

CARSON MIDDLE SCHOOL - 2019-2020 HANDBOOK

Dear Band Parent(s)/Guardian(s) and Band Students,

I am looking forward to introducing your student to band, or continuing our journey together if this is your 2nd or 3rd year on our classes. This handbook explains the grading procedures for my class and gives information for several other important aspects of the band program. Also, please complete and return the handbook agreement form on the band website (the link to this is on the last page of this handbook) by Fri, August 30th. Feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns.



Sincerely,

Nicolas Jacques
283-2867 (Carson MS Band Office)
njacques@carson.k12.nv.us (best way of contacting me)

[Band Website:
www.cmsbands.org](http://www.cmsbands.org)

Band Grading Procedures

**Band grades will be determined using the grading categories below.*

ASSESSMENTS (30% of overall grade)

- **Playing tests:** Playing tests take place every 2-3 weeks through Smart Music, Flipgrid, or in class. These tests allow me to give each student specific feedback and track their musical progress. Students can retake playing tests for a higher grade until the grade cutoff at the end of the semester.
- **Written Tests:** through Chromebooks to show knowledge of music reading, symbols, & terms.
- **To note for all assessments:** Students will receive ample notification and will only be tested on concepts that have been covered in class. If you are practicing regularly, you will not have a problem with any of the tests.

PRACTICING (20% of overall grade)

Home practice is a critical element of playing an instrument! Students will submit practice time electronically through SmartMusic for a weekly grade. Students are expected to take their instruments home each day and spend at least 15 minutes practicing (exact practice time varies depending on the student and the goals of the week). If students cannot take their instruments home, it is expected that they come in at lunch or after school to practice.

PARTICIPATION (20% of overall grade)

Participation is graded according to preparedness and active participation in class. Students will receive 10 points per class period. To be considered prepared for band, students need to bring the following items to every band class:

- ✓ Instrument and all accessories (reeds, oil, etc)
- ✓ Music and Chromebook
- ✓ Pencil

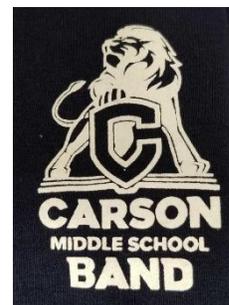
Participation points will also be subtracted if students are off task or disrupting the class.

CONCERT ATTENDANCE (30% of overall grade)

We will have several concerts during the year. **Attendance at these events is mandatory and a major part of the band grade.** If students must miss a concert, please submit a signed parent note with a valid excuse to Mr. Jacques either: two weeks before the concert for pre-arranged absences or within one week after the concert for unexpected absences (sickness, family emergencies, etc). An alternate assignment will be given for excused absences. If you can avoid scheduling elective surgeries/procedures before concerts (especially dental), please do! See the band calendar on the band webpage so you can ensure your student attends all concerts this year.

2019-2020 Required Events

- **October 23: Fall Concert (all ensembles)**
- **October 26:** Nevada Day Parade (Marching Band)
- **November 11:** Veterans Day Parade (Marching Band)
- **December 7:** Sparks Hometowne Christmas Parade (Marching Band)
- **December 18: Winter Concert (all ensembles)**
- **February TBA:** Jazz Extravaganza (Jazz Band)
- **February TBA:** Jazz in the Schools Festival (Jazz Band)
- **February 6-7:** Honor Band (for honor band students)
- **March 26: Band-O-Rama (all ensembles except Jazz Band)**
- **March TBA:** Washoe County Band Festival (Intermediate Band, Advanced Band)
- **April TBA:** Spring Trip (Intermediate Band)
- **April 22:** NZNMEA Band Festival (Concert Band, Intermediate Band, Advanced Band)
- **April 25:** Reno Jazz Festival (Jazz Band)
- **April 30:** Beginning Band Festival (Beginning Band and Concert Band)
- **May 6:** Northern Zone Jazz Night (Jazz Band)
- **May TBA:** Spring Trip (Advanced Band and Jazz Band)
- **May 20: Spring Concert (all ensembles)**
- **June 3:** 8th Grade Promotion (Intermediate Band, Advanced Band)



BAND FEES

All ensembles: \$35 per ensemble, which includes the following required materials:

- Band polo shirt (Beginning, Concert, Intermediate Bands)
- Band uniform cleaning fee (Advanced, Jazz, Marching Bands)
- SmartMusic Subscription (includes web-based method book)
- Band T-shirt (*Returning students that already have a t-shirt that fits can reduce the fee to \$25*).
- Folder, music, replacement pencils, and other emergency supplies



Band fee is due by Friday, August 30. We accept cash or checks made payable to CMS. All band fees must be paid in full before we accept any trip payments.

Marching Band: \$5 Shoe Rental

All Marching Band members will need to rent a pair of marching shoes for \$5. Marching Band is mandatory for Advanced Band and optional for Intermediate Band. Marching Band members will participate in 3 parades during the fall semester. These shoes may also be worn at concerts and other band events throughout the school year.

UNIFORMS

We will wear our uniforms at all concerts and events. The uniform includes:

- **Beginning Band, Concert Band, Intermediate Band** – Band polo shirt or t-shirt (depending on the event, and included in \$35 band fee) - Solid black pants (dress pants preferred, but nice solid dark black jeans would be acceptable) -Solid black shoes, black socks and belt (belt not required if not needed)
- **Advanced Band** – Full school-issued tuxedo outfit or dress (included in \$35 band fee) with marching shoes (Additional \$5 rental) or black dress shoes and black socks.
- **Jazz Band** – Full school-issued tuxedo outfit (included in \$35 band fee) with marching shoes (additional \$5 rental) or black dress shoes and black socks.
- **Marching Band** – Full school-issued marching band uniform with white gloves (included in \$35 band fee), black marching shoes (additional \$5 rental), and black socks.



