

2019-2020

Band Handbook

Mr. Luke Abrahamson – Band: abrahamson.luke@cusd80.com

Course Description

Band is open to any student who desires to learn a wind, brass or percussion instrument and read musical notation. Band is offered during the school day during a 30-minute block so that students will not miss regular classroom instruction, PE, or technology class.

In class, the students will receive instruction in proper technique, posture, note and rhythm reading, tone, intonation, dynamics, and ensemble playing in a group performance setting. Band is also a class designed to help build self-esteem, cooperation, self-motivation, and life skills through the study of your chosen instrument. Band, like any other subject in school needs reinforcement. Students are expected to take instruments home on a regular basis to practice the skills and techniques learned in class. As a reminder, Band is a year-long commitment.

Course Materials

Method Books - *These books may be purchased at most local music stores or ordered through online retailers. Please be sure to purchase the correct book for your child's instrument.*

All band students:

- Sound Innovations for Concert Band Book 1 (blue book) - \$9.00
- 1 ½ " 3 ring binder with view cover.
- Pencil

Instrument Supplies

All instruments require supplies in order to be maintained and performed correctly. Most of the supplies listed below can be purchased as part of your instrument's "cleaning kit" at any music store. Please bring this list with you to the store so that you can be sure that you are purchasing the correct items.

Flute - Flexible cleaning brush, tuning/cleaning rod, cleaning cloth.

Clarinet and Saxophone- Swab, cork grease, mouthpiece brush, reed guard, 5 reeds (Beginning students use #1 ½ reeds, returning students use #2 ½ reeds)

Trumpet, French Horn and Baritone - Valve oil (*rotor oil for french horn*), slide grease, flexible cleaning snake brush, mouthpiece brush, cleaning cloth.

Trombone - Slide oil, slide grease, flexible cleaning snake brush, mouthpiece brush, cleaning cloth.

Percussion – one pair of hard rubber or soft plastic tipped mallets, one pair of 5A drum sticks (mallets and sticks should come with your bell kit)

Course Objectives

- Demonstrate knowledge/skills in independent playing and knowledge of how to play as a group.
- Be able to perform music individually and as a member of a group according to varying levels.
- Experience the feeling of success through individual and group efforts.
- Gain a higher appreciation for different styles of music.

Concert Attire

Males: Boys should plan to wear nice dress pants, a button up shirt and nice dress shoes if available. Ties are a nice addition, but are not required. Any color scheme is acceptable as long as it is not distracting.

Females: Girls should wear either a knee length skirt or dress, or pants with a blouse. Any color scheme is acceptable as long as it is not a distraction. Please follow all other school dress code requirements.

All performers: Jewelry and fragrances (perfume/cologne) may NOT be worn during performances. The only exception for jewelry is for earrings that do not hang past the ear lobe. Hair must be out of the face for males and for females. (Females please pull your hair back and put it up into a ponytail if applicable.) We are to treat our performances as a formal event.

Grading Policies

Grading in band is divided into two categories: Content and Skills, and Behavior and Participation. Students will be assessed based on the following:

CONTENT AND SKILLS

Meets Standards: The student mastered most of the knowledge and skill areas assessed during the semester. (MS) 80 – 100%

Progressing: The student mastered some of the knowledge and skill areas assessed during the semester and/or shows evidence of developing understanding or skills. (P) 60-79%

Area of Concern: The student was unable to master the knowledge and skill areas assessed during the semester and/or shows little evidence of developing understanding or skills. (AC) 0-

59%

BEHAVIOR AND PARTICIPATION

- Excellent: The student consistently demonstrates willing and active participation and consistently applies the *Behaviors That Promote Learning (BTPL)** in the classroom. (E) 80-100%
- Satisfactory: The student usually demonstrates willing and active participation and is usually consistent in the application of the BTPL in the classroom. (S) 60-79%
- Improving: The student is demonstrating willing and active participation on a more regular basis and is more consistent in the application of the BTPL in the classroom. (I)
- Needs Improvement: The student demonstrates a lack of active participation on a regular basis and is inconsistent or acts counter to the application of BTPL in the classroom. (N) 0-59%

** for details on the Behaviors That Promote Learning (BPTL), please visit the class website.*

Content and Skills Grading

Playing Tests and In-Class Observation – 70%

- Students in band are required to demonstrate their growth and proficiency through a variety of methods. Students are monitored for progress throughout the year on a general basis in class, however students will be required to demonstrate their skill to me at least once per quarter through formal playing assessments. Playing assessments will be done through the *Smartmusic* online platform, or in person as needed.
- Students who do not demonstrate proficiency through their playing tests are offered targeted suggestions for improvement, and given more chances to re-submit their performance after further practice. Feedback will always be positive and encouraging for the students!

