

Eagle Valley Middle School

Band Handbook

Dear Parents and Band Members,

August 12, 2025

Welcome to the Eagle Valley Middle School Band Program! My name is Jon Brill, and I am the Band Director at EVMS. I'm a native Nevadan, born and raised in Reno, and a proud graduate of the University of Nevada, Reno. I earned my BME in 1999 and my Master of Music Degree in Music Composition in 2017. This year marks my 27th year as a middle school band director and my 25th year at EVMS. I'm excited for another successful, rewarding year for both our students and our program.

In this handbook, you'll find important information about grading policies, expectations, goals, and the supplies needed for participation in band. Please review this information with your child, complete the *Expectations Contract* (page 9) and the forms on pages 10, and return them to school with your child. Keep the rest of the handbook as a reference throughout the year.

Instrument and Supply Information

When obtaining instruments, books, reeds, and other supplies for your child, here are several recommended music stores:

- **Silver and Brass Music Shop**
710 N. Curry St, Carson City, NV — (775) 301-6289
Hours: Mon–Fri 10am–7pm | Sat 10am–5pm | Closed Sun
- **Absolute Music South Reno**
8175 S. Virginia St, Reno, NV — (775) 852-2637
Hours: Mon–Fri 9am–6pm | Sat 9am–5pm | Closed Sun
- **Blue Note B's Horn Shop**
1155 W 4th St #118, Reno, NV — (775) 453-9219
Hours: Mon–Fri 9am–7pm | Sat 10am–6pm | Sun 11am–6pm
- **Play Your Own Music**
112 East John St, Carson City, NV — (775) 885-7529
Hours: Mon–Fri 11am–7pm | Sat 11am–5pm | Closed Sun
- **Guitar Center**
6663 S. Virginia St, Reno, NV — (775) 853-3961
Hours: Mon–Fri 10am–9pm | Sat 10am–8pm | Sun 11am–7pm
- **Taylor Music**
513 S. Main St, P.O. Box 670, Aberdeen, SD 57401
1-800-USA-BAND (1-800-872-2263) | www.1800usaband.com

Beginning Band Instrument Options

Students in Beginning Band may choose from the following: flute, clarinet, oboe, alto saxophone, tenor saxophone, French horn, trumpet, trombone, baritone, and tuba. Please note: The following instruments are **not** taught in Beginning Band — guitar, piano, drum set, violin, viola, cello, and electric bass. **Percussion** (snare drum, bass drum, xylophone, bells, timpani) is limited based on enrollment. Students interested in percussion must have at least one year of musical experience and pass a rhythm/coordination test. Selected percussionists will be required to own or rent a bell kit.

Choosing a Quality Instrument

It's important to choose your child's instrument wisely. Some inexpensive instruments, often advertised as "great deals," are made with poor materials, are badly constructed, and cannot be repaired. This can lead to frustration and slow progress. The same caution applies to used instruments.

If you're unsure whether an instrument is good quality, please ask me or consult with a sales representative from one of the stores listed above. For students who have been playing for several years and plan to continue, upgrading to a higher-quality instrument at the right time can be a great investment.

Rental and School Instruments

Most instruments are available for monthly rental, with an option to rent-to-own. Rates range from approximately \$18 to \$60 per month, depending on the brand, age, and condition. Used instruments can be rented for less than new ones.

EVMS has a limited number of school instruments, available on a first-come, first-served basis. The use of a school instrument requires a \$75 fee. Percussion players will have an additional \$10 fee. A list of other needed supplies can be found on page 10 of this handbook.

If your student needs a school instrument, please complete the Google Form on our website.

I'm looking forward to a fantastic year of music making! Thank you for your support, and I look forward to meeting you soon. Please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

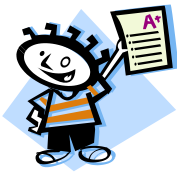
Jon Brill

Band/Choir Instructor

Eagle Valley Middle School

(775) 283-2600 ext. 2621

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GRADING PROCEDURE

The grading policies and procedures for the year involve classroom participation, worksheets or additional music activities, playing tests, points earned for practice, and attendance at performances.