INSTRUMENTS

Rental/Purchase Options:

- **Rent-to-own from a local music store (or online).** Prices: \$30-45/month for flute, clarinet, trumpet and trombone. Saxes and larger instrument are around \$50-80/month.
- **Purchase from a local music store or online** (do not recommend this option for beginners). If you are going to purchase, Mr. Jacques is happy to give input about instrument quality and price, so you get a good deal. Remember- you get what you pay for!
- **Rent instrument from the school** for \$100 for the school year (Limited inventory- reserved for those with Free & Reduced Lunch OR those who play large or less common instruments including: oboe, bassoon, tenor/bari sax, French horn, trombone, baritone/euphonium, tuba, percussion).

Rental Procedures:

- **Music Stores:** Families review prices from different stores ([list of music stores available through the Carson MS Band website](#)) and then go in to rent/buy.
- **School instruments:** Parents who are in need of a school instrument submit a [School Rental Application](#). If the student qualifies and an instrument is available, Mr. Jacques will then send home a rental contract. Students will not receive school instruments unless Mr. Jacques has received contract and payment. If you are not in financial need of a school instrument, but would like to use one if Mr. Jacques has any left over after those in need have checked theirs out, please complete the online form as well.

If you own your own instrument:

- [Please click here to enter your personal instrument information.](#) Be sure you also label your case with your name, address, phone number, and school.

COMMUNICATION

It is my mission to create an open dialogue with all parents and students. Effective communication is an essential element of any successful music program. Please make sure your email address is up-to-date in InfiniteCampus, as this will be my primary means of sending regular updates about events, rehearsals, grades, and other news.



VOLUNTEERS

With over 250 students in the Carson Middle School band program, I cannot do it all alone. The success of the program relies heavily on parent volunteers throughout the school year, with duties that include chaperoning, fundraising, uniform fitting, and more. I will ask for volunteers throughout the school year as the need arises, so be sure you're on our email list. Please note: if you are volunteering as a chaperone, you must be fingerprinted through the Carson City School District and complete a volunteer packet. [Click here for the packet and information on how to schedule an appointment.](#)



CLASS PROCEDURES AND EXPECTATIONS

Entering and Exiting the Band Room:

- Enter the band room quietly and in an orderly manner.
- Students must be in their assigned seats, ready to play by two minutes after the tardy bell.
- Students will receive a tardy for not being ready by this time.

Getting Ready for Class:

- Check the agenda for your class on the board.
- Grab your music folder from its assigned cubby.
- Find and assemble your instrument.
- Place cases back in shelves or lockers, or under your chair (flute, oboe, and clarinet only).
- Warm up with a dynamic of mezzo piano (mp) or softer.

During Class:

- Please remain completely quiet and attentive when Mr. Jacques steps on the podium.
- Remain in your seat during the entire rehearsal.
- Raise your hand if you need permission to sharpen a pencil, grab any supplies, or use the restroom.
- Use a pencil to mark any corrections in your music.
- Only play when Mr. Jacques asks you. This includes after cut-offs.

End of Class:

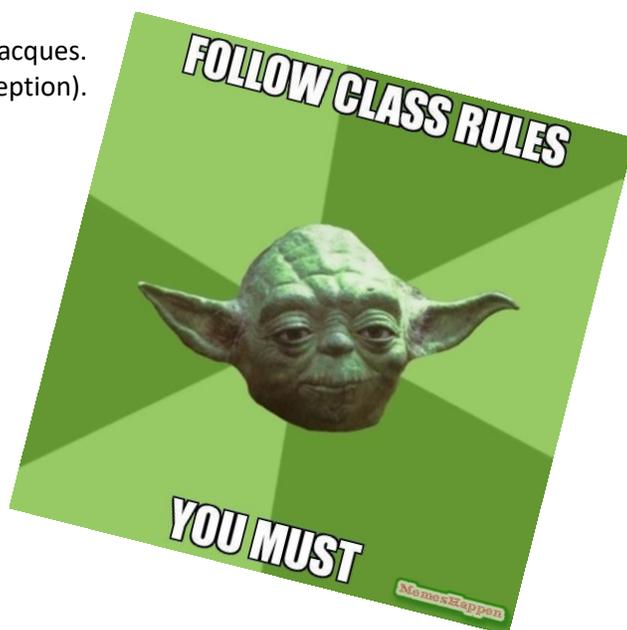
- Quietly pack up your instrument and place it in its assigned locker or shelf.
- Return your music to its assigned cubby.
- Neatly rearrange chairs and stands for the next class. Add or remove chairs if you're assigned to do so.
- Percussion: put away all instruments and cover timpani/mallets.
- Be sure to stay away from behind the podium until you are dismissed.

My classroom rules are as follows:

- Respect Mr. Jacques and fellow classmates at all times.
- Come to class prepared to learn and participate.
- Use proper posture and playing techniques.
- Do not play or warm up on instruments until directed by Mr. Jacques.
- No gum, food, or drinks allowed in class (water is the only exception).
- Only use portable electronic devices at designated times.

Consequences include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Verbal warning
- Seating Change
- Behavior Assignment (signed by parent)
- Parent Contact
- Parent Contact and Office Referral
- Not being invited to special events
- Removal from the ensemble



[PLEASE CLICK HERE TO COMPLETE THE HANDBOOK AGREEMENT FORM,](#)
[DUE FRIDAY, AUGUST 30, 2019.](#)