

# Eagle Valley Middle School

## Band Handbook

Dear Parents and Band Members:

August 14, 2024

Welcome to the Eagle Valley Middle School Band Program. My name is Jon Brill and I'm the Band Director at EVMS. I'm a Native Nevadan born and raised in Reno NV. I graduated from the University of Nevada, Reno with a Bachelor Degree in Music Education in 1999, and in 2017, I earned a Master of Music Degree in Music Composition from the University of Nevada, Reno. This is my 25<sup>th</sup> year as a middle School Band Director and my 23<sup>rd</sup> year here at EVMS. I am excited and looking forward to a successful and rewarding year for the students and the program.

In this handbook, you will find information that will give you an idea of the grading policies, expectations, goals, and the necessary supplies that are needed in participating in band. **Please read and discuss this information with your child. Please complete the Expectations Contract (page 13) and the important forms on page 10 and 14, and have your child bring these forms back to school. Please keep the rest of this booklet information as reference to the policies that will take place during this school year.**

In obtaining instruments, books, reeds, and other supplies for you child, I have listed a variety of Music Stores:

**Silver and Brass Music Shop**

710 N. Curry St, Carson City NV (775) 301-6289

Hours of operation: Monday-Friday: 10am till 7pm, Saturday 10am till 5pm, closed Sunday.

**Absolute Music South Reno:**

8175 South Virginia St, Reno Nevada (775) 852-2637.

Hours of operation: Monday- Friday; 9am-6pm, Saturday, 9am-5pm, closed Sunday.

**Blue Note B's Horn Shop**

1155 W 4th St #118, Reno, NV 89503 (775) 453-9219

Hours of operation: Monday-Friday: 9am-7pm, Saturday 10am-6pm, Sunday 11am-6pm.

**Play Your Own Music, Carson City:**

112 East John Street, Carson City (775) 885-7529.

Hours of operation: Monday-Friday: 11am-7pm, Saturday 11am-5pm, closed Sunday.

**Guitar Center:**

6663 South Virginia Street, Reno Nevada (775) 853-3961

Hours of operation: Monday- Friday; 10am-9pm, Saturday, 10am-8pm, Sunday 11am-7pm.

**Taylor Music:**

513 South Main Street, P.O. Box 670 Aberdeen SD, 57401,  
1-800-USA-BAND (1-800-872-2263) or on the internet at: [www.1800usaband.com](http://www.1800usaband.com)

Students that will be participating in **Beginning Band** have the choice of playing the following instruments: Flute, Clarinet, Oboe, Alto Saxophone, Tenor Saxophone, French Horn, Trumpet, Trombone, Baritone, and Tuba. The following instruments are not taught in Beginning Band: Guitar, Piano, Drum Set, Violin, Viola, Cello, and Electric Bass. Students interested in playing **Percussion**, which consists of snare drum, bass drum, Xylophone, Bells, and timpani, **will be limited depending on class enrollment.** Those that wish to play percussion instruments need at minimum, one-year experience with a musical instrument, and must pass a rhythm and coordination exam. If your child is selected as a percussionist, then they will be required to own or rent a **Bell Kit.**

Parents, when making a choice on a quality instrument for your child, it is important that you choose wisely on where you purchase an instrument, as well as the instrument make and model. Some instruments are sold at to think you are receiving a great deal and at an extremely cheap price. These instruments are made of inferior materials, are poorly constructed, and are considered unfixable by instrumental repair specialist. They claim to be a great deal, but from my past experience in dealing with these instruments, they can sometimes create problems, frustration, and a lot of headaches for you and your student musician. A student will have a difficult time trying to learn on an instrument that will not work properly, that is poorly constructed, and incorrectly repaired. These statements also apply to used instruments as well. If you are purchasing an instrument and want to know if it is of a great quality, ask Mr. Brill, or a sales representative at the above-mentioned music stores for more information. If your child has been playing for a few years, and will continue playing music for years to come, you might consider upgrading your child's instrument at the appropriate time.

The instrument that your child chooses to play, may be rented monthly for as long as you wish. You are also given the choice to rent to own the instrument as well. The prices vary depending on the brand of instrument, age, or the condition of the instrument itself. The cost ranges from \$18.00 to \$60.00 a month, it is best to consult a music store listed above for an exact cost. Used instruments generally rent for less then a new instrument. **Eagle Valley Middle School has a small, but limited supply of instruments at a first come first serve basis. The use of a School Instrument requires a \$75.00 fee. If your child plays percussion instruments, there will be a fee of \$10.00. Additional supplies are listed on page 10 in this handbook.**

**If your student needs to use a school instrument, please fill out the Google Form on the website.**

I am looking forward to a successful year for all of us. I appreciate your support and look forward to meeting you soon. Please feel free to call me if you have any concerns, comments or questions.

Sincerely,

Jon Brill  
Band/Choir Instructor  
Eagle Valley Middle School  
283-2600 ex 2621  
[jbrill@carson.k12.nv.us](mailto: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 involves arriving to class on time with your instrument ready to play. All points are earned on a daily basis and the follow theses guidelines:

- On time with instrument and music = 5 points.**
- Late with instrument and music = 4 points.**
- On time with instrument, 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 from 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 a 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 ask 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 advanced with 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 a 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 disastrously 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 out 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 damages 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 fallout.
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 a cleaning cloth. Use after each time you play.

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

**Clarinets:** Reed size 2 1/2 to 3 1/2 (harder for more advanced students). Students should have **three (3)** working a reed at all times – it is more economical to purchase by the 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 at all times --more economical to purchase by the 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 attire is important. A great sounding band not only sounds good, but also looks good.

**The concert attire 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 items, 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. **Symphonic Band members will be issued a tuxedo and are responsible for keeping it clean and in excellent condition.**

**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 costs \$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!

In order to have a successful music program at Eagle Valley Middle School, it is important that a list of guidelines is met in order 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 have the opportunity to teach. This list was created to let everyone know exactly what is expected in order 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:**

In order 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 by 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.**