Classroom Participation:

Classroom participation involves arriving at class on time with your instrument ready to play. All points are earned daily and the following guidelines:

On time with instruments and music = 5 points.

Late with instrument and music = 4 points.

On time with instruments, but no music or book = 3 points.

Late with only instrument = 2 points.

Music, but no instrument = 1 point.

No music or instrument = 0 points.



Playing Test:

A playing test will receive a score of 3-10 points. There will be 9-18 playing tests every semester and are given randomly. It is the student's responsibility to make up the test if absent. A student may submit a make up test by recording it and submitting it or scheduling make up time. All make-up test must be submitted within one week after the date of the absence or they will no longer be accepted.

Practice Points:

Practice Goals sheets will be distributed every week, and students will be asked to complete a specific number of goals for the week. Students will log the number of goals they have completed for the week for a grade on a google form which **will be due Friday of each week.**

Attendance at Performances:

Performances are important. It is the final product of hours, days, and weeks of hard work and practice. Each performance is worth 1000 points. **ALL PERFORMANCES ARE MANDATORY!!!!!!!!!!!!!!** A performance missed without a legitimate excuse will result in a deduction of points from your grade. A student with a legitimate excuse will be allowed to make up the grade by completing a designated assignment that will be due within one week after the performance. Performances include concerts, parades, festivals, and other functions that a performing ensemble is required to attend. If you are going to miss a performance, please notify me. If it is not an emergency, I must be informed at least two weeks in advance for a legitimate reason. If it is a family emergency, please notify me as soon as possible and let me know.

Informational Letters:

Informational letters are sent to parents reminding them of band events at least two weeks in advance. Each letter will ask for a parent response and signature. Each student, based on the prompt return of the parental response, will earn points.

Grading Scale:

100% - 90% = A

89% - 80% = B

79% - 70% = C

69% - 60% = D

59% - 0% = F



EXTRA POINTS

Extra points may be earned if: you take private lessons, observe a concert (you must bring a program), if you write a one-page paper about your favorite music or music group, additional performances, etc.....

PRIVATE PRACTICE



Joining band includes committing yourself to private practice. Practice is **HOMEWORK** for the band student. The amount of practice will vary depending on the individual need and the time available. Surveys have shown the following:

DAILY HOME PRACTICE

10 minutes or less

15 to 20 minutes

30 to 40 minutes

45 to 60 minutes

60 minutes or more

RESULT

loss of ability

maintain (slight improvement)

steady improvement

strong improvement

very strong improvement

* There are no secrets to private practice but there are several methods of practice that make the time spent much more productive.

* Set a goal before you start to practice and work until you've achieved your goal.

* Have a regular time and place set aside to practice. Practice at a time that does not interfere with others in your household.

* Develop a set procedure for your practice..... warm-up, articulation, long tones, range development, band or lesson work and then end with things you really enjoy doing.

* Do not practice playing mistakes..... break problem areas into small units and work on each unit until it is mastered and then string these units together.

* Remember, you are practicing for yourself, not for your parents, or the teacher, be fair to yourself and work. No one should have to tell you to practice!

* You are not practicing if you are only playing the things, you can already play

*** PRACTICE DOES NOT MAKE PERFECT, UNLESS IT IS PERFECT PRACTICE!!**



**Practice
Makes
Perfect!!!**

CARE OF MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS

General Care:

Instruments with a lacquer finish should be wiped off with soft cloth after each use.

DO NOT USE ANY METAL POLISH!!!!

Do not overload the instrument case. You will bend the instruments' keys

Close all latches on the instrument case.

Do not throw, sword fight, or spin the instruments.

Sugar from gum, candy, and soft drinks may cause disastrous effects to musical instruments. Please refrain from eating and drinking foods that contain sugar during and prior to the time that you use your instrument. Rinse your mouth with water after eating and before you use your instrument.

Do not attempt to make any repairs to your instrument. Consult your band director first. **NEVER TRY TO REMOVE A STUCK MOUTHPIECE!!!!** I have a special tool designed for this purpose. Strength and Household tools only damage and may even destroy the instrument. If your mouthpiece happens to get stuck at home, bring it to school wrapped in a towel and I will remove it for you.

