## WEICOME TO NAVARDETE BAND: HANDBOOK 2023-24



This Band Handbook includes:
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## BAND CONTRACT 2023-24

The Band Handbook can be found on the Band Webpage: www.cusd80.com/Page/29525

Student First \& Last Name: $\qquad$ Homeroom: $\qquad$
Student Band Shirt Size: (circle one size)

| Youth Small | Youth Medium | Youth Large |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Adult Small | Adult Medium | Adult Large |

Parent/Guardian 1 - Print name and relation: $\qquad$
Best phone number to be reached during the day: $\qquad$
Best Email address:
(I will send this via "Blind Copy" for emails. This will be used for weekly schedule updates and updated concert info.)
Parent/Guardian 2 - Print name and relation: $\qquad$
Best phone to reach during the day: $\qquad$
Best Email address:
(I will send this via "Blind Copy" for emails. This will be used for weekly schedule updates and updated concert info.)
**Does your child have any academic or medical needs that should be shared with the band teacher to better accommodate your child during class time, after school tutoring, and/or band field trips?
$\qquad$ (use back, if needed)

Parent/Guardian: "I have read the Band Handbook. I understand that band is a full-year class. I am also aware that my child is expected to participate in at least two required evening performances (winter/spring), and if there is a conflict, I will notify the band director in writing at least 2 weeks in advance. I give permission to CUSD, Navarrete, Navarrete PTO, and Mrs. Niederer to post photos and videos of my child participating in band class and all band activities on the websites and school social media to promote CUSD, Navarrete, and the band program."

Parent/Guardian Signature:
PRINT Parent/Guardian Name:
Student: "I have read the Band Handbook. I understand that band is a full-year class. I am aware of my responsibilities as a band student and will do my personal best to contribute to a positive learning environment with regards to my behavior, attendance, participation and preparation."

Student Signature:
PRINT Student Name:

* Please return the BAND CONTRACT by Wednesday, July 26 ${ }^{\text {th }}$ *

Welcome to the Band program for the 2023-24 school year. My name is Mrs. Niederer (nee-der-er), and I am looking forward to being your band teacher this year! Band is SOOOO much fun...that's why I made it my career! This will be my $25^{\text {th }}$ year teaching band \& music! There are few experiences in life that can match the feeling of accomplishment when learning to play a musical instrument. Playing a band instrument will teach your child proper posture, finger dexterity, and correct breathing technique. Just as important, your child will learn the importance of responsibility, teamwork, and selfdiscipline.

In accordance with the Arizona State Standards and CUSD Standards, Fifth Grade Band is a Level 1 beginning band (student does NOT need music-reading or playing experience). However, since Sixth Grade Band is a Level 2 band (NOT a beginning band), all students choosing to participate in 6th grade band should be able to play all the lines from the first half of the Standard of Excellence Band Method Book 1 pages 6-20 (line number 1-81 and "Sawmill Creek" on page 20). If there are SXxth Grade students new to band, they will need to plan to work extra hard to catch up and sometimes get extra tutoring or lessons at school or with someone else. Many music stores offer individual lessons.

Please understand that band requires a full-year commitment and being in band will require practice time (homework) outside of class, requested attendance at Opening Day on July 29, and mandatory attendance at two evening concerts (Nov 20 \& May 7). Band is incredibly fun and rewarding, and I hope that your child finds enjoyment through making music this year! Students will need to bring their instrument to school each day of band and take it back home that afternoon to practice before the next band lesson.

Fifth graders: Bring band instrument, band book, 3-ring binder, and instrument supplies/accessories on (but NOT before) Saturday, July 29. Fifth graders without an instrument by August 1 will be enrolled in General Music.

Sixth graders: Bring band instruments (including all necessary reeds, oils, cleaning cloths, etc.), band book, and binder on (but NOT before) Wednesday, July 26. Sixth graders without an instrument by August 1 will be enrolled in General Music.

Additionally, a great resource for band information and downloadable forms is on our Navarrete website under STAFF - SPECIALS - MRS NIEDERER. The best way to reach me is by email.

