



**Band Handbook**  
**2024-2025**  
**Mr. Kievert**  
**Union Park Bands**

This Handbook Belongs To: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

The objectives for the Union Park band program are to perform music with consistent superior performance qualities, to create a community culture of exceptional character through creating strong leaders in the classroom and to foster a lifelong love for music. Through participation in this program, students will develop many personal attributes, such as independent musicianship and artistry, a strong and efficient work ethic, self-confidence, and integrity. By participating in music, students will broaden their horizons socially, historically, and culturally. Each member will achieve his or her own personal musical goals within a supportive, educational, and professional environment.

The Arizona Performing Musical Ensemble State Standards can be accessed [here](#).

The Arizona K-8 General Music State Standards can be accessed [here](#).

### **Band Philosophies**

1. Do the right thing because it is the right thing to do
2. Live above the line
3. If you can't get out of it, get into it
4. Leave your drama at the door
5. Communicate effectively to avoid conflict
6. Honor the absent

This document serves as a syllabus for the band program. It outlines the rules, procedures, and expectations for our band room to foster a safe, positive, consistent, and supportive musical learning environment here at Union Park.

### **Classroom Policies, Procedures, and Rehearsal Etiquette**

1. Students are expected to enter the band room/rehearsal space quietly and orderly.
2. Retrieve required daily materials (instrument, pencil, and music)
3. Students are expected to remain respectful, attentive, and actively participating in rehearsal
4. Rehearsal times will end at Mr. Kievert's discretion
  - *Mr. Kievert will ensure students have adequate time to reach their next class*
5. No running or horseplay is permitted.
6. No food, drinks, or gum in the band room (water is allowed)
7. Students will actively participate in daily band activities.
8. Students will only use technology in a way to positively contribute to rehearsal.

All DVUSD rules will be adhered to at Union Park School. Please refer to the DVUSD Student Rights and Responsibilities Handbook. We believe that students must treat others with the same respect with which they are treated by the adults in our school. We also believe that student's actions, dress, possessions, etc., must not cause a problem for themselves or anyone else.

These policies are in place to ensure the safety of all students at Union Park.

## **Required Materials**

### **All Students**

1. Instrument
2. Music (Band Binder/*Measures of Success* Book 1/sheet music)
3. Pencil
4. Metal wire music stand
  - a. Helpful for at-home practice
  - b. Can be ordered when renting through Milano Music
5. 1-inch binder with cover sleeve and pockets
  - a. Five dividers with plastic tabs
    - i. Essentials, Resources, Daily Routine, Concert Music, & Other Music
6. \$20 suggested band donation – can be completed via online purchasing
  - a. Music purchasing, school instrument repair, and supply replenishment

### **Brass Musicians**

1. Valve Oil – Al Cass Fast (preferred)
2. Tuning Slide Grease
3. Slide-O-Mix two pack (trombones only)

### **Woodwind Musicians**

1. Five to ten reeds – Vandoren, Juno, or Rico Royal (5/6: 2.5 hardness, 7/8: 3 hardness for clarinet or saxophone)
2. Multi-Reed Case (D’Addario, LeBlanc, or Protec)
3. Mouthpiece cap (clarinet and saxophone)
4. Cork grease (clarinet and saxophone)
5. Cleaning tools (cleaning rod for flute and saxophone, silk swab for clarinet)

### **Percussion Musicians**

1. 12” Vic Firth Practice Pad (or snare drum if rented that way)
2. Vic Firth Bell Kit – Model V8705 with rubber mallets
3. Snare Drum Sticks – Vic Firth SD1 General

If you already have some of these materials from previous years or at a different school and you are unsure about what is needed for participation in the Toro Band Program, please contact me! Much of this list is geared toward complete newcomers to band, so if you are coming to Union Park as a middle school student and you participated in band before, you might already have most of what you need!

