

## SHEPHERD BANDS



# BAND HANDBOOK S

2023-2024

## Welcome to Band

Band is a year-long curricular elective designed to develop skills through instrumental music over a 7 year program from 6<sup>th</sup> grade up through HS seniors. **Students are scheduled into this course for the entire year.**

All students will be expected to follow the standards of any quality band program including consistent at home practice, appropriate rehearsal etiquette and preparation (including materials), and properly representing our program and school during **attendance at all planned performances and rehearsals.**

## Grading

Grading in our full band classes is determined by 2 categories:

1. Performances (20% for MS and 40% for HS classes)
2. Rehearsal participation, preparation, various assignments, and playing tests (80% MS, 60% HS)

To receive full points:

Assignments/Tests must be turned in on time through the proper channels. Playing tests may be through performance in the classroom or Chromebook video submissions on Google Classroom & Schoology. Because instruments should be taken home daily for consistent practice, means for excusal do not include unexcused absences, failure to maintain instruments/devices, losing your music, or forgetting to submit uploaded assignments.

MS Google Classroom codes:    Beginning: 3knm4t7    Intermediate: irzofeu    Advanced: jytkk6l

All classes require 100% participation and preparation for full points by showing appropriate development of both musical and rehearsal techniques including:

- CONSISTENT AT HOME PRACTICE (having your music learned/prepared)
- proper and timely maintenance of instruments
- communication with the director during absences to keep up with assignments/music
- being ready in your seat by the bell with materials (instrument, music, folder, pencil, etc.)
- and above all a respectful focused rehearsal etiquette

Band classes may also require intense physical activity, performed to a high standard with enthusiasm, and with proper clothing/footwear. Students must be aware of their own medical needs, and any excusal from playing or physical activities will require communication from a parent or proper authority.

HS Band (through marching band) offers partial credit to the physical education requirement for graduation.

# Classes/Ensembles

Our regular academic ensembles include:

MS Beginner, Intermediate, & Advanced Bands, and HS Band

Zero hour courses include:

Morning Drumline (Trimester 1) & Jazz Band (Trimester 2/3)

Student placement in each of these groups is determined by the band director and may require an audition, or demonstration of proficiency depending on level.

Beyond the regular band classroom our program also offers multiple opportunities including:

- Open morning practice (7:40-7:55am)
- After school open practices (generally Fridays til 4pm)
- Open drumline (generally Thursdays til 5pm)
- Pep band (performs at many varsity home basketball games)
- Instrument Sectionals during S.O.A.R. advisory period
- Solo & Ensemble competitions
- Honor band auditions and performances

Other opportunities will be communicated to students throughout the year, and all representations of our program through your involvement should reflect Shepherd Band's decades long tradition of high standards.

# Equipment and Supplies

Enrollment in an instrumental music elective requires a musical instrument. Students/parents are responsible for attaining and maintaining a working instrument including, mouthpieces, neckstraps, cases, reeds, lyres, flip folders, drumsticks, slide grease, cork grease, and standard cleaning materials. They are also responsible for standard classroom materials such as pencils, folders, and school-issued chromebooks.

The band does have a limited supply of school owned instruments, particularly specialty instruments such as tuba and larger woodwinds, that may be available through communication with the band director. We do not expect you to purchase a \$10K tuba.

For standard instrument rentals our main instrument supplier to families is Herter Music Company, based out of bay city. They send a repair representative to the school weekly. Their website is [www.hertermusiccenter.com](http://www.hertermusiccenter.com)

The band director has complete discretion over instrument choices within the band. Students should pick an instrument that fits them during beginner instrument testing, but switches to specialty instruments are only to be done through communication with the director. Our starting instruments for beginning band are as follows: Flute, Clarinet, Trumpet, Trombone, Euphonium. "Color instruments" like saxophones, percussion, french horn, and more are tested by select students later in the year at the discretion of the director.

Method books, music, uniforms, and other items provided by the band program must be turned back into the director each year before summer break for inventory, or as requested by the director. Any lost/damaged items may incur a charge for replacement.

# Performances

Our calendar can be found at [shepherdbluejayband.weebly.com/calendar](http://shepherdbluejayband.weebly.com/calendar)

Enrollment in band is your commitment to be present and prepared for the entirety of all required band activities, including rehearsals. Excused absences must be requested in writing to the director well before the planned event and are generally only granted for school sponsored conflicts superseding the level of event (ex: contest vs practice), extreme circumstances (such as a death in the family), “once in a lifetime” level opportunities (ex: you earned a Nobel prize), or for sickness or medical emergencies, and will require a make-up assignment.

Examples of unexcused conflicts include work, appointments, vacations, non-school sports, lack of preparation in regards to transportation, and “prior engagements”.

Any graded activity missed without prior communication from parents/guardians will be an automatic zero. Multiple absences for any reason may result in removal of position within the band (especially among leadership) or even unenrollment in the class.

# Classroom Rules

- No Gum EVER
- No playing/talking out of turn
- Always have a pencil
- No phones during the school day or rehearsals
- Keep food/drinks out of the bandroom besides sealed water
- Don't touch things without permission, our equipment is expensive
- Only band students/volunteers should be in the bandroom
- Be in your seat with materials ready by the start of each rehearsal
- Give 100% and be coachable

# Further Information

Further information can be found online at [shepherdbluejayband.weebly.com](http://shepherdbluejayband.weebly.com) or by contacting the director Mr. Ryan Winters at [rwinters@shepherdschools.net](mailto:rwinters@shepherdschools.net)