



OUR SHEPHERD
LUTHERAN CHURCH AND SCHOOL

Middle School Band Handbook

I'm excited you've chosen to be in band! Please read this handbook to find out more about expectations for band members, fees, and rental options. When you have read the information, please return the last sheet, along with fee money, to Mrs. Eberhard.



2019-2020 Band Schedule

Beginning Band Rehearsal times:

2:30-3:15 Mondays

12:45-1:15 Tuesdays

Advanced Band Rehearsal times:

1:45-2:30 Mondays

3:30-4:00 Mondays

1:15-1:45 Tuesdays

Optional one-on-one “lessons” and small group rehearsals can be arranged as needed or desired by student, parent, or director. There will be time available various days before and after school as well as recess time some school days. All private rehearsal times must be pre-arranged with Mrs. Eberhard.

Performance Schedule

Date	Event	Call Time	Performance Time
October 11th	Fall Concert	5:45 PM	6:30 PM
December 16th	All School Christmas Program	TBA	6:30 PM (Band involvement is tentative)
May 1st	Spring Concert	5:45 PM	6:30 PM

Concert Attire and Expectations

Concert attire for both groups is any combination of black and white dress clothing. Girls may wear skirts or dresses, however, they should be conscious of length as they will be seated during performances. Other dress options include full length, nice pants, with nice, dark shoes and nice shirts. Boys should wear full length pants and nice, dark shoes. Shirts should be nice looking with no writing on them.

Students are expected to stay for the entirety of concerts, regardless of when their group is performing. While other groups are performing, students are expected to listen respectfully and cause no distractions to performers, other students, or audience members.



Behavior Expectations

Band is a time for us to enjoy learning more about music and playing together as a group. These expectations are in place to help students have an enjoyable and enriching time. The three rules students are expected to act by are:

- Be safe
- Be respectful
- Be responsible

Students are expected to come to each rehearsal on time and with all necessary materials. These materials include:

- Instrument
- Music and Method Books
- Pencil
- Reeds, Oil, Cleaning Swab, and all that applies to their instrument

When students enter the rehearsal space, they are to do so calmly and quietly. They are to find their seat, put their instrument together and make sure they are ready for our rehearsal. They should begin warming-up on their own with medium-soft, under control playing. They are expected to only play at appropriate times, when instructed to do so.

During Rehearsal students are expected to follow instructions as to when and what to play and give their full effort. Band rehearsal is still a class and students are expected to act in the same manner as they are for their regular classes.

Just as orange slips can be earned for behaviors in the regular classroom, they can be earned for behaviors in the band rehearsal space. Because being a part of the band program is a choice and privilege, students who repeatedly show they are unable to perform the correct behaviors will be asked to leave the band program and use rehearsal time as Genius Hour with the other students not in band. Purposefully damaging an instrument belonging to the school, another person, or even the student's own, will result in immediate dismissal from the group as well as other disciplinary actions as necessary.

Materials for Instruments

Flute: Cleaning Rod and Cloth

Clarinet and Saxophone: Cork grease, Swab of appropriate size, Reeds (at least 2 at all times), Neck Strap (Saxophone Only)

Trumpet, Trombone, French Horn, and Baritone: Valve oil (Slide Grease for Trombones)

Percussionists: Set of 5A snare sticks - a practice pad for at home practice is highly encouraged

Various materials can be purchased from school. Please check with Mrs. Eberhard for availability.



Assessment of Band Students

Band students will earn points in the following ways:

- Being on time to rehearsal (2pts)
- Having all required materials (2pts)
- Participating with good effort in rehearsals (4pts)
- Being respectful before, during, and after rehearsal (2pts)

If a student is absent for the day, they will be excused from points for the day. If a student's instrument is needing repairs, let Mrs. Eberhard know and they will be excused from some points but still be expected to participate as much as possible in rehearsal.

Students may be asked to perform playing tests from time to time. This is simply to track student progress and allow me, as their director, to know how to best help them improve in their skills. Students will be informed well in advance as to what they should be prepared to play, what they will be tested on specifically, and when the test will occur.

Students are expected to practice outside of rehearsal. We only meet as a whole group two or three times a week, so students will need to be practicing on their own in order to make the most progress they can in our time together.

Band Fee

Because a band program requires more materials than a regular class, all band students are asked to pay a fee of \$20. This fee goes towards method books, music, guest clinicians, and any other activity the band students may participate in.

Obtaining an Instrument

There are several ways of getting an instrument for your student to perform on:

- Purchase a new or used instrument - there are many websites and stores to choose from. If you are needing assistance with this, contact Mrs. Eberhard.
- Rent-to-Own through Musician's Repair Shop in Indianapolis
- Borrow a School Instrument - The first two options are highly encouraged, however, if you are needing to use a school instrument, please read the following page and contact Mrs. Eberhard to see what can be arranged.



School Instrument Rental Information and Fees

Students are encouraged to purchase or rent their own instrument from a music store (Musician's Repair Shop is a wonderful and the recommended option). However, we are aware that each family has different economic situations. If you are unable to purchase or rent an instrument, your student may have access to a school instrument. Keep in mind the school does not have enough instruments for all students to use one. Families are encouraged to pursue the first two options before seeking out a school instrument. Instruments are rented on a first come, first serve basis.

If you are needing to use a school instrument, there will be a rental fee. This fee helps to cover any repairs the instrument may need through normal wear and tear of being played. The rental fee is \$175 for the school year. This can be paid through the following options:

- In full, for the entirety of the school year (paid by the third week of band)
- Trimesters - \$59 (paid the first week of the trimester)
- Monthly - \$22 (paid the first week of the month)

Checks should be made payable to Our Shepherd Lutheran School, with Band Rental in the memo line, and given to Mrs. Eberhard.

If you are renting an instrument only until you are able to purchase or rent one through other means, you will only be asked to pay for the weeks you use the instrument and reimbursed for any prepaid weeks that you end up not needing the school instrument for.



Rental Agreement

Student Name: _____ Grade: _____

Instrument: _____ Instrument ID: _____

Filled in by director

Expected Length of rental:

_____ Full school year (\$175)

Trimesters: _____ 1 or _____ 2 (\$59 each)

_____ Monthly (\$22 each)

Number of months _____

- We agree to take financial responsibility for any and all damage to the instrument while the instrument is in the care of the family.
- We will replace, physically or monetarily, any lost or irreparably damaged instruments.
- We have read and understand all information and fees associated with renting an instrument from Our Shepherd.

Student Signature: _____ Date: _____

Parent Signature: _____ Date: _____



Behavior and Expectations Agreement

We, as a family, have read and understand all the information presented in the Middle School Band Handbook.

Parent Signature: _____ Date: _____

I, as a member of the band, agree to do my best to follow all expectations and rules given in the handbook and in class. I agree to do my best to always:

- Be safe
- Be respectful and
- Be responsible

I know that it is my responsibility to have all I need for band rehearsal and to give my best effort in rehearsals.

Student Signature: _____ Date: _____

I, as a parent of a band member, agree to do my best to support and encourage my child in this musical endeavor. I know that the beginning will not always be enjoyable as they screech and blast on their new instrument, but I will encourage them to keep pursuing this life long skill, knowing that it will sound better as they practice. I will encourage my child to take responsibility for their instrument, supplies, and actions in regards to band.

Parent Signature: _____ Date: _____