Musically yours,
Mrs. Heather Niederer, Teacher
K-4 Music, 5-6 Band, 4-6 Choir \& 5-6 Drama Club
Email: Niederer. Heather@cusd80.com (best way to reach me)
Navarrete Elementary School

## NAVARRETE BAND CALENDAR 2023-24

Fifth Grade Band Opening Day - HIGHLY suggested for a great solid start! See additional flyer

Saturday, July 29, 2023

Winter Band Concert - Mandatory Band Student Attendance (plus it's fun!)
Monday, November 20, 2023
Navarrete MPR/Stage
Students meet in Band Room \#14 by 5:45 p.m.
Concert begins at 6:00 p.m. (approx 40 min long)
Band students will wear band t-shirt \& shorts/pants/denim

## Spring Band Concert - Mandatory Band Student Attendance (plus it's fun!)

Tuesday, May 7, 2024
Navarrete MPR/Stage
Students meet in Band Room \#14 by 5:45 p.m.
Concert begins at 6:00 p.m. (approx 30-40 min long)
Band students will wear band t-shirt \& shorts/pants/denim

## C.U.S.D. Sixth Grade Honor Band (optional for sixth graders)

Dates \& Times TBD - below are approximate dates
Information/Material distribution: mid-December or early January
Auditions: last week of January (usually at Chandler HS)
Rehearsals: after school from 4:00-5:30 p.m. (usually at CHS)
once a week for four weeks
Concert: one evening in early March approx 7 p.m.
at the Chandler Center for the Arts Main Stage!
Attire: Rehearsals are regular school clothes. Auditions are usually a little dressier. Evening concert is dress up (any color - dresses/slacks/button-down shirts/ties)

## BAND GUIDELINES \& EXPECTATIONS

## Materials

Every band student needs to bring their instrument, pencil, book, binder, and necessary accessories (i.e., reeds, cork grease, valve/slide oil, tuning slide grease, cleaning swabs, etc.) to every band class. A folding music stand is optional, but highly recommended, for practicing at home. This allows the students to practice their instrument always with the proper posture (this helps the breathing and tone production). This can also be a great gift idea. Students should not bring their personal music stands to school.

## Conduct/Participation

Students are required to bring their instrument, music, accessories, and a pencil to class EVERY band day. Our primary responsibility and goal in band class is to learn about music. Any misbehavior that distracts the education of other students' learning will not be tolerated. Warnings and infractions to the class rules will result in an attempt to modify the behavior.

## Band Homework

Students are required to practice outside of the class time for their band homework. This is a part of the Participation Band Grade (see below). Each student as well as the band will achieve more success if every member works hard to increase their own abilities. Students will be asked to practice 60 minutes a week, and if necessary, will be checked through weekly parent-signed practice timecards. 60 minutes can be broken down in whatever way works best for your child's schedule. It is best if your child can find several days per week to practice, as he/she will retain the most if concepts are practiced often, and for at least 15 minutes at a time. (Ex: 4 days per week at 15 minutes each = 60 minutes).

## Performance Attendance

Attendance is REQUIRED at noted concerts. It is imperative that all students are present at all concerts for the ENTIRE time. As part of Chandler's band curriculum (District Standards), they are learning how to become a good performer as well as a good audience member. After all, being an attentive audience member helps us learn new things and develop this life-long skill. Reminders will be sent home about 3 weeks prior to the concerts. If a child cannot attend a concert due to another major event, please contact me by email at least 2 weeks prior to the concert. An unexcused absence (or less than 2 weeks prior notice) from a concert will result in lowering that quarter's participation/behavior grade. (Absent from school on the day of a concert is an EXCUSED absence.)

## Grading

Band students receive two grades EACH quarter - 1) Music Content, 2) Behavior/Participation.
Music Content grades that will be given are: Meets the Standards, Progressing, and Area of Concern. Music Content is graded quarterly on the following criteria: performance rubrics (playing tests), teacher observables, and music theory worksheets.

Behavior/Participation grades that will be given are: Excellent, Satisfactory, Improving, and Needs Improvement. Behavior will be based on Character Counts! Participation will be graded through materials checks (bringing the instrument and other materials to band class daily), practice timecards (if necessary), appropriate daily band behavior and participation and attending required band concerts.

