



# CMS Band Handbook

2023-2024

\*Enrollment in Carson Middle School Bands is conditional upon agreement to this document in its entirety. Band classes are full year classes. Students will not switch classes at semester.

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## Director Contact Information

Stephanie Van Orman (Mrs. V)

Director of Bands

[svanorman@carson.k12.nv.us](mailto:svanorman@carson.k12.nv.us)

775-283-2867

ParentSquare contact is preferred and will be answered the fastest.

I do not answer the phone while I am teaching or in a meeting.

# Welcome to CMS Bands!

Congratulations on being a part of the Carson Middle School Band Program! We are so excited to have you and your family with us this year! Band is a wonderful opportunity to challenge yourself, make lifelong friends, and develop all parts of the brain. Band kids score higher on standardized tests and have greater social and emotional intelligence after only one year on their instrument. Imagine what you can accomplish by the end of Middle School, or even the end of High School!

## Course Objectives

There are four categories of [National Standards](#) for Band:

- Creating
- Performing
- Responding
- Connecting

Within each category students will study (at varying levels) the following seven topics:

- Sound
- Rhythm
- Pitch
- Form
- Dynamics
- Articulation
- Style

By the end of the school year, students will be able to create musical examples based on in-class learning, perform a variety of music on their instrument, respond intelligently to music as an audience member, and connect their learning of musical concepts to other subjects and parts of life.

# Required Materials

- Instrument
- Music Folder (provided by Mrs. V)
- Method Book
  - Beginning Band - Standard of Excellence Band Book 1 (Red)
  - Intermediate Band - Standard of Excellence Band Book 2 (Blue)
  - Advanced Band - Standard of Excellence Band Book 3 (Green)
- Pencil
- Instrument Accessories
  - These are specific to each instrument and can be found on the Annual Band Order Form (under Band Fees)
  - Accessories can be purchased from local music businesses or through CMS Bands

## Instrument Rental

Carson Middle School has a limited number of school-owned instruments that can be rented to students for \$75.00 per school year. This rental fee covers the cost of repairing normal wear and tear as well as a professional chemical wash over the summer. Families wishing to rent a school instrument will need to fill out a rental agreement and return it to the director before receiving the instrument.

Priority is given to students who qualify for free-and-reduced meal plans through the district. After these students, priority is on a first-come-first-served basis. If the school cannot rent an instrument to every student, there are outside businesses able to provide rental instruments for a monthly fee. Often these businesses offer a rent-to-own program for families interested in purchasing a quality instrument. Please see the Local Music Businesses page for more information.

Students may also bring instruments they own or may purchase an instrument from a reputable source. It is always a good idea to check with your band director or private lessons teacher before purchasing an instrument. There are many brands that are not designed to last more than 6 months. Once these break, they will be impossible to repair. Quality instruments may become damaged with normal wear and tear, but are able to be repaired year after year.

# Band Fees

## [Annual Band Order Form](#)

Each student must acquire the materials needed for their instrument. It is much less of an expense to maintain an instrument than it is to repair one.

Students are also required to purchase a Band Method Book (Standard of Excellence) and a Music Department T-Shirt. If a T-shirt from a previous year still fits, that student will not be required to purchase a new one. Finally, we will be using MakeMusic (formerly SmartMusic). Each student must purchase a subscription to this program through the Band Program.

**All orders MUST be placed before Labor Day.** This gives us time to place the orders and receive them before our first concert in October.

## Attendance and Behavior Policies

Band students are expected to meet or exceed all Carson Middle School policies regarding attendance and behavior. Please see the Behavior Matrix in the student planners for more information.

# Grading

Students will receive a grade of 0, 1, 2, 3, or 4 for all assignments. Please reference the Proficiency Scales section for more information on how each grade is earned.

- **Creating - 30%**
  - This includes all work with composition.
- **Performing - 30%**
  - This includes MakeMusic recordings, in-class playing tests, and concerts.
  - Concerts are graded as unit tests and will be worth 4 assignment grades.
- **Responding - 30%**
  - This includes Concert Evaluations, Practice Logs, and other assignments as needed.
- **Connecting - 10%**
  - This includes all assignments related to Film Score, Music Industry, and Composer Spotlights.
- **Citizenship**
  - Students will respond to a “readiness check” each day in class. In order to be ready, a student will have the following in class each day:
    - Instrument
    - Music Folder (Including all handouts and music)
    - Pencil
    - Instrument Accessories

4	Students are ready, follow school and classroom expectations, and are kind/helpful to other students/staff members.
3	Students are ready and follow school and classroom expectations.
2	Students are either not ready or are having difficulties following school and/or classroom expectations.
1	Students are repeatedly not ready or are repeatedly having difficulties following school and/or classroom expectations.

# Assignments

## In-Class

Creating - Students will be given composition assignments at least two times per month.

Performing - Students will be required to record musical examples from the method book AND complete in-class playing tests. Quarterly concerts are also considered unit tests and will be required.

Responding - Students will evaluate performances each quarter and may be given additional assignments throughout the concert cycle (Quarterly).

