

Eagle Valley Middle School

Band Handbook

Dear Parents and Band Members,

August 12, 2026

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* and the all additional forms, 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
- **Sweetwater Music:**
5501 US Highway 30 W Fort Wayne, IN 46818 – (702) 706-3253
<https://www.sweetwater.com/>
- **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
jbrill@carson.k12.nv.us



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 begins with being **on time, prepared, and ready to play**. Students earn participation points each day based on their preparation:

- **5 points:** On time with instrument and music
- **4 points:** Late with instrument and music
- **3 points:** On time with instrument, but without music
- **2 points:** Late with instrument, but without music
- **1 point:** Has music, but no instrument
- **0 points:** No instrument and no music

Students are expected to arrive on time with **both their instrument and music** every day.

Playing Tests

Playing tests assess students' individual progress and preparation. Each playing test is worth **3–10 points**.

Students will complete approximately **9–18 playing tests each semester**. Tests may be given randomly, so students should be prepared to play at any time.

If a student is absent on the day of a playing test, it is the student's responsibility to make up the test. Make-up tests may be completed by:

- Recording the test and submitting the recording, or
- Scheduling a time with the band director to complete the test.

All make-up tests must be completed within one week of the absence. Tests submitted after one week will not be accepted.

Practice Points

Students will receive a **Practice Goals Sheet** each week with a specific number of goals to complete.

Students will record the number of goals they completed using a Google Form. The form is **due every Friday**.

Consistent practice is an important part of imp

Attendance at Performances

Performances are an important part of the band experience. They are the final result of the hours, days, and weeks of practice and preparation that students put into their music.

All performances are mandatory. Performances include concerts, parades, festivals, and other events where the performing ensemble is expected to participate. Each performance is worth **1,000 points**.

- Students who miss a performance **without a legitimate excuse** will receive a grade deduction.
- Students with a **legitimate excuse** may make up the performance grade by completing a designated assignment. The assignment must be completed within **one week of the missed performance**.
- If you know you will miss a performance for a legitimate reason, please notify me **at least two weeks in advance** whenever possible.
- For a **family emergency**, please notify me as soon as possible.

Advance communication is important and helps us plan for every performance. Thank you for making attendance and participation a priority.

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.....

EVMS Band Instrument Care & Supplies

General Instrument Care

- Wipe your instrument with a soft cloth after each use.
- **NEVER use metal polish.**
- Do not overfill your instrument case. This can bend keys and damage the instrument.
- Always close all case latches before carrying your instrument.
- Never throw, spin, or “sword fight” with your instrument.
- Avoid sugary foods, gum, and soft drinks before playing. Sugar can damage instruments.
- Rinse your mouth with water after eating and before playing.
- **Do not attempt repairs yourself.** Ask the band director first.
- **NEVER try to remove a stuck mouthpiece.** Bring it to the band director. Household tools can seriously damage the instrument.

Woodwind Care

- Use the correct cleaning swab after every playing session.
- **Always remove the reed from the mouthpiece after playing.**
- Use cork grease when needed.
- Clean your mouthpiece regularly with a mouthpiece brush and warm water.
- **Never put the entire instrument in water.** Water can damage the pads.
- Use a small brush to clean between the keys.

Woodwind Supplies

Flute

- Cleaning cloth
- Tuning rod

Oboe

- Cork grease
- Cleaning swab
- Small key brush
- 3 working reeds

Clarinet

- Reeds: size 2½–3½
- Cleaning swab
- Mouthpiece brush
- Cork grease

- Small key brush
- Reed holder
- 3 working reeds

Saxophone

- Reeds: size 2½–3½
- Cleaning swab
- Mouthpiece brush
- Cork grease
- Small key brush
- Reed holder
- 3 working reeds

IMPORTANT: NEVER LEAVE YOUR REED ON YOUR MOUTHPIECE!

Brass Care

Brass instruments should be thoroughly cleaned about **once a month**.

1. Remove the valves and slides. **Keep track of the proper valve placement.**
2. Fill a bathtub with a few inches of lukewarm water and a small amount of dish soap.
3. Clean the tubing with a cleaning snake and small brush.
4. Rinse and completely dry all parts.
5. Reassemble the instrument correctly.
6. Apply slide grease and valve oil as needed.