## WHERE DO I GET AN INSTRUMENT?!

- \#1 - IN ORDER FOR YOUR CHILD TO BE SUCCESSFUL, THEY NEED AN INSTRUMENT THAT WORKS!
- Most families rent from an area music store. The area music stores have quality instruments and have different programs to meet your repair needs. Most often the repairs are free but check with your choice of music store to understand their policies.
- Some families have instruments that have been in the family for years. Often these instruments are of great quality but usually need some tune-ups and repairs after not being used regularly. Most area music stores offer repair on personal instruments, but I suggest getting them to the store ASAP as it can take a week or even much longer.
- A few families will choose to apply for a CUSD instrument. There is an ONLINE application form that MUST be completed in order to be considered for a district instrument. This is an exceptionally good idea for baritones and even trombones due to store rental prices of these larger instruments. The application is due BY THE FOURTH DAY OF SCHOOL. A link will be emailed home the first three days of school.
- If you are planning to purchase an instrument on the internet or warehouse store, I suggest calling area music stores to make sure they can repair that brand of instrument. Purchasing an instrument from the internet or through a discount store is inviting because prices are so reasonable. The reason you are being asked to be incredibly careful about these kinds of purchases is that often the instruments are of very poor quality, and if broken, cannot be repaired. Additionally, many of these instruments will not tune properly and your child ends up becoming very frustrated during the year because the instrument does not work properly. Often families find that a rental situation is ideal for elementary school.


## MUSIC STORE COMPARISON QUESTIONS

1. Does the dealer have a "rent to own" program? If so, will all my money apply \& for how long? What happens to my "rent to own" funds if I return the instrument next May and then rent again that July (just return the instrument for the summer)?
2. How much does the rental cost per month after all the fees?
3. Are there discounts for renting a used instrument rather than a brand-new instrument? How do your used instruments compare in performance quality to the brand-new instruments?
4. Are there discounts for early payoff? How much?
5. What about protection against damage? What if the instrument is lost or stolen? What if a mouthpiece or other part of the instrument gets damaged or lost?
6. Is there a full equity exchange program? Am I able to trade the rented instrument for a better quality or new instrument?
7. Is there a minimal rental term?
8. What other services does the dealer provide: Free loaner instruments during repair? Discounts on accessories?
9. What are the terms described in the agreement?

## COMMON QUESTIONS ASKED BY BAND PARENTS \& STUDENTS

## "WHEN DO I HAVE BAND?"

Band instruction is an integral part of our school instruction. Classes are offered during the school day and no classroom time is missed. Students will have band two out of three days and PE on the other day.

## "WHICH INSTRUMENT IS THE EASIEST OR MOST DIFFICULT TO PLAY?"

All the instruments take hard work and dedication. In order to be successful, you will have to be dedicated to practicing and playing an instrument that meets your interests for sound quality. Like anything else you do in life, with practice you will increase your opportunity to succeed! Don't choose an instrument based on what your friends are playing...sometimes friends come and go...

## "WHAT IF I DON'T KNOW HOW TO READ MUSIC?"

Most kids in fifth grade beginning band have beginning music reading skills from fourth grade general music.. When you join band, I will teach you EVERYTHING you need to know in order to be successful playing your instrument. As a beginning sixth grader, it will take some extra time and patience to learn what the other students did last year plus add the new sixth grade curriculum. It is a lot of work, but it is not impossible!

## "SHOULD EVERYONE BE IN BAND?"

As a parent, you know your child's capabilities, maturity, level of responsibility, and study habits. You know their past interest in piano, recordings, general music classes and concerts. Most of them used a xylophone/metallophone/glockenspiel year and you know their attitude and level of achievement. Carefully consider your decision...it is for a full year and your child will need constant encouragement. Also, remember that your child should not be selecting a specific instrument just because their best friend is choosing that...friends come and go, and the child will have difficulties achieving goals on an instrument that is chosen by someone else (friend/parent/etc.).

