

DEPOALI MIDDLE SCHOOL - SIXTH GRADE 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 of 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 – in red writing). Also, please follow the 'To Do List' at the end of this packet so you are all set for band for the school year.** Feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Daniel J. Barthel (Mr. B)
852-6700 (Depoali MS Office)
dbarthel@washoeschools.net (best way of contacting me)



Band Website: www.washoeschools.net/dbarthel

Band Grading Procedures

ASSESSMENTS (35% of overall grade)

- **Playing tests:** these will be done in class once per quarter so I can give each student feedback and grade their progress. Playing tests may be retaken for a higher grade until the end of the quarter.
- **Pass-off tests:** there will be one of these assigned each quarter and they are submitted outside of class time (online or at lunch/after school). The requirement of these tests is to pass with near 100% accuracy as they cover the basic building blocks of musicianship. Students may retake to pass 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/Self assessments:** these will be given to show knowledge of music reading, symbols, terms, and to analyze self-progress.
- **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 (20% of overall grade)

Home practice is a critical element of playing an instrument! Students will complete weekly practice assignments and then submit electronically at the end of each week (via the band website under the 'Practice Assignments' page). Each assignment will have a set amount of goals to complete, and students may complete more than the required amount to earn extra credit. Students should set aside about 75 minutes/week for practice and are encouraged to divide this time up evenly throughout the week (three 25-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. Band room availability is posted on the band website homepage each week). Late work is graded at 70% after the due date and will be accepted for one week after the due date. After that time, no credit will be given.

CLASS PERFORMANCE (30% of overall grade)

Student performance in class is graded according to preparedness and active participation in class. Students can earn 20 points per class session. To be considered prepared for band; they need to bring the following items to every band class:

+Instrument: 10 points, +Band Book: 3 points, +Planner, pencil, practice log, additional music sheets, instrument accessories (reeds, oil, etc.): 1 point each. Participation points will also be subtracted if students are off task or late to class. If a student is absent, this grade will be entered as missing (see below).

ABSENCE MAKE-UP WORK POLICY: If a student is absent, they can earn the missed Class Performance grade by doing 15 minutes of make-up practice in the band room at lunch or after school. They will have until a designated date near the end of the quarter to earn the missing grade.

CONCERT ATTENDANCE (15% of overall grade)

We will have several concerts during the year. **Student attendance at these events is mandatory and a major part of your grade.** If you must miss a concert, please email Mr. Barthel 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 attendance at all concerts this year – concerts are a fun way to show what we've learned and an important part of being a musician.

CITIZENSHIP (Behavior/Work Ethic)

My rules for citizenship are basic manners that I hope students have acquired before this class:

- ✓ **Be respectful to teacher and fellow classmates**
- ✓ **Do not talk or play out of turn**
- ✓ **Enter and leave classroom quietly and orderly**
- ✓ **Employ all the elements of STRIKE!! (our school positive behavior system)**

DISCIPLINE PLAN: I will follow the discipline plan that is described in the Depoali student planner.



Supplies Needed – 6th Grade Band

The following items are required for every class (except the music stand):

- 1) **Instrument** – Flute, Clarinet, Trumpet, Trombone, or Baritone (the school rental fee is included in your band fee)
- 2) **Band book: *Habits of a Successful Beginner Band Musician– Book 1*** (book cost included in your band fee)
- 3) **1" 3-ring binder** to hold music and band book (included in fee)
- 4) **Portable Music Stand** (optional- for practice at home)
- 5) **Pencil** (keep a pencil in your binder, we will use them daily!)
- 6) **Accessories & supplies** - the initial supplies for your instrument will be provided as part of your class fee. As the supplies run out, you will need to purchase more (can be purchased from the school). The required supplies are listed below:



Flute

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

Clarinet

-3 unchipped reeds (*Rico brand-strength 3*)
-Cleaning Swab
-Cork Grease
-Polishing cloth

Trumpet/Baritone

-Valve Oil
-Slide Grease
-Polishing Cloth

Trombone

-Slide Cream
-Mini Water Spray Bottle
-Polishing Cloth

Band Uniform

We will wear our uniform at all concerts. The 6th grade uniform includes:

- Your band t-shirt (*included in band fee, will be given out prior to our first concert*)
- Nice blue jeans (*nice = not ripped up or dirty*)



Band Instrument Rental/Purchase Procedures 2025-2026

Instrument rentals will be provided from the school as part of the 6th Grade Band Fee. Please complete the [Band Registration Form](#) by Friday, August 15. This form will give Mr. Barthel information about the size and type of instrument your child will need. Failure to complete this form in time may risk your child not receiving a school instrument.

Depoali 6th Grade Band - Required Events Calendar*

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Groups involved</u>
Thurs, Aug 21, 2025	6th Grade Flute Boot Camp	2-5pm	Depoali Band Room	All flute players!
Fri, August 22, 2025	6th Grade Clarinet Boot Camp	2-5pm	Depoali Band Room	All clarinet players!
Mon, Aug 25, 2025	6th Grade Trombone/Baritone Boot Camp	2-5pm	Depoali Band Room	All low brass players!
Tues, Aug 26, 2025	6th Grade Trumpet Boot Camp	2-5pm	Depoali Band Room	All trumpet players!
Wed, Oct 1, 2025	Fall Band Concert	5:00-5:25pm	Depoali Gym	All Band Students
Wed, Dec 10, 2025	6 th Grade Band Winter Concert	12:30-1:00pm	Depoali Gym	6 th Grade Band
Wed, March 18, 2026	Band Zone Concert	6:00-7:15pm	Damonte Ranch HS Gym	All bands except Jazz
Thurs, May 21, 2026	Spring Band Concert	5:00-5:30pm	Depoali Gym	All bands
Friday, May 22, 2026	Fly High Reward Trip	10:00am-1:30pm	Field trip to Fly High	6 th Grade Music

**Events may be added, changed, or cancelled. Advance notice will be given for any changes.*

YOUR 6th Grade BAND "TO DO LIST"

- 1) **Read the Band Handbook**
- 2) **Complete the [Band Registration Form](#) by Friday, August 15.** This form includes:
 - a. *Band Class Agreement* (to complete after reading the Handbook)
 - b. *Needed student information* (shirt size, etc)
 - c. *School Instrument Rental Information*
- 3) **Set your Infinite Campus Message Settings to push teacher messages to email.** Most teachers use Infinite Campus as the primary means of communication with families. Instructions for this can be found at the bottom of the home page of the Band Website.