Brass Supplies

Trumpet, French Horn, Baritone, Tuba

- Valve oil
- Slide cream/grease
- Mouthpiece brush
- Cleaning snake

Trombone

- Slide cream/grease
- Small spray bottle for water
- Mouthpiece brush
- Cleaning snake

Percussion Supplies

- Concert drumsticks (5A or 5B recommended)
- Practice pad

- Symphonic Band: keyboard mallets and timpani mallets

Instrument Repairs

If something goes wrong with your instrument, take it to the band director first. It may only need a simple adjustment.

Local repair shops:

- Silver and Brass Music Shop: (775) 301-6289
- Absolute Music, Reno: (775) 852-2637

Supplies Available at School

Some supplies are available for purchase at school:

Item	Price
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–\$15
Bassoon Reed	\$12–\$18
Cork Grease	\$2.50
Valve Oil	\$2–\$6
Slide Cream	\$2–\$6

These supplies are also available at local music stores.

Required Books

- **Beginning Band:** *Standard of Excellence*, Book 1
- **Intermediate Band:** *Standard of Excellence*, Book 1
- **Concert/Symphonic Band:** *Standard of Excellence*, Book 2

Concert Dress

Students should wear:

- Black pants, jeans, or slacks
- Black skirt (if preferred)
- Black shoes or sneakers

- Dark socks
- EVMS Band shirt

Concert dress is required for concerts and festivals.

No student will be excluded because of financial difficulties. Please contact the band director if assistance is needed.

EVMS Band Shirt

The EVMS Band shirt is a **red shirt with an embroidered Eagle logo.**

- Regular sizes: **\$17**
- XXL and larger: **\$18+**
- All shirts are adult sizes
- Returning students do **not** need to purchase a new shirt unless their current shirt is damaged or no longer fits.



Mr. Brills Expectations!

A successful music program depends on everyone working together. These expectations are designed to create a classroom where students can learn, perform, and enjoy making music while allowing the teacher to teach effectively.

These expectations apply to all students and are required. Students are responsible for understanding and following them, as well as accepting the consequences when expectations are not met.

1. Preparation

Students must come to class prepared to learn and play.
Bring the following every day:

- **Instrument/Singing Voice:** – including all supplies needed
- **Book/Folder**
- **Music**
- **Pencil**

Students must also:

- Arrive **on time**
- Be **ready to play/Sing**

2. Respect

Students are expected to show respect for:

- Music
- Instruments and equipment
- Teachers
- Classmates

Students should:

- Raise their hand before speaking and avoid interrupting.

- Not talk or play, sing while someone else is speaking or playing.
- Never allow another student to play or experiment with their instrument.
- Take care of their instrument, music, and school equipment.
- Store instruments safely before and after class.

3. 100% Effort

Work hard and always do your best!

Students are expected to:

- Practice regularly.
- Work toward making the entire ensemble sound its best.
- Use proper posture and produce a good tone.
- Stay focused and avoid wasting class time.
- Come to class ready to learn and participate.

Most importantly, have fun and enjoy making music!

EVMS Progressive Discipline Procedures

Students who choose not to follow the expectations will be subject to the **Eagle Valley Middle School Progressive Discipline Plan**.

Step 1: Verbal Warning

- Student is reminded of the expectation and given an opportunity to correct the behavior.

Step 2: First Documented Offense

- Discussion of the inappropriate behavior
- Documentation in Infinite Campus (IC)
- Possible teacher-assigned consequence
- Possible parent contact

Step 3: Second Documented Offense

- Discussion of the inappropriate behavior
- Documentation in IC
- **Parent contact required**
- Teacher-assigned consequence

Step 4: Third Documented Offense

- Discussion of the inappropriate behavior
- Documentation in IC
- **Parent contact required**
- Referral to the office

Step 5: Fourth Documented Offense

- Teacher/student conference
- Documentation in IC
- **Parent contact required**
- Referral to the office

The severity of a behavior may require an immediate consequence or office referral, regardless of the number of previous offenses.

Student and Parent Agreement

By signing below, the student and parent/guardian acknowledge that they have read and understand the EVMS Band expectations and the consequences for not following them. A copy of these expectations will be posted in the band room for reference throughout the year.

Student Name (Printed): _____

Parent/Guardian Name (Printed): _____

Student Signature: _____

Parent/Guardian 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 Music 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.