

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 8/25/2023.

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
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www.washoeschools.net/shawband

Beginning Band Grading Procedures

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

ASSESSMENTS (30% of overall grade)

- **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 the highest grade they earn.
- **Written assessments:** These will be given to show knowledge of music reading, symbols and terms.
 - Students will always be given notification and will only be tested on concepts covered in class. If students practice regularly, they 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. To be considered prepared for band, you need to 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 also be subtracted if you are off task or disrupting the class.

CONCERT ATTENDANCE (20% of overall grade)

The band has two concerts this 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 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. 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.
- This encourages students to practice their skills at home to continue their growth.
- This is also to give students the time to prepare for Pass-off test

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.

Supplies – 6th Grade Band

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

1. **Instrument** – 6th grade students pick from the instruments below. Students wanting to play percussion must play a wind instrument during 6th grade before transitioning to 7th grade.
2. **Band Book** – Will be provided to student from Class Fee.
3. **Class Fee** – \$20 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. **Portable music Stand** – (*Optional for at home practice*)
7. **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:

<p><u>Flute</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cleaning Cloth • Swab 	<p><u>Clarinet & Saxophone*</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Swab • Cork Grease • 3 Working Reeds • Neck Strap (Saxophone) 	<p><u>Bassoon & Oboe</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Swab • Cork Grease • 3 Working Reeds** • Water Cup • Bassoon Chair Strap
<p><u>Trumpet, French Horn, Baritone/Euphonium, &Tuba</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Valve Oil • Tuning Slide Grease 	<p><u>Trombone</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Slide Cream • Spray Bottle • Tuning Slide Grease 	

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

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

Band Instrument Rental

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.
- **Purchase from a local music store or online** (*I do not recommend this option for beginners*). 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 \$200.
- **Rent instrument from the school.** Rental fees are \$50 for the school year (Limited inventory- Students may not get their first choice instrument). *There will **not** be any school Saxophones available to 6th graders.

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.

6th Grade Band Concert Uniform

- 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 (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.”

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 that Shaw offers and prices are the follow:

<u>Supply</u>	<u>Price</u>	<u>Supply</u>	<u>Price</u>
Bassoon/Oboe Reed	\$18	Trombone Slick-Kit (Slide Cream & Spray Bottle)	\$6
Clarinet / Alto Sax Reed	\$2	Tuning Slide Grease	\$2
Bass Clarinet / Tenor Sax Reed	\$3	Valve Oil	\$2
Bari Sax Reed	\$4	Mouthpiece Brush	\$2
Cork Grease	\$3	Cleaning Snake	\$5
Woodwind Swab	\$5-14	Polishing Cloth	\$6
Saxophone Neck strap	\$15		

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

6th Grade Band Calendar

These events are required for all 6th grade band students.

Date	Time	Event	Location
Wed. 12/13	7:00p – 7:45p	Winter Band Concert	Shaw Middle School
Wed. 5/22	7:00p – 7:45p	Final Band Concert	Shaw Middle School

The following dates are optional but highly encouraged!

Date	Time	Event	Location
Tue. 9/26	7:00 – 7:45	Fall Int. & Adv. Band Concert	Shaw Middle School
Fri. 12/15	7:00 – 7:45	Winter Int. & Adv. Band Concert	Shaw Middle School
Fri. 3/15	6:00 – 7:30	Shaw MS & SSHS Band Concert	Spanish Springs High School
Thur. 5/23	7:00 – 8:00	Final Int. & Adv. Band Concert	Shaw Middle School