Woodwinds:

1. Dry the instrument out with an accepted swab after each use. A swab that is not made for your instrument will get stuck.
2. Always remove the reed from your mouthpiece after playing.
3. Apply cork grease when necessary. Dry corks will break.
4. Wash the mouthpiece out regularly. Your toothbrush and toothpaste will keep it clean and make it smell good.
5. Never wash your instrument in water. The pads will fall out.
6. Use a small brush to clean between the keys. The keys will get gummy and will not move as easily.

Brass:

All brass instruments should be thoroughly cleaned once a month (This can be done by giving it a bath).

1. Remove all valves and slides. (Remember which valve is which, and don't mix them up!)
2. Fill a bathtub with a few inches of luke-warm water and add a few drops of dish soap.
3. Wash the inside of each part of the instrument using a cleaning snake for the long tubing, and a small brush for the smaller areas.
4. When you have finished, make sure all of the water is out of the tubing. When the instrument is dry, grease all slides with slide grease, oil all valves with valve oil and put every part back together correctly.

Instrument Repair Shops:

Silver and Brass Music Shop (775) 301-6289

Absolute Music in Reno (775) 852-2637

Blue Note B's Horn Shop (775) 453-9219

IF ANYTHING GOES WRONG WITH YOUR INSTRUMENT, FIRST TAKE IT TO YOUR BAND DIRECTOR. IT MAY ONLY NEED A FEW MINOR ADJUSTMENTS.





SUPPLIES FOR BAND

Flutes: Tuning rod and cleaning cloth. Use after each time you play.

Oboes: Cork grease, cleaning swabs, small brush to clean between keys, **three (3)** working reeds.

Clarinets: Reed size 2 1/2 to 3 1/2 (harder for more advanced students). Students should have **three (3)** working a reeds– it is more economical to purchase a box. **Cleaning Swab --use after each time you play**; mouthpiece brush, cork grease, small brush to clean between the keys, and a reed holder for storing reeds for longer use.

Saxophone: Reed size 2 1/2 to 3 1/2 (harder for more advanced students). Students should have **three (3)** working reeds --more economical to purchase a box. **Cleaning Swab --use after each time you play**; mouthpiece brush, cork grease, small brush to clean between the keys, and a reed holder for storing reeds for longer use.

NOTE: NEVER LEAVE YOUR REED ON YOUR MOUTHPIECE!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Trumpet, French horn, Baritone, Tuba: Valve oil, slide cream, mouthpiece brush, cleaning snake.

Trombone: Valve oil, slide cream, small spray bottle for water (kits are available at music stores), mouthpiece brush, cleaning snake.

Percussion: One pair of concert drumsticks --5A or 5B is generally most suitable as well as a practice pad. Symphonic Band Members will need keyboard mallets and a pair of timpani mallets.

I have some of these items for sale at school.

| | |
|-------------------------|-------------------|
| Clarinet Reed..... | \$3.00 |
| Alto Sax Reed..... | \$3.50 |
| Tenor Sax Reed..... | \$4.00 |
| Bass Clarinet Reed..... | \$4.00 |
| Baritone Sax Reed..... | \$4.50 |
| Oboe Reed..... | \$10.00 - \$15.00 |
| Bassoon Reed..... | \$12.00 - \$18.00 |
| Cork grease..... | \$2.50 |
| Valve oil..... | \$2.00 - \$6.00 |
| Slide crème..... | \$2.00 - \$6.00 |

These items may also be purchased from your local music store.



Books Needed:

Beginning Band: "Standard of Excellence" --Book I

Intermediate Band: "Standard of Excellence" --Book I

Concert Band/Symphonic Band: "Standard of Excellence" --Book II

Concert Dress:

Concert dress is important. A great sounding band not only sounds good but also looks good. **The concert dress will include black pants, jeans or slacks/skirts (for the girls), black shoes sneakers, dark socks, and their EVMS Band shirt. These items are to be worn at all concerts and festivals.** If any student needs financial help with any of these matters, please contact me. No student will be left out because of financial reasons. If you have any suggestions, please contact me and let me know.