## "AM I ABLE TO TRY IT AND DROP?"

No, the instrumental music teachers at Chandler Unified School District believe the only way to discover your child's musical ability is to stick with it for at least one year. We also believe your child should be mature enough to make a one-year commitment. The beginning of the year is usually really fun, and then there is almost always the first playing test or something else that makes them realize there is a learning curve and that they must work harder to achieve success. Please do not allow your child to quickly give up and quit, rather this is a great life lesson to spend more time, ask for help, and realize that great feeling of success afterwards.

## "IS OK TO WAIT UNTIL 6th GRADE OR OLDER TO JOIN?

In CUSD, band instruction begins in fifth grade. Although you may wait until sixth grade to start, you will be responsible for catching up. This is often accomplished best by taking private lessons through an outside source. Sixth grade band is a level II class which means it begins with the second level of the band curriculum.

## "WHAT INSTRUMENTS AM I ABLE TO CHOOSE FROM, AND IS THERE ANYTHING I SHOULD CONSIDER BEFORE CHOOSING AN INSTRUMENT?"


#### Abstract

All Instruments - Dedication and practice, parental support, good classroom behavior, a desire to work hard and have fun doing it, and the child should choose an instrument they really like, not just because a good friend is playing that instrument (sometimes friends come and go...)


Flute - If your top lip comes down to a point in the center, it will be extremely hard to produce a good sound; Eye-hand coordination should be good.

Clarinet - Thumbs are not double-jointed; Eye-hand coordination should be good.

Alto Saxophone - Thumbs are not double-jointed; Eye-hand coordination should be good. The instrument is heavy to hold (hence the neck strap) and tough to lug around. Keep in mind that many students have alto sax as their first choice. Because of that, behavior and academics are taken into account when determining who will play sax. Clarinet and flute have many of the same attributes: clarinet and saxophone have some different fingerings, but both use a reed and mostly have similar fingering system; flute and saxophone are the closest with the fingering system, however, a flute does not need a reed!

Trumpet/Cornet - Lips are thin to medium (very hard to play with thick, full lips - better suited for trombone/baritone); Student is easily able to identify low and high sounds; Self-confident.

French Horn - Same as trumpet, along with the student should have an exceptional sense of pitch and excel academically. I highly recommend taking private lessons \& waiting until at least 6th or 7th grade to begin French Horn (starting on trumpet is an ideal situation).

Trombone or Baritone - Lips are medium to thick; Self-confident; If you like to stand out in a crowd, this is a great instrument for you. There are never enough trombones and baritones in the band!!!

Percussion (aka Bell Kit): Physically coordinated and highly organized are both necessary; Selfdiscipline; Dependable and a keen sense of responsibility; Piano experience is helpful but not mandatory. Committed to becoming a percussionist - not just a drummer. In order to play percussion, you will start on bells and once you show achievement in bells, you will add drum pad, snare drum and bass drum. Bell kit students will need to understand which days to bring bells, drum pad, sticks, mallets, and which instruments assigned for concerts.

## TIPS FOR PARENTS NEW TO BAND

Your child is learning a new skill (like riding a bike). They will need your encouragement and support in order to succeed.

## 1. Be patient!!!

## 2. Show an interest in your child's instrumental music experience.

- Be Supportive through frustrations and enjoy progress together.
- Give your child feedback and sign the practice card.
- Praise your child's efforts.


## 3. Encourage good practice habits.

- Assist your student in setting up a regular time and quiet place for practice.
- Encourage creative practice, such as practicing in front of a mirror.
- Provide a music stand.


## 4. Assist in the care of the instrument.

- Refer to page 3 in the Standard of Excellence book for more information.
- An instrument works well only when it is maintained in the best possible condition.
- It should be cleaned after each use, returned to its case, and stored in a safe place.
- Repairs should be made by an experienced, qualified repair person. Many of the local music stores have qualified repair technicians on site.
- Only your student should play the instrument, no one else.


## 5. Instrumental music is both an individual and a group endeavor.

- Reinforce skills needed to participate as part of a group, including individual responsibility, dependability, ownership, and attention.
- Stress the importance of being punctual for lessons and rehearsals.
- Encourage faithful attendance at school and community music activities and other cultural events.