Written Quizzes – 30%

- Students will be asked to complete short quizzes and formative assessments throughout the year as a means of monitoring progress in areas of music literacy, technique, musical vocabulary, and other standards-based areas.

Behavior and Participation Grading

Participation – 40%

- Bring instrument to every band class. After three class periods of not having instrument, the student will be issued a band participation/behavior reflection form to complete and their grade will go down one letter grade for the quarter. Please use the band calendar in your binder to keep track of when you need your instrument.

- Bring classroom materials every day, including **book** and **pencils**
- Demonstrating regular consistent practice routines through the *Smartmusic* platform. Students should be averaging about 10-15 minutes of practice per night, or around 50-90 minutes of practice per week.
- Come to class with a positive attitude, ready to learn and give your best effort.
- Attendance: Be in assigned seat with instrument, book, and pencil out, ready to play by the time the setup timer has expired.
- Be personally responsible for your setup (chair, stand, instrument) and cleanup each class.

Concerts/Performances – 40%

- Concerts make up such a high percentage of the student's grade due to the fact that band is a group activity. An absence from a performance impacts the whole group. In addition, students work extremely hard bringing musical pieces up to a performance standard. For this reason, they deserve a chance to display their efforts and talents.
- If it is not possible for the student to perform in the concert, contact from a parent/guardian in advance is required in order for the student to be given a make-up excuse. In order for a student to be considered excused, it needs to be regarding family emergencies, illness, acts of God, etc... Failure to plan is not an excusable reason. Students are given calendar dates the first week of school in order to plan accordingly.
- In cases such as emergencies or sudden illness where prior notification is impossible, a parent or guardian must contact Mr. Abrahamson as soon as possible. The student will be given one week after the concert to turn in the assignment.

Behavior – 20%

- Students are expected to treat all members of our groups with respect, kindness, and fairness.
- All school rules will be enforced per the student handbook and CUSD guidelines.
- Bullying – CUSD has a zero tolerance policy for bullying.
- Excessive talking during class, or playing an instrument out of turn to intentionally disrupt a lessons is taken seriously. Students who are choosing to cause disruptions in rehearsal will be warned and redirected in class. Students who do not correct their behavior will be issued a reflection form and lose points from their behavior grade.
- Students can earn back points for their behavior grade by demonstrating excellent behavior in the future.

Smartmusic

Smartmusic is an online platform that provides a powerful array of tools and resources for music students. Each student will create their own free *Smartmusic* account and will use *Smartmusic* to guide their practice at home. As a teacher, I will be able to monitor student practice as well as assess student progress through playing tests. *Smartmusic* requires the use of a laptop, desktop or Chromebook computer with a microphone. *Smartmusic* also has an app for the iPad. Students who do not have access to these forms of technology will be required to complete paper practice records instead and will be given the option of completing playing tests in person with me. For more information on *Smartmusic*, including instructions and videos demonstrating its use and how to set up an account, please visit our band website and click on the "Smartmusic" link on the left side of the page.

Band Belts and Awards

Each quarter, band students will have the opportunity to earn a “belt” (ribbon) by demonstrating their progress and proficiency on their instrument.

- Similar to the traditional karate belt system, the band belt system is designed to encourage and motivate students to grow and learn and to develop a sense of pride from those who have met the challenges of learning and instrument.
- Any student that fails to pass a playing test will be given the opportunity to continue their practice and re-test until they earn their belt.
- In addition to the belts, students will also be able to earn special Musicianship, Leadership and Perseverance pins by accomplishing various activities and tasks such as volunteering, attending concerts, performing solos, collaborating with peers, etc...
- Students who earn their belts on time each quarter will be treated to a party with Mr. Abrahamson. 6th graders who end their year with the Black Belt will earn a special reward party!

