

Billinghurst MIDDLE SCHOOL - BEGINNING BAND

2025-2026 HANDBOOK

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

I am looking forward to introducing your child to band music. During this class we will learn 1) proper playing position, 2) breath support, 3) embouchure, 4) note names/fingerings/pitches, 5) basic rhythms, 6) instrument care and cleaning, and most importantly, how to put all the six elements together to make music. In addition, we will be doing some basic music theory to help understand how to communicate in the language of music. Encourage your child to play for you often. They will appreciate your interest and you will notice their progress! **On a separate note, please make sure your contact information is up to date in Infinite Campus and that you set your message settings to allow teacher messages as this is the way I send out group emails with updates/info (instructions for this can be found at the bottom of the band website homepage). Also, please complete and submit the forms in this packet.** Feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Nathaniel Myers
(775) 746-5870 (BDB MS Office)
nathaniel.myers@washoeschools.net

Band Website www.washoeschools.net/billinghurstband

Band Grading Procedures

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

ASSESSMENTS (40% of overall grade)

- **Playing tests:** these will be done in class weekly. Playing tests may be re-taken for a higher grade until the end of the quarter.
- **Pass-off tests:** there will be several of these assigned each quarter. The goal of these tests is to pass with 100% accuracy as they will cover the basic building blocks of musicianship. Students may take them as many times as they would like until the end of the quarter and if they are unable to pass with 100%, I will enter the grade they earn on their third attempt.
- **Written assessments:** these will be given to show knowledge of music reading, symbols, and terms.
- **To note for all assessments:** You will always be given 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.

PRACTICE/HOMEWORK (25% of overall grade)

Home practice is REQUIRED for every instrument! Students will complete nightly practice assignments as well as a weekly practice chart. Each chart requires a specific amount of practice minutes and a parent/guardian signature. Students should set aside about 60 minutes/week for practice and are encouraged to divide this time up evenly throughout the week (four 15-minute practices would be perfect). This means they will need to take their instrument home regularly (they may also practice in the band room after school or at lunch if arranged ahead of time). **Charts that do NOT have each week signed by a parent or guardian will result in a failing grade.**

CLASS PERFORMANCE (20% of overall grade)

Your performance is graded according to your preparedness and active performance in class. You may receive up to **5 points per class session**. To be considered prepared for band; you need to bring the following items to every band class:

- ✓ Instrument
- ✓ Music: Book, Folder, Warm Up Sheets, Concert Songs, etc.
- ✓ Practice Chart
- ✓ Supplies: Pencil, instrument accessories (reeds, oil, swabs, neck straps, etc.)
- ✓ Active Performing in Class

Performance points will also be subtracted if you are off task or disrupting the class.

CONCERT ATTENDANCE (15% of overall grade)

We will have several concerts during the year. **Your attendance at these events is mandatory and a major part of your grade.** If you must miss a concert, please submit a signed parent note with a valid excuse to your band teacher 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 may 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 attendance at all concerts this year.

ABSENCE MAKE-UP WORK POLICY: Students have the amount of days absent plus one to complete the make-up work and have the absence cleared (per WCSD policy).

MISSING/LATE WORK POLICY: Students will have one week from the due date to complete and turn in to receive partial credit on any assignment. After one week, the assignment will NOT be accepted. Students who are missing work due to office approved absences, see the "Absence Make-Up Work Policy."

CITIZENSHIP (Behavior/Work Ethic)

My rules for citizenship are basic manners that I hope you have acquired before this class: **2 points per class**

- ✓ Be **ON TIME** and set up before timer goes off
- ✓ Be **respectful** to teacher and fellow classmates
- ✓ Do not talk or play out of turn
- ✓ **NO GUM, FOOD, CANDY, or DRINKS** in the Band Room (water is okay)
- ✓ Employ all the elements of the **"BIGHORN ATTITUDE"**

DISCIPLINE PLAN

I will follow the discipline plan that is described in your student planner.



Supplies Needed – 6th Grade Band

Every student is responsible for providing the following supplies for sixth grade band class:

- 1) **Instrument** - Flute, Oboe, Clarinet, Alto Sax, Trumpet, French Horn, Trombone, or Euphonium
- 2) **Band book: Sound Innovations – Book 1** (this is provided as part of your band fee)
- 3) **Portable Music Stand** (optional- for practice at home)
- 4) **Plastic Pocket Folder** (used to hold book, theory worksheets, and additional sheet music)
- 5) **Pencil** (keep a pencil in your instrument case, we will use them daily!)
- 6) **Additional Accessories** for individual instrument:



Flute

- Cleaning rod (normally included with instrument)
- Swab for rod (any rectangular piece of cotton is fine)
- Polishing cloth

Clarinet/Saxophone/Oboe

- Reeds
- 2 boxes of Orange Rico- size 3.0
- Oboe: reeds and stand
- Cleaning Swab (included in school rentals)
- Cork Grease (included in school rentals)
- Saxophone Only: Neck Strap & Polishing cloth

Trumpet/French Horn/Baritone

- Valve Oil (rotary oil for Horn)
- Slide Grease
- Polishing Cloth

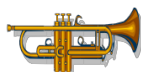
Trombone

- Slide Cream
- Polishing Cloth

Band Uniform

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

- Your band t-shirt (see class fee form, will be given out prior to our first concert)
- Nice Blue/Black/Grey Jeans or Long Skirt (nice = not ripped up or dirty) NO SWEATPANTS/LEGGINGS
- Closed Toed Shoes



Band Instrument Rental/Purchase Procedures

Rental/Purchase Options:

- ☐ **Rent-to-own from a local music store** (or online). Approximate Prices: \$30-45/month for flute, clarinet, trumpet and trombone. Saxes and larger instrument are around \$50-80/month. (Some pricing can be found on the band website)
- ☐ **Purchase from a local music store or online** (do not recommend this option for beginners). If you are going to purchase, Mr. Myers is happy to give input about instrument quality and price. Remember- you get what you pay for! **NO AMAZON**
- ☐ **Rent instrument from the school** for \$50 for the school year (Limited inventory- reserved first for those on the Free & Reduced Lunch list per district policy).