EVMS Band Shirt:

The EVMS Band shirt is a red shirt with an eagle logo embroidered in the shirt. The cost of the shirt is \$17.00, XXL and larger cost \$18.00+. **All shirts are adult sizes.** If your child is a returning member, then they will not be required to purchase a shirt unless it is damaged or no longer fits them.





Mr. Brills Expectations for Band!

To have a successful music program at Eagle Valley Middle School, it is important that a list of guidelines is met to achieve our goals. The guidelines are mandatory for all students to follow. It is important to me that you have an opportunity to learn and that I can teach. This list was created to let everyone know exactly what is expected for a balance between the students learning and the ability for me to teach has been established as well as the consequences that will occur if a specific guideline is not met.

#1. Preparation:

To participate, the following materials must be brought to class.

- A.) Instrument (This includes the materials that make your instrument function).
- B.) Book.
- C.) Music.
- D.) Pencil.
- E.) Be on time with your instrument assembled and ready to play.

#2. Respect:

Respect for the music, instruments, equipment, fellow students and your teachers.

- A.) Raise your hand before speaking (please don't interrupt).
- B.) Talking or playing out of turn is a disruption to the class and will not be tolerated.
- C.) Respect your instrument by not allowing others to play or experiment with it.
- D.) Care for your instrument and music that is provided.
- E.) Instruments will be stored in a safe place before and after class.

#3. 100% Effort:

Work Hard and do your Best!

- A.) Take your instrument home and practice your music.
- B.) Have a commitment to make the group sound at its best.
- C.) Play with good tone and proper posture.
- D.) Don't waste our time being disruptive.
- E.) The most important thing is to have fun and enjoyable time.

The EVMS Progressive Discipline plan will be applied for students who choose not to follow the list of expectations.

EAGLE VALLEY MIDDLE SCHOOL
PROGRESSIVE DISCIPLINE PROCEDURES & EXPECTATIONS

STEP ONE: VERBAL WARNING

STEP TWO: First Documented Offense

- A. Discussion of inappropriate behavior
- B. IC Documentation of inappropriate behavior
- C. Possible consequence (teacher discretion)
- D. Possible parent contact (teacher discretion)

STEP THREE: Second Documented Offense

- A. Discussion of inappropriate behavior
- B. IC Documentation of inappropriate behavior
- C. Parent contact (required of teacher)
- D. Consequence given by teacher

STEP FOUR: Third Documented Offense

- A. Discussion of inappropriate behavior
- B. IC Documentation of inappropriate behavior
- C. Parent contact (required of teacher)
- D. Referral to office

STEP FIVE: Fourth Documented Offense

- A. Teacher/Student conference
- B. IC Documentation of inappropriate behavior
- C. Parent contact (required of teacher)
- D. Referral to office

By signing you, the student indicates that you understand what is expected of you and the consequences involved if you choose to ignore them. A list of expectations will be posted in the room for reference

Student Name Printed

Parent Name Printed

Student Signature

Parent Signature

____ -- ____ -- ____
Date

Class Period

*****PLEASE RETURN THIS PAGE*****

I have read the enclosed information and will help my child in completing a successful year in the Eagle Valley Middle School Band Program by helping him or her at home and to be present at all performances. I have also read the enclosed information concerning the necessary equipment and supplies that are needed for the EVMS music program.

Student's Name: _____

Class Period: _____

Parents Name: _____

Parents Signature: _____

Please Circle the shirt size that will fit your child. **ALL SIZES ARE ADULT SIZES.** Student will be wearing their shirts for all EVMS music events. Please make sure you choose a size that best fits your child.

S M L XL XXL XXXL

The cost of the EVMS Band shirt will be \$17.00. XXL and XXXL will cost an additional \$1.00. If your child is a returning member, then they may use the shirt from the previous year. If your child's shirt is damaged, misplaced, lost, or no longer fits them, then they will need to purchase a new shirt for the new school year.

Please use the remaining portion of this form, or the back, to address any comments, questions, or concerns.