For Parents:

Contacting Me: As a traveling teacher the best form of communication with me is via email. My email address is abrahamson.luke@cusd80.com

Staying in Touch With You: I will generally use two methods to keep in touch with parents throughout the year. Most often, I will stay in touch with parents using the Remind app. This allows me to send quick info, including attachments and links, in the form of a text to your phone. I will also be using the messaging feature within Infinite Campus (*please make sure your email is up to date*), as an extra measure for reaching everyone.

Signing up for REMIND: In order to receive regular information about your child’s band class, please sign up for the REMIND app. Detailed directions are available on our website, however you can easily sign up by finding your child’s class, and texting the corresponding code.

- CTA Humphrey Beginning Band – text @ctabandbeg to the number 81010
- CTA Humphrey Advanced Band – text @ctabandadv to the number 81010
- Haley 5th Grade Band – text @haley5thg to the number 81010
- Haley 6th Grade Band – text @haley6t to the number 81010
- Patterson 5th Grade Band – text @9f8g7c to the number 81010
- Patterson 6th Grade Band – text @48fckb to the number 81010
- Carlson 5th Grade Band – text @hek298 to the number 81010
- Carlson 6th Grade Band – text @carlson6t to the number 81010

Obtaining an instrument:

- I would highly encourage you to rent your instruments through any local music store. It might seem enticing to buy a cheap instrument from an online retailer, but often times these instruments are of poor quality and can break often. If they do not break or have problems, the students often struggle to play them because of their poor build quality.

- The best way to find a shop to rent from is by talking to friends and neighbors, or by using your favorite search engine via the internet and search for local instrument rentals.
- CUSD Instruments: We never want money to be the reason a student cannot play an instrument. If you are experiencing financial hardship, CUSD has an instrument rental program. There is a small fee at the beginning of the year, if you qualify and are selected your student can use a district instrument for the whole year.
 - If you are interested in a low cost CUSD instrument, CUSD rental information is due to Mr. Abrahamson before the end of class on Friday, July 26th. No exceptions. Applications will be sent home on Tuesday, July 23rd. Please email Mr. Abrahamson if you need an extra copy.

Make an investment!

- Please be involved in your child’s learning. Just like any of the other courses your student’s take in the classroom, concepts taught must be reinforced via activity in the classroom and homework at home. The same applies for learning an instrument. Learning to play a musical instrument is challenging at times, and your child will need encouragement and insistence from you to push past the hard work. I expect students to practice on average somewhere between 60 and 90 minutes per week. Practice is monitored through *Smartmusic*.
- Make practice fun! Be involved with their practice; make it fun by having your student perform mini impromptu concerts for you, where they can play a song they learned in class that day.

Calendar of Events

Please add your child’s band concerts dates and times to your personal calendar.

Haley Elementary

Winter Concert.....Tuesday, December 17th, 2019 at 6:30 PM.

Spring Concert.....Thursday, May 14th, 2020 at 6:30 PM.

Patterson Elementary

Winter Concert.....Tuesday, December 10th, 2019 at 6:30 PM.

Spring Concert..... Tuesday, May 12th, 2020 at 6:30 PM.

Carlson Elementary and CTA Humphrey Elementary

Winter Concert.....Thursday, December 12th, 2019 at 6:30 PM.

Spring Concert..... Tuesday, May 19th, 2020 at 6:30 PM.

All students are expected to arrive 30 minutes prior to concert start. Be sure to be prompt, as all students (5th and 6th grade) need to be tuned prior to the concert starting.

TO REGISTER YOUR CHILD FOR BAND

1. Read through this packet, discuss with your child.
2. Sign-up for the REMIND parent communication app. (*directions above*)
3. Complete the attached Band Contract and return to Mr. Abrahamson before the end of the day on Friday, July 26th.

Before signing the band contract below, please go online to your school

2019-2020 Band Contract

I, the student, have read, understand and accept the responsibilities outlined in the Band Handbook.

Student Name (please print)

Student Signature

We, the parents/guardians, acknowledge having read this handbook and promise to assist our child and support them to the best of our ability. We will help them to abide by all rules and expectations contained herein.

Parent/Guardian Name (please print)

Parent/Guardian Signature

Parent/Guardian Name (please print)

Parent/Guardian Signature

PLEASE RETURN TO MR. ABRAHAMSON BY FRIDAY, JULY 26TH

Students who have not acquired and instrument and book and/or returned their signed band contract by Friday, August 9th will be moved to general music.