Rental Procedures:

- ☐ **From Music Stores:** Families review prices from different stores (some store rental rates and info can be found on the Billingshurst Band webpage, info below) and then go in to rent/buy.
- ☐ **Percussionists:** Percussion kits available from the school via submission of School Rental Application (next page). \$50 Rental fee.
- ☐ **For School instruments:** Parents who need a school instrument submit a request when filling out the **Band Information Form** (online). The list of those in need is then given to our Principal to check Free & Reduced Lunch eligibility. If the student qualifies and an instrument is available, Mr. Myers will then send home a rental contract. Students will not receive school instruments unless Mr. Myers has received contract and payment. **Qualifying students still pay the \$50 rental fee. (Different from Class Fee)**
 - o If you don't need a school instrument, but would like to use one if Mr. Myers has any left over after those in need have checked theirs out, please complete the form below as well.

Billingshurst Beginning Band – Required Events Calendar

Wed 10/1/25	Approx. 5:00pm	Fall Showcase Performance	@Billingshurst Gym
Wed 12/10/25	Approx. 5:00pm	Winter Concert	@Billingshurst Gym
Wed 3/11/26	Approx. 6:00pm	Zone Concert	@McQueen High School
Tue 5/19/26	Approx. 5:00pm	Spring Concert	@Billingshurst Gym
<u>Optional Events</u>			
Wed 2/25/26	WCSD Honor Band Concert	Requires application from Mr. Myers and additional rehearsals on Wednesdays in February at Mendive MS. Concert takes place at the Pioneer Center downtown!	

YOUR BAND “TO DO LIST”

- 1) Fill out your Instrument Survey (found on the band website) to select your top 3 instrument choices.
- 2) Read the Band Handbook
- 3) Complete the online Band Information Form by Friday, August 22. This form includes:
 - a. *Band Class Agreement* (to complete after reading the Handbook)
 - b. *Needed student information* (shirt size, etc)
 - c. *School Instrument Rental Request Form* (for those wanting to rent an instrument from the school)

You can also sign and return the forms on the next page *instead* of online form:Class Contract, Rental Request, Class Fee and Shirt Payments (if not completed during back to school registration)

- 4) Purchase the needed supplies for your child's instrument. Check out the supplies listed on previous page or from the band website- *useful band documents*.

Adjust your Infinite Campus Message Settings

You can adjust your Infinite Campus Message settings to allow teacher messages to go directly to your email. This is very handy for grade warnings and other important class information for band and all classes. For instructions about how to adjust your settings, visit the band website(www.washoeschools.net/billinghurstband) and go to the bottom of the HOMEPAGE. There is a link here that will take you to the instructions.



Billinghurst MS Bands Information Form

Class Contract



We have read the welcome letter, grading procedures; discipline policy and supply list and agree to abide by the policies set forth in the band handbook. We understand the commitment necessary to participate in band and will pay our fees and provide the instrument and other supplies. Also, the parent/guardian listed below hereby gives consent and approval for the student named below to participate in all concerts and functions of the Billinghurst Middle School Band Program for the 2025-2026 school year.

Student Name (*Printed- Last/First*)

Circle Class(es): Jazz /1st / 2nd / 3rd / 5th / 6th

Student Signature

Date

Parent/Guardian Name (*Printed*)

Parent/Guardian Email

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

Circle a Shirt Size that will fit for the ENTIRE year: Youth(Y)S, YM, YL, Adult(A)S, AM, AL, AXL, AXXL

School Instrument Rental Application (*Optional*)

- Only complete this form if school instrument is needed. **This does not guarantee that you will receive an instrument.** This lets Mr. Myers know that you would like an instrument from the school. Please understand that the school has limited instruments available. Large or less common instruments may be available to rent from the school without being in financial need. These include: oboe, bassoon, bass clarinet, tenor/bari sax, French horn, trombone, baritone/euphonium, tuba and percussion kits.
- Those needing a school instrument need to complete this form ASAP- first come first served

Student Name (*Printed- last/First*)

Circle Class(es): Jazz /1st / 2nd / 3rd / 5th / 6th

Instrument(s) Requested

Date

BAND Class Fee Payment and Shirt Order Forms

If you did not pay band fees when you picked up your schedule and took ID photos before school started, please fill out the form below and submit with payment to Mr. Myers ASAP.

Class fees are required to be paid to receive band books, music, folders, etc.

This fee is DIFFERENT than instrument rental fees

Please check the items you are paying for:

Beginning Band Fee

_____ \$40 Class Fee

Intermediate Band Fee

_____ \$55 Class Fee

Advanced Band Fee

_____ \$40 Class Fee

Optional Additional Band T-Shirt, Polo (please note ALL Beg/Int students have this built into their fee)

_____ \$10 BDB Band T-Shirt (nice to have for additional band events/school spirit days)

_____ \$15 BDB Band Polo (ADV students: if your polo does not fit OR you lost it, order a new polo)

All school instrument rentals will be handled later for a separate payment.

\$ _____ Total Amount Paid:

Check

Cash

Card

(payable to: Billinghurst MS)