Connecting - Students will complete assignments related to the Film Industry throughout the year. Students will also complete Composer Spotlight assignments (typically reading a biography and completing a fill-in-the-blank note taker) 1-2 times per month.

## At Home

Playing an instrument is a physical activity. Musicians are training their muscles to do very specific things. Therefore, students are required to practice their instrument each day at home.

Without at-home practice, students will either stagnate or lose muscle strength and memory.

The minimum amount of practice is 10 minutes each day. Very dedicated students may wish to practice more and will likely achieve more (such as acceptance into Region Honor Band or All-State Band or receiving a medal at Solo and Ensemble Festival). Students will be taught how to practice in-class, but expect to hear a variety of techniques such as singing, clapping, counting, and playing.

# Concert Expectations

Each class will perform at least once per quarter for a grade. These performances count as unit tests and are required. Students are also expected to stay after the concert to help clean up. Concerts are typically 1 hour long with a 10 minute cleanup.

There will be a great deal of performance opportunities throughout the year, but not all performances are required. Please see the Calendar of Events on our website ([carsonmiddlemusic.com/calendar](http://carsonmiddlemusic.com/calendar)) for more information about which concerts are required.

## Concert Attire

All students must wear:

- Their Music Department T-Shirt
- Black pants
  - Jeans are okay.
  - Full-length skirts are okay.
  - Leggings do not meet the CMS dress code and are therefore not allowed.
- Black socks
  - The point of the sock is to cover the ankle between pants and shoes. Please wear a length of sock that can cover this space.
- Black shoes
  - Must be closed-toed
  - Boots are okay.
  - Casual shoes such as sneakers are okay if they are all black.
  - Black shoes are available to borrow from CMS Bands if the need arises.

## Missing a Concert

Concerts are mandatory, graded events, however sometimes it is impossible to attend a concert. Students who do not attend a concert will be given an alternate assignment. The success of a performance relies heavily on every member of the band being present. Students who display professionalism when needing to miss a graded performance will be able to receive a 4 on their alternate assignment. Students who do not show professionalism will be able to receive no higher than a 3 on their alternate assignment.

Professionalism Means:

- Provide the director enough notice of an absence to allow for someone else to play the part (2-3 weeks). This applies to known travel, major sporting events, or other events that cannot be missed. As a reminder, Band is a graded class. Sports are not. The Band



program is very flexible and will work with Sports, but it is expected students will choose the graded activity above non-graded activities whenever possible.

- If there is a family/medical emergency, inform the director as soon as possible. A note from an adult in charge may be required.
- If a student is ill and misses the school day of the concert, inform the director as soon as possible. A note from an adult in charge may be required.

It is not professional to miss a concert for a lack of transportation, babysitting, or other non-communicated issues. Concert dates for the school year are posted on our website allowing plenty of time for accommodations and plans to be made.

## Travel

There are multiple opportunities for travel in Band. Each time we leave our campus, we are not only representing our Band program, but we are also representing Carson Middle School and our school district as a whole. Therefore it is crucial that students be held to high standards. Students with recurring behavioral issues, failing grades, and/or poor attendance will not be invited to travel with the Bands. Students will complete a Band Travel Approval Form to be signed by each of their teachers.

## Late Work Policy

Carson Middle School supports our students learning to become responsible for their own time management and allows late work to be submitted before a new unit begins. As Band does not have units in the traditional sense, all work must be completed and turned in before a Concert. Work turned in after a concert will not be accepted.

## Food/Drink Policy

Unless there is a documented 504 or IEP accommodation, **Band is a water only classroom.** Food and drink will damage the instruments and result in extremely costly repairs or loss altogether. It is strongly recommended that all students rinse their mouths and/or wash their hands before playing an instrument.

# Local Music Businesses

Business	Contact Information	Services
Absolute Music	Website: <a href="https://absolutemusiconline.com/">https://absolutemusiconline.com/</a>  Email: <a href="mailto:absolutemusic@sbcglobal.net">absolutemusic@sbcglobal.net</a>  Address: 8175 S Virginia St #600, Reno, NV 89511, USA  Phone: 775-852-2637	Instrument Rentals, Accessories, Method Books, Repairs
Blue Note B's Horn Shop	Website: <a href="https://bnbinstruments.com/">https://bnbinstruments.com/</a>  Email: <a href="mailto:bnbinstruments@gmail.com">bnbinstruments@gmail.com</a>  Address: 1525 Oddie Blvd, Sparks NV 89431  Phone: 775-453-9219	Instrument Rentals, Accessories, Method Books, Repairs
Carpenter's Music World	Website: <a href="https://carpentersmusic.com/">https://carpentersmusic.com/</a>  Address:  1090 Kietzke Lane  Reno, NV, 89502  Phone:  (775) 852-7618	Instrument Rentals, Repairs
Play Your Own Music	Address: 112 E John St, Carson City, NV 89706  Phone: (775) 885-7529	Accessories, Method Books
Silver and Brass	Address: 710 N Curry St, Carson City, NV 89703  Phone: (775) 691-9737	Brass Accessories, Brass Instrument Repairs