## **Grades**

### **Practicing**

Research provides strong evidence that practicing is essential for increasing and reinforcing student learning and achievement. The intent is to extend and solidify musical learning, and provide opportunities for students to develop critical, independent study skills and self-discipline for their life-long educational journeys.

My personal recommendation is to practice 25 minutes a day, 5 days a week to maximize its effectiveness. I do not utilize practice logs, but support at home to maintain this goal would be greatly appreciated! The more you play, the better you sound!

***In short: every day without practicing is a day of forgetting!***

### Practice Tips

- Write down your practice goals in your planner!
- RECORD YOURSELF so that you have a better understanding of your accuracy
- Listen to a recording of the literature we are playing
- Mark your parts with a pencil
- Do not allow yourself to get frustrated – an angry musician is an inaccurate one!
- All students should practice with a **metronome**, and **brass and woodwind students should also practice with a tuner**. There are many free apps that include a tuner and metronome, or go to [www.metronomeonline.com](http://www.metronomeonline.com). Tonal Energy is a great app that I use regularly in class, and is well worth the minimal price point.

### Grades

Grades in band are typically reflected through performances and playing assessments throughout the school year. Students will submit playing assessments via video submission on Canvas multiple times a quarter. Please sign yourself up as an observer in Canvas to see what students have to work on throughout the school year!

PowerSchool and Canvas are essential resources for parents and students. It is not only a tool for communication regarding grades, it is a resource for our students and parents to check progress, missing work, and what is being taught/learned regularly. Please ensure that you and your child have access (separate accounts) and even sign up for the app and push notifications or weekly email updates as an option in PowerSchool and on Canvas!

### Playing Assessments

Playing assessments occur virtually, through assignments generated on Canvas. Students are encouraged to resubmit playing assessments throughout the quarter, and resubmitting does not negatively impact the grade. I always choose the highest score the student receives for the assignment to go into the gradebook. (i.e. if they do worse on a resubmission, I will not lower their grade). Students learning the content is what matters most to me when it comes to assessments. *If students do not get full credit on a playing assessment, they should check their assignment's comments, where I have provided feedback for improvement.*

### Re-Assessment and Late Work

To accurately reflect students' academic performance level, I accept late work and missing work for full credit if the work is submitted within the timeframe and procedures developed by Union Park, and before the end of the grading period.

### Students' Role in Learning

Students will become self-directed in learning about themselves as a developing musician. They must analyze their playing habits to figure out what *actually* works for them to prepare the musical content we play throughout the year. The ultimate goal is to develop independent musicianship in all band students.

## Attendance

### 1. Calendar

- a. All rehearsals, sectionals, and concerts will be posted on Mr. Kievert's website and will be made readily available to you.

### 2. Concerts and Festivals

- a. All students are required to attend and participate in their band's performances
- b. Students are expected to arrive at the designated call time in the proper attire

### 3. Additional Rehearsals

- a. Sixth grade students will have rehearsals twice a week. While they aren't mandatory, students are highly encouraged to attend one a week! Students need to be either picked up or have a plan to walk home for afternoons. If you are doing the mornings, please arrive by 7:15 am. If you are doing the afternoons, please have a way home by 3:45 pm.  
*Wednesday Mornings: 7:20-7:55*                      *Monday Afternoons: 3:05-3:40*
- b. Fifth grade students will have rehearsals twice a week. While they are not mandatory, students are highly encouraged to attend one a week! Students need to be either picked up or have a plan to walk home for afternoons. If you are doing the mornings, please arrive by 7:15 am. If you are doing the afternoons, please have a way home by 3:45 pm.  
*Monday Mornings: 7:20-7:55*                      *Wednesday Afternoons: 3:05-3:40*
- c. Middle school students will have some full ensemble rehearsals on Tuesday or Thursday afternoons, as needed, ahead of our various performances throughout the year. I will give notice multiple weeks in advance!
- d. 6-8th grade students may come before school on Tuesdays and Thursdays for help on repertoire, as well as any upcoming auditions they might have. **Prior notification will be needed so I can plan to arrive at school to facilitate this.**

## Concerts

Please mark the following dates on your calendars, as they will most likely not be changed. If that were to occur, notification will be provided in advance. Community outreach performances may be set later too. Proper notification will be provided in these cases. All important dates can also be found on my website. Parents, family, neighbors, and friends are highly encouraged to attend concerts at Union Park, as they are a culmination of many weeks of preparation and work.

