs are due every Monday WITH A PARENT/GUARDIAN SIGNATURE.
- Students who complete 100 boxes of practice will receive a pizza party each quarter.
- Practice logs will be checked each class for completion. If a student did not practice the previous night, they will not be able to claim the boxes later.
- 5 Complete boxes will also be accepted for missing class but will be subtracted from the pizza party total.
- If a student is caught lying, they will lose all points towards the pizza party and will not be able to use practice logs to make up any absence.

Supplies – Intermediate & Advanced Band

Every student is responsible for providing the following supplies for their grade band class:

1. **Instrument**
2. **Band Book** – This will be provided to all band students and is included in their class fee.
3. **Band Folder** – (*This will be provided along with other band music*)
4. **Class Fee** – The fee for this class of \$30 for Band Polo, Travel Fees, and Classroom Supplies.
5. **Pencil** – Keep in instrument case or near music as we use them **daily**.
6. **Instrument Accessories** – Students renting instruments from Shaw MS* will receive all of the following accessories. Students renting from outside sources must provide their own supplies. The supplies are as follows:

<u>Flute</u>	<u>Clarinet & Saxophone*</u>	<u>Bassoon & Oboe</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cleaning Cloth • Swab 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Swab • Cork Grease • 3 Working Reeds • Neck Strap** (Saxophone) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Swab • Cork Grease • 3 Working Reeds*** • Water Cup • Chair Strap (Bassoon)
<u>Trumpet, French Horn, Baritone/Euphonium, & Tuba</u>	<u>Trombone</u>	<u>Percussion</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Valve Oil • Tuning Slide Grease 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Slide Cream • Spray Bottle • Tuning Slide Grease 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Must pay a fee of \$50. This includes school instrument use, a percussion kit, and one pair of drum sticks.

*Shaw MS is unable to rent any alto saxophone to students. If students wish to play this instrument, they must provide their own.

**Saxophone students must provide their own neck strap

***Only 1 bassoon or oboe reed will be provided to the student. I suggest contacting a local bassoonist/oboist for more reeds. Contact Mr. Skinner for their information.

Band Instrument Rental

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.
- **Purchase from a local music store or online (do not recommend this option for beginners).** If you are going to purchase, I would be happy to give input about instrument quality and price.
- **Rent instrument from the school.** Rental costs \$50 for the school year.

Rental Procedures:

- **From Music Stores:** Families review prices from different stores and then go in to rent/buy.
- **For School instruments:** Students will notify Mr. Skinner if they need to rent an instrument from the school. If there are enough instruments, Mr. Skinner will send home a rental contract. The inventory will be available on a first come, first served basis. Students will not receive school instruments until Mr. Skinner have received contract and payment. The fee for renting a school instrument is \$50 for the year. Any questions, please contact Mr. Skinner.

Intermediate & Advanced Band Concert Uniform

We will wear our uniform at all concerts. Intermediate & Advanced Band uniforms include:

- Your band polo (*included in band fee, will be given out prior to our first concert*)
- Solid **BLACK** pants (*Dress pants preferred, but nice solid black jeans would be acceptable*)
- Solid **BLACK** socks, dress shoes, and belt (*Belt not required if not needed*)

Discipline Plan

THREE STRIKE SYSTEM

- **First Strike:** Warning
 - **Second Strike:** Student packs up instrument
 - **Third Strike:** Alternative seating and alternative assignment. The incident will also be recorded in Infinite Campus as a Behavior Minor.
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Views on Religious Music

National Association for Music Education Statement on Religions 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.”

Use of Technology

We live in a world of technology and many students have access to this wonderful resource. However, students are **NOT** allowed to use technology in the classroom unless given permission to do so. Misuse of technology will result in lowered classroom participation and possible parent/guardian contact.

Supplies at Shaw

At Shaw, we have common supplies that are available for purchase. To purchase supplies, students should bring money to Mr. Skinner. 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 Shaw offers, and prices are the follow:

Supply	Price
Bassoon/Oboe Reed	\$15
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

Supply	Price
Trombone Slick-Kit (Slide Cream & Spray Bottle)	\$14
Tuning Slide Grease	\$2
Valve Oil	\$3
Mouthpiece Brush	\$2
Cleaning Snake	\$5
Polishing Cloth	\$6

*If there are other supplies that you wish to purchase, please talk to Mr. Skinner

Intermediate & Advanced Band Calendar

The following events are **required** for the band or bands listed.

Date	Time	Event	Band	Location
Fri. 9/8	Evening (TBD)	***Middle School Band Night***	Adv. Band	Spanish Springs High School
Mon. 9/25	2:15 – 4:00	After School Rehearsal	Int. Band	Shaw Middle School
Tue. 9/26	7:00 – 7:45	***Fall Band Concert***	All Bands	Shaw Middle School
Sat. 12/2	TBD	***Hometown Christmas Parade***	All Bands	Downtown Sparks - Meet @ Shaw
Tue. 12/5	2:15 – 4:00	After School Rehearsal	Int. Band	Shaw Middle School
Tue. 12/12	2:15 – 4:00	After School Rehearsal	Int. Band	Shaw Middle School
Fri. 12/15	7:00 – 7:45	***Winter Band Concert***	All Bands	Shaw Middle School
Mon. 3/4	2:15 – 4:00	After School Rehearsal	Int. Band	Shaw Middle School
Mon. 3/11	2:15 – 4:00	After School Rehearsal	Int. Band	Shaw Middle School
Fri. 3/15	6:00 – 7:30	***Spring Band Concert***	All Bands	Spanish Springs High School
3/20 or 21	During School	*WCSD Band Festival***	All Bands	Hug High School
Tue. 5/14	2:15 – 4:00	After School Rehearsal	All Bands	Shaw Middle School
Tue. 5/21	2:15 – 4:00	After School Rehearsal	All Bands	Shaw Middle School
Thur. 5/23	7:00 – 8:00	***Final Band Concert***	All Bands	Shaw Middle School

***Performances

** There will be Intermediate Band on one day and Advanced Band on another. Students will miss some school for this event. Transportation will be provided to students.

Other Important Dates!

Date	Time	Event	Band	Location
Wed. 11/29	Starts @ 4p	Honor Jazz / Honor Band Audition	Optional	Mendive Middle School
Thur. 2/21	Evening	WCSD Honor Jazz Band Concert	Optional	Nightengale Concert Hall - UNR
Sat. 2/24	AM Time	NMEA Solo & Ensemble	Optional	North Valleys High School
Thurs. 3/7	Evening	WCSD Honor Band Concert	Optional	Pioneer Center
Sat. 5/18	All Day	Shaw Music Dept. 8 th Grade Trip	Adv. Band	Six Flag's Discovery Kingdom

Shaw MS Intermediate & Advanced Band

Class Contract

Due by Friday, August 18, 2023

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 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 2023-2024 school year.

Student Name *(Printed)*

Circle Class: Intermediate Band

Advanced Band

Student Signature

Date

Parent/Guardian Name *(Printed)*

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

Trip Emergency Contact Form

For the 2023 Sparks Hometowne Christmas Parade

Student Name: _____

Student Information

Student Cell#:
Birthdate (mm/dd/yy):
Home Address:
City, State, Zip
Home Phone:

Parent/Guardian/Emergency Contact Info

Parent/Guardian Information
Guardian 1 Name:
Guardian 1 Cell:
Guardian 2 Name:
Guardian 2 Cell:
Emergency Contact Info (if Guardians cannot be reached)
Contact #1:
Phone:

Parent/Guardian Signature _____ Date: _____