Each group is expected to **arrive** 30 minutes before the concert starts.

For each concert, students are expected to wear their band polo with black from the waist down. ***Please make sure these shoes are ALL black - they cannot have other colors on them, including white*** (we've actually been given lower scores in the past for this in our district assessment). Ladies may wear black wedges, flats, high-heels, or sandals. If they are wearing high heels, they **must** be able to walk in them. When in doubt, wedges are best. The only case in which students may wear leggings is if they are also wearing a black skirt that goes past their knees. Black dresses are allowed as well, but only if their band polo is still worn. Long hair that hangs in the face or over the eyes must be combed, tied, or pinned back. If they are not in that attire, that actually can negatively impact our rating. So, please be sure to get those polos washed ahead of that event! The goal is to look as professional as possible in our concert black.

# **Union Park School**

## *Band Program Calendar 2024-2025*

The following events are tentatively scheduled for the 2024-2025 school year and have been scheduled since July 31, 2024. All students are required to attend the events for their respective music groups, unless identified otherwise.

### **August**

### **September**

28 - Middle School Honor Band @ Arizona State University (7/8 participants only)

### **October**

22 – DVUSD Marching Band Exhibition @ Boulder Creek HS (recommended, not required)

TBA (25?) – Marching Band Feeder Night @ Barry Goldwater HS (7/8 only)

### **November**

14 – DVUSD Pre-Assessment @ Boulder Creek HS (7/8 only, during the school day)

### **December**

11 – Winter Concert @ 5:30 pm @ Union Park (6-8 only)

TBA – Holiday Chamber Concert @ Elevate Coffee (6-8 only)

### **January**

15 – Beginning Band Informance @ 5:30 pm @ Union Park (5 only)

29 – Spring Feeder Concert @ Barry Goldwater HS (7/8 only)

### **February**

12 – DVUSD Honor Band @ Sandra Day O'Connor HS (6-8 auditionees only)

20 – Spring Feeder Concert @ Sandra Day O'Connor HS (7/8 only)

### **March**

1 – AzMEA All-State Band @ Mountain View HS (6 by selection, 7/8 by audition)

13 – ABODA Area Band Festival @ Millennium HS (7/8 only, during the school day)

28 – Las Fallas performance @ Union Park (7/8 only)

### **April**

### **May**

14 – Spring Concert @ 5:30 pm @ Union Park (5-8)

21 – Union Park Promotion Performance @ 5:00 pm @ Union Park (7/8 only)

Please see my [teacher website](#) for dates broken down by ensemble!

**Attendance to each performance for their ensemble is mandatory. If a student has a personal emergency and will conflict with our performances, please contact me directly as soon as possible! Thank you!**

### **Field Trips**

The Toro Band (7/8) will be going on an overnight trip to California this school year. Additional information for this trip will be provided as it is scheduled and approved by our campus and school district. Chaperones must complete the one-time DVUSD Volunteer training course prior to attending the field trip. If you are not volunteer trained, you will not be able to chaperone on any of our trips this school year!

Honor groups, band performance assessments, feeder concerts, and area festivals are also considered field trips, and permission slips will be sent home as needed. There are no band field trips for beginning band.

### **Parent Involvement**

Volunteerism in any form is greatly appreciated at Union Park School. Deer Valley Unified School District requires all school volunteers to take the DVUSD Volunteer training course offered throughout the year.

***I am looking for enthusiastic band parents to assist me in organizing a Union Park Band Booster Program, to help fundraise for our program and boost our band's visibility in our community!*** Please reach out to me if you are interested in working with me to spearhead this new endeavor to more effectively serve our band students! This would entail monthly meetings (either in person or virtually), leadership positions, and coordination of the various events and needs the band program participates in throughout the school year. My goal is to generate more funds for music, instrument repairs, and other incidentals that are essential to keep our program running, as well as involve our Union Park community more with the Beginning, Advanced, and Toro Bands! Band Boosters will also have priority on chaperoning off-campus band performances and trips, provided they are volunteer-trained.

### **Helping Our Program Grow**

- a. Classroom Materials
  - i. Tissues, hand sanitizer, disinfectant, pencils, etc.
- b. \$20 donation (non-tax credit) to help with music, repairs, and maintenance
- c. New or Used Instruments
- d. Tax Credit (can be used on **Donors Choose projects**, which is very helpful!)
  - i. Up to \$200 for those who file as singles and \$400 for those who file as married.  
These funds help us pay for festivals, clinicians, honor festivals, expand our music library, and any other materials our band needs!

### **Donors Choose**

Our band program submits projects to be sponsored by a crowdsourcing organization called Donors Choose, a fantastic way to help support our program as we pursue specific items that will benefit students at all grade levels. You can find information regarding our projects throughout the year by visiting <https://www.donorschoose.org/nkievert>. I will notify when projects start and when they are funded! Please consider allowing your student to be photographed for these projects, as it would be immensely helpful. *I will send a request at a later date for this, once a Donors Choose project has been established.* Thank you!

### **Purchasing a New Instrument**

If a student is looking into buying a new instrument it is highly recommended that parents talk with me and/or private instructor before making the purchase. There are more “knock-off” brands on the market than good quality brands. Avoid Amazon, eBay, and Craigslist unless you know exactly which instrument brand you are looking for. A good place to check first is your local instrument repair shop; they will be truthful with you and may have instruments for sale.

A good motto to always abide by is, “If a deal is ‘too good to be true,’ then it probably is.” Please stick to traditional colors; if the brand has various color options, that’s a bad sign. Make sure that the instrument you are buying is **music educator approved!** Just because the internet says it is does not necessarily make it true. Don’t trust the online reviews (even from “music educators”), as many times, these are fabricated. At the end of the day, please contact me before your search for guidance to best benefit you and your student.

### **Teacher Contact**

If you would like to speak in-person or via Zoom, please schedule specific times to meet with me, as we need time to communicate effectively. I often have professional duties directly before and after school hours. Please understand that I will not be able to meet or discuss issues while I am teaching or supervising students. However, I will contact you as soon as I can.

Union Park has implemented email office hours and a “curfew” to ensure that we maintain a healthy work-life balance. I will respond to emails and Canvas inbox messages Monday through Friday from 7:00 am to 5:00 pm. I will respond within 24 hours, or promptly after the weekend.

If you need to contact me, please do not hesitate to reach out. I am here to help, and navigating the first few years of band can be mystifying. My extension is **55878**; however, I am *most accessible* via email at **Nathaniel.Kievert@dvusd.org**. I will respond to all emails within 24 hours, between 7:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., or promptly after the weekend.

I am also available via Canvas. ***Please sign yourself up as an observer for your student’s class.*** You will receive the same Canvas notifications as your students in regard to missing work, announcements, and other important aspects of band this year! I update my school website regularly, so please check there for any immediate scheduling questions you might have.

I have a teacher Twitter account with updates for our Union Park Band Program, which features the goings on within our joint band program. Please follow our band at **@kievertband** if you want further information and would like a window into our musical community at Union Park!

### **Conclusion**

Thank you for the opportunity to teach your student this academic year! I look forward to working together to make this school year as educationally sound and musically enriching for your student as possible. I appreciate you taking the time to peruse the Union Park Band Handbook. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me!

Sincerely,  
Nate Kievert  
Union Park Band